



## Top Things to Do in Pescadero, California

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An hour away—but worlds apart—from the bustle of San Francisco, a former stagecoach stop provides big coastal views and simple pleasures.



Photo: David H. Collier

Tide pools and quiet stretches of coastline reward visitors to the area around Pigeon Point Light Station and Bean Hollow State Beach.

Set on a scenic stretch of the [San Mateo coast](#), the New England–style village of Pescadero has attracted travelers since six-horse coaches rattled into town in the mid-1800s. Those carriages are long gone, but the seaside splendor and throwback charm remain.

- Warm, fragrant loaves of garlic bread studded with artichoke hearts have made the 1929 [Arcangeli Grocery Company](#) a day-tripper institution. Its assortment of Italian deli staples and the picnic area alongside Pescadero Creek are just two more reasons to linger.
- Even Pescadero's most up-to-date coffee shop delights in yesteryear. [Downtown Local](#) serves nostalgia along with San Francisco–worthy cappuccinos using beans from Sightglass Coffee. See classic flicks screened in a nine-seat theater and peruse bins of vintage comic books while you sip.
- What's new at 124-year-old [Duarte's Tavern](#)? Not much, thankfully. A convivial fixture since the town's stagecoach-stop days, Duarte's continues to satisfy cravings for its venerated cioppino and house-made pies. Visit between Thanksgiving and New Year's for a frothy, potent eggnog that locals wait for all year.



PHOTO: GARRICK RAMIREZ

The Farm Shop at Harley Farms brims with seasonal confections such as this mini pumpkin cheesecake.

- A reminder of the many dairies that thrived around Pescadero in the early 20th century, [Harley Farms](#) offers a taste of a bygone era. Tour the grounds populated by adorable Alpine goats, and step in to a converted stable to sample just-made chèvre adorned with colorful herbs.

Read More: [7 West Coast Seafood Shacks Worth a Stop](#)

- The 115-foot tower at [Pigeon Point Light Station State Historic Park](#) beckons motorists to a stunning promontory with sandy coves, vibrant [tide pools](#), and dramatic views of the churning Pacific. The Fog Signal Building now houses the original Fresnel lens. Plan ahead to spend a night in the former light keeper's residence.

See more [scenic outings on the San Mateo County coast](#).