**The Foundry @Time Inc. | VCA Family**

**State of Play**

**Southern California: Article**

[Hed] Surf ’n Skate

[Dek] Budding surfers and skaters will find a bounty of spots to hone their skills in Southern California.

[Main Copy]

Boards of all shapes and sizes dominate communities in Southern California—the region serving as the perfect backdrop to learn the quintessential Californian activities of surfing and skating. These camps are in locations that provide plenty for parents to do while the kids are away.

**On Land**

**Best for:** Flexible instruction

Pick a Southern California destination from Irvine to Long Beach and it’s likely that **Skatedog** has a camp location there. Summer camp sessions, run through the local Parks and Recreation Departments, teach kids ages six to 13 how to skate using ramps and rails from Skatedog’s mobile skate park. Camp spots are located near attractions like the historic *Queen Mary* in Long Beach or the upscale, open-air Fashion Island in Newport Beach.

**Best for:** Advanced tricksters

The legendary skate park at the **Magdalena Ecke YMCA** in Encinitas features a combination of street course, kidney-shaped bowl, and mix of ramp styles. It hosts three camps based on ability level: Technique for beginners, a tricks-focused intermediate/advanced camp, and a travel camp that takes skaters to other parks around San Diego. Parents can stay entertained in the quaint beachside town of Encinitas—simply relax on Moonlight Beach or grab a cup of house-roasted coffee at Lofty Bean and walk south down the 101 to browse gift shops and boutiques.

**Best for:** Multimedia skaters

If you mastered tricks at skateboard camp but don’t have it on video, did it really happen? For kids 10 and up, the **Etnies Video Production Skate Camp** in Lake Forest combines videography and photography with skateboarding during a weeklong camp. Etnies also offers a preschool skate camp for 4- and 5-year-olds. Lake Forest is just inland of Laguna Beach, where there are more than 100 galleries, sculpture gardens, and art studios within walking distance.

**In the Water**

**Best for:** Wave newbies

The small waves and lack of rocks at Bolsa Chica State Beach make the **Huntington Beach Surf Camp** a safe, kid-friendly option for learning how to catch a wave. With a four-to-one student-to-teacher ratio, your son or daughter will get personalized attention during a week of 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. full-day sessions (half days also available). Head over to Main Street for the grilled fish taco from Wahoo’s Fish Taco and wander through the surf shops and boutiques before picking your camper up at the end of the day.

**Best for:** A fun, relaxed atmosphere

Choose your ideal vacation location when signing your kids up for the **Perfect Day Surf Camp** at Santa Monica, Manhattan, Redondo, or Torrance Beaches. The camps offer flexible times and keep things fun by integrating beach dodgeball, capture the flag, and sandcastle time for the little ones. Each camp is located near the coastal bike path for riding or walking to beachfront restaurants. Or you could take a stand-up paddleboarding or surfing class while the kids catch waves.

**Best for:** The whole family

**Menehune Surf** in La Jolla or Del Mar serves up half- or full-day instruction. Youngsters (ages five to seven) start by playing in the shallow water and learning about the marine life, while the eight- to twelve-year-olds develop skills and learn about ocean ecosystems, and the teens focus on skills, etiquette, and learning about surf culture and how boards are designed. While the kids catch waves, parents can treat themselves to a sea stone massage or deep cleansing facial at L’Auberge in Del Mar.