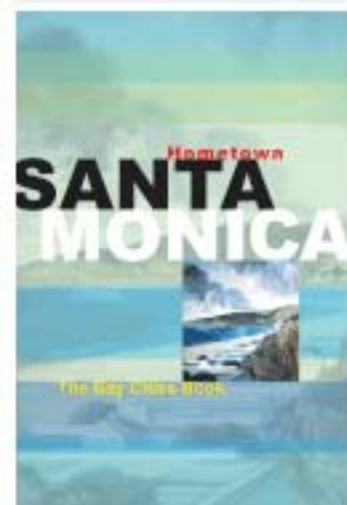


Hometown Santa Monica: The Bay Cities Book  
[Garbee, Jenn \(Author\)](#)  
[Gottesman, Nancy \(Author\)](#)  
[Helper, Stephanie M. \(Author\)](#)



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★ Rag on all you want about Los Angeles, but on a clear weekend day there's no better place to be than the seaside city of Santa Monica. No wonder this lovely, funky, quirky place is a top tourist destination for out-of-towners. Following a foreword by crime novelist April Smith, Californian authors Garbee, Nancy Gottesman, Tippy Helper, and Margery L. Schwartz capture the charm of Santa Monica and its six smaller sister cities: Brentwood, Pacific Palisades, Topanga, Malibu, Venice, and Marina del Rey. With humor and a wee bit of tongue in cheek (one section is called "Ain't Life a Beach?"), they describe the factors that make up these Bay cities. For each entry they give a wealth of information: hours of operation, admission fees, web sites, addresses, and phone numbers. Their witty and informative reviews of everything from fancy restaurants to rustic rambles cover the many special things to see. Certainly, this is an essential acquisition for L.A.-area libraries, but considering the high volume of tourists wandering through Venice's chaotic streets, hobnobbing with celebrities in Malibu, or taking a ride on Santa Monica's famous carousel, it will be valuable in any library. Highly recommended.~Joseph L. Carlson, Allan Hancock Coll., Lompoc, CA