



SPRING IN YOUR STEP

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Break out the bikinis and sunscreen. The official start to the warm-weather season is upon us: Spring Break. Whether you have little tots or hard-to-please teens in tow, Southern California is home to numerous spots worthy of settling in for a few days this spring—or come summertime.

Instead of wrestling the crowds for a spot on the sand at one of the area's beaches, Paradise Point Resort & Spa comprises its own 44-acre island, including access to a quiet, kid-friendly beach. Among a lush tropical setting, Paradise Point features bungalow-style rooms that are comfortable and welcoming enough for families yet easy on the eyes thanks to custom décor, modern teak furnishings, contemporary artwork and island-perfect hues of coral, turquoise, chartreuse and gold.

For families, or anyone wanting a little extra space to stretch out, the bayside bungalows are tops. At 650 square feet, the bungalow can fit a dining room table for four, a wet bar for quick meal prep, separate sleeping quarters, a spacious bathroom and a large patio—complete with two Adirondack chairs to kick back in.

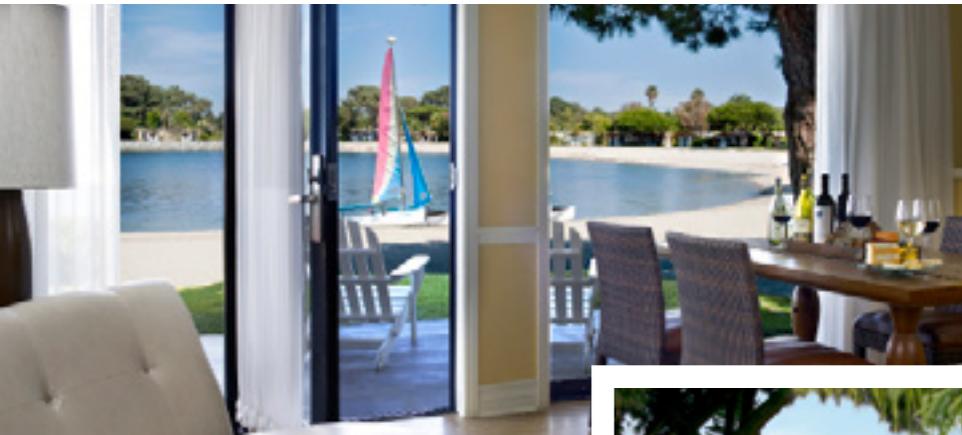
The chairs are sure to come in handy as the bayside accommodations are located along Paradise Point's own private beach. Kids will enjoy frolicking in the warmer, waveless bay waters, while parents will appreciate supervising the little ones in a calm setting. If you head out early in the day, you might even find you have the entire beach to yourself for sandcastle-building and digging your toes in the wet sand. Once the sun goes down, you'll be back on the sand for a waterfront bonfire (there are several spots located along the beach) and roasting s'mores (which

can be ordered to your room, along with fire wood).

Though nibbling on melting marshmallows and taking dips in the bay can create a fun and fulfilling springtime retreat, Paradise Point is brimming with indoor and outdoor recreation for the entire clan. Five pools sprinkle the island, including a quiet adults-only option. For more aquatic activities, Paradise Point is well-known for its private, full-service marina where guests can sail, jet ski, kayak, hop on a water taxi to nearby Sea World or take a 60-minute scenic bay cruise (you might even spy sea lions, pelicans and other sea life in their natural habitat).

The teen set will enjoy learning how to ride the waves at the three-hour Paradise Surf Academy or hitting the 18-hole putting golf course. Segway tours, basketball, tennis, croquet, ping pong and renting a beach cruiser and quadracycle are also on the resort's to-do list.

Dinnertime calls for a sit-down at Tidal, Paradise Point's signature restaurant, for SoCal craft beer and seafood dishes. Diners are greeted with mid-century modern good looks (the space was a private beach house in the 60's), views of Mission Bay and a menu of high-end eats that you would expect from a beachside dining destination. The sourdough bread appetizer



is far more than a run-of-the-mill basket 'o carbs; it's a can't-miss thanks to the delectable beet hummus and blood orange-fennel butter that accompanies the crispy bread. The oil-poached (and perfectly flaky) halibut is another favorite, sure to please seafood-shy kids.

A short drive from Paradise Point is Del Mar, an area known for its famous racetrack but that also boasts a welcoming family-friendly atmosphere. Hotel Indigo Del Mar, with its cool retro vibe and bright beachy colors, makes a perfect (pet-friendly, too) respite for families—as well as for girlfriend getaways.

The hotel is within walking distance of the golden sand and blue water, as well as Main Street's endless shops and restaurants. For the little ones, there is even a great beachside playground nearby where parents can savor ocean views while the kiddos take a ride on the swings.

Request a second-floor table at Sibicca to enjoy gorgeous views, especially at sunset, alongside marvelous eats like roasted pork prime rib with vanilla yams, bourbon demi glace and chantilly cream and Korean beef lettuce wraps with strawberry, cucumber and mint (the kids will love the wraps). With a menu of Chinese specialties, a stellar drink menu and a great street-side patio, Del Mar Rendezvous makes diners want to sit and stay a while. Linger over crispy duck wraps and honey-glazed spare ribs, as well as a plethora of meat, seafood and vegetarian entrees.

Of course, a stay in Del Mar wouldn't be complete without spending a day wading away on the beach. Whether you plan an active day of riding waves and tossing the volleyball or giving yourself a true spring "break" snuggled up on a towel with a good book and the kind of snacks you only indulge in at the beach, don't miss the magical SoCal sunset. There is nothing that says "vacation" quite like a sherbet-color sky meeting the sparkling blue waters.

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