

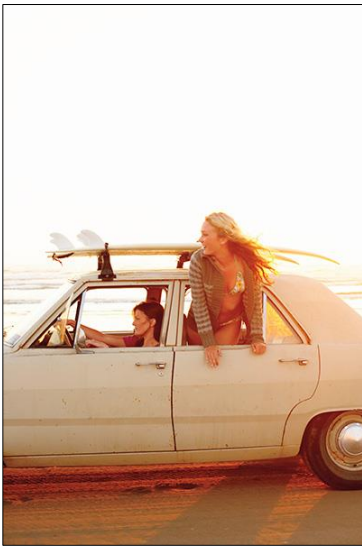
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MAGAZINE

Coastal Getaways

Pack a bag, and head for any of these five spectacular seaside escapes.



As summer draws to a close and schools start back up, these last few long days present the perfect opportunity to soak in some fresh air and rays with a seaside escape. Whether you prefer luxe spas, fine dining, or family-friendly activities, we've rounded up five beach destinations beckoning you to relax, eat, and play—in style. So before fall hits, grab the family, hop in the car, and get a little lost on a coastal getaway.

Carmel: The Sweet Life

Start: Walnut Creek **Distance:** 120 miles

Carmel's mile-long white sand beach and big breaking surf set it apart as one of the most stunning spots in Northern California. I like to slip off my shoes and take a nice long walk along the water's edge, while dogs race after tennis balls and children brave the chilly Pacific waves. But I also save plenty of time for charming Carmel-by-the-Sea, which is full of boutiques, art galleries, and ice-cream shops. I recommend cruising the 17-Mile Drive: You can't call yourself a Californian if you don't have a photo with the iconic Lone Cypress in the background. For the full-on California experience, don't leave town without looking for Clint. Mr. Eastwood occasionally hangs in the bar at the Mission Ranch. But let's keep that bit of insider info to ourselves, OK? —

Susan Safipour

Bernardus Lodge and Spa

Head inland 15 minutes to this luxe resort, which got a major face-lift this spring and opened up its once-cozy lodge for a livelier contemporary vibe. Rooms are large and plush, the spa is first rate, and chef Cal Stamenov is still doing his pristine California country cuisine, which draws locals as well as world travelers. bernarduslodge.com.

