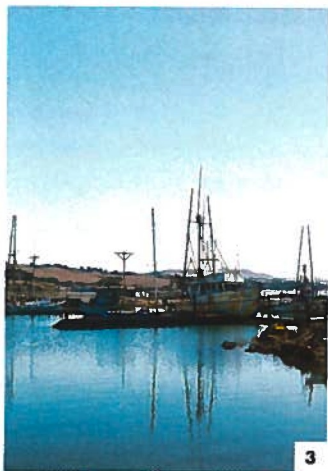




DAY TRIP



1. Bodega Head, your front-row seat to the winter whale migration
2. Black rockfish on display at the Bodega Marine Laboratory
3. Porto Bodega shelters a small fleet of fishing boats
4. Surf's up at Gourmet Au Bay.
5. Clam chowder with secret spices at Fishetarian Fish Market



WHY YOU'LL LOVE

BODEGA BAY, CA

Delicious views, champion chowder, and a ride on the local swells are just some of the treats in this rugged coastal town. *By Josh Sens*

It's not just for *The Birds*

Fifty years ago, Alfred Hitchcock used Bodega Bay as a backdrop for his movie about avian assailants. But whales are what to watch for around these parts, the prime vantage point being

Bodega Head, a promontory with dramatic ocean views. Spot gray whales and occasional humpbacks as they head for warmer waters. Need help? Come back in January, when volunteer whale-watchers field visitors' questions about the

migrants. "They're pretty hard to miss," says head volunteer Bea Brunn. Strolling the footpaths that skirt the cliffs, you'll see birds too: pelicans dive-bombing, cormorants skimming the water like jet fighters. parks.ca.gov/?page_id=451.

Soup's always on

Often thick with fog, this town is thicker still with chowder, which you'll find at road stands and restaurants alike. None receives more kudos than the creamy, briny version stocked with clams that Carol Anello