

VENTURA HARBOR VILLAGE

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AUTHENTIC ONE-OF-A KIND FINDS AWAIT SHOPPERS AT VENTURA HARBOR VILLAGE Unique Waterfront Boutiques Make Shopping A Breeze

VENTURA, Calif. – With approximately 120 shopping days until Christmas, visitors from near and far who wish to get a jump start on their holiday shopping will discover a treasure trove of “one-of-a-kind finds” from the latest in fashions, beach accessories, hats galore to gifts and all things nautical at Ventura Harbor Village. This seaside enclave has more than 15 specialty shops located on a picturesque promenade at Ventura Harbor Village in Ventura, California, minutes off historic 101 and scenic Highway 1. www.venturaharborvillage.com.

A stunning backdrop of yachts, and waterfront restaurants amid coastal breezes and spectacular sunsets set the stage for distinctive shopping as visitors browse seaside boutiques, art galleries, and coastal home décor shops. www.venturaharborvillage.com.

California’s “sun-kissed seaside playground” has something for everyone, and it keeps children busy with the largest fleet of pedal boats, an arcade, and only carousel in Ventura County designated just for kids. The inviting shopping destination also offers colorful outdoor art, including tile murals, live seasonal entertainment and a bevy of great waterfront eateries, specializing in fresh seafood dishes which include seven varieties of handcrafted clam chowder. Shopping is complimented by stops for French pastries, Mediterranean dishes, sushi rolls, Italian sandwiches and salads, a coffee shop, and refreshing margaritas.

If shopping is a passion, both fashionistas and families alike find the Village a sure bet to find something for everyone on their shopping list just steps from the water.

Here’s a sampling of what is special for the holiday ahead at this seaside enclave’s unique boutiques:

Clothes Horse

If fashion is your passion, visit **Barefoot Boutique**, a one-of-a-kind retail store that features affordable fashions for women and children, and signature collection of “must have” stylish fashion jewelry. In addition, real leather handcrafted cross body purses made by the Chamula Tribe in Chiapas, Mexico are found at the Barefoot Boutique.

Another popular item found in this colorful boutique is a 12-inch wide by 27-inch long USA Infinity Scarf ~ Red, White & Blue stars and stripes like the US Flag. Made of 100 percent

acrylic, the item is sold for \$21. This boutique's mission is simple: to provide the best products and service to its customers at value added prices. www.barefootboutiqueusa.com

Calling All Fashionistas

Ventura Harbor Village's newest seaside boutique BlueWater Boutique gets its inspiration from the colors that are reflected by the sea. The boutique's gorgeous range of fashions features ultra soft modal cotton and linen in dresses, shorts and pants that emphasize the relaxed and elegant California lifestyle. Accessories are unique, and owners support and give local artists a platform to circulate their creativity. Owners strive to find products that are made in America, and many of the handbags at BlueWater are vegan, faux leather. Ventura Harbor Village, 1559 Spinnaker Drive, #103, Ventura, CA 93001. (across from Ventura Swimwear)

Ride A Wave

For die-hard surfers and those just learning the sport, **Beach Break Surf Shop** has all the accompaniments to hit the beach in style. Visitors can select from a variety of colorful surfboards, boogie boards, wetsuit, surf accessories and beach cover-up's. The shop also sells hard-to-find Solar Recover lotion, perfect for sun burned skin or those just recovering from cosmetic surgery. Many of the store's items are from Hawaii and some of the favorite finds are the Hawaiian Botanical lotions available in island scents such as mango coconut, guava, pineapple passion fruit, plumeria blossom, and pikake jasmine. The eclectic boutique also sells 4-and 7 inch Hula Dolls from Hawaii and replicas of vintage Ventura post cards. Information: 805-650-6641. www.BeachBreakSurfShop.com. **Fashion Forward**

Owner Mary Tisler travels the globe to find the perfect women's travel apparel and accessories for her intimate **Cruzin'Unique Boutique** where customers find the BubbleBakery line of handmade natural soaps, a culmination of centuries of Asian and European healing arts for the face, body and hair a must. Popular with individuals who are undergoing chemo or radiation, the rich, luxuriant lather, pampering high-grade essential oils, and colorful designs are hallmarks of the line with headquarters in nearby Newbury Park, California. Regulars choose from Ocean Lily, Plumeria, Coconut lime, Lemongrass and Victoria Rose for the face, body and hair. www.thebubblebakery.com. Fumi's dual purpose bracelet and purse hook is the ultimate travel accessory made from recycled alloy and titanium. The shop also sells a glistening selection of broaches, rings and other nautical themed jewelry with rhinestones fashioned as boats, a lobster, seashores, shells, and even a pirate's head. Another item that is a real hit with the ladies is the belly dancing coin sash sold in 12 different colors, embellished with gold or silver coins. Information: 805-644-0025.

Flying High

Take to the sky with an array of vibrant kites (more than 1,000 total) ranging in price from \$8.99-\$300. In addition, shoppers will find decorative seasonal flags, garden spinners, wind chimes, windsocks, and throw in the air toys at **Harbor Wind & Kite**, one of Ventura Harbor Village's favorite shops, in business for more than 28 years. The store's popular 76-inch dragon kite is a top seller, according to owner Bob Vines. The shop also has two different kinds of finger or butterfly kites that have a ring handle in which to fly the kite.

Other novelty items that are favorites of kids of all ages include a fossilized shark tooth from Morocco, rattle snake eggs, and die cast cars and trains. Information: 805 654-0900; www.harborwindandkite.com

Mad Hatter

Hat lovers can transform their visual appeal with more than 14,000 kinds of hats boasting a wide selection of styles and colors for the entire family at **Hats Unlimited**, a 1,150-square-foot hat emporium owned by Fabrizio Gruppioni of Naples, Italy. Some of the most popular hats for purchase include caps, visors, top hats, fedoras, Panama, Western and Safari for men and whimsical fascinators and large brimmed formal “Kentucky Derby” hats for women. Information: 805-650-3580, www.hatsunlimited.com

Brush Stroke

Ventura Resident artist **Tina O'Brien of Tina O'Brien Gallery & Studio** can be found daily putting the final touches to landscape oil paintings of a variety of Ventura landscapes, including the Channel Islands, beaches, seascapes, palm trees, and flowers. The artist's shop showcases hundreds of prints and more than 40 original works of art. Several of her paintings include her daughter Christina who doubles as a model for her artwork. The artist's work can also be found on a colorful selection of greeting cards. Mermaid art for room decor is a hit with teens and tweens. Information: 805-644-6088; www.TinaO'BrienFineArt.com.

Art Lover

Authentically Ventura, **Ventura County Potters' Guild Gallery** is an exclusive shop that is home to 21 resident artists from Ventura, Ojai, Oxnard, Camarillo, Santa Barbara and Goleta. The shop boasts a spectacular collection of original, handmade works of art. Featured is a stunning collection of functional pottery in a full spectrum of colors designed by more than a half dozen local artists. The dinnerware includes cups, goblets, plates, bowls, teapots and several pieces in an array of designs, including abstract, floral, sea life and nature. Local artist Richard Franklin of Ojai also makes ceramic vases in earth tones with wooden handles made of driftwood that he finds in Ojai. Another artist Larry Carnes, who is part Indian, produces functional pottery using ancient Chumash Indian designs taken from the caves in nearby Ojai. The unique gallery also sells ceramic decorative masks, handmade glass beaded jewelry on silver chains and ceramic magnetic vases. Information: 805-644-6800; www.VCPottersSGuild.com

The Perfect Suit:

Water babies of all ages delight in colorful swimwear, clothing, footwear and beach accessories at **Ventura Swimwear**. What makes this a top swimwear shop in Ventura is that the owner customizes and repairs swimsuits on the spot to fit every body. The shop sells trendy name brand swimwear, children's wear and guys ocean gear, in addition to the latest in accompaniments for the perfect day at one of Ventura nearby beaches, including flip flops, beach bags, jewelry, hats and California “Love Wear.” Information: 805-642-6281.

Adventure Enthusiast

Islands Packers Gift Shop, a “must see” for travelers visiting Ventura Harbor Village is operated by the boat concessionaire to the Channel Islands National Park. The retail store features an array of adventure books, island themed artwork, Channel Islands National Park T-shirts, sweatshirts, beautiful posters, images of the islands and whale watching. Other favorite items include postcards, DVDs and a fun children’s section with playful oceanic stuffed animals, kid’s books, toys and a junior ranger section. www.islandpackers.com

Complementing this store is the extensive book and gif store at **The Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center Bookshop** which spotlights exhibits, a movie, gifts and its own viewing deck. For those who wish to view video footage of the five islands that make up the group of Channel Islands, they can purchase “Treasure in the Sea,” a video in Blue Ray or DVD, narrated by Actor Kevin Costner who just lives up the road from Ventura. www.NPS.gov/chis.

About Ventura Harbor Village:

Located on scenic Highway 101, Ventura Harbor Village is 30 minutes South of Santa Barbara and one hour North of Los Angeles. Ventura Harbor Village is a vibrant, working harbor village and fishing marina boasting 35 shops, galleries, restaurants and waterfront activities including a Village Carousel & Arcade, Comedy Club, Harbor Cove Beach and Surfer’s Knoll Beach, dive and fishing boats, harbor tours, boat, kayak and peddle boat rentals, and a beautiful walking Promenade. The Village offers visitors an escape to a sun-kissed, seaside playground with transportation to and from the Harbor via the new Ventura-Downtown Harbor Trolley, annual special events, live weekend entertainment, dog-friendly facilities, soft adventure, and spectacular sunset views of the Pacific coastline. Home to the Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center, (open seven days a week with free admission and parking and within walking distance to the Village), this coastal playground features its own viewing tower, exhibits and bookstore, it is easy for travelers to visit the five islands right off the Ventura coast. It is here that visitors can experience world-class island diving, snorkeling, hiking, kayaking, sea cave exploration, photography, camping and wildlife viewing.

For visitor information about Ventura Harbor Village, contact [805-477-0470](tel:805-477-0470), visit the destination online at www.VenturaHarborVillage.com, or contact Ventura Harbor Village via fax at [805-644-1684](tel:805-644-1684). Ventura Harbor Village is located at 1583 Spinnaker Drive in Ventura.