

Because even the most loyal New Yorker needs to flee the greatest city on earth sometimes.

Escape from New York

Half Moon Bay, CA



Brew down

Surfers, pumpkin farmers, Silicon Valley techies and their dogs all converge over amber ales and Full Swing IPAs at **Half Moon Bay Brewing Company**. Join the beach party in the hamlet of Princeton-by-the-Sea for weekend brunch on the outdoor patio (there are fire pits for foggy days), where you can pair your suds with the brewery's signature crab cake Benedict or kobe beef burgers.

→ 390 Capistrano Rd (650-728-2739, samschowderhouse.com)

Catch a big wave

Big-wave surfing pioneer Jeff Clark still holds court at **Mavericks Surf Company**, the shop where he built the first boards strong enough to tackle the legendary swells off Pillar Point Harbor. In addition to surf and paddleboards, you can pick up gear, sweatshirts and mementos of the world-famous surf contest Titans of Mavericks, which takes place here every year.

→ 25 Johnson Pier (650-560-8088, mavericksurfcompany.com)

Stay sweet

At downtown's unassuming **Moonside Bakery & Cafe**, owner and certified master pastry chef Thomas Grauke has been turning out passion fruit mousse cakes, buttery panettones, artisanal breads and patisserie cookies for nearly 25 years. Try the chocolate chewies, thumbprints or raspberry-jam hats.

→ 604 Main St (650-726-9070, moonsidebakery.com)

Get fresh

Make a reservation for the wildly popular **Sam's Chowder House**, perched on the edge of the Pacific. From November to April,

INSIDER SECRETS

Locals give it to you straight.



"Check out the amazing tide pools and harbor seals at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve."

—Tom

"Try the Monterey riesling and play bocce ball at La Nebbia Winery."

—Barb

"Take a whale-watching cruise from Pillar Point Harbor. Gray whales migrate through April."

—Mark

"Barbara's Fishtrap in Princeton-by-the-Sea is the best spot for old-school clam chowder."

—Sarah

Monster burger at Half Moon Bay Brewing Company



fresh-caught Dungeness crab from the bay vies for top claw with Sam's famous lobster rolls. Grab a seat on the deck, and savor the sunset with a bowl of zesty cioppino (Italian shellfish stew). If you can't wait, get some crab straight off the boat at nearby Pillar Point Harbor.

→ 4210 N Cabrillo Hwy (650-712-0245, samschowderhouse.com)

Sea it all

The quirky shop and green space **Oddyssea** captures the breezy beach-town zeitgeist with an array of natural oddities such as taxidermic bugs, DIY air-plant gardens and pearl-necklace-making kits complete with oysters. In the courtyard there's a build-your-own terrarium buffet and the world's largest cannonball-size marble maze.

→ 617 Main St (650-440-4555, oddyssea.com)

■ Bonnie Wach

FUN FACT

Half Moon Bay is home to the annual Safeway World Championship Pumpkin Weigh-Off. Last year's winner came in at 1,910 pounds.