WHAT’S NEW IN HALF MOON BAY, CALIFORNIA
January – April 2013

Half Moon Bay, California, a vibrant coastal town located approximately 40 minutes south of San Francisco, is the perfect place for a relaxing spa retreat with girlfriends, a whale watching trip with the family, surfing the waves or a romantic Valentine’s Day getaway. While most of the country is currently in a cold winter slumber, Half Moon Bay is alive and in full swing with outdoor adventures and interesting activities. From hot glass classes to an educational nature tour, a visit to Half Moon Bay will be filled with unique and memorable experiences that will make visitors want to return and explore it all again.

Below is a sample of exciting winter and early spring options for families, couples and solo travelers to enjoy during a relaxing escape along the Coastside. For more information on Half Moon Bay, download Half Moon Bay’s free app iCoastside, visit www.visithalfmoonbay.org or call (650) 726-8380. For the latest news on the area, visit www.visithalfmoonbay.org/blog, join us on Facebook www.facebook.com/visithalfmoonbay and follow us on Twitter www.twitter.com/visithmb and check us out on YouTube www.youtube.com/visithmb.

Special Note: All locations are in Half Moon Bay unless otherwise noted.

TIS THE SEASON FOR...

Surfing
Half Moon Bay is home to the world-famous surfing spot Mavericks, located one-half mile off of the coast by Pillar Point Harbor. Mavericks is considered to be one of the most challenging surfing areas in the world, attracting the most elite surfers to brave the waves for the annual contest. Now organized by the Half Moon Bay Surf Group, the contest has been renamed “The Maverick’s Big Wave Invitational,” with Mavericks pioneer Jeff Clarke returning as contest director in recent years. The official contest window is open now through March 31. During this time, the contest organizers monitor weather conditions and swell size in order to give competitors 48 hours notice to make their way to Half Moon Bay for the contest. Swells at Mavericks typically have to reach 30-40 feet in order for the contest to take place. The official contestant line-up was announced in November and includes big wave surfers from all over the globe including Brazil, Australia and South Africa, as well as many local surfers from Pacifica, Santa Cruz and San Francisco. For more information, visit www.mavericksinvitational.com or call (650) 560-8088.

Whale Watching
The annual migration of the gray whale is currently underway, and Half Moon Bay is the perfect spot for witnessing the journey of these spectacular creatures. Beginning in early December

www.visithalfmoonbay.org
through the end of March, approximately 15,000 gray whales swim south from the icy waters of the Arctic to mate and nurse their young in the warm, shallow lagoons along Magdalena Bay in Baja, California. The full round-trip migration from the Bering Sea to the Baja calving lagoons is approximately 10,000 miles, the longest known migration for any mammal. 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. For those who like to plan ahead, March through early April is a great time to spot humpback whales as they begin moving closer to shore.

Several local companies offer whale watching excursions:
- **Bait & Switch Sportfishing**, (650) 726-7133
- **Half Moon Bay Sportfishing & Tackle**, (650) 728-3377
- **Huli Cat Sportfishing**, (650) 726-2926
- **Riptide Sportfishing**, (888) 747-8433

- **EVENTS** -

**January 26-27**
**Seal Adventures**
**Año Nuevo State Park**
Each winter from December through March, a large colony of northern elephant seals assembles on the beaches at Año Nuevo State Reserve. Bull seals engage in battles for breeding access to the females. Pregnant females come ashore to pup from late December to early February, and mothers nurse their pups for about a month before mating and returning to the sea. By early March, most of the adults have returned to the sea. Pups remain behind through March basking in the sun and learning to swim. Visitors are welcome year round, but for one weekend only on January 26 & 27, visitors will have extraordinary access to view hundreds of northern elephant seals at the peak of their mating season at the beaches at Año Nuevo State Park. Naturalists and state park staff will be available to answer questions about this phenomenal activity. Don’t miss out on this incredibly rare opportunity for individuals, families and photographers. **Seal Adventure Saturday is sponsored by the San Mateo Coast Natural History Association to raise money to support interpretive and educational programs at Año Nuevo and other state parks on the San Mateo coast. Tickets are $50 and can be purchased by visiting [www.coastsidestateparks.org](http://www.coastsidestateparks.org).**

**February 10**
**A Valentine’s HeART**
**600-800 Blocks, Main Street**
**Hours:** 2-5 p.m.
Take a pre-Valentine’s Day stroll down Main Street during “A Valentine’s HeART Walk,” presented by HMB SOMA ARTS. Enjoy a romantic and colorful walk along South Main Street to discover hidden art treasures and gifts. The event is free and open to all, and most venues will serve special Valentine treats as well. **For more information, visit [www.HMBSOMAARTS.org](http://www.HMBSOMAARTS.org).**

**April 5**
**44th Annual Farm Day**
**IDES Hall, 735 Main Street**
**Hours:** 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Agriculture is Half Moon Bay’s premier industry, and each year residents gather to celebrate the hardworking farmers that contribute so much bounty to the area at Farm Day, started by the late Coastside farmer Mel Mello. Local farm families come together to create a delicious lunch
utilizing local produce. Among the many awards, a Coastside farmer will be chosen as “Farmer of the Year.” Tickets are $25 in advance, or $30 at the door. For more information and to purchase tickets, contact the Half Moon Bay Chamber, (650) 726-8380. Media Contact: Charise McHugh, (650) 727-8380, charise@hmbchamber.com.

April 27-28
23rd Annual Pacific Coast Dream Machines Show
Half Moon Bay Airport, 9850 N. Cabrillo Highway (Hwy. 1)
Hours: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
This spectacular showcase of motorized mechanical marvels from the 20th and 21st centuries returns to Half Moon Bay. More than 2,000 sleek antique, vintage, classic, custom and exotic vehicles will be on display for public viewing. See a wide array of automobiles ranging from hot rods, dragsters, customs, low riders, imports, street machines and muscle cars to fanciful touring, luxury, and sports cars. See everything from vintage warbirds, homebuilt aircrafts, tricked out trucks and motorcycles, custom bicycles, Model T fire engines, antique engines and tractors, helicopter and plan rides, extreme toys, mega-modified machines, military vehicles, and a display of advanced “green” technology vehicles. Rounding out the activities will be a super-gnarly demolition derby, kids’ amusements, food and live music, all to benefit the Coastside Adult Day Health Center. Admission is $20 ($30 for 2-day passes) for adults, $10 ($15 for 2-day passes) for ages 11-17 and 65+, and free for kids 10 and younger. For more information, call (650) 726-2328 or visit www.miramarevents.com. Media Contact: Tim Beeman, (650) 726-3491, tim@miramarevents.com.

- COMING SOON –

Devil’s Slide Tunnel
The highly anticipated Devil’s Slide Tunnel will open in early 2013. The City of Half Moon Bay is excited to celebrate the completion of this project of over five years in the making. This new tunnel will serve to make an unstable and problematic stretch of Highway 1 between Pacifica and Montara, known as Devil’s Slide, a safer and more efficient place to drive on an otherwise beautiful and leisurely drive up the scenic California coast. For more information on the Devil’s Slide Tunnel project, visit www.dot.ca.gov/dist4/dslide/.

- ACCOMMODATIONS –

Great Deals at Ocean View Inn
Ocean View Inn offers an ideal place to enjoy a calming getaway. Guests can feel truly relaxed with large guestrooms boasting beautiful views and ultimate comfort. Ocean View Inn gets even better with these great monthly specials:

- **January** – Start the year off with a relaxing stay by the ocean while taking advantage of a two-night special with a 30% discount. Ocean View Inn’s wonderful penthouses are included in this special offer and are first come first serve. Book now before it’s too late!

- **February** – Celebrate this month of love with a special rate offered for the entire month of February. Rent a penthouse for $149 per night and enjoy your own private deck. Book a standard room for $89 per night and enjoy a bottle of wine while gazing out at the ocean.

- **March** – Let the wedding bells ring! During the month of March, all newlywed couples will receive special rates on one of Ocean View Inn’s penthouses. Special guestroom pricing is also available for wedding guests, as well as early check in and late check out, helping to make the special day as stress-free as possible.
April – With the garden in full bloom, Ocean View Inn will offer a special rate for garden rooms and garden penthouses. Just mention “spring” when booking to take advantage of this great deal.


- CULINARY NEWS –

Cheers!
After two months of renovations, the San Benito House has reopened its bar and restaurant. Renamed the San Benito Ale House, the restaurant features a fresh look and a new concept including an extensive list of craft beer and a menu featuring delicious Belgian bites. 365 Main Street, (650) 726-3425, www.sanbenitoalehouse.com.

More Michelin Stars
La Costanera is the only restaurant on the coast to receive a Michelin Star two years in a row! Thanks to its outstanding service, fantastic menu and wonderful atmosphere, this tri-level coastal gem has once again been awarded this honor in the 2013 Michelin Guide. With floor to ceiling panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean and Chef Carlos Altamirano’s mouthwatering menu of Peruvian specialties such as slow-cooked pork shoulder, potato-cheese gratin and saffron-flecked paella brimming with seafood, its no wonder this amazing restaurant has claimed this prestigious title two years running. 8150 Cabrillo Highway, Montara, CA 94037, (650) 728-1600, www.lacostanerarestaurant.com.

Club Crab
Get ready to check out a great new club in Half Moon Bay. From 9 p.m.-12 a.m. on the first Friday of every month, Crab Landing will turn into “Club Crab,” a great spot to enjoy live music and dancing. A night out with friends doesn’t get much better when it comes with floor-to-ceiling panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean and a happy hour menu to boot. 260 Capistrano Road, (650) 712-1288, www.crablanding.com.

- TOUR & TRAVEL –

Travel Happy
Enjoy a different kind of happy hour with the newly launched Bay World Travel, a monthly event open to visitors and locals that brings travel enthusiasts together to talk about all things travel. Share what’s on your travel bucket list and get clever travel tips from other people who have been there and done that. No happy hour would be complete without a few cocktails, which are complimentary. Space is limited to 12 people each month. For more information about dates, topics and availability, contact Bay World Travel at go@bayworldtravel.com or (650) 726-7345; www.bayworldtravel.com.

The Tale of Mavericks
The Mavericks surf season is open, and while some may be gearing up for a fearsome competition, others can enjoy this world famous surf spot in a more leisurely fashion. On January 20, Half Moon Bay Coastside Tours is providing a chance for the general public to take a guided walking tour to learn all about the history and lore of Mavericks, a surf spot so intense it was long believed to be a myth. An added bonus, tour goers will also get to view the bird and sea life along the salt marsh, so bring binoculars for an extra good look. For more details, contact mary@hmbcoastsidetours.com or call (650) 720-7050; www.hmbcoastsidetours.com.

- ARTS & CULTURE –
Take a Glass Class
Ever seen a Chihuly exhibit and wondered how he does it? Learn how by trying it yourself at Half Moon Bay Art Glass. Participants can make their own glass pumpkin, glass tumblers or illuminating glass jellyfish lamps. Choose your own colors and shapes and create a stunning piece of glass art that is uniquely you. 12341 San Mateo Road, (650) 283-5626, www.colquhounglassworks.com.

Art for the Soul
Visit the newly opened JLim Gallery to experience beautiful and original artwork. Lustrous items include paper and canvas prints as well an assortment of luxury products. Art lovers are sure to find something to be excited about among the selection of exclusive paintings and other works of art. 270 Capistrano Road #34, (855) 389-7770, www.jlim.co.

- SPA –
Relax on Cloud 9
Give your feet a much-needed break and treat them to a massage at the newly opened Cloud 9 Foot Spa. After months of anticipation, this newly opened spa offers a relaxing oasis with services including a Swedish massage, deep tissue massage, hot stone massage, and of course, foot massage. Enjoy this heavenly experience that will have you on cloud 9. 2320 Cabrillo Hwy, (650) 450-9008, www.cloud9spa.us.

About the Half Moon Bay Coastside
The Half Moon Bay Coastside is a charming seaside respite located approximately 35 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.

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