

HAZING HORROR STORY

Special Report: A Pleasant Hill mom fights to change fraternity culture

+ Main Street Fresh:
Farm-to-family eats
in Walnut Creek

diabolo



TRAVEL

GOING COASTAL



OCEANFRONT DINING, LIVE MUSIC, AND 45 REASONS TO GET AWAY THIS WEEKEND

THEATER

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COAST



GETAWAYS

As summer draws to a close and schools start back up, these last few long days present the perfect opportunity to soak in some fresh air and rays with a seaside escape. Whether you prefer luxe spas, fine dining, or family-friendly activities, we've rounded up five beach destinations beckoning you to relax, eat, and play—in style. So before fall hits, grab the family, hop in the car, and get a little lost on a coastal getaway.

●
OYSTER HEAVEN

Tomales Bay

Start:
Walnut Creek



Distance:
71 miles

Long before their name became shorthand for the proponents of snout-to-tail and locavore eating, the Greek Epicureans preached the philosophy of *ataraxia*—the tranquil state of nirvana one achieves when totally unperturbed by mental stress. The term enters my mind each year as my wife and I make the short drive up toward Tomales Bay, where both the ancient and the modern epicurean spirit manage to coexist in beautiful harmony. Such, I suppose, is the powerful effect of a great view, a cold beer, and a dozen of the West Coast's freshest oysters. But venture beyond the familiar roadside oyster joints, and you'll discover even more opportunities to clear your mind and fill your belly. And man, did I mention the views? —Ian A. Stewart

ED ARBERSON PHOTOGRAPHY

POINT REYES LIGHTHOUSE

Head out over Inverness Ridge to the otherworldly Point Reyes Headlands, one of foggiest (and windiest) places on the continent. Then, hike the half-mile or so from the parking lot to the observation deck, and finally, descend the 308 steps—that's 30 stories—down to the iconic lighthouse. Then, thank your lucky stars you aren't a 19th-century lighthouse operator. nps.gov/pore.

TOBY'S FEED BARN

Only in West Marin could you find yoga mats, organic coffee, and animal feed sold side by side. Toby's general store combines the area's old- and new-school vibes under one big barn roof. tobysfeedbarn.com.

SIR AND STAR AT THE OLEMA

Margaret Grade and Daniel DeLong, formerly of the beloved Manka's Inverness Lodge, offer an intensely local-focused menu, including a weekly changing five-course Saturday supper highlighting seasonal ingredients. sirandstar.com.

BLUE WATERS KAYAKING

On a clear day, it's a piece of cake to kayak across the narrow bay. On a windy one, well, it's more like a year-old fruitcake. Pack yourself a lunch, take off from the rental shop in Marshall, and spend the day skipping from one beautiful sandy beach to another. bluwaterskayaking.com.



Insider Tip

Sign up in advance for a Friday tour at Point Reyes Station's Cowgirl Creamery, where you can also sample cheeses: Start with the Mt Tam triple cream, and you can't go wrong. cowgirlcreamery.com.



3X Shuck Spots

1

Hog Island Oyster Co.

—Pick up a dozen fresh oysters, or plop down at a picnic bench and have a few fresh off the grill and slathered with garlic chipotle butter. hogislandoysters.com

2

Tomales Bay Oyster Company

—With public grills and picnic benches galore, this is one of the most popular and beloved places to spend a Sunday shucking and sucking. tomaslesbayoystercompany.com

3

The Marshall Store

—This local institution serves up some of the best dressed oysters in town. Grab a half-dozen on ice, a bottle of Tapatio, and a cold brew to enjoy outside. themarshallstore.com.

Nick's Cove

Whether you're renting out one of the charming little water-side cabins or just stopping in for a bite, the highlight at this local stalwart is the boat shack at the end of the dock, where you can settle in with a restorative drink from the restaurant bar and really feel that all is right in the world.

nickscove.com.

