

Ventura County: Piers, Wharfs and Lighthouses



SEASIDE SIGHTSEEING IN VENTURA COUNTY

Ventura County is home to a diverse collection of piers, wharfs, working harbors and lighthouses. www.ventura-usa.com and www.visitoxnard.com

Ventura

- Two historic piers preserve the nautical nature of the region by giving visitors a glimpse of yesteryear as well as view the bounty of biodiversity in the region. Located near the nexus of Highway 101 and California Street (or “C-Street”), the **Ventura Pier** was built in 1872, originally as a wharf, to foster trade and commerce in the county. Local exports including lemons, lima beans, livestock and oil all utilized the pier and its adjoining wharf district.
- Today, the wharf district, or **Front Street**, is home to art galleries and other creative endeavors, while the pier is a pedestrian and fisherman’s paradise.
- Soak in the breathtaking beauty of the unspoiled California coast at the **Ventura Harbor Village**. Relax and retreat on the waterfront promenade with a collection of coastal shops, harbor-side restaurants, fish market, carousel and arcade, **Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center**, boat tours, kayak rentals, homemade fudge and waffle cone ice creams, and waterfront hotels. Visitors can shop, dine, stay, play and explore the real California.

Oxnard/Port Hueneme

- The historic pier in Port Hueneme built in 1872, was utilized for importing and exporting of goods. Today, the pier is a great place to fish and watch for passing dolphins and whales.
- Port Hueneme Point also showcases the **Point Hueneme Lighthouse** built in 1941, replacing the original built in 1874. The lighthouse featuring a fourth-order Fresnel lens is open for tours the third Saturday of every month (10am to 3pm, February through October).
- Eleven miles across the Santa Barbara Channel is the historic **Anacapa Island Lighthouse**. Constructed in 1932 to replace the original built in 1874, the structure sits atop the highest cliff of East Anacapa within the **Channel Islands National Park**.
- The nearby Channel Islands Harbor in Oxnard is home to **Marine Emporium Landing** which features waterfront dining, fresh fish market, Segway and watercraft rentals, sportfishing and scuba charters, whale watching trips and a kayak center. Visitors can also enjoy a scenic ride on an historic paddle wheel boat called the “Scarlett Belle.”
- Boat service to the **Channel Islands National Park** is available at both harbors via Island Packers.