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THE JOURNEY

Los Angeles

Close to Home

For those who are looking to get out of town without getting on a plane, reconsider these drive-market destinations for more than a weekend getaway. All of the properties featured here are less than three hours away and offer stand-alone/bungalow-style accommodations-along with a range of social-distancefriendly activities. Pack your bags for a week (or two) and settle in for a change of scenery and a relaxed environment that will help the past few months melt away. By Samantha Brooks

HOTEL BEL-AIR

Location: In the heart of Bel Air, on 12 acres.

Accommodations: If you live in Los Angeles and have only been coming to the hotel for dinner and drinks, you're missing out. The hotel features 103 rooms, 80 of which have private outdoor spaces, and 20 of which have either a spa pool or Jacuzzi. Book the 2,265-square-foot Presidential Suite and have your own full-size swimming pool (shown here), grand piano, chef's kitchen, and dining room with seating for 10.

To do: The property has launched an "Experience More" menu, in which guests are able to book a variety of activities in the comfort of their room or throughout the hotel's grounds. Options include picnics, candlelit dinners, cocktail and s'mores kits, and more.

Post-COVID-19 operations: The spa, gym, and inside portion of the bar and lounge remain closed.

Is the pool open? Yes

From \$565; dorchestercollection.com

TERRANEA

Location: About 20 miles south of Los Angeles, on 102 acres of the Palos Verdes Península.

Accommodations: In addition to 582 guestrooms in its main building, Terranea also offers 50 three-bedroom ocean-view casitas and 32 villas that range from 1,850 to 2,800 square feet and include full kitchens and living areas.

To do: The property offers lessons in falconry, nature hikes, golf, tide pooling, paddleboarding, and kayaking.

Post-COVID-19 operations: Terranea has implemented the American Hotel & Lodging Association's Safe Stay industry-wide initiative, and will reopen for overnight accommodations in June 2020.

Is the pool open? The property features four pools; they anticipate opening the Resort Pool (and its 140-foot waterslide) and the Vista Pool (near the ocean) with monitoring and social distancing.

From \$349; terranea.com



NOBU RYOKAN MALIBU

Location: About 20 miles from Los Angeles, on a 9,000-square-foot parcel that rests on Carbon Beach. It is not uncommon to find dolphins and sea lions feeding in front of the Ryokan or a pod of pelicans doing a flyby.

Accommodations: Of the 16 rooms, 11 are on the beachfront or have ocean views. Book the ocean view "Rockstar Suite," which rests on the top floor of the property and is the only one with its own outdoor bathtub and sliding doors that open to 180-degree views.

Todo: Dine at Nobu Malibu, right next door (the property can help get you a coveted table). But the best thing to do at the Ryokan is: nothing.

Post-COVID-19 operations: Hand sanitizer is placed throughout the property; contactless thermal temperature checks are required for all guests; check-in can be done via email two hours prior to arrival; and, as always, the entire property is only accessible to registered guests.

Is the pool open? Not yet.

From \$2,000; nobuhotels.com

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THE RANCH AT LAGUNA BEACH

Location: About 65 miles south of Los Angeles, tucked into a quiet canyon that's just a three-minute walk from the Aliso Beach Park.

Accommodations: A total of 97 rooms are scattered throughout the property, nearly all of them with private outdoor spaces. Book the three-bedroom, 1,600-square-foot secluded Treehouse, which includes a wraparound deck, full kitchen, and private gazebo.

To do: The property has hiking, outdoor yoga, daily private shuttles to Aliso Beach, a ninehole golf course, and live music on the property every day. The Ranch can also arrange private ocean safaris with local outfitter Captain Dave, including underwater glass viewing pods. There's also a Catalina backcountry day trip, where the property can arrange for a guided hike, lunch, and transportation to/from Dana Point or Newport Harbor to the wilder, back side of Catalina Island, located 26 miles offshore.

Post-COVID-19 operations: The property was one of the first hotels in California to achieve the "Clean and Safe" certification from the California Hotel & Lodging Association.

Is the pool open? Yes, with reduced capacity.

From \$269/night; theranchlb.com



JUSTIN VINEYARDS & WINERY

Location: About 180 miles north of Los Angeles on the 101 rests this 160-acre vineyard

Accommodations: There are three one-bedroom suites at the Just Inn, ranging from 600 to 1,200 square feet, each with Frette linens and spa tubs. The 1,400-square-foot Vintner's Villa, a French country townhouse, includes a full kitchen.

To do: Wine tastings and vineyard tours are From \$300; justinwine.com

no-brainers in Paso Robles, but also make time for mountain biking, touring the craft distilleries and breweries, the temporary art/ light installation Sensorio, and a day trip to the nearby Morro Bay for a taste of the Cen-

Post-COVID-19 operations: The winery will follow CDC and state guidelines for tasting rooms once they are released.

Is the pool open? No pool



RANCHO VALENCIA

Location: About 100 miles south of Los Angeles and 25 miles north of downtown San Diego. The 45-acre property is set among lush gardens, trails, and olive groves, just seven miles east of Del Mar Beach.

Accommodations: All 49 rooms are casitas. with their own garden patios overlooking the surrounding olive groves and canyons; about one-third have their own private outdoor hot tubs. Book the 5,000-square-foot Hacienda (shown here), complete with three bedrooms, a full kitchen, woodburning fireplaces in every room, and private pool.

To do: The property is known as a fitness haven, with a line-up of 95 fitness classes each week. including TRX, yoga, Pilates, and tennis on its 18 tennis courts.

Post-COVID-19 operations: At press time, the property is determining its reopening plan.

From \$595; ranchovalencia.com



SAN YSIDRO RANCH

Location: The 500-acre property, located about 85 miles north of Los Angeles, is nothing short of magical. Stunning landscaped grounds, complete with rose garden, chef's garden, lily ponds, and grass lawns make for a completely different atmosphere from Santa Barbara's beach resorts.

Accommodations: The 41 stand-alone cottages are scattered throughout the property, which dates back to the early 1800s. Spread out and book the Warner Cottage, which features two master bedrooms, an expansive living room, full kitchen, and outdoor area with a 33foot pool and barbecue facilities.

To do: Explore the nearby wineries or the tony Montecito streets, or just unwind and never leave the grounds.

Post-COVID-19 operations: The staff wears masks at all times, while guests are asked to wear masks when interacting with staff and other guests.

Is the pool open? Yes

From \$1,145; sanysidroranch.com

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