

HEALTH AND SAFETY ABROAD: ARE YOU COVERED?

# TRAVEL + LEISURE

## 40 SECRET BEACH HIDEAWAYS

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SWEEPSTAKES  
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**On the Waterfront** Clockwise from far left: A fishing boat in Sayulita Bay; tuna tartare at Don Pedro's Restaurant & Bar; making friends on the beach in Sayulita; shopping near the plaza.

## THE TRIP

# BY THE SEASHORE

FIND ALL THE CLASSIC ELEMENTS—SUN, SURF, SAND—PLUS PLENTY OF AUTHENTIC LOCAL FLAVOR.

**SAYULITA MEXICO [5 DAYS]** A 45-minute car ride north of Puerto Vallarta, this surfing haunt turned boho village feels like a flashback to a calmer, simpler Mexico, free of high-rise hotels and package tours. Lush green hills rise from a crescent-shaped shoreline, fishing boats bob in the bay, and carefree afternoons in the town's palm-fringed central plaza call for a lazy stroll and an ice cream cone. The native culture is as kid-friendly as anyone can hope for—even teenage boys coo over babies. But the most remarkable thing about a family vacation in Sayulita, according to T+L photographer and four-year resident Anne Menke, is how naturally visiting children mix with local kids, including her own three young sons. "They just run to the beach and play soccer together," she says.

The town is known for its boutique accommodations—**Petit Hotel d'Hafa** (52-329/291-3806; [sayulitalife.com/hafa](http://sayulitalife.com/hafa); doubles from \$50) is one particularly appealing option—although Menke suggests renting a house to fall into the laid-back rhythms of local life. Thanks to an influx of expat Americans and Europeans, rentals are plentiful, ranging from basic *palapa*-roof bungalows to beachfront villas with infinity pools (for a full selection, contact Avalos Sayulita Realty at [move2sayulita.com](http://move2sayulita.com)). As for dining, street food is a viable and delicious option; by the water, **Don Pedro's Restaurant & Bar** (52-329/291-3090; dinner for four \$80) serves as Sayulita's unofficial social center, with tables in the sand and wood-fired pizza.

For impromptu family beach days, Menke and her husband love the flat waters and golden sand of Playa de los Muertos, a five-minute walk south of town. "It's the Waikiki of Sayulita—perfect for kids," she says. Hikes in the jungles that line the shore yield wildlife viewings galore, from leaf-cutter ants and lilac-crowned parrots to five-foot-long iguanas. And no trip to Sayulita is complete without catching a wave; sign up for lessons at beginner-friendly **Lunazul Surf School** ([lunazulsurfschool.com](http://lunazulsurfschool.com); individual lessons from \$55), or rent a foam board on the main beach and watch the tykes pop right up with ear-to-ear grins. —SAMANTHA SCHOECH

## insider tip

Don't be deterred by the line of barefoot gringos snaking away from the counter of the brightly colored **Burrito Revolución** (*Calle Revolución, across from the central plaza*)—the grilled-shrimp burrito is worth the wait, swears local Anne Menke. For dessert, grab an ice cream bar from **La Michocana** next door (Menke's pick: the coconut cream).



editors' picks: beach reads

Books to savor, from childhood classics to guilty pleasures.

**KIDS 8 AND UNDER**

**THE FALLING RAINDROP** by Neil Johnson and Joel Chin (Tricycle, 2010, \$14.99)

**FLOTSAM** by David Wiesner (Clarion, 2006, \$17)

**LADYBUG GIRL AT THE BEACH** by David Soman and Jacky Davis (Dial, 2010, \$16.99)

**ONE MORNING IN MAINE** by Robert McCloskey (Viking, 1952, \$17.99)

**PRETEENS AND TEENS**

**BRAND-NEW EMILY** by Ginger Rue (Ten Speed, 2009, \$15.99)

**THE DARK IS RISING SEQUENCE** by Susan Cooper (Margaret K. McEldleny, 1973, boxed set of five \$96)

**LINGER** by Maggie Stiefvater (Scholastic, 2010, \$17.99)

**ADULTS**

**HOUSE RULES** by Jodi Picoult (Atria, 2010, \$28)

**THAT OLD CAPE MAGIC** by Richard Russo (Knopf, 2009, \$25.95)

**THE PRINCE OF TIDES** by Pat Conroy (Bantam, 1987, \$15)



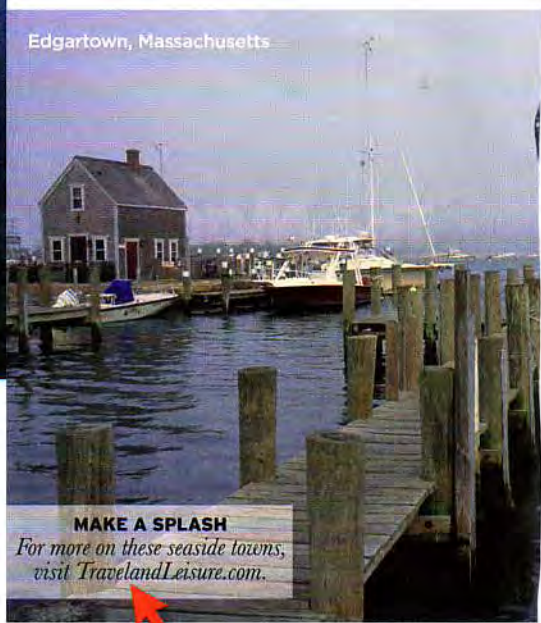
**4 MORE SEASIDE TOWNS**

**EDGARTOWN MASSACHUSETTS**

On the eastern edge of Martha's Vineyard, the former whaling port draws history buffs and lighthouse lovers of all ages. Stay at the Harbor View Hotel & Resort (*harbor-view.com*; doubles from \$109), a colonial grande dame that organizes beach-combing and kayaking trips for kids.

**CHINCOTEAGUE VIRGINIA** Yes, the herds of wild ponies still frolic on nearby Assateague Island and make their famous swim across the bay in late July (*assateagueisland.com*). Book a vacation rental from Island Getaways (*igetaway.net*).

**SEABROOK WASHINGTON** Not far from Olympic National Park, this planned community is set high on a bluff above a vast sand beach. Rent a house from Seabrook Cottage



**MAKE A SPLASH**  
For more on these seaside towns, visit *TravelandLeisure.com*.

Rentals (*seabrookcottage rentals.com*; two-bedroom cottages from \$129, two-night minimum) and tool around on a communal cruiser bike.

**ÎLE DE PORQUEROLLES FRANCE** An eight-minute ferry ride from the Côte d'Azur brings you to this tiny rural island, where cars are banned in favor of bicycles and the glittering cove beaches are mostly empty. Stay at family-friendly L'Auberge des Glycines (*auberge-glycines.com*; family suites for four from \$326, including two meals daily).

hot stuff: seaside gear

Pentax Optio WS80 camera, \$250 (*pentaximaging.com*)

Nautica madras shorts, \$34 (*macys.com*)

MD Skincare SPF 30 sunscreen, 60 applications, \$42 (*mdskincare.com*)

TYR Orca Kids swim cap, \$10 (*tyr.com*)

Sea Bags Vintage Family Tote, \$225 (*seabags.com*)

**great deal** **Loews Miami Beach Hotel** Florida; 877/563-9762; *loewshotels.com*; ask for the T+L Family South Beach package. **WHAT'S INCLUDED** Three nights in an Oceanview room; daily breakfast for two adults and two kids; entrance for two to the SushiSkool, a culinary class; two tickets to SoBe Kids Camp. **COST** \$259 per night. **SAVINGS** 52 percent.

TOP, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: RJT PHOTOGRAPHY/ALAMY; ENIGMA/ALAMY; BOTTOM: DAVIES + STARR (5)