

HALF MOON BAY

COASTSIDE CALIFORNIA

FAMILY-FRIENDLY PLACES ALONG THE HALF MOON BAY COASTSIDE, CALIFORNIA

The Half Moon Bay Coastsides, a vibrant California coastal town located approximately 45 minutes south of San Francisco, is an ideal place for families to plan a fun-filled getaway. In addition to a wide array of family-friendly accommodations and restaurants, there are plenty of entertaining and exciting hands-on activities including hot glass classes, kayaking, horseback riding on the beach, surfing and spectacular theater productions.

Below is a roundup of family-friendly accommodations, restaurants and activities.

- ACCOMMODATIONS -

Beach House Hotel

4100 N. Cabrillo Hwy.
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
(650) 712-0220

www.beach-house.com/half-moon-bay

For a weekend or weekday summer getaway, the Beach House Hotel is a perfect place to bring the family. Overlooking the water on a bluff adjacent to the Coastal Trail, this luxuriously appointed New England-style boutique hotel is a close stroll to the beach and fishing off the nearby coastline. Families will enjoy spacious guestrooms with a king bed and comfy queen sofa bed with lots of extra pillows and blankets and a mini-refrigerator and microwave for convenient family snacks in the room. Complimentary parking and daily continental breakfast are also included during the stay.

Comfort Inn

2930 N. Cabrillo Hwy.
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
(650) 712-1999

www.choicehotels.com

Located close to the beach with 54 stylishly appointed rooms, families will enjoy all the comforts of home with complimentary continental breakfast and rooms outfitted with coffeemakers, microwaves, refrigerators, flat screen TVs, and high speed Internet access.

Half Moon Bay Inn

401 Main Street
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
(650) 726-1177

www.halfmoonbayinn.com

Located in the heart of Main Street just steps from shopping, dining and numerous activities, families can choose between one of the five suites with beautiful European furnishings, plush pillow top mattresses, fine linens, and marble baths. Special additions include signature scented soaps, lotions, and shampoos developed by a local herbalist.

Half Moon Bay Lodge

2400 S. Cabrillo Hwy.
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
(650) 726-9000

www.halfmoonbaylodge.com

This hacienda-style, family-friendly lodge has everything a family needs to plan a fun and exciting stay including a large heated outdoor pool, over-sized jacuzzi and a relaxing outdoor fireplace. The ample complimentary continental breakfast and afternoon fresh cookies and fruit is not to be missed. Many rooms have a terrace or deck overlooking the acclaimed Arnold Palmer-designed Half Moon Bay Golf Links.

Oceano Hotel & Spa

280 Capistrano Road
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
(650) 726-5400

www.oceanohalfmoonbay.com

With a spectacular location overlooking picturesque Pillar Point Harbor, families will enjoy the luxury and convenience of one of the 95 luxuriously appointed suites. Each suite boasts fireplaces, wet bars, and private balconies overlooking the spectacular coastal scenery. Families can enjoy coastal fare at the hotel's The Ocean Bar & Grill or book a massage at the full-service spa.

The Ritz-Carlton, Half Moon Bay

One Miramontes Point Road
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
(650) 712-7000

www.ritzcarlton.com/en/hotels/california/half-moon-bay

The Ritz-Carlton, Half Moon Bay provides a magnificent backdrop for the perfect family vacation along the Northern California coast. Families can enjoy roasting s'mores over one of the outdoor firepits, riding Segways along the Coastal Trail, or swimming in the indoor heated pool. The Ritz Kid Day Program includes an array of enriching activities to help teach little ones about coral reefs and forests, recycling and sustainability, storytelling, art and food. In addition, children can get away for a night of fun and excitement by joining the Kids Night Out program on Friday and Saturday evenings. The supervised night includes a special dinner, movies, and arts and crafts. A children's menu is also offered in the hotel's restaurants Navio and The Conservatory, and through in-room dining.

- RESTAURANTS -

Cameron's Restaurant

1410 S. Cabrillo Hwy.
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
(650) 726-5705

<http://cameronspub.net>

This eclectic British-style restaurant is a family place that welcomes families, visitors, locals (and even the occasional movie star!) Families can relax and play board games or head to the back room for shuffle board and video games. The kid-friendly menu offers a selection to sure

please even the most finicky eater, including corn dogs, mac & cheese, hamburgers, grilled cheese, and more. Parents can enjoy a conversation to themselves while the kids stay busy exploring the genuine English double-decker bus filled with games located in front of the restaurant.

Chez Shea

408 Main Street
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
(650) 560-9234
www.chez-shea.com

Serving organic global cuisine, this family-friendly spot is a great place to take the kids for a reasonably priced, delicious meal. Children under the age of 12 will enjoy lunch and dinner menus tailored just “For the Wee Ones,” which includes a variety of dishes including classics such as peanut butter & jelly, grilled cheese, hamburger and fries or pasta with butter, roast chicken and French fries, fish & chips, and more.

Half Moon Bay Brewing Company

390 Capistrano Road
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
(650) 728-2739
www.hmbbrewingco.com

Loved by families for its casual atmosphere and tasty food, children can choose from a variety of menu items including a hamburger or cheeseburger, mac & cheese, chicken tenders, and fish n' chips as well as healthy items such as a grilled chicken salad, choice of fresh catch, grilled prawns or grilled chicken breast with rice and veggies. While the kids decide between vanilla ice cream or a root beer float for dessert, parents will enjoy the delicious coastal cuisine and a wide selection of artisan beer handcrafted on site.

Moss Beach Distillery

140 Beach Way
Moss Beach, CA 94038
(650) 728-5595
www.mossbeachdistillery.com

With spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean, an impressive kids menu, a dog-friendly patio, and an infamous ghost story, this renowned local spot is sure to entertain the entire family. The kids menu offers a variety of kid-approved entrees, veggies or fries, a place to color, and spin of the Distillery winner's wheel with a chance to win some cool prizes. Kids can also indulge in a “Kidz Brunch,” which includes a scrambled egg, bacon, homestyle potatoes, and an English muffin with fresh fruit and pastries (only on Sundays). The patio gives families a place to eat with the family dog who can order from the special doggie menu. While enjoying the expansive view of the Pacific from the patio, families can read about the renowned ghost, “The Blue Lady” who supposedly haunts the restaurant to this very day.

Princeton Seafood Company

9 Johnson Pier
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
(650) 726-2722
<http://princetonseafood.com>

After a day at the beach, bring the entire family to Princeton Seafood Company for delicious, freshly-caught local seafood. Children under 12 years old can feast on tasty classics such as chicken tenders, hamburgers, and fish n' chips. After dinner, the little ones can ask for a Treasure Chest trinket and families can take their photo with the wooden fisherman mascot.

Sam's Chowder House

4210 North Cabrillo Hwy.

Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

(650) 712-0245

www.samschowderhouse.com

Overlooking the Pacific and Point Harbor, the entire family will enjoy stunning views while dining at this bustling, über-popular spot. Reminiscent of an east coast seafood house, Sam's prides itself on serving delicious food that uses rice-based, trans-fat-free vegetable oil, sustainably-fished seafood and antibiotic free meats. The kids menu is packed with favorites including grilled cheese and pasta that is endorsed by WellKiddos, a local firm that advocates providing children with healthy food choices when dining. The family dog is even welcome to stay for dinner.

- ACTIVITIES -

Beaches

<https://www.visithalfmoonbay.org/discover/beaches-parks>

Boasting miles of unspoiled beaches, families will enjoy the tranquility and natural beauty of the California coast without crowds of people. There are more than two dozen beaches in the vicinity offering hiking, biking, surfing, kayaking, paddleboarding, tidepooling, strolling the beaches, and walking mountain trails. Catch a few rays or simply recline with a good book at one of the many peaceful local beach spots.

Coastal Trail

www.californiacoastaltrail.info

For spectacular views of the Pacific and to experience the natural beauty of the area at its best, enjoy an easy walk or a bike ride with the family along the Coastal Trail. Spanning approximately seven miles, the trail runs from Pillar Point Harbor to The Ritz-Carlton and offer sweeping seaside views, first-rate bird watching and easy beach access.

Special Note: the trail is only paved from Pillar Point Harbor to Poplar Beach.

Coastal Repertory Theatre

1167 Main Street

Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

(650) 204-5046

www.coastalrep.com

For more than 25 years, families have been surprised, inspired and delighted watching memorable musical, comedic and dramatic performances at the Coastal Repertory Theatre. Performances ranging from "The Sound of Music" to "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" and "To Kill a Mockingbird" are sure to entertain and engage the whole family. The Coastal Repertory also delivers a youth educational program, Coastal Theatre Conservatory (CTC), with various acting class levels to improve improvisational skills, audition technique and dance.

Fitzgerald Marine Reserve

200 Nevada Avenue
Moss Beach, CA 94038
(650) 728-3584 (info line) (650) 363-4021 (group tours)
www.fitzgeraldreserve.org

This rocky seashore hosts and protects a complex but fragile community of marine life that the entire family will enjoy. The Reserve was established in 1969 to protect hundreds of marine plant and animal species and since then scientists have discovered 25 new marine invertebrate and plant species here. Families will love to explore the tide pools to discover the spectacular variety of seaweed, crabs, sponges, sea stars, mollusks and fish. The best time to visit the Reserve is during a zero or negative low tide, when the rocks are exposed. On the weekends and holidays, friendly volunteer naturalists rove the tide pools to answer questions. *The Reserve is not suited for younger children. Groups of 10 or more are required to make reservations before visiting.*

Half Moon Bay Art Glass

12341 San Mateo Road (Hwy. 92)
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
(650) 283-5626
www.hmbartglass.com

Children ages 12 and over will delight in creating a piece of art in this fascinating hot glass class. With more than a decade of experience teaching children, owner Doug Brown helps kids create a paperweight, heart or pumpkin out of glass or even blow their own pumpkin or memory ball. *Each project takes approximately 10-20 minutes to complete. Pieces can be picked up the next day or shipped for a small fee. Classes are available Fridays-Mondays; starting at \$130 per project.. Reservations are required and should be made online at <http://www.hmbartglass.com/classes-1.html>.*

Half Moon Bay Kayak Company

2 Johnson Pier
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
(650) 773-6101
www.hmbkayak.com

Families looking for an ocean adventure will find it at Half Moon Bay Kayak Company. Parents can take their kids on guided sea kayak trips that include viewing sea life in the harbor as well as tide pooling on a nearby beach. For kids trying to perfect their water skills, five-day kayak trips and camps are offered. In addition to these guided tours, families can rent kayaks or stand-up paddleboards to embark on their own adventure.

Harley Farms

205 North Street
Pescadero, CA 94060
(650) 879-0480
www.harleyfarms.com

Harley Farms, known for their award-winning goat cheese, offers family-friendly tours with a "behind the scenes" look at the inner workings of a goat dairy farm. On the 90-minute tour, families meet the friendly goats, learn how goat cheese is made, and enjoy a cheese tasting upstairs in the refurbished hayloft. *Tours are available by reservation only.*

Lemos Farms

12320 San Mateo Road (Hwy 92)
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
(650) 726-2342

www.lemosfarm.com

There is no end to the fun Lemos Farms provides for families with young kids. Children will enjoy pony rides, a petting zoo, train rides on the famous Choo-choo Train, operating the Dig Zone Tracker - a real hydraulic back hoe - and playing in the OK Play Corral. *Open Saturday and Sunday.*

Open Ocean Surf Lessons & Surf Camps

(650) 867-0315

www.openoceansurfing.com

Kids and adults alike will have a blast learning how to surf. With lessons for beginners through advanced, kids can learn to surf and experience the exhilaration of surfing in a safe and fun environment while learning about ocean safety and surfing etiquette. All participants must wear a wetsuit and be able to swim. Surfboards will be supplied by the instructor. Parents are always welcome and can relax on the beach with some binoculars and a camera, take a hike on a beachfront trail, or try surfing themselves!

Pillar Point Harbor & Cool Harbor Nights

1 Johnson Pier
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
(650) 726-2722

www.smharbor.com/pillarpoint

Bring the family to enjoy fishing, fresh seafood, shopping, or simply walk around and watch the fishermen at work. For a free family-friendly activity that will bring everyone back to an earlier era of car technology and aesthetics, check out Pillar Point Harbor on the first Thursday of every month for Cool Harbor Nights, a coastal car and motorcycle show. Owners of classic cars, trucks, fancy motorcycles and hot rods have the opportunity to show off their pride and joy while providing a glimpse of early automotive and motorcycle technology. Families will enjoy a cruise down memory lane as they show their kids the vintage Mustang or hot muscle car just like they drove. *The event is held the first Thursday of every month, 3 p.m. to sunset.*

Sea Horse Ranch

1828 North Cabrillo Highway
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
(650) 726-9903

<https://seahorseranch.org>

Sea Horse Ranch has been in business over 40 years, providing horseback riding adventures on the beautiful beaches of Half Moon Bay. Offering rides for beginners, intermediate, and advanced riders, families can experience a riding adventure on over seven miles of trail, through a small creek and along the bluffs of Poplar Beach down to the sandy seashore. Minimum riding age is seven years old. Sea Horse Ranch can accommodate individuals or groups. Online reservations are required.

Whale Watching & Fishing

Families will have a whale watching experience of a lifetime on one of the various excursions offered in Half Moon Bay. Gray whales move at a steady speed of about five miles per hour, and most can be spotted in an area that extends from the kelp beds (about 3/4 miles from the shoreline) out to the horizon. In addition to gray whales, families will most likely also see off shore pelagic seabirds, Humpback whales, sea otters, elephant seals, California sea lions, Harbor porpoise, Dall's porpoise and occasionally leatherback sea turtles or sharks. Fishing is a great alternative for families looking for more than just sightseeing. Head to Pillar Point Harbor to watch fishermen offload the day's catch. For the ultimate experience, charter a boat or contact one of the many companies offering sport fishing expeditions. Huli Cat and Riptide will also direct you to restaurants that will happily cook your fresh catch just the way you like it. Several local companies offer whale watching and fishing excursions:

- Half Moon Bay Sportfishing & Tackle, (650) 728-3377, www.hmbfishing.com
- Huli Cat Sportfishing, (650) 726-2926, www.hulicat.com
- Riptide Sportfishing, (888) 747-8433, www.riptide.net

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About the Half Moon Bay Coastside

The Half Moon Bay Coastside is a charming seaside respite located 45 minutes south of San Francisco. Nestled between the Santa Cruz Mountains and the Pacific Ocean, this breathtaking region consists of four distinct areas - the North Coast, Half Moon Bay, the South Coast and the Redwood Region. Featuring the best of Northern California all in one place, visitors will enjoy miles of white sandy beaches, redwood forests, a historic downtown filled with local artisan shops, beautiful state parks, fields of wild flowers, and trails along ocean bluffs and mountain ridges as far as the eye can see. A sampling of activities includes horseback riding on the beach, farm fresh dining, shopping, biking, hiking and world-class golfing and surfing.

For more information on visiting Half Moon Bay, visit www.visithalfmoonbay.org or call (650) 726-8380. Like our [Facebook](#) page and follow us on [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

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