



~ PSOC Field Trip ~

Santa Monica Pier

Sunday, August 9, 2026

General Information (310) 458-8900

<https://www.santamonicapier.org/>

Assignment:
ABSTRACT / PATTERNS

Check out Muscle Beach:

<https://www.santamonica.com/things-to-do/original-muscle-beach/>

Carpool

Meet at 8:30 a.m. (leave at 9:00 a.m.) at the end of AAA parking lot,
NE corner of Beach and Stark in Huntington Beach

Travel

Approximately 1 hour from Huntington Beach

Parking Options

Santa Monica Pier Parking Deck 1
1 Colorada Avenue
Santa Monica, 90401

Link to Pier Deck 1 Parking Lot:

<https://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&gl=us&um=1&ie=UTF-8&fb=1&sa=X&ftid=0x80c2bbc12c73e817:0xff4a3831424ea4fe>

https://www.google.com/maps/dir//Santa+Monica+Pier+Parking+Deck,+1+Colorado+Ave,+Santa+Monica,+CA+90404/@33.7604131,-117.8663071,15z/data=!4m8!4m7!1m0!1m5!1m1!1s0x80c2bbc12c73e817:0xff4a3831424ea4fe!2m2!1d-118.496739!2d34.0096217!5m1!1e2?entry=tту&g_ep=EgoyMDI2MDQxNS4wIKXMDSOASA FQAw%3D%3D

Santa Monica Pier Beach Parking Lot 1 North
1550 Pacific Coast Highway
Santa Monica, 90401
Parking open 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. daily

Link to Beach Parking Lot 1 North on Google Maps:

<https://www.google.com/maps/search/?api=1&query=34.01052%2C-118.497318>

Lunch

Pier Burger “The Last Burger on Land” – 12:30 p.m.
330 Santa Monica Pier, Santa Monica, CA 90401
+13105872747

Recommended dishes

Pier Burger with Bacon

Santa Monica Pier Information

You know you've arrived in Santa Monica when you see the iconic Ferris wheel of the Santa Monica Pier jutting into the inviting waters of the Pacific Ocean. Set at Santa Monica's westernmost point, the Santa Monica Pier is a staple of this picturesque seaside community. Packed with family-friendly activities, restaurants and shops, it also has stunning views and over a century's worth of history.



Stop by the Pier Shop at the bottom of the ramp for **visitor info**, pier history, and official apparel.

HISTORY

Constructed in 1909, the storied Santa Monica Pier was the first concrete pier on the West Coast. It quickly gained a reputation among locals as the best fishing spot in Santa Monica. The Looff Hippodrome, now a National Historic Landmark and home to a beautiful carousel, opened in 1916, followed by the iconic carousel in 1939. In 1941, the Santa Monica Yacht Harbor neon sign was unveiled; this is the place for the perfect selfie!



PHOTO-TAKING OPPORTUNITIES AND FUN

The Santa Monica Pier is one of the most photographed locations in Southern California, offering a mix of vibrant neon lights, historic landmarks, and stunning coastal vistas.



This blue and white neon sign at the entrance is best photographed during the "blue hour" just after sunset when the lights pop against the darkening sky.

When one thinks of things to do in Santa Monica, the attraction of the Santa Monica Pier inevitably comes to mind. Pacific Park's red and yellow ferris wheel is a city treasure. The world's only solar-powered ferris wheel makes it a one of a kind.



For a bird's-eye perspective of the coastline and the pier's structure, take a ride on the wheel itself. It offers a unique angle looking back toward the city and down at the wooden planks.



Marvel at the historic Loeffl Hippodrome Carousel, a National Historic Landmark. The building's unique architecture and the vintage horses inside offer great opportunities for colorful, nostalgic interior shots.

Located on the Pacific Park amusement park features a five-story West Coaster roller coaster, the nine-story Pacific Plunge tower ride, the only over-water miniature golf course, and the nine-story Pacific Wheel Ferris wheel – the only over-water Ferris wheel in California.



The Santa Monica Pier Aquarium is located at beach level under the historic Carousel. Featuring hands-on presentations and interactive exhibits, the aquarium is a part of Santa Monica's own "Heal the Bay" program, an initiative to educate, inspire and empower its visitors to be stewards of the environment.

The Playland Arcade is packed with over 200 games and attractions from the classic to the contemporary.



Fishing from the Santa Monica Pier is a popular pastime with residents and visitors. Pier Bait and Tackle offers gear, poles, and bait for fishing in the Pacific Ocean.



Photographers often set up on the beach to the south of the pier to capture the wheel and roller coaster together.

For shooting Rows of Things, Gemini AI recommends:

- **Wooden Deck Planks:** Standing at the center of the pier and shooting toward the ocean creates a vanishing point effect with the rows of wooden boards. This is especially effective in the early morning light.
- **Under the Pier Piling:** The rows of concrete and wooden pillars beneath the pier create a "cathedral" effect. Lining up these pillars in your frame provides a dramatic sense of depth and rhythm.
- **Carousel Horses:** Inside the Hippodrome, the hand-carved horses are arranged in concentric circles. Shooting from a low angle along one of these circles allows you to capture a long row of vintage horses.
- **Midway Game Prizes:** The rows of stuffed animals and prizes at the carnival games offer vibrant pops of color and texture.
- **Ferris Wheel Spokes:** The structural beams of the Pacific Wheel create a repeating radial pattern that is particularly striking when the wheel is in motion or lit up at night.
- **Beach Umbrellas:** During the summer, the rows of colorful umbrellas and lounge chairs on the sand below create a bright, rhythmic pattern when viewed from an elevated angle on the pier.
- **Bicycle Racks:** Near the entrance and along the Ocean Front Walk, the rows of silver bike racks offer a modern, industrial pattern that contrasts with the natural beach setting.

2026 Summer Parking Rate Comparison

Location	Expected 2026 Rate	Best For
Pier Deck Lot	\$3.75/hr (\$18 max)	Direct pier access (Limited availability)
Lot 1 North	\$15–\$20 Flat Rate	Beach access & proximity
City Structures	\$1 (90 min) / ~\$20 Max	Short visits or mall access
Civic Center	~\$5 Flat Rate	Long-term budget parking

Note: This flyer was created with AI assistance.