



2025

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides   



**San Clemente
Beach Trail**
California



San Clemente Beach Trail

California

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Overview

Hugging one of the most picturesque shorelines in Southern California, the San Clemente Beach Trail is one of the premier rail trails in the area.

The trail is a rail-with-trail, as it shares the corridor with an active Amtrak line with service between Los Angeles and San Diego, as well as Metrolink trains that are part of the L.A. commuter rail system. The trail is separated from the active rail corridor by a wood post fence. The trail surface is composed mostly of compact sand from the beach.

The city has banned the use of e-bikes on this trail.

About the Route

Beginning at the northern endpoint of the San Clemente Beach Trail near the San Clemente Metrolink station in the area known as North Beach. The trail leads south out of the Metrolink parking lot. It is narrowly situated between high cliffs on the left and the railroad tracks and beach on the right. Be sure to check out the unique flora that covers the cliff, as well as the impressive beach houses high atop the cliffs. After several hundred yards, the trail flows onto an impressive bridge. Running about 10 feet off the ground for roughly 0.25 miles, the bridge serves as a glorified boardwalk over sensitive beach habitat.

Once across the bridge, follow the trail across the railroad tracks and continue to the primary beachfront area of San Clemente at the Pier Bowl trailhead. Here trail users will have access to restaurants, shops, and beach picnic areas. A pier jets out into the ocean here and is a prime location for watching surfers ride the waves. There are public restrooms and plenty of parking near the pier.

The trail continues south along the beach and crosses the railroad tracks again about 0.25 miles beyond the Pier Bowl area. Be careful because the crossing is at grade with the tracks. The trail continues for another 1.5 miles south along the beach to the southern endpoint near San Clemente State Beach, which has parking and beach access.

Connections

Just on the other side of the MetroLink Station, trail users can access the [Coast Highway Protected Trail](#).



San Clemente Beach Trail

California

States: California

Counties: Orange

Length: 2.3miles

Trail end points: Metrolink Station, 1850
Avenida Estacion (San Clemente) to 251-399
Avenida Califia (San Clemente)

Trail surfaces: Boardwalk, Sand

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Fishing, Wheelchair
Accessible, Walking

Parking & Trail Access

The San Clemente Beach Trail runs between the San Clemente Metrolink Station, 1850 Avenida Estacion (San Clemente), which offers parking and public transit, and 251-399 Avenida Califia (San Clemente), which has additional parking.

Parking is also available at:

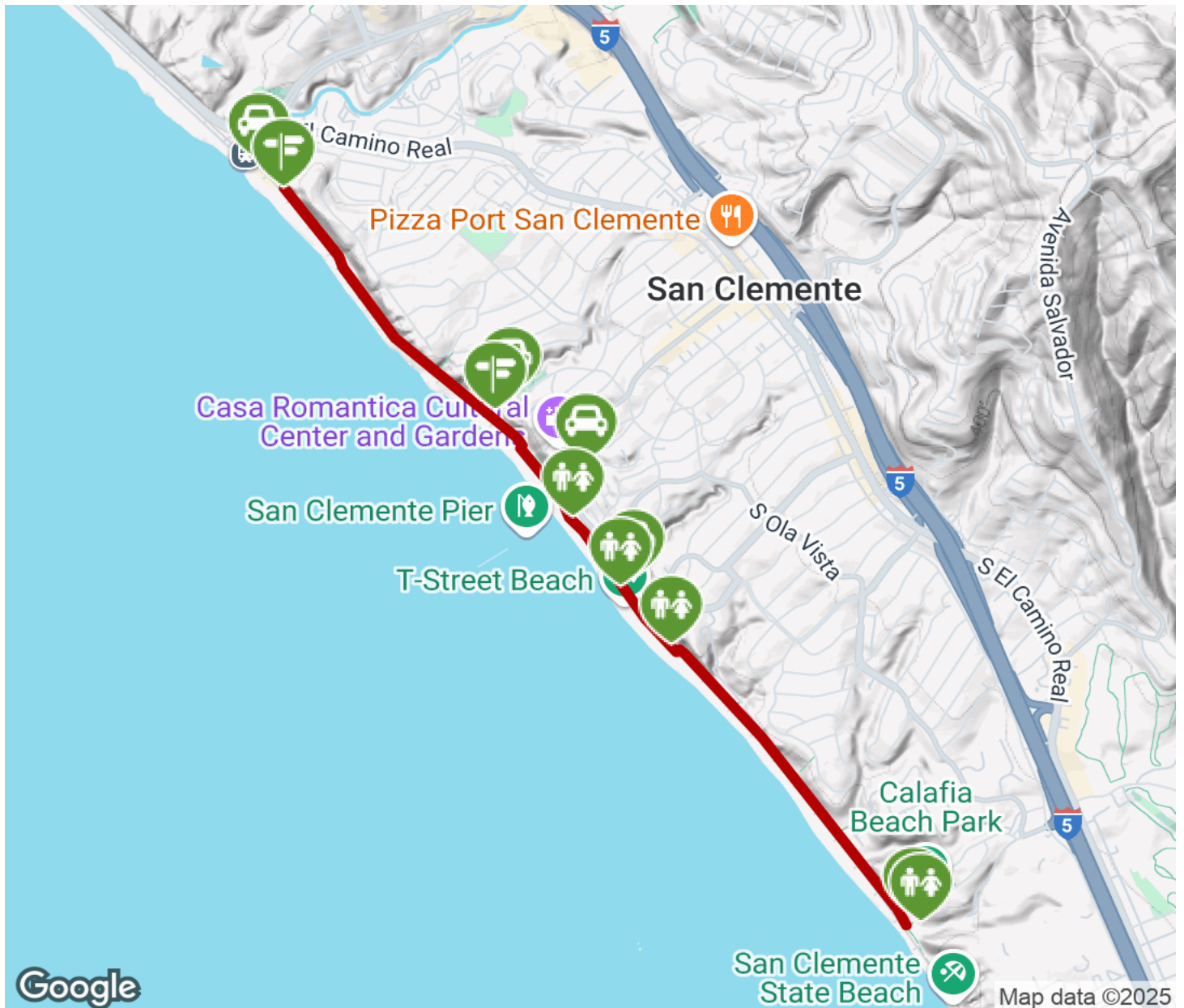
- 104-122 N Alameda Ln (San Clemente)
- 340-398 Linda Ln (San Clemente)

See [TrailLink map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.



San Clemente Beach Trail

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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