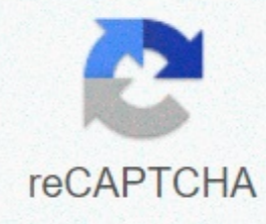




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Alameda rare mons

If you haven't yet explored Alameda Island, note that it's only a few minutes from Oakland, surrounded by water (obvs), and offers some of that beach life in California for which we all pay the high cost of living. Even in cold weather, the beaches of Alameda offer plenty of entertainment for small children with room to run, textures to explore and sticks to throw in the water. Thanks to Jordan Latham, our Ambassador Alameda, for providing this guide to some of his favorite sandy places. Alameda's best beaches for kids As it heads to the warm weather, one of the best free activities for children in East Bay is playing by the waterfront on the beaches of Alameda. These three places are small coastal pockets of children's paradise. Water quality: Check the East Bay Regional Parks District status update on water quality before choosing a destination. Children are sensitive to swimmer itch because they play in shallow water. Pro tip: Bring an extra bottle of water to pour over the skin after leaving the water and towel. Children also tend to get the itch of the swimmer more than adults because they don't wipe the water with a towel, but rather just let it sit on them while they play. Crown Memorial State Beach The water is shallow and surprisingly warm. On a hot day, it's a spectacular place to play. On a cool day, children will always enjoy picking up sticks to throw in the water and the tactile pleasures of the sand. Crown Memorial Beach Photo: Jordan Latham Parking is huge to accommodate the crowds who walk in Alameda for this particular beach, whenever temperatures exceed 80 degrees. From this writing, the lot is closed and you will need to park in the street. Crown Beach is the most popular alameda place for beach lovers as it is well known and friendly. There are plenty of well-maintained bathrooms, and outdoor showers for flushing. In a post-covid world If you have a beach birthday party or a family barbecue, this beach park offers beautiful sites to rent for groups of up to 25 and as big as 250 people. Almost all of these restaurants have stunning views of san Francisco's rooftops and barbecue pits for grilling! Crown Beach is regularly a fairly festive place, hosting 5Ks and an annual sandcastle contest in June. San Francisco View of Crown Beach Photo: Jordan Latham for 510Families.com Crab Cove Beach Crab Cove Beach Photo: Jordan Latham for 510Families.com Just around the corner of Crown Beach is Crab Beach. It's a special place for the little ones. The beach is full of smooth pebbles and small gems like sea glass and heart-shaped stones. There are shells, seaweed and sticks, and the city and the volunteer teams regularly comb through and take out all the rubbish, so it's very clean. My children are always looking forward to checking out what's inside the common sand toy box. It's a safe to take a toy, leave a toy that buckets and shovels for anyone to play with, so you don't have to carry toys on your own! Community Beach Toys at Crab Cove Beach Photo of Jordan Latham In a post-Covid World Crab Cove Visitor Centre, currently closed, houses an 800-gallon aquarium, microscopic observation of sea creatures, and water maps of the bay. They regularly organize beach exploration walks designed for toddlers, as well as fun annual events such as Easter Egg Hunt and Educational Earth Day events for children. There is a parking lot with bathrooms, and unless there is a big event, it is almost always easy to find a place. Shoreline Beach Feeling Free at Shoreline Beach Jordan Latham photo If you drive to the end of Park St, between south shore shopping centre and south shore AMF bowling, you will see Shoreline Beach. This is the stretch of beach from the Elsie Roemer Bird Sanctuary and running all the way up to where Crown Beach starts, just under two miles away. Shoreline Beach in Alameda, New Year' Photo: Whitney Moss There are no picnic tables or party rental areas in Shoreline Beach. When the heat becomes anything but moderate, this beach will become crowded too, with people bringing beach towels and shade umbrellas to be near the water. But most months of the year, it's pretty empty. It is perfect for children who run, howl loudly, just be their most authentic little wild self. There is no parking for Shoreline Beach, but the mall still has open spaces if the parking on the street on Shoreline Drive is full. The bathrooms are decent and the water fountains have taps at the base to wash sandy feet. Note that there are no tables at once and absolutely no shade, so plan to create your own with changing toppings and umbrellas. This one is my personal fave because it gives me this coveted rare need for a wide open empty happy space! Map of the best beaches in Alameda for small children But now, Alameda's time-distortion — think of vintage arcades and a World War II-era aircraft carrier museum — are paired with more modern places: a number of art galleries, craft breweries and waterfront cafes designed by islanders looking to help Alameda grow without selling the soul of the city. The region is also becoming a food and beverage destination with East End Park Street restaurants serving authentic dishes from as far away as Lithuania and Ethiopia, as well as solidified from the West End Spirits Alley, a popular stretch of U.S. Navy hangars transformed urban tasting rooms. And with the long-awaited \$500 million redevelopment project underway at the naval base site, now known as alameda Point (as well as hotshot companies such as Google Makani Power having installed in town), Alameda continues on its inevitable path to revitalization. Trabocco Kitchen and CocktailsAfter running a trattoria in his native Italy and establishing himself stateside with a 19-year career at Il Il Chef Giuseppe Naccarelli has set out to bring authentic Italian cuisine to his new coastal home in Alameda. Despite its shopping mall address, Trabocco carries with evocative décor the Italian seaside as well as a menu of wood-fired pizzas, stuzzichini (small plates), Abruzzo-style gnocchi, and a loaded seafood spaghetti. Sip from a selection of 10 homemade cocktails with Alameda-quality spirits, as well as exclusive wine blends at the restaurant. 2213 South Shore Center (Alameda), trabocco.comScolari'sAn Alameda institution thanks to its famously stacked cheeseburgers, the tiny but lively Park Street location even offers meals at the Lucky 13 bar next door. Owners Dan Nichols and Michael Boyd continue to expand the business, adding Scolari's at the Point , adjacent to Rock Wall Winery at the Alameda Naval Air Station, and a traveling Airstream food truck. Order fried chicken (choose white or dark meat) with Nashville hot sauce, green vegetables with pork belly collars and cookies. 1303 Park St. and 2301 Monarch St. (Alameda), scolarisgoodeats.comBurma SuperstarThis Bay Area is one of the smallest but most popular restaurants on the island- put your name at the beginning to hang a table for dinner. Fans live and die near the tea leaf and rainbow salads. 1345 Park St. (Alameda), burmasuperstar.comThe Moroccan cuisine of Abigail's waterfront abigail's is modest, located in an office complex with signs announcing the place as a café and a delicatessen. This rings true for lunch when sandwiches are served, but at 6pm on Saturday, the family room is transformed with the introduction of glitzy belly dancing shows and multi-course dinners. Try Moroccan mint tea, but also go ahead and bring a bottle of everything you're in the mood for- Abigail has a sweet BYOB policy with no cork fees. 1132 Ballena Blvd. (Alameda), abigailsalameda.comNeptune'sNeptune's is your new weekend venue: the bright interior, the coffee window and the welcoming back patio are the first for the slow mornings. Chef Naomi Elze-Harris has compiled a menu of fresh dishes for brunch and lunch, including shrimp and cheese grains, lumpia and chilaquiles. 630 Central Ave. (Alameda), neptunesalameda.comOle Waffle ShopA Park Street pillar since 1927, Ole attracts customers with its authentic retro feel and friendly waiting staff. Take a seat with the regulars at the bar to order the signature waffles (you can also buy the mic online). For the night of the appointment, check out Wine and Waffles, the counterpart of the restaurant next door. Park St. (Alameda), oleswaffleshop.comMama Papa Lithuania Restaurant and Tea House This rustic restaurant combines medieval-style tables, wrought iron chandeliers, and a beer garden with authentic Old World dishes such as an electric pink summer borscht. For dessert, try the seven-layer honey cake. 1241 Park St. (Alameda), mamapapalithuania.comAmin mamapapalithuania.comAmerican a destination for whisky lovers, this high-end saloon-style gastropub combines a sophisticated menu of comfort food (think New York steak with oatmeal) with an impressive selection of some 300 malt, rye, bourbon and scotch labels from 150 distilleries. 2319 Santa Clara Ave. (Alameda), americanoakalameda.comQ's Halal ChickenKabob fan rave about budget prices and great flavors at this modest Middle Eastern location across from the Alameda Theatre. Favorites include gyroscope salad, and chicken and lamb rice bowls. 2306 Central Ave. (Alameda), qhalal.comCafe JolieTht French is frequented for its breakfast menu and its seats on the sidewalk. If you're having trouble choosing between the five omelette options, go ahead and customize yours. 1500 Webster St. (Alameda), cafejolies.comKoJa KitchenThis buzzy-turned-restaurant food truck has opened outposts throughout the Bay Area, and you can now get inventive Korean-Japanese bowls, burgers, and tacos at Alameda Landing. 2680 5th Street, Suite D (Alameda), kojakitchen.comPappoCe upscale bistro sets the mood with an intimate wooden interior, as well as alfresco dining in front of the Alameda Theatre. Try the truffled caprese burrata to get started, and choose from starters such as locally sourced steamed halibut or homemade gnocchi. 2320 Central Ave. (Alameda), papporestaurant.comDragon RougeSet on the Oakland Estuary, this place attracts both Alamedans and Oaklanders with an outdoor view of the Park Street Bridge and Vietnamese staples. 2337 Blanding Ave. (Alameda), dragonrougerestaurant.comCookiebar CreameryIt turns out Alameda is big enough for two very popular glaciers, while Tucker's, 75, is an East End classic, Cookiebar dominates the West End with its ice cream sandwiches. Distinctive flavors include purple ube, Vietnamese coffee, and 1606 (peppermint, 'n cookies cream cookies, Oreos, and fudge). 647 Central Ave. (Alameda), cookiebar-creamery.comAll the BoozeeHangar 1 VodkAA its name suggests, this Alameda native pays tribute to the city's history as a naval hub with aviation-themed details, a model propeller aircraft, and light streaming through the windows of the OG hangar. The distillery made headlines recently with its limited edition Fog Point vodka made with Karl the Fog itself, but its newly renovated tasting room and visitor centre is the real attraction. Discover everything that goes into distilling your favorite spirits on a guided tour of the 60,000 square foot facility, then head to the vintage inspired, tasting room filled with to enjoy six vodkas, including the popular Buddha's Hand Citron. 2505 Monarch St. (Alameda), hangarone.comForbidden IslandForbidden Island may be home to the busiest Friday night in town. The tiki bar is the real deal, serving top-notch tropical cocktails and fiery punch bowls made about 150 rums and freshly squeezed juice. Order a may tai at the bar under the ceiling covered with thatched tickets, or opt for the dog patio. The jukebox plays vintage surfing tunes, after all, Alameda is an island. 1304 Lincoln Ave. (Alameda), bannedislandalameda.comFaction Brewing Come for the beer, stay for the view. The slogan of this reused aircraft hangar rings true, with over 20 original beers and a spacious front patio where crowds often overflow for stunning views of The San Francisco skyline. Wacky murals dominate the interior, and the tasting room remains busy serving pints and flights - locals love the island's exclusive A-Town pale beer. 2501 Monarch St. (Alameda), factionbrewing.comThe Rake at Admiral MaltingsSide up to the stylish bar, settle into a cabin, or hit the patio with one of the more than 20 local beers on tap, all created with the clean California-grown malt admiral, which you can see being made through the windows that overlook the malt floor. 651A W. Tower Ave. (Alameda), therake.admiralmaltings.comAlmanac Barrel House, Brewery and TaproomAlmanac's former Navy Warehouse now offer a spacious setting to enjoy its barrel farm beers, with long communal tables, TVs, a sunny patio and a child-friendly space. 651B W. Tower Ave. (Alameda), almanacbeer.comRock Wall Wine CompanyThe mother-daughter duo Kent and Shauna Rosenblum are big hitters in the Bay Area wine scene. Shauna growing up in Rosenblum Cellars, the Kent winery ran until 2008. Rock Wall in a converted shed with Shauna as chief winemaker. Stop for samples in the tasting room or a drink on the back deck where the views extend across the bay to SF. 2301 Monarch St. (Alameda), rockwallwines.comSt. George SpiritsLong before Monarch Street was named Spirits Alley, St. George Spirits was the sole producer of alcohol at Alameda Point — St. George started whisky here in 2004. Visit the sprawling industrial space to see the backstage of the old copper stills, or set aside time in the tasting room to sample six St. George classics, such as California citrus vodka and absinthe verde. 2601 Monarch St. (Alameda), stgeorgespirits.comAlameda Island Brewing Company Well known for its IPA island city, Alameda Island Brewing Company was opened by brewer Matthew Fox in 2015 after being stationed in town with the Coast Guard. The site has since grown to include the new Monkey King at the brewery, a food counter that opens onto the patio and serves nine kinds of chicken wings. 1716 Park St. (Alameda), alamedaislandbrewingcompany.comBuild 43 Team Tod Hickman and Meredith Coghlan craft their wine varieties using grapes grown in California. Go for \$10 tastings and live music at the dog-friendly urban cellar. 2440 Monarch St. (Alameda), building43winery.comLucky 13The East Bay At the historic Lucky 13 in the SF Duboce Triangle, this corner bar provides the same no-frills experience. Cash diving only prides itself on its selection of beers and its jukebox choices, while guests also enjoy the pool table, photo booth and pinball machines. You can order a pint at the bar or on the patio, and if you feel bold after a few laps, Lucky 13 Tattoos is upstairs (and open until 9pm on Fridays and Saturdays). 1301 Park St. (Alameda), lucky13alameda.comSpeisekammerSay prost in this German bar and restaurant, where specialty beers from historic German breweries dominate the menu and decorative steins accompany the Bavarian flags on the walls. Live music often adds to the jovial atmosphere, but in the fall, revelers flock to the front beer garden for one of the bay's most festive Oktoberfest celebrations. 2424 Lincoln Ave. (Alameda), speisekammer.comThe HobnobPull mounts a stool at Hobnob, where owner Amy Voisenat draws on her experience as a chef at San Francisco's Curve Bar and Restaurant to produce small American plates, artisan cocktails and a medium brunch. By day you can nose on truffle fries on a Connect Four bottle, and on Thursday night it's best to have a drink before going up for karaoke. 1313 Park St. (Alameda), thehobnobalameda.com Fireside LoungeGather your buds for a night in this welcoming Watering Center of the West End, originally opened in 1942 and equipped with a comfortable fireplace (of course). Here, entertainment is in the form of local artists and open mic evenings, while rotating happy hours cover microbrewery Mondays and whisky Wednesdays. 1453 Webster St. (Alameda), thefiresidelounge.comCOFFEE and TEAJulie's Coffee and Tea GardenA favorite east end, Julie is known for her organic coffee, free-leaved tea and herbal ice cream drinks, all served indoors among local rotating art or in the garden where wooden tables are surrounded by foliage and patio accents available for purchase. Enjoy free wi-fi and mobile weekends (8am to 2pm). They also planted a seed at their new Temescal location. 1223 Park St. (Alameda), juliestea.comMosley's CafeHard to find on foot but impossible to miss by water, this unique docked café opened in 2015 as a welcome addition to the Grand Marina, serving Oakland's Bicycle coffee, gluten-free pastries and sandwiches, and beer. The six-seat waterfront bar faces The Coast Guard Island in front, hanging a stool and watching the boats slide by. 2099 Grand St. (Alameda), mosleyscafe.com CultureUSS Hornet MuseumBefore docking for good as a floating museum, the aircraft carrier USS Hornet saw a lot of action, in addition to serving during World War II and the Vietnam War, the ship recovered the astronauts from the first two lunar landings of the United States after their splashes back to Earth in 1969. Hop aboard this national historic monument for a walk covering everything from lunar missions to women in the military. On the hangar and flight decks, you'll find a number of retired aircraft from the 1940s to 1980s, including the U.S. Navy's first supersonic jet fighter, a World War II torpedo bomber and an SH-3H SeaKing, the all-weather helicopter used in anti-submarine warfare. 707 W. Hornet Ave. (Alameda), uss-hornet.orgPacific Pinball MuseumFor the delight of pinheads everywhere, the Pacific Pinball Museum has more than 90 fully restored machines all put into play for free (with the exception of a few games invented in the front lobby); find your favorite, whether it's the 1992 Addams family game, the Montague Redgrave salon trifle from 1887. The interactive museum also goes beyond fun and games by mixing history, science and art with tours and classes open to budding pinball wizards, as well as rotating exhibits, murals and works of art on display. The non-profit organization also has an additional 1,500 machines that simply do not fit into the small space. 1510 Webster St. (Alameda), pacificpinball.orgAlameda Theatre and CineplexAdding to the bay area list of restored cinema palaces, this 1932 Art Deco Theatre reopened in 2008, nearly 40 years after the last curtains closed. Today, the cineplex attracts moviegoers with its historic neon sign, ornate lobby and dining options: refuel at the Cinema Grill next door, order beer and wine at the snack bar or have pre-ordered dishes delivered to your reserved theatre seats. 2317 Central Ave. (Alameda), alamedatheatres.comHigh Scores ArcadeLevel up at High Scores, where \$6 gives you an hour of free play on dozens of classic arcade games, including Donkey Kong and Galaga. The space the size of a shoebox is all about the game - no bar, no TVs, no WiFi - just like Pac-Man and Atari. If anyone needs additional proof that vintage video games are still popular, husband and wife team Shawn and Meg Livernoche also run a slot in Hayward. 1414 Park St. (Alameda), highscoresarcade.comRhythmix Cultural WorksOccupying aconverted brick warehouse near the Park Street Bridge, this non-profit artist hosts theatre, dance and music performances, while performing classes in Cuban salsa, zumba, and beginner drums. 2513 Blanding Ave. (Alameda), rhythmix.org2nd Friday Art WalkFor this monthly art walk, nearly two dozen creative spaces on either side of the Park Street Bridge come together to showcase art in Oakland's Alameda and Jingtletown. Get down Park between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. to see the studios open at Autobody Fine Art, Jingtletown Art Studios, Frank Better Art Center and Studio 23 Gallery. Various galleries and studios (Alameda and Oakland), fridayartwalk.comThe Great OutdoorsCrown Memorial State BeachWhile you've been freezing at Ocean Beach, East Bayers spend their sunny days set up in Crown Beach, a 2.5 mile stretch of sand on Alameda. Once Like West Coney Island for its long-gone Neptune Beach amusement park, the protected area now attracts visitors with its relatively warm waters, coastal bike path, and family-run crab cove visitor center. The waterfront is also a hot spot for windsurfers and kiteboarders, you can get into the action with lessons or rentals at the Boardsports hut. Eighth Street and Otis Drive (Alameda), ebparks.org/parks/crown_beachMike's PaddleSee the San Francisco skyline from a new perspective during a paddle boarding standup session. Owner Mike Wang teaches beginner lessons, offers SUP yoga, and hosts monthly paddles around the ballena isle marina and at Treasure Island for more experienced SUPers. 1120 Ballena Blvd. #200, (Alameda), mikespaddle.comKayaking with Stacked AdventuresGetting on the water is the best way to remind you that Alameda is, in fact, an island. Stacked Adventures offers kayaking trips, workshops and family excursions around the bay. 190 Central Ave. (Alameda), stackedadventures.com Alameda Point Antiques FaireWhen it is antiquing in the Bay Area, the Alameda Point Antiques Make is a utopia of 800 stalls selling vintage merchandise, you may find the Holy Grail while you are here. The massive event is frequently included in the roundups of the country's best flea markets, and some 10,000 buyers from all over Northern California reinforce its status every first Sunday by arriving bright and early to get the first dibs. From Persian rugs to buckled trunks from the 1910s to 1910s in addition to rows of vintage door buttons, every item for sale is at least 20 years old, ensuring the authenticity of your bragging rights. 2900 Navy Way (Alameda), alamedapointantiquesfaire.comRocket ReuseOugh mainly devoted to used books, this comfortable thrift store also gives way to vinyl records, DVDs, CDs, and even VHS cassettes sold for pennies on the dollar. Items in the red rocket display are deeply reduced, and you can try on vintage wires in the phone-cabin-turned-dressing-room. For new readings, cross the street at Books Inc. // 1355 Park St. (Alameda), facebook.com/rocketreuseTherapyThe Alameda Outpost of this bay area chain stores an eclectic mix of funky furniture, hipster household products, and quirky gifts that range from coffee tables to bottles and kitchen tools with narcissious messages. And if you are ever in the market for a coated pillow with an image of a cat, therapy is your store. 1428 Park St. (Alameda), therapystores.comModern MouseModern Mouse exclusively transports products made to hand and gifts made by independent artists and small-scale craftsmen from all over the Bay Area and beyond. 2223 South Shore Center (Alameda), modernmousegifts.comDandelion Flowers and GiftsTucked away in the Park Street Plaza, Pissenlit invites passers-by with a 5-mini\$5 sidewalk tin tray. Further inside, the full-service flower sells vibrant arrangements of seasonal flowers from Half Moon Bay and Petaluma. You'll also find hand-picked trinkets and trinkets, as well as a small bowl of free poems. 1419 Park St. (Alameda), dandelionflowershop.comPRSTGWith hundreds of collectible kicks, PRSTG is a must-see for any sneakerhead looking to buy, sell or trade. Floor-to-ceiling shelves are lined with rare pairs of Nike, Air Jordans and Adidas. 1201 Lincoln Ave. (Alameda), prstgshop.comTot TankA one-stop shop for all children, family tot tank has been a park street staple for moms and dads since 2009. Personal buyers and free car seat installations are among the extra touches that give this showcase an edge. 1413 Park St. (Alameda), tottank.comDaisy'sA tribute to Daisy Buchanan of The Great Gatsby, owner Barbara Mooney stores her gift shop with a mix of pretty little things for the kitchen, bedroom and bathroom. Don't miss the rows of greeting cards, ribbon reels, and washii ribbon on the craft wall. 1347 Park St. (Alameda), daisysmercantile.com daisysmercantile.com

