

# Sunset

100  
REASONS  
TO LOVE  
THE WEST  
NOW

(No. 1)

## *the* GRAND CANYON

*A new way to  
experience the classic*

GRILL LIKE  
A PRO

PERFECT  
STEAK  
EVERY TIME

LESS LAWN,  
MORE FUN

THE  
BACKYARD  
MAKEOVER

SUMMER  
ON A STICK

FRESH FRUIT  
POPSICLES

JUNE 2013  
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DAY TRIP



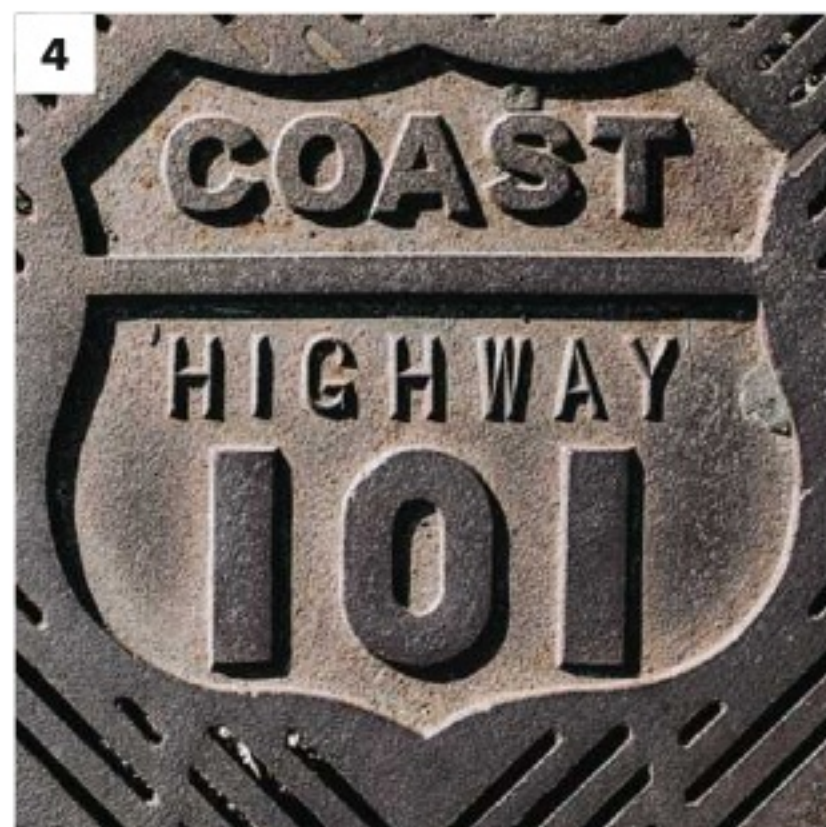
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- 1. The floating roof at Lux Art Institute
- 2. Lunch at Union Kitchen & Tap
- 3. A before-breakfast surf
- 4. Sidewalk grates along downtown's main drag

5 REASONS YOU'LL LOVE

# ENCINITAS, CA

With buzzy restaurants and dynamic art exhibitions, this laid-back San Diego surf town has a new cosmopolitan side. *By Maya Kroth* >



### The virgin surfs

The 10- by 10-foot mosaic *The Surfing Madonna*, depicting the Virgin of Guadalupe carving a wave, was created in 2011 by artist Mark Patterson, who installed it guerrilla-style under a railroad bridge. City officials ordered it removed, but **Cafe Ipé** rescued the work last summer. You can pay homage to it on the cafe patio. \$; 970 N. Coast Hwy. 101; (760) 436-2233.

### A happier happy hour

Behind a facade of giant roll-up garage doors that open onto the street, **Union Kitchen & Tap** has a rotating selection of local brews and creative cocktails like the blackberry mojito, made with fresh mint grown in the adjacent garden. Meanwhile, at **Solace & The Moonlight Lounge**, a portrait of The Dude from *The Big Lebowski* presides over the bar, which draws an after-work crowd. Happy-hour highlights include chef Matt Gordon's peel-and-eat shrimp and chipotle-infused Bloody Marys made from natural ingredients down to the organic, vegan Worcestershire-style sauce. **Union**: \$\$; 1108 S. Coast Hwy. 101; [localunion101.com](http://localunion101.com). **Solace & The Moonlight**: \$\$\$; 25 East E. St.; [eatatsolace.com](http://eatatsolace.com).

### Lizzie the baker

Imagine a 21st-century Lucille Ball with baking skills, and you have Elizabeth Harris, a pastry dynamo whose retro '50s aesthetic extends from her kerchief-covered red curls to the classic sweets she serves



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#### THE LOCAL LOWDOWN

*"We have native lilacs and sage and lavender; a lot of artists say this is the most fragrant place they've ever been."* —Reeseey Shaw, director, Lux Art Institute



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at her namesake bakeries. At **Betty's Pie Whole**, hidden away inside a plant nursery, the from-scratch sweet and savory pies are worth every calorie and make killer hostess gifts. Nearby, **Elizabethan Desserts** turns out a daily selection of treats to rival Grandma's, from strawberry whoopie pies and churro cupcakes to crumbly, buttery berry buckle. **Betty's**: \$; 155 Quail Gardens Dr. **Elizabethan Desserts**: 114 N. El Camino Real; [elizabethandesserts.com](http://elizabethandesserts.com).

### Fancy coffee has finally arrived

At the locally owned **Lofty Coffee Co.**, you can feel good about the ethics behind your cardamom-infused Turkish latte or ancho chile-spiked Aztec mocha; it's all organic, fair-trade, and small-farm

grown. Diet-sensitive types will appreciate the selection of gluten-free treats and alternative milks (soy, almond, and coconut). For coffee nuts, there is the required pour-over cup or cold-brewed iced coffee. \$; 90 N. Coast Hwy. 101; [loftycoffee.com](http://loftycoffee.com).

### Hang out with the artists

Longtime artist and gallery director Reeseey Shaw founded **Lux Art Institute** in 1998 to give audiences a chance to interact with a resident artist at work. Her modern, LEED-certified institute has a studio and gallery upstairs and an apartment downstairs, where the artists live during three- to six-week residencies (this summer's live-in is Whitney Biennial alum Melissa Miller).

"It's quite magical to see a 3-year-old's eyes pop as they watch someone make a painting or a sculpture," Shaw says. \$5; Thu-Sat; 1550 S. El Camino Real; [luxartinstitute.org](http://luxartinstitute.org).



#### GETTING HERE

From Los Angeles, take I-5 south 95 miles and exit at Encinitas Blvd. Go west for a half-mile to S. Coast Hwy. 101, which runs through the center of town. [ci.encinitas.ca.us](http://ci.encinitas.ca.us) or [encinitas101.com](http://encinitas101.com).