

Get Away With **Movie Stars**

An affordable weekend **among the rich and famous** of Malibu and Calabasas. ::

BY BECCA BLOND

MALIBU AND CALABASAS are synonymous with wealth, celebrities, stunning real estate, and gorgeous beaches.

But you don't have to be

Kardashian rich to vacation in the family's hometown of Calabasas or adjacent Malibu.

There are affordable lodging options along with a host of restaurants and activities that

give you access to these exclusive destinations just west of Los Angeles without maxing out the credit card.

Here is how to spend a late fall weekend in the playground of movie stars. ►

WHERE TO STAY

My affordable favorite is Cambria Hotel Calabasas, which opened in 2022. Since the hotel is new, everything feels fresh and sleek.

The interiors are the creation of local designer Rachael Goddard and have a modern glam vibe — expect blown-up, beach-focused photos on white walls, minimalist furnishings, and very comfortable beds in spacious rooms.

There is a heated

outdoor pool with mountain views to enjoy from sun loungers and umbrellas, as well as a state-of-the-art fitness center.

If you aren't in the mood to dine out, head to the in-house Malibu Canyon Bar & Grill. It cooks up tasty contemporary California fare inside the breezy dining room or al fresco on the patio near the pool. There is also a bar area that serves craft cocktails, local beer, and artisanal wine.

I was traveling with my dog, Poppy, and found Cambria Calabasas to be super dog-friendly. (Poppy was treated like a queen.)

The hotel backs up to the Santa Monica Mountains, and there is a hiking trail that starts adjacent to it that is great for active pups and their humans.

If you'd rather stay on the beach in Malibu for a bit more money, check out Surfrider Malibu, a 20-room luxe boutique hotel.

Just across the street from Surfrider Beach and a short walk from the Malibu Pier, it's located inside what was once a 1950s-era motel. A contemporary California beach house vibe prevails throughout the design-forward hotel.

Surfrider has an awesome bar and restaurant on its rooftop deck. Grab a drink at the bar and watch the sunset over the Pacific Ocean or order from a full menu of locally sourced coastal California fare.

WHAT TO DO

It's hard not to fall in love with Malibu, where the mountains tumble down into the sea.

Encompassing 21 miles of stunning oceanfront property backed by the Santa Monica Mountains, Malibu is known for its beaches, sea caves, and tidal pools, as well as its canyon hiking and horseback riding trails.

The Malibu Pier dates back to the early 1900s, and California surf culture came of age around it.

The famed Surfrider Beach, known for its right-handed break, is directly west of the pier. If you don't ride waves, you can watch the local surfers from the pier or the beach itself.

Zuma Beach, right on the Pacific Coast Highway, is Malibu's most popular. Unlike many local beaches, it's long and wide and not clogged with multimillion-dollar mansions.

It also has lots of parking and is easy to access without hiking down a steep trail. There are lifeguards on duty during the day, and it's a popular place for swimmers.

In the middle of Malibu's coastline is Point Dume, another gorgeous area replete with seaside cliffs and beaches. Here you'll find the Point Dume Natural Preserve that features numerous hiking trails.

If you'd rather explore from the back of a horse, Connemara Ranch offers private trail rides to small groups on their well-cared-for horses. These take you up into the canyon and offer more amazing ocean views.

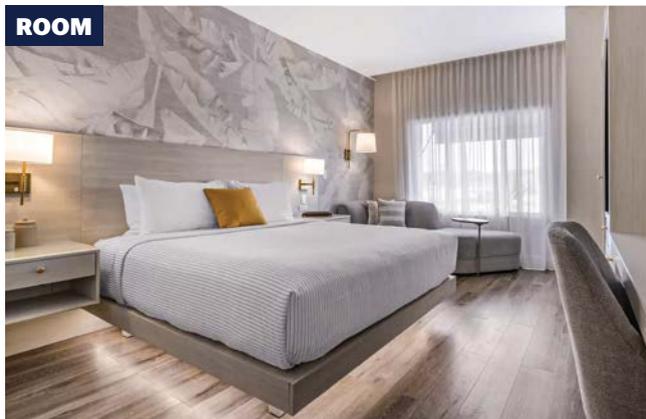
CAMBRIA HOTEL CALABASAS



POOL



ROOM



SURFRIDER BREAKFAST



WHERE TO EAT

In the Commons at Calabasas, Porta Via Calabasas is a great lunch or dinner choice. It is also open for weekend brunch.

It serves California fare and features indoor and outdoor seating in glam environs. There are numerous salad options and sandwich choices for lunch.

For dinner, try one of the pasta dishes that can be made regular, gluten-free, or with zucchini pasta. The main courses are also popular (try the grilled skirt steak that's dry-rub marinated and served with organic market veggies and French fries).

Another fine dining dinner destination in Calabasas is Toscanova, also located in the Commons shopping area. It's popular with celebrities and offers modern takes on classic Italian fare.

In Malibu, Paradise Cove Beach Cafe is a restaurant open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. It has a super-varied menu with a lot of seafood options, including lobster, and platters designed for sharing. They're also famous for their iced seafood towers, and the beach in front of the restaurant is one of the best in Malibu.

Duke's Malibu pays homage to Malibu surf legend Duke Kahanamoku. It offers California-meets-Hawaiian fare like poke tacos and coconut shrimp. Whatever you do, don't skip dessert here. □