

# Travel

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## Follow the Rainbow and down the Pike to a great getaway

Downtown Long Beach is a true combination of the nostalgic old and the refreshing new, thriving beautifully side by side. For visitors who remember the days of The Pike and Rainbow Pier, the area that includes the resurrected Shoreline Village and the fourth-largest aquarium in the U.S.

### Designed for amusement

At the beginning of the 20th century, The Pike came to downtown Long Beach — a seaside amusement park complete with swimming plunge, carousel with jeweled horses and wooden roller coaster with riders' screams echoing off the waves. An earthquake and tough economic times brought the closure of The Pike in the 1970s, but the renovations that followed delivered a happy resurgence to the adjacent



**kathy strong**  
going my way

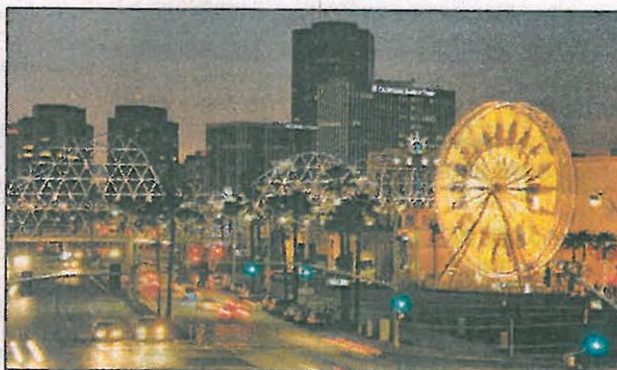
### Shoreline Village.

The downtown waterfront area may not be home to the amusement park today, but it has captured the feel and excitement in its new offerings at The Pike at Rainbow Harbor, including top hotels, restaurants and entertainment venues. From a giant Ferris wheel and open-air market to a newly opened KDB that combines a restaurant and bar with a den full of games, today's Pike takes guests on a Cyclone "rollercoaster" walk-

way to Shoreline Village as well as to the Aquarium of the Pacific.

Shoreline Village, marked by the landmark Parker's Light-house restaurant, offers every kind of food choice imaginable, from harbor dinner cruises to the original Yard House, as well as shops, watercraft rentals, a bike path and a carousel.

If you time your visit for a Wednesday, you may be one of 80 to take a free Summer Lunch Cruise now through the end of August. Make a reservation and board your Spirit Cruise at Dock 9; the cruise is free, but you take your own pre-ordered lunch from a participating Shoreline Village restaurant. Catch Summer Seaside Concerts now through Labor Day. For details on village happenings, go to [www.shorelinevillage.com](http://www.shorelinevillage.com).



ANDY WITHERSPOON LONG BEACH CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

Take the Cyclone bridge from the Pike to Shoreline Village.

### Behind the scenes at the aquarium

Home to more than 11,000 sea creatures and fascinating exhibits, the Aquarium of the Pacific has something new almost every time you visit. A general admission ticket gets you in the door to view exhibits, watch animal feedings, see a film or experience a

touch pool. New this summer is a one-hour behind the scenes tour at feeding time and animal encounters with sea otters, seals, sea lions and sharks. However, if you are a certified diver, the aquarium offers a chance to dive into its 350,000-gallon Tropical Reef Habitat. Reservations required 24 hours in advance, and there is a charge.

### If you go

**AVIA Long Beach**, 285 Bay Street, Long Beach; (562) 436-1047, [www.aviahotels.com](http://www.aviahotels.com)

**Aquarium of the Pacific**, 100 Aquarium Way, Long Beach; (562) 590-3100, [www.aquariumofpacific.org](http://www.aquariumofpacific.org)

**Long Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau**, [www.visitlongbeach.com](http://www.visitlongbeach.com)

### In the midst of it

Staying in the midst of all the fun has gotten trendy and extra cool with the 2009 opening of the AVIA, an innovative boutique hotel. Just a sandal toss from the waterfront and walking distance to the aquarium, AVIA is nestled adjacent to the coaster-style overpass to Shoreline Village.

For questions, submissions or welcomed ideas for "Going My Way," contact **Kathy Strong** at [goingmyway@live.com](mailto:goingmyway@live.com).