



PAIA, HI

## A hideaway on Maui's quiet shore

For a breath of fresh ocean air—and a welcome alternative to Maui's high-rise resorts—check into a quiet, beachfront cottage at the Inn at Mama's Fish House, on the island's North Shore. In the evening, dine on just-caught ono in the open-air dining room, done in a classic Polynesian style that is, somehow, anything but kitsch.

From \$175; [mamasfishhouse.com](http://mamasfishhouse.com) or 800/860-4852. —RACHEL LEVIN

VENICE, CA

## Your stylish beach pad

Deal!

So comfortable are the oceanfront studios at

**Venice Breeze Suites** that you might feel like you're coming home after a night out, rather than returning to a hotel. The high-design 1930s building of 27 mod units is right on the beach. Kitchens are fully loaded, the rooftop deck—with barbecue, wet bar, and ocean views—is a primo spot for a sunset soiree, and you're steps from the sand. Free parking (at a premium in this hood) is an added bonus. And considering that the Santa Monica hotels within walking distance are about three times the price, this place is a steal.

From \$135 (from \$155 for ocean view); two-night minimum; [venicebreesesuites.com](http://venicebreesesuites.com) or 310/566-2222. —MACKENZIE GEIDT

NEAR ZIHUATANEJO, MEXICO

## Another day in eco paradise

The Swiss Family Robinson would have loved **Playa Viva**, which just opened on an endless, empty beach an hour south of the Zihuatanejo and Ixtapa tourist-plex. Two thatched casitas, set on stilts to catch the ocean breezes, house a total of five barely enclosed rooms, with a third open-air casita serving as pool and clubhouse. Pretty much everything is reclaimed, sustainable, organic, or solar-powered, adding up to a major dose of peace and quiet. From \$295 U.S., including room, all meals, airport transfers, yoga classes, and unlimited beer and organic tequila; [playaviva.com](http://playaviva.com) or 650/292-0432. —CHRISTINE RYAN



LONG BEACH, CA

## Mod waterfront resort

To the stylishly revamped **Hotel Maya**, we say: Yes, please. Bring on the dumbwaiter that delivers drinks to you in the lobby, the jungle of palm trees, the nightly sangria tastings. An afternoon in a cabana floating above an elevated dipping pool transports us to the tropics. From \$169; [hotelmayalongbeach.com](http://hotelmayalongbeach.com) or 562/435-7676. —JENNIE NUNN