

Malibu Public Beaches

Los Angeles Urban Rangers
www.laurbanrangers.org

Public Access 101
Malibu, California
2007-2009



WELCOME TO THE BEACH!

Just a stone's throw from Los Angeles, the world-famous Malibu coastline offers 27 miles of scenic public beaches. Spend a day in the sun on one of the beautiful all-public beaches. Or head for the 20 miles of public beaches that are lined with private beachfront—where you can go beachcombing and wildlife-watching on the state lands below the high tide line and sunbathing and sign-watching on the abundant public easements on the dry sand. Whether you're visiting from far away or from the properties next door, Malibu's public beaches will reward you with abundant opportunities for recreation and discovery.

"Development shall not interfere with the public's right of access to the sea...including...the use of the dry sand and rocky coastal beaches to the first line of terrestrial vegetation."

— California Coastal Act, Section 30211 (1976)

"The state of California owns...the lands seaward of what is called the 'mean high tide line'.... Although it is difficult to ascertain the boundary between public and private lands, a general rule to follow is that visitors have the right to walk on the wet beach."

— California Coastal Commission,
CA Coastal Access Guide (2003)

WHERE IS THE PUBLIC BEACH?

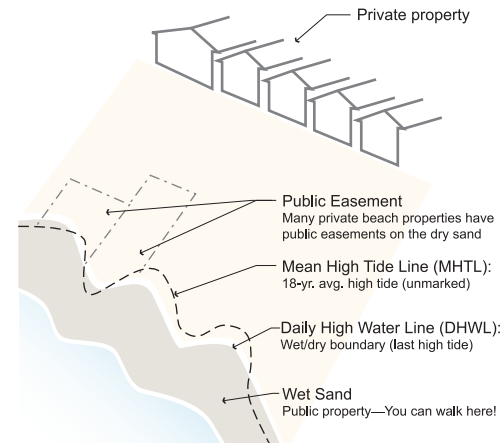
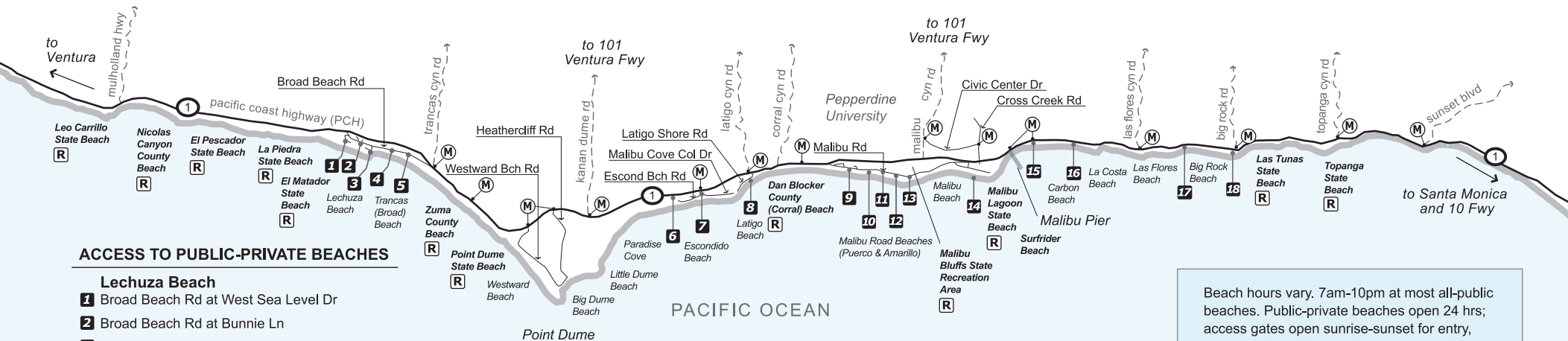


Photo-maps like the one below are a handy tool for locating dry-sand easements, and are available on the Coastal Commission website for Broad and Carbon beaches. Less detailed public access maps for all of the beaches are also available under the "Malibu LCP" section. See www.coastal.ca.gov/pubs.html.



ACCESS TO PUBLIC-PRIVATE BEACHES

Lechuza Beach

- 1 Broad Beach Rd at West Sea Level Dr
- 2 Broad Beach Rd at Bunnie Ln
- 3 Broad Beach Rd at East Sea Level Dr
All-public beach between West Sea Level Dr and 1 house west of Bunnie Ln

Broad Beach

- 4 Between 31346-31340 Broad Beach Rd
- 5 Between 31138-31202 Broad Beach Rd

Escondido Beach

- 6 Between 27420-27400 PCH
Just west of Geoffrey's restaurant
- 7 Between Malibu Cove Colony Dr and Escondido Beach Rd
Just east of Geoffrey's restaurant

Latigo Beach

- 8 Latigo Shore Rd
Park on PCH

Malibu Road Beaches (Puerco & Amarillo)

- 9 Turn on Webb Way from PCH
- 9 Between 25120-25116 Malibu Rd
- 10 Between 24742-24712 Malibu Rd
- 11 Between 24604-24572 Malibu Rd
- 12 Between 24436-24434 Malibu Rd
- 13 Between 24320-24314 Malibu Rd

Malibu Beach (Malibu Colony)

- 14 Take the path west from Malibu Lagoon parking lot.

Carbon Beach

- 15 "Zonker Harris Accessway"
East edge of 22706 PCH
- 16 West edge of 22126 PCH

Big Rock Beach

- 17 Between Moonshadows and 20340 PCH
Closed due to storm damage
- 18 Between 20000-19958 PCH

Beach hours vary. 7am-10pm at most all-public beaches. Public-private beaches open 24 hrs; access gates open sunrise-sunset for entry, 24 hours for exit (all but #16, not locked from beach side).

Legend

- 1 Access to public-private beaches
- R Restroom
- M MTA 534 bus stop, www.metro.net

Bold indicates all-public beaches.

East of Broad Beach, public-private beaches are often not passable at high tide. See other side for "Reading a Tide Chart."



For a Safe and Enjoyable Visit

SAFETY TIPS

Be sure to take precautions against these common hazards:

Sun and Wind: Use sun protection. Carry an extra layer of clothing.

Pacific Coast Highway (PCH): Use caution when parking and extreme caution if crossing is necessary.

Rip Tides: Swim in areas with lifeguards; stay in shallows in ones without. Note: public-private beaches and many all-public beaches at off-peak times (and a few at all times) do not have lifeguards.

Urban Runoff: Stay out of water after rains. Avoid water near storm drains and creek outlets at all times.

Security Guards: Carry easement maps when using dry-sand easements. A copy of the CA Coastal Act is not necessary but can be useful.



Photo Credit: Jérôme Daoust

GEOLOGY

Here where the Santa Monica Mountains meet the Pacific Ocean, the coastline varies from rocky bluffs to smooth sandy beaches. Coastal development has interrupted natural erosional and depositional cycles, as has the construction of debris basins to prevent landslides in the mountains. Therefore, sand deposited on the beaches by the sea and mountains is often supplemented by exotic, trucked-in sand that originates in such urbanized formations as the San Fernando Valley.

BASIC BEACH ETIQUETTE

Respect public and private property, whether visiting from next door or far away:

- Deposit trash in receptacles provided.
- Use established restrooms only. Note: no restrooms on public-private beaches.
- Do not trespass on private property. Refrain from using beach furniture that does not belong to you.
- Refrain from posting signs and guards to keep people from using the land that belongs to everyone.



Photo Credit: Tony Dixon

FLORA AND FAUNA

The coast supports a rich and colorful array of life forms—underwater, overhead, and on the sand. Pelicans, dolphins, sea stars, and other year-round native wildlife are joined seasonally by whales, curlews, and other migrants. Common exotic species include potted palms in gardens and illegal dogs on the beaches, while bacteria and viruses greatly increase in abundance after rainstorms.

Since the last owner of the Malibu Rancho lost fierce legal battles in the early 1900s to block the building of the PCH, the human residents have become more abundant but have remained strongly territorial and litigious. Some are year-round inhabitants, while many use their dwellings primarily on weekends and holidays. While the residents are 89% Caucasian, day-use weekend visitors include a more diverse array of families, surfers, star-stalkers, and the silicone-enhanced. On weekdays, gardeners, maids, and construction workers visit beach-adjacent properties in large numbers but are seldom seen on the beaches.

PARKING

Parking is ample in public lots and on roads off the PCH, and less so on the PCH at peak beach-going times. Note: barriers to public parking are common, and range from “movable” (orange cones, trash cans) to “unmovable” (mailboxes, trees, lawns) to “can be moved but not recommended” (large potted plants, guards, illegal “no parking” signs).



Visit your local hardware store to make your own “no parking” sign for as little as \$25.



SIGNS

Signs on the public-private beaches are abundant and diverse. While often confusing, they fall into four basic taxonomic categories:

True: “No dogs allowed,” “Private property” (if on private beach property without dry-sand easement)

Somewhat True: “Private property both sides of this walkway” (true only on properties without dry-sand easements)

Usually False: “Private beach extends 70 ft seaward from this sign” (or most other ##s)

False: “Private beach,” “No stopping,” “Right to pass by permission” (on a public right-of-way)

READING A TIDE CHART

24-Hour Period	Type	Height
5:07 AM	Low Tide	-1.22 feet
11:42 AM	High Tide	4.07 feet
4:21 PM	Low Tide	2.24 feet
10:28 PM	High Tide	6.37 feet

High tide arrives ~50 minutes later the next day. Check the 2-day charts for Santa Monica, CA at <http://weather.latimes.com/MAR/PZ/655.html>, or up to a year in advance at <http://tbone.biol.sc.edu/tide/>.



Tides range from approx. -2 ft (very low) to 7 ft (very high). Avoid tides over 5 ft. Narrow beaches are generally accessible within 2 hours of a high tide.

“No individual, partnership or corporation, claiming or possessing the...tidal lands...in this State, shall be permitted to exclude the right of way to such water whenever it is required for any public purpose... and the Legislature shall enact such laws as will give the most liberal construction to this provision....”

— Constitution of the State of California, Article X, Section 4

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Los Angeles Urban Rangers
www.laurbanrangers.org
 “Malibu Public Beaches” guide and safaris

CA Coastal Commission
www.coastal.ca.gov
 (805) 585-1800
CA Coastal Access Guide (2003)
 Legal and access info

LA County Dept Beaches & Harbors
[www.beaches.co.la.ca.us/BandH/Main.htm](http://beaches.co.la.ca.us/BandH/Main.htm)
 County beach info

Santa Monica Mtns Conservancy
www.lamountains.com/parks_search.asp
 State beach info

Access For All
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 Nonprofit public-access advocate

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