With three pools, tons of activities, a marina, and shuttles to town and the beach, the Loews Coronado Bay Resort near San Diego offered everything my family needed for a relaxing vacation

Sean Hopkins, Jul 23, 2021, 10:00 PM

Sean Hopkins/Business Insider

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- **On pickup/use Coronado, the highly-rated Loews Coronado Bay Resort is a 15-minute Uber/Lyft/taxi/shuttle ride from downtown San Diego.**
- **My family and I stayed in a mid-tier Partial Bay View Room for four nights mid-week in August, which cost us $323 per night. Off-season prices, however, fall as low as $180 for an entry-level Courtyard View Room. Rates can also climb upward of $1k for self-parking, or $29 for valet, on also applied daily.**
- **Amenities include beach shuttle service, three heated pools, spa, nature walks, marina rentals, yoga on the beach, and surf lessons. Pets are also welcome for an added $150 per stay.**
- **Read of Business Insider hotel reviews here.**

Coronado might be synonymous with the famous Hotel Del Coronado, but when my family and I were looking for a beach resort getaway at a lower price point, the Loews Coronado Bay Resort was an compromise. We were quickly impressed by the bay-front vibe and the excellent hotel grounds and amenities.

Situated at the end of a private 10-acre peninsula, Loews Coronado delivers on style and value, and that's in addition to the scenic 360-degree bay views.

Loews offered our family a lovely home base to explore both Coronado and downtown San Diego or relax by the pool or beach. We booked a Partial Bay View Room with two double beds mid-week in August, which costs $323 per night in the busy summer season. Our room was considered mid-tier and we felt quite spoiled given its a wear-down. Its low season, this room type starts at $180.

Entry level Resort View Rooms also provide nice vantage points of manicured gardens or a citrus grove, but come without a balcony and start at $189 off-season. In comparison, rates for basic rooms at The Del start at $245.

Though beach access was located across a highway and required us to take the four-hotel shuttle, we noted about $500 per night savings versus The Del. Plus, the Loews was a quiet place and the hotel's harbor-address still maintained that laid back coastal feel.

Our fellow guests seemed to be other families, as well as couples, all seeking a relaxed resort experience. Our family spent days splashing and playing games on the pool deck, frolicking at the beach, and taking day trips to the sun-and-other vibes. I plan to return with my family and friends, as the Loews offers a relaxed and by-the-spa-or-enjoy cocktails, and the stunning views on the hotel's terrace.

- **The first impression**
- **The room**
- **On-site amenities**
- **What's nearby**
- **What others say**
- **What you need to know**
- **The bottom line**
- **Book Loews Coronado Bay Resort starting at $189 a night**

Keep reading to see why I was so impressed by Loews Coronado Bay Resort in San Diego.

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The Loews Coronado Bay Resort sits at the end of a peninsula and has a private 10-acre marina. Sean Hopkins/Business Insider

It can be a long drive to San Diego from Los Angeles, especially with two young boys in the back seat.

Even once you cross the Coronado Bridge, it's still a 10-minute drive through downtown Coronado and a long stretch of highway before pulling up to Loews Coronado.

While we were more than eager to ditch the car, the benefit of the long drive was that my homebrew well conserved the big bundle of Disneyland-related goodies. Upon arrival, I was able to immediately lift myself and my sleep-deprived sons inside. The palm tree-lined road that led to the hotel was flanked on one side by beach and the other by a small marina. Even my kids' whining stopped as they eyed the views.

The inlay makes a statement with contemporary and nautical touches. Sean Hopkins/Business Insider

We waited and went inside, taking in the expansive lobby. Curving staircases flanked a contemporary chandelier and the space had a lion, nautical feel with a navy-and-runner and lots of painted white wood.

Beyond the stairs, a giant window led to the Bay Terrace, an outdoor bar overlooking the bay and San Diego skyline. I also noticed an inviting coffee shop and the hotel's restaurant.

When we walked up to the front desk to check-in, there was no line and the clerk greeted us warmly. She handed me and my husband glasses of champagne (a welcome perk offered to all guests at check-in after 4 o am.), and for our kids, two cheers of paper detailing a hotel scavenger hunt. The thoughtful touches set us off on the right foot.

The long hallways leading to hotel guest rooms have picture windows and a place to rest because the way. Sean Hopkins/Business Insider

As the hotel is large, it was quite a long walk to our room. Thankfully, the hallway walls were made up of nearly windows, which only increased my excitement more and the lovely bay and garden views helped make up for the schlep.

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Our well appointed double room with a "partial" view. Sean Hopkins/Business Insider

Our Partial Bay View Room was well-appointed and inviting, with lots of natural light pouring through the window and adjacent balcony. While we had a pretty clear view of the calm blue water, it was now quite clear why it was described as "partial." The parking lot was also in our line of sight. From inside our room or seated toward the back of the balcony, the view was practically all water. But sitting or standing closer to the edge, we could also see the parking lot. Still, it wasn't a detractor as the water views very much outs-ide the show.

Inside the decor was modern and beachy, with crisp white linens, beige and pale turquoise accents, and oceanic-inspired art.

With four of us in a room, queenes could have been quite tight. But as doubles go, this room felt generously sized at 450 square feet and beds were comfy. When we needed extra pillows, housekeeping delivered them promptly.

My boys approved of our flat-screen TV and free Wi-Fi, while I enjoyed the deep bathtub, and my husband and I both appreciated the pull style coffee maker.

In the bathroom, the modern tub was nice, but the shower stall was standard size and felt a bit small. However, it was clean with solid water pressure and did the job.

Our Partial Bay View Balcony was a nice spot to wind down at the end of the day, even with a parking lot in the way. Sean Hopkins/Business Insider

My husband and I enjoyed our evenings sitting on our balcony after the kids went to bed, and the bay view was pretty. The parking lot in the foreground didn't bother us much, but it's something for people to keep in mind when booking.

Had we been on a tighter budget, we could have been happy in an entry level garden Resort View room. Most rooms are virtually identical in look, size, and amenities. The main difference between rooms is the view and whether you get a balcony or not.

A Resort View Double would have given us a balcony and pretty garden view for $40 per night. A Ocean View King, the least expensive ocean type, would not have had a balcony (our two double beds, but would have served an $89 per night.

Compare room types and prices on the Loews Coronado Bay Resort website

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The jacuzzi and two of the three pools along the hotel's pool deck. Sean Hopkins/Business Insider

There is a $50 daily resort fee, but thankfully, it included a good number of amenities.

There are three heated pools and a jacuzzi, one of which is for adults. The pool deck hosts games and cornoies, as well as yoga and fitness classes and there's also a gym access.

The fee also covers a guided nature walk, shuttles to the beach and to downtown Coronado, and beach chair, towel, and umbrella service. The shuttle to downtown Coronado runs from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. (one trip), and to the beach runs every 40 minutes. In the off-season it runs once an hour, so plan accordingly.

We set ourselves up at the family-friendly pool area and it was good we got there early to claim chairs, as it got pretty busy as the day and pool fill up. The area has lovely cocoa-brown, but is not good to have free pick of lounging location.

The pool deck was expansive and thoughtfully designed. As part of it, there are three large pools and two jacuzzis. The adults-only pool and jacuzzi are set at one end, and at the other end was an variety of games like giant chess and cornhole, the family pool, and another jacuzzi. There seemed to be plenty of room for families to enjoy themselves and for those who prefer a laid-free environment to relax peacefully. From the family pool, you could barely even see the adult pool.

Towels were plentiful and complimentary. Service from La Cantina, the pool restaurant and bar, was good and we highly enjoyed tacos for lunch.

The pool staff also can guess for the kids at regular short intervals in the afternoon, which provided me and my husband with some welcome margarita breaks, though we would have loved more of a kids' camp-type situation.

Crown Landing has a nautical point of view and a marina view. Sean Hopkins/Business Insider

While we spent three days nursing San Diego, the other two days were reserved for relaxing at the resort.

On those days, we had breakfast at Crown Landing, which is Loews' California casual restaurant. The menu had the requisite poached eggs and pancakes, and everything was spot-on.

Alaska from a few other hotel guests, we felt the beach largely to ourselves when we visited. Sean Hopkins/Business Insider

Our other full day at the resort, we took the free shuttle to Silver Strand Beach, which was less than 10 minutes away.

The fact that our hotel wasn't beachfront was definitely not an convenience as the Del, but for us, saving about $500 per night felt worth the short shuttle, which was every 40 minutes during our stay.

When we arrived, the beach concierge set us up with chairs, umbrellas, towels, and boogie boards at an additional cost. The beach is known for its calm waters and few crowds. On our visit, we had it largely to ourselves.

Later, we also took the shuttle into downtown Coronado for dinner. At that point, it was so crowded we had to stand for the duration of the ride. That felt frustrating. Given such a peak rush hour, I'd like to see the hotel supply a second shuttle van.

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The view overlooking the lovely Bay Terrace Bar and the San Diego Bay. Kieren Engelberg/Business Insider

One final on-site highlight was the gorgeous Bay Terrace, which was a patio and bar area with cozy seating, string lights, and fire pits overlooking the San Diego skyline.

Our foursome spent a sweet happy hour there snuggling by the fire and snacking on flatbread pizzas.

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The hotel is located in Coronado, which is a sweet little town. Rent some bikes and follow the Silver Strand Bike Path to get downtown, or take the Loews' free shuttle. It's fun to simply walk or bike around downtown, ogling the homes you wish you could afford and taking in its Southern California style of charm. The Hotel Del Coronado is a National Historic Landmark, and worth a walk-through too, or even a tour.

For window shopping and strolling, Orange Avenue has almost exclusively non-chain retailers and restaurants. The beach is also a draw, whether for swimming, sunning, or strolling along the paved walking path. The beach closes to the hotel is located across the highway, and you can get there on foot or take the resort's free shuttle. The walk is about 15 minutes along a path that takes guests through a tunnel under the highway and onto the sand.

The resort also abuts the marina and bay, providing boating, water sports, and nature exploring opportunities.

Across the bay, downtown San Diego can be accessed by ferry or car. Take the ferry from Coronado's town center to downtown San Diego to explore museums and the lively Gaslamp Quarter, or drive across the bridge for attractions such as Balboa Park's museums, gardens, and renowned San Diego Zoo. The ferry takes about 15 minutes and runs every hour between 9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. on weekdays, and until 10:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. It costs $5 one-way, and children aged 3 and under ride for free.

Check flight prices to San Diego on Expedia

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Trip Advisor ranks Loews Coronado Bay Resort as 6 out of 17 hotels in Coronado. It currently has a 4.5-star rating.

Positive reviews appreciated the beautiful property and location, great food, and friendly staff — all of which I agree wholeheartedly. The staff was very attentive, especially at the pool, where service was prompt and with a smile, and added engagement with the kids was a nice added value. I also loved that the scavenger hunt the kids completed could be brought to the coffee bar by the lobby to receive a free cookie.

Common complaints related to the hotel's daily resort fee of $35, which doesn't include parking that adds another $34 to $39 depending on if you choose to self-park or valet.

Some guests felt that for this additional cost, the cost to rent bicycles should be included (it's not). Some also warned against rooms with balconies facing the pool, for reasons of noisiness and a lack of privacy.

Read reviews, compare prices, and book Loews Coronado Bay Resort on Trip Advisor

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Who stays here: Families and couples looking for a luxurious coastal resort vacation and are willing to compromise a bit on location for a more affordable price-point. Also, those who are fans of the high-end Loews brand.

We like: The location. We felt surrounded by natural elements and completely removed from city bustle, but close enough to access it. We were just a shuttle ride away from the beach or town, and a short drive to downtown San Diego.

We love (don't miss this feature!): The bay views afforded from all corners of the property are fantastic and peaceful, especially in the Bay Terrace bar area. Plus, the fantastic staff helped keep our kids entertained at the pool.

We think you should know: The resort and parking fees definitely add to the price tag, and the distance from Coronado's town center can be seen as a pro or con depending on your point of view. Similarly, the lack of direct beachfront access is something to consider. However, for us, the resort amenities such as the pool deck with games, food, and bar service, and the easy beach service added a lot of value.

We'd do this differently next time: I could have used one more day to enjoy the resort. We didn't have enough time to try beach yoga, a marina spin class, or go for a nature walk, all of which are included with the resort fee.

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The Loews Coronado Bay Resort offers many resort perks at a more affordable price than similar hotels in the area. It's a great choice for a coastal getaway in the San Diego area that is remote and picturesque.

While the scenery is definitely a perk, it also comes with caveats, such as the fact that the hotel is not within walking distance of downtown Coronado. Likewise, the hotel is waterfront and faces the bay, but is not beachfront. The beach can be accessed by foot if you don't mind crossing a highway, or by car or the hotel's free hotel shuttle.

We enjoyed our Partial Bay View Double for the balcony and view, which felt worth the extra $99 per night over a standard booking. Though, the latter offers a strong value if you don't need the view or terrace. However, being able to look out at that expanse of blue was special, and I can't wait to return.

Book The Loews Coronado Bay Resort starting at $188 a night

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