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Santa Cruz Local Guide

(aka my favorite haunts)

- Food
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Food

Full Steam Dumpling

Downtown: https://maps.app.goo.gl/sy2eMRgGZXg8VM8i9?g_st=i

Only open wed-sat inside 11th Hour coffee (see "coffee" below). Dumplings and rame

Pretty Good Advice

Soquel: https://maps.app.goo.gl/u3Y7RVXq5rmjZyNk7?g_st=ic

Causal farm to counter vegetarian breakfast sandwiches, burgers, salads and vegan s

Home

Soquel: https://maps.app.goo.gl/jsKifLE1Z1UNxWQR6?g_st=ic

Upscale new american food. Pricier but fantastic food and wine. Need to make reserv

Bookies Pizza (Sante Adairus)

Seabright: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/BfZtbxeHYhf7KQ4PA>

Inside Sante Adairus Seabright location. Unique deep dish pizza with creative salad ar

Pono Hawaiian Grill

Capitola: https://maps.app.goo.gl/yU4R3pL4EReUWejGA?g_st=ic

Downtown: https://maps.app.goo.gl/1hym7Rfncet4xobRA?g_st=i

Two locations. Best hawaiian bbq in Santa Cruz + good poke bowls

Pizza My Heart

Capitola: https://maps.app.goo.gl/C8ZzrG6bcgebcNH6?g_st=i

Downtown: https://maps.app.goo.gl/z8ZkjgudCVJmabKr7?g_st=i

Late night, inexpensive slices with some interesting options for full pies. Classic santa

Point Market

Pleasure Point: https://maps.app.goo.gl/CyhmJTPLQgg6XzRg7?g_st=i

Cash only corner market right on pleasure point known for their plentiful burritos. Ta

Chubb's Chicken

Downtown: <https://goo.gl/maps/cbaAbktTPUxRN6?coh=178571&entry=tt>

Another 11th Hour evening food joint (sensing a pattern?) Spicy chicken sandwich is f

Yakitori Toriman

Moving pop-up: https://www.instagram.com/yakitori_toriman/?hl=en

Authentic yakitori as small popup restaurant. Grilled Japanese street food on a stick. (

Special Noodle

Seabright: <https://goo.gl/maps/y7xtWKQVHFbokLm9?coh=178571&entry=tt>

Newish restaurant serving soup dumplings. Haven't tried other things on menu but lo

Seabright Deli

Seabright: https://maps.app.goo.gl/ofCNMLUL5uuiGQ1b8?g_st=ic

Bomb sandwiches. That's all. Eat one. Favorite is the "Surfer"

Penny Ice Creamery

Pleasure Point: <https://goo.gl/maps/X8JLNT1jj9STP2h48>

Downtown: <https://goo.gl/maps/yuBRo5GdUEyHsDSy9>

High-end unique flavored icecream. Get the waffle cone with the toasted marshmallo

Achilles by the Sea

Seabright: <https://goo.gl/maps/XFamNZGwUYbL5rb59?coh=178571&entry=tt>

Mediterranean food in a casual setting. Great gyros and sauces.

Gabriella Cafe

Downtown: https://maps.app.goo.gl/5iNDS8torSzFVuVZ6?g_st=i

Favorite italian restaurant out of the MANY italian restaurants in Santa Cruz. Intimate.

Hanloh

Downtown: https://maps.app.goo.gl/5to5R3EPgkXL9HH97?g_st=i

Upscale (aka pricey) thai food inside Bad Animal (see below). Very authentic and bette

Pizza Bones

Moving pop up: <https://www.instagram.com/nopizzabones/>

Dope wood fired pizza at various places around Santa Cruz. Check instagram for locat

Barceloneta

Downtown: https://maps.app.goo.gl/CPHryMTPVKj9T2QW7?g_st=ic

Spanish tapas and paella in a bustling restaurant that would be good for a small grou

Los Viejones

Seabright-ish: https://maps.app.goo.gl/kh4jYtAnZUHySDRV6?g_st=ic

MANY taco trucks in SC but this is our favorite (so far). Super tacos are huge, I get full

Bread Boy

Felton: https://maps.app.goo.gl/gRseQdrjXdbKRQhf9?g_st=ic

Pop-up inside Humble Sea Tavern every Friday, Saturday and Sunday with smash bur,

Food I havent tried but heard is good

VIM

West Side: https://maps.app.goo.gl/m9iQSkwjXnu4uVA6?g_st=ic
Dope cocktails and eclectic american menu

Fonda Felix

West Side: <https://goo.gl/maps/VphgABmrFxFdYe7A?coh=178571&entry=tt>
Reasonably priced empanadas to go

Coffee

11th Hour

Downtown (Main location): <https://goo.gl/maps/MXS8nnYnywMGqA1b6?coh=178571&entry=tt>
Westside: <https://goo.gl/maps/mSUGa1JCQYpaf81d7?coh=178571&entry=tt>
Best coffee shop in Santa Cruz. Delicious coffee. Plentiful seating including a sunny balcony.

Verve

Capitola: <https://goo.gl/maps/xUjPhiXgMnjaYc1D6?coh=178571&entry=tt>
Seabright (by the climbing gym): <https://goo.gl/maps/8UkE5mZbSJ66qvEz6?coh=178571&entry=tt>
Downtown: <https://goo.gl/maps/1bq23jzwXryKDWBWA?coh=178571&entry=tt>
Westside: <https://goo.gl/maps/ULacSWNo32V2Qgwn7?coh=178571&entry=tt>
Popular, "upscale" local coffee shop with multiple locations. Less of a "sit and chill" place.

Cat & Cloud

Capitola: <https://goo.gl/maps/6gnyr5ULK5RSPaxD6?coh=178571&entry=tt>
Downtown: <https://goo.gl/maps/RjN6upbuQCr2FxcB8?coh=178571&entry=tt>
Westside: <https://goo.gl/maps/yhuSUse2fVcUU2cj8?coh=178571&entry=tt>
Funkier local coffee that prides itself on its bean varietal and roasting. Bit more laidback.

Flower Bar

Downtown: <https://goo.gl/maps/GW1mCgNtis4p5i9bA?coh=178571&entry=tt>
Hidden gem coffee shop with baked goods, truffle chocolate, and breakfast/lunch focus.

Mariposa

Downtown: <https://goo.gl/maps/kf96iK4TQxqjQav28?coh=178571&entry=tt>
Something different than your usual americano. Cuban coffee worth a try.

Hidden Peak Tea House

Downtown: <https://goo.gl/maps/M8xs2kAKwcrecES57>
Unique authentic tea house located in a back alley. Does not allow electronic devices.

Coffee Conspiracy

Downtown: https://maps.app.goo.gl/xSxippz7cwnJxufF7?g_st=ic

Coffee cart turned brick and mortar. Owner operated in a small shop with some unique

Bars

Bad Animal

Downtown: <https://goo.gl/maps/R1Y5hHB6PAY9h8KS7?coh=178571&entry=tt>

Awesome used book store (great curation!) with equally great wine selection that you

The Apéro Club

Seabright: <https://goo.gl/maps/hJ18vKX1ARnBg4d49?coh=178571&entry=tt>

Relaxed wine bar with selection of natural/organic wines.

Brady's yacht club

Seabright: <https://goo.gl/maps/88rEhJWwSfQoE1FV6?coh=178571&entry=tt>

Classic, offbeat dive bar where you'll find old retirees sitting next to a college student

Fast Eddy's Billiards

Capitola: <https://goo.gl/maps/GUNopCQLKaBJEo1X7?coh=178571&entry=tt>

Lots of pool tables to choose from (pay by the half hour) and sells beer by the pitcher

Breweries

Tons of breweries in Santa Cruz. They're all great and offer unique vibes. Check their

Shanty Shack Brewing

Downtown: <https://goo.gl/maps/h5Y37vMQQyTyPxm7?coh=178571&entry=tt>

Discretion Brewing

Soquel: <https://goo.gl/maps/pfYxTEBBYWuujLxU9?coh=178571&entry=tt>

Sante Adairus

Seaside: <https://goo.gl/maps/6b6kRj2nKNAgTGBj7?coh=178571&entry=tt>

Woodhouse Blending and Brewing

Downtown: <https://goo.gl/maps/VuHrNmKoBdTUXg9o8?coh=178571&entry=tt>

Humble Sea

Westside: <https://goo.gl/maps/X5t9zt2SPVCWCiNc9?coh=178571&entry=tt>

Santa Cruz Mountain Brewing

Westside: <https://goo.gl/maps/t6RbHAwgSuc5XJww5?coh=178571&entry=tt>

Beer Thirty Pour House

Soquel: <https://goo.gl/maps/FLLt1kBnSoKGTvKV6?coh=178571&entry=tt>

Live Music

Dedicated music venues below, but there are also restaurants/bars that offer liv

Moe's Alley

Soquel: <https://goo.gl/maps/y9mcvsPY7GnF7iP38>

Eclectic mix of bands in fun, intimate setting. Nice outdoor patio.

Felton Music Hall

Felton: https://maps.app.goo.gl/hg2csnBUk1tpf9x7?g_st=ic

In nearby Felton, indie acts across multiple genres. Intimate setting.

The Catalyst

Downtown: <https://goo.gl/maps/bDn9RjQJZSdh6Hvp9>

Classic rock/club venue. Leans more into the punk/hardcore scene, but has some go

Kuumbwa Jazz Center

Downtown: <https://goo.gl/maps/ygKKuucyaRJ184aEA>

Various jazz offerings in an intimate setting. Some amazing international artists come

Abbott Square Market

Downtown: https://maps.app.goo.gl/kqzcoraRWwniNbrs5?g_st=ic

Outdoor spot next to food hall with a ton of options for eating and drinking. Live mus

Groceries

Farmers Markets

Downtown (Wednesdays): https://maps.app.goo.gl/VfRVFriePTYG7ztv9?g_st=ic

West Side (Saturdays): https://maps.app.goo.gl/gcUGMGeGY1uRxR6V9?g_st=ic

Live Oak (Sundays): https://maps.app.goo.gl/yPdJjbXqwdfrzir4A?g_st=ic

Multiple farmers market through out the week year round. Local produce and food st

Staff of Life

Seabright: https://maps.app.goo.gl/84YEX6BmEccVgWtr8?g_st=ic

Natural groceries. Amazing bulk section and baked goods made in-house

Shopper's Corner

Seabright: https://maps.app.goo.gl/Gv18zXWJ8iL9pFX8A?g_st=ic

Local small grocer. Great deli/butcher and good selection of wine.

H&H Fresh Fish

Marina neighborhood: https://maps.app.goo.gl/JgKywUMBzTcNCE8Z9?g_st=ic

Fishmonger. Fresh fish, oysters and other sea bounties

El Salchichero

West Side: https://maps.app.goo.gl/7GpJBegh6oCP5AS28?g_st=ic

High end butcher with great stuff for grilling plus cured meats

Outdoor

Seabright Beach

Seabright: https://maps.app.goo.gl/9tzCuTWSRA1HQQsAA?g_st=ic

Large beach between harbor and boardwalk, good for lounging. One of only two beac

Pleasure Point - Surfing

Capitola: https://maps.app.goo.gl/PV4bxNkalT3u9Y4j8?g_st=ic

Popular surf breaks. Second point is most well-known and can get crowded. Further c

Privates Beach - Surfing

Capitola: https://maps.app.goo.gl/6nSVpj8spcWagibZ9?g_st=ic

Small local beach. Surf can be spotty but when it's hitting, it is a great longboard spot

Medicine Buddha Loop

Soquel: https://maps.app.goo.gl/7SSGGit2tZJoYPcUA?g_st=ic

Hiking on privately owned buddhist retreat, but open to public. Parking limited outsid

Wilder Ranch State Park

West Side: https://maps.app.goo.gl/MiiWUWVySXcEu4Q1A?g_st=ic

Coastal hiking on cliff edges. Can also bike on trail. Like most outdoor spots in SC, can

Henry Cowell State Park

Felton: https://maps.app.goo.gl/ezwEk8zpv6sSNwjv7?g_st=ic

Popular park for hiking among redwoods. Google location is the trail head outside of

[Newer](#)

18th May 2024

📍 Santa Cruz Food

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