

# Del Mar Family Getaway

A Whirlwind Weekend Where the Turf Meets the Surf



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We'd heard about Del Mar in the radio commercials for the race track, "Where the turf meets the surf," which was an intriguing proposition. The horses weren't yet in town for the races, but we found there was plenty more to do in this adorable seaside village just a 90-minute drive from LA.



Neighborhood: Del Mar  
San Diego, CA 92014  
United States of America

### To the Plaza please

The Camino Del Mar strip is the hub of town life and commerce, and the centerpiece is Del Mar Plaza ([www.delmarplaza.com](http://www.delmarplaza.com)). The Italian piazza-inspired plaza hosts a plethora of boutiques and restaurants, all boasting beautiful sea views. There are a few mall standards, like Banana Republic and Chico's, but the rest of the shops are unique, such as Peaches in Regalia or Georgiou for Fashions or Saratoga Saddlery for Kids, where my partner and I picked up some rad riding boots for our three-and-a-half-year-old son.

The restaurants at the Plaza offer a great variety, from burgers to fine dining. We ended up spending a great deal of our time in Del Mar at the Plaza, or not far from it. The great thing about Del Mar and its intimate size was that everything was close by.

### The "in" inn

Our hotel, the Stratford Inn (<http://best-western-stratford.pacificahost.com>), less than a mile from the Plaza, was in the midst of a remodel, so we literally had bags of concrete and stacks of lumber outside our door. Inside, our room was newly refurbished with an all-new kitchenette, large flat-screen TV, tasteful paneled walls, sitting area with a pull-out sofa and a fluffy down-comforted king bed, with all the decor coordinated in warm earthy colors. Our room overlooked one of the two outdoor pools and a whirlpool spa, and most delightfully, we had a gorgeous ocean view.

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### The Old Del Mar, California Race Grounds

The Del Mar Race Grounds is the first and only Horse Race Track that I have ever been to. I have been to the Del Mar Fair, since named the San Diego County Fair that takes place at the race ground.



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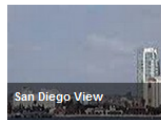
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### Great San Diego Wedding Venues and Packages

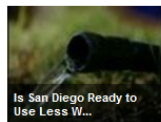
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The inn is soon to be a Hotel Indigo, by December 2011, and I learned from the Del Mar Village Association website ([www.delmarmainstreet.com](http://www.delmarmainstreet.com)) that it was the first hotel in town, built in 1910, and

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it was once a magnet for Hollywood silent film stars. Despite the work in progress, it was easy to see the allure of the place, and I can only image how fabulous it will be when the remodel is complete.

### The Place360 to be

To start my day off right, I headed a few doors down from the hotel to health spa Place360 ([www.place360healthspa.com](http://www.place360healthspa.com)) for a massage. From a small seaside town I was transported to Bali. I could see the influence everywhere -- Balinese woodcarvings decorating the walls, a hand-carved bench in the quiet room, a shower tiled completely in stones imported from Bali -- an aesthetic and spiritual inspiration that

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San Deigo, CA 92014  
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immediately puts one in a mode for rejuvenation.

My therapist Keisha was wonderfully personable and professional. She informed me at the start of our session that she would be silent, unless I wished to talk. She explained that she instilled this policy after she herself experienced a very chatty therapist on a vacation in Hawaii when all she wanted was a quiet retreat from the world. We ended up talking very little but about very meaningful things. We shared stories of lost love ones, and the hereafter, and I began to feel like she was my therapist in more ways than one. Like her conversation, her treatment was intuitive and soothing. By the end of my 90-minute treatment I was so completely relaxed that I nearly dozed off.

### Breakfast course

For brunch I met a representative from the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club ([www.dmtc.com](http://www.dmtc.com)) for a briefing on the horse races, which will begin July 20 and run through September 7. I'll be bringing my family back to town for the opening weekend festivities, which include a variety of family activities on the infield, from pony rides to arts and crafts and Camp Del Mar for ages 5-12.

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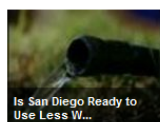
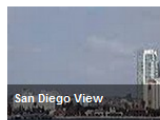
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