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Approaching
the Seychelles,
in the Indian
Ocean

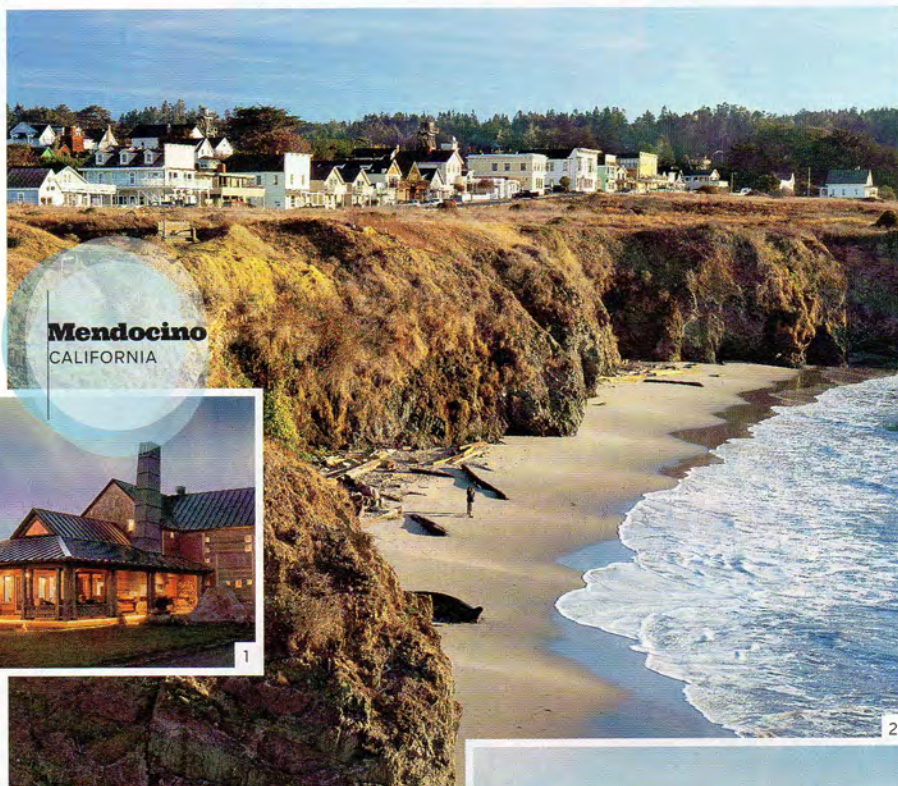


WHERE TO
GO NOW

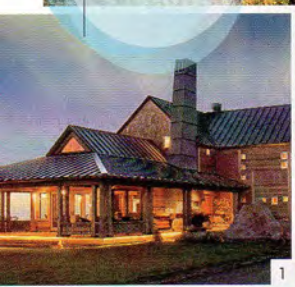
Into the Blue

Ditch the paperback and lounge chair for one of these off-the-beaten-path beach adventures, from surfing rowdy East Coast breakers to fishing among tiny African islands

ANTHONY LANNERETON/GETSET



Mendocino
CALIFORNIA



1

Perch Over the Pacific

At the Inn at Newport Ranch, the ranch part is meant literally: the new luxury property is part of a 2,000-acre working cattle operation, one that just happens to be about 50-foot cliffs plunging into the Pacific near Mendocino. Since this is cowboy country, start the day off with a hearty west-ern omelet, then

run, mountain-bike, or ride horseback on 30 miles of trails built from a network of old logging roads. Return for an evening soak in the rooftop hot tub as the sun dips into the ocean, then enjoy the ranch's home-grown vegetables and local Dungeness crab for dinner. There's an inn with three guest rooms, but you should splurge on the entire Sea Drum House, with four bedrooms



3

and a private deck overlooking the sea. From \$300; theinnatnewportranch.com —STEPHANIE PEARSON

Go Like the Wind

In British Columbia, surfers head to Tofino, skiers drive up to Whistler, and kiteboarders go to Squamish. The town's name comes from the First Nations word for "mother of the wind," and nowhere is that more apparent than the Spit. This narrow piece of land juts into the salty water where the Squamish River enters Howe Sound and creates a natural launchpad for wind sports, blasted by strong thermals from downvalley. It regularly draws hun-



Squamish
BRITISH COLUMBIA

6



Knock a Few Back

Good beachfront dives offer a magic combination of cheap, strong drinks, access to water, and a crowd that transcends demographic categorization. So even if the Red Dock is on Saugatuck Harbor, where the Kalamazoo River enters Lake Michigan amid towering dunes, we say it

+

1. Inn at Newport Ranch
2. Mendocino cliffs
3. Ten Mile Beach, near Fort Bragg
4. The Red Dock
5. Getting geared up in Squamish
6. Squamish shreddage

qualifies. The yellow shack looks like it could collapse at any second, a condition made worse by the weight of the signs, stickers, and hippie detritus covering every available surface. The patrons are a mix of Chicagoans, kayakers, and the occasional Birkenstock-wearing poet, all ordering the same high-octane rum punch and singing along to whatever band is playing that night. In short, it's like somebody extracted the best parts of Key West—the mellow vibe, the come-as-you-are attitude—except you're wasting away on Lake Michigan. So expect more plaid. —JONAH OGLES



5

dreds of kiteboarders and windsurfers, their colorful rigs racing through the shadow of Stawamus Chief, the iconic granite dome towering 2,000 feet above the water. Squamish Kiteboarding School

will get you going with lessons from \$250 (squamishkiteboardingschool.com). They'll supply all the gear you need, including a wetsuit—this isn't the Caribbean. —CHENEY GARDNER

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: MILES ERTMAN/ROBERTHARDING/CORBIS; MIKE MORICONE; SERGEI BACHLAKOV/XINHUA PRESS/CORBIS; DARRYL LENIUK/MASTERFILE/CORBIS; DAVID FENTON; INN AT NEWPORT RANCH