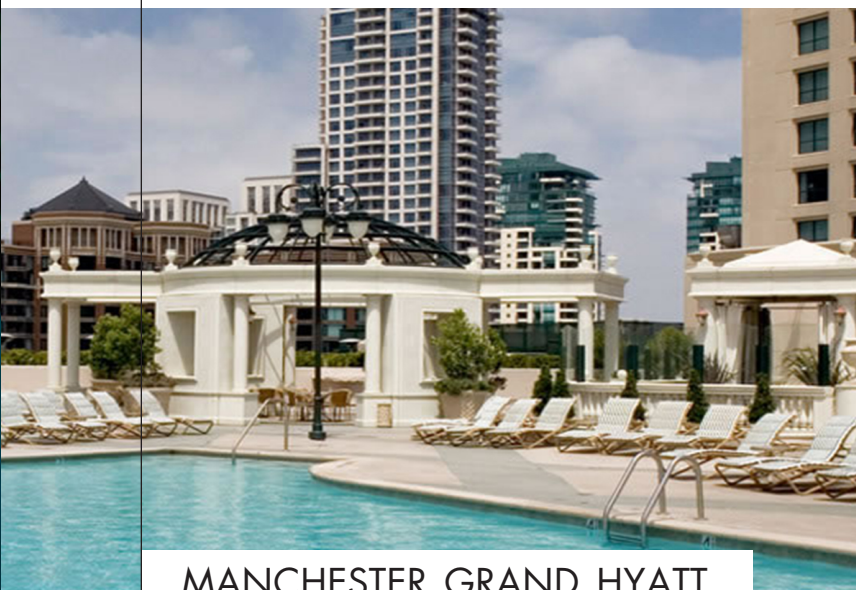


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FOOT TO THE PEDAL » 90 miles

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## MANCHESTER GRAND HYATT

The award-winning waterfront Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego is, well, grand. In fact, it's practically a small city with 1628 rooms, two tennis courts, a 24-hour Stay Fit exercise facility, a full-service Kin spa, bars, restaurants, and a 30,000-square-foot grand ballroom housed within the 125,000 square feet of function and meeting space. Fresh off a multimillion-dollar remodel, the property could easily be a European pomp and circumstance affair, but its low-key elegance is conveniently located right here in our own San Diego backyard. The lobby is magnificent, and the common areas house antiques and renovated frescoes, while the classically styled marble columned pool and Jacuzzi overlook the harbor and have incredible views of the water, city lights and Coronado.

We slept with the blinds open to enjoy the spectacular city lights, and awoke bright and early to azure skies and cerulean water. My daughter dragged me, against my many protests, down to the pool for a 6:30 a.m. swim on a clear windy Sunday morning. We had the pool to ourselves and then warmed up in the toasty Jacuzzi.

We were spoiled in the Art Deco Penthouse Suite. Our short visit was enhanced by the floor-to-ceiling wrap-around views from North to South County. Complete with an office, stunning master bedroom, multiple Jacuzzi tubs, and views from the dining room, living room, bedroom, and even the bathroom, we enjoyed every nook and cranny, understanding completely why Elite Traveler just named "our" suite one of the top in the entire world!—S.L.

■ [manchestergrandhyatt.com](http://manchestergrandhyatt.com)



## HALF MOON BAY

Big Sur gets most of the votes as California's most scenic stretch of wild coast, but I'm a fan of the more subtle charms of Highway 1 a bit farther north. Driving south out of San Francisco, the freeway downsizes suddenly around Pacifica, and then meanders through Half Moon Bay, past pretty Pescadero and south into Santa Cruz, the other Surf City.

The drive is bucolic, with windswept beaches on one side, and forested mountains on the other. But it's also home to luxury by way of The Ritz-Carlton, Half Moon Bay. It's billed as the only oceanfront resort in the Bay area, which seems a bit odd to us in OC, with all of our resorts, including a sister Ritz-Carlton, offering ocean views.

The Half Moon Bay hotel's solo status is enhanced by the surrounding golf courses. Set against the green open space, the resort stands grandly as a solitary sentinel on bluffs above the Pacific. It's that feeling of separateness that makes it one of our favorite places to get away from the bustling stress of SoCal. Of course the luxury amenities don't hurt, either: dining at Navio and sunset drinks on the Ocean Terrace, complete with a bagpipe player; treatments at the spa; and of course the convenience of Club Level access.

Half Moon Bay has a cute downtown that's worth exploring if you get tired of relaxing in luxury at the resort. It's a few blocks filled with restaurants, bars, bookstores and boutiques, from a chic new plant store (Garden Apothecary) to the rustic Feed & Fuel store, which has been in town since 1911.

While we were there, Half Moon Bay was battling over preserving or rebuilding the unassuming Main Street bridge (proudly billed as "the first concrete bridge built in San Mateo County"), with dueling referendums on the ballot.

This just in: the old bridge won. —KEDRIC FRANCIS

■ [ritzcarlton.com](http://ritzcarlton.com) :: 650.712.7000

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FOOT TO THE PEDAL » 420 miles

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