

# Bolsa Chica State Beach

— Huntington Beach, Calif.



Hanging loose with Angel Jr. in Huntington Beach.



Angel Jr. and I by a lifeguard tower along the bike path.

**H**ello again, everybody!

This month, we traveled to Huntington Beach. I'm guessing most of you have been there or at least have heard of it – it's "Surf City USA."

The Bolsa Chica Path in Huntington Beach is about three to four miles long, depending where you start. The asphalt is a bit rough for rollerblades or skateboards with hard wheels. If you aren't using them, you will enjoy this small adventure into our coastal paradise. I have already gone back numerous times, and I see something new each time. This is a wonderful way to exercise and truly enjoy our coastal beaches.

Let's begin!

## The Bike Ride

This bike ride is really a beginner route; most of the path is flat except for a short hill up to Dog Beach (a small incline). The actual path or bike route is fairly wide, and you have to be careful of lots of people biking, jogging, and walking their dogs all along the bike route. I love to take my time and cruise the bike path. It's one of the most relaxing and visually satisfying ways to spend your day.

This path is right along the beach; there are lots of bathrooms along the way and a few snack stands, too. Please be aware of the sand (it creeps onto the path), and if you drive over enough sand, you may lose control and find yourself on the ground. My youngest son, Aden, found this out the hard way. He was about to start up the small

hill to Dog Beach when his front wheel went into the sand and *pow!* He took a short fall into the asphalt (ouch!). He scratched and cut his palm and elbow, but he is a tough kid. (Lesson learned: beware of sand!). Of course, I wanted him to keep going, but Mommy took care of her baby, and they started back to the car for bandages and a little bit of Mommy's TLC. That was at about the 3.5-mile mark, so by travelling back they completed let's say about 7 miles. I love you, Aden.

Angel Jr. and I continued up the hill at Dog Beach and finally made it to the Huntington Beach pier area. Our round trip was a total of about 11 miles. We went past the pier for a short time (which added to our travel miles).

So, go by the beach and ride the path. If you don't have a bike rack or a bike, you can always just rent the

Thumbs up: What a way to spend your day!



Angel Jr. and Aden ready to ride!



## Bolsa Chica State Beach

Pacific Coast Highway, between Golden West Street and Warner Avenue, Huntington Beach  
(714) 846-3460

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Bike paths, camping, hiking, surfing, skating, rollerblading, dog walking.

**FACILITIES:** Food & drink, lifeguards, restrooms, showers, picnic areas, and fire pits. There are 50 RV campsites (no tent camping).

**BIKE PATH DISTANCE:** 7.5 to 11 miles (depending where you start)

**DIFFICULTY RATING:** easy

**HIKE TIME:** 1 hour

**TRAIL CONDITION:** asphalt

**DIRECTIONS:** From Interstate 405, take the Valley View Street/Bolsa Chica Road exit and go south to get onto Bolsa Chica Road. Four miles south, turn right at the "T" intersection on Warner Avenue. After 1.25 miles, Warner meets the Pacific Coast Highway (Highway 1). Cross the highway and turn right on Pacific Avenue, then left at Second Street, and park in the tiny free lot. (Get there early, or you will have to drive south down the Pacific Coast Highway and pay \$15 to park at one of the big lots next to the beach.) To park at Huntington Beach, exit Interstate 405 at Highway 39 (Beach

Boulevard) and head south. Two and a half miles down at the Ellis/Main Street intersection, turn right onto Main Street, which takes you the remaining three miles down to the coast. Park at the beach near the Huntington Pier.

**PARKING:** Metered parking available or \$15 for Bolsa Chica State Beach (all day). Camping fees for RV camping is around \$65-75 per night or \$455 per week. No tent camping is allowed. Book online at [reserveamerica.com](http://reserveamerica.com)

**OPERATING HOURS:** 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. The entrance gates close at 9 p.m.

Angel's

**Be  
Alive!**

Send your photos to me at [agomez@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:agomez@cityemployeesclub.com)  
I would love to see them!

Angel Gomez,  
Club Director of Sales



Angel Jr., Aden, and I take a short break.



Bolsa Chica multi-use trail sign.



Aden at about the three-mile mark and going strong.

## This is a wonderful way to exercise and truly enjoy our coastal beaches.

bikes and cruise for about an hour. If you really like it, then go buy a bike and bike rack. Lastly, I would encourage you to go early in the morning. Bring water, sunscreen, and change for the metered parking just in case.

*Special Note:* A speed limit of five mph along the bike path is strictly enforced. Remember that multi-use makes this a premier venue to encounter joggers with dogs, children, enthusiasts on rollerblades, and also leisurely pedestrians who do not necessarily realize that you are coming up behind them.

Take your time riding this bike path: The scenery is gorgeous, and you are likely to meet some nice folks along the way. Just being out in the area makes you want to be active; usually the hardest part is getting everyone back into the car!

This trip is usually free but could cost you a max of \$15 for parking. When you finish, you can stay and enjoy a wonderful day at the beach. That's exactly what we did. We packed a small ice chest, filled it with sandwiches, chips and water. It was a fun day at the beach!

Don't forget to bring your camera and take plenty of photos and send them to me at [agomez@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:agomez@cityemployeesclub.com). Bring water, snacks and maybe some sunscreen.

**As always, be safe and  
Be Alive!,  
Angel**



Angel Jr. in front of International Surf Boards.