



CLOCKWISE:
SANJO Exterior from the beach; Mission Pacific Charlie's (Top Gun House); Mission Pacific Hotel

Oceanside's Top Gun Getaway

By Tawny Schmidt

THE "TOP GUN MAVERICK" CRAZE IS IN FULL SWING, AND FANS ARE CLAWING THE SOUTHLAND HOPING TO UNCOVER LOCATIONS IN WHICH THE FILM TOOK PLACE. NAVAL AIR STATION NORTH ISLAND, LOCATED IN CORONADO ON THE SAN DIEGO BAY, IS THE BASE TO SOME OF THE SEQUEL'S MOST CLASSIC SCENES. THE ICONIC BEACH FOOTBALL SCENE WAS FILMED AT BREAKERS BEACH, A TRANQUIL PRIVATE MILITARY BEACH IN THE NORTH ISLAND NEAR THE NAVAL AIR STATION. BUT WHILE ENTRANCE TO MOST OF THE WHEREABOUTS IN MAVERICK REQUIRE A MILITARY ID, SOME OF THE MOST CELEBRATED SHOTS IN THE FIRST "TOP GUN" CAN BE ENJOYED ANY DAY OF THE YEAR.



One of the most recognized landmarks is the “Top Gun House” in Oceanside, which was featured in the original 1986 film. Originally known as the Graves House, Top Gun House was fully restored and relocated to Mission Pacific Hotel, and reopened this past May 2022, paying homage to the movie. Now home to HIGH-pie, visitors can not only admire its celebrated exterior, but they can also enter and enjoy a variety of luscious handmade pies made from locally picked fruit like apple and cherry and served a la mode or with sea salt caramel or lemon curd. Top Gun House is open from 12:00 – 8:00 pm Wednesday-Monday.

There is, however, more to Oceanside than simply its famous Top Gun film locations. Oceanside Museum of Art, one of just 14 officially designated “California Cultural Districts,” spotlights the city’s history and diversity and offers exhibits of the cultural diversity of the surrounding community. Other notable attractions nearby include Disneyland, California Surf Museum, Sea World, San Diego Zoo, LEGOLAND, Knott’s Berry Farm and more. There are plenty of hiking trails, water sports, shopping, helicopter tours and skydiving for the most adventurous visitors. Top Gun sites, as well as the other Oceanside attractions, are best executed over several days, and two outstanding hotels can help elevate the pursuit of the comprehensive O’Side experience. The Seabird Resort and its sister property, Mission Pacific Hotel, located in the heart of the North County’s action, offer ideal beachfront accommodations for globetrotting guests as well as those looking for an ultimate relaxing getaway.

The Seabird Resort

A 226-room property, Seabird Resort sits within Oceanside’s cultural district. Seabird features 56 suites and the hotel’s style reflects the coastal colors of the Pacific shoreline it overlooks. The chic, contemporary décor is designed to encourage guests to chill and unwind, and the beachy vibes echo across each indoor space. A rotating art gallery serves as an extension of Oceanside Museum of Art. The outdoor heated pool features four private cabanas, stunning ocean views, lounge seating and a relaxing jacuzzi.

Steps from the city’s historic pier, the family-friendly resort offers an array of activities to entertain every age group. Kids ages four to 14 can participate in a Little Seabirds program, which includes crafting sessions, scavenger hunts and surf instruction. A complimentary surf concierge provides access to a variety of lessons, including sessions with North County Surf Academy, and the opportunity to surf alongside professional surfer, Duran Barr.

A vintage Rambler camper sits on the strand at with supplies available to create a perfect beach day. From coastal attire to chair and umbrella rentals, the Rambler helps equip guests with their beachside needs so they can simply lounge at the water’s edge and enjoy the stunning seaside views.

Sunny’s Spa and Beauty Lounge is a 7,000-square-foot space that features a dry warming area with radiant heat, cooling mist and aromatherapy showers. Farm-to-sea skin and body treatments combine traditional and holistic rituals for luxurious body and soul therapies, and a full-service beauty lounge helps guests get ready for a night on the town.

Meals can be enjoyed at one of three spots on site:

Piper – This farm-to-table restaurant features authentic California cuisine and a made-to-order pasta station. The open kitchen concept space features a full bar and a wrap-around patio. Piper is open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

The Shore Room – The ideal spot for a selfie at sunset is at this ocean-view bar that features classic bites and innovative cocktails.

The Shelter Club – This poolside eatery serves up great food and beverages and offers a pool table and board games so mealtimes can be both delicious and amusing. Given the variety of nearby recreation, Seabird is sure to be a family-favorite and an ideal summer hang-out. >>

THE SEABIRD RESORT

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Mission Pacific Hotel

The Seabird Resort's sister property, Mission Pacific Hotel, is an elegant 161-room beachfront hotel that encircles High-Pie, also known as the "Top Gun House" which is located at the base of the property. The hotel's earth-toned décor is accented with vibrant local artwork curated by the Oceanside Museum of Art. The ambiance reflects a California cool vibe and there are breathtaking ocean and pier views from nearly every angle. The chic furnishings are upscale yet comfortable and artistically appointed throughout every corner of the stylish accommodations.

Mission Pacific's rooftop pool and deck offer spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean. Cabanas and a Rooftop Bar offer the ultimate in refreshment and relaxation. By night, DJ sets entertain guests as the pool area transforms from a serene to a social spot.

In addition to the Rooftop Bar, dining can be enjoyed at Valle, a Guadalupe Valley Kitchen. At Valle's helm is Chef Roberto Alcocer who has worked in high-profile kitchens from Michelin-starred La Broche in Madrid to Mexico City's Pujol, before returning to Mexico's Valle de Guadalupe to open his first restaurant, Malva Cocina de Baja California. Valle, Chef Alcocer's current project, offers Baja-inspired dishes served on a spacious outdoor dining terrace overlooking the Pacific. High/Low is an oceanfront café featuring casual bites crafted from the freshest ingredients. Enjoy breakfast classics and beachside brunches in this spacious street-level eatery.

Mission Pacific Hotel's signature fitness center is equipped with Peloton bikes and world-class gym apparatus to help guests stay in shape during their stay. Urban Water Co. alkaline water refilling stations are available to help keep gym guests well-hydrated. Similar to the Seabird Resort, Mission Pacific Hotel offers a Surf Concierge service as well as a Beach Rambler camper to enhance the hotel guests' vacation experience at every turn.

The property is a haven for those who enjoy luxe surroundings and high-end amenities. Mission Pacific Hotel is sure to be an escape that guests will hope of visit a number of times over the coming years. ❖

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