

THE 4TH OF JULY CHEAT SHEET

One page, planned like a local – the schedule, the parking, the viewing spots, the rules, and the low-stress itinerary I actually use.

THE DAY AT A GLANCE

9:00 AM – “4th of July is for Families” Bike Parade & Festival, Balboa Peninsula (through 11:30).

Midday – Old Glory Boat Parade through the harbor (roughly noon–3; the fleet traditionally steps off near Lido Isle around 1).

9:00 PM – Fireworks over the Back Bay at Newport Dunes.

PARK ONCE – OR NOT AT ALL

Peninsula: free Avon Street lot (Mariners’ Mile) + free trolley, roughly every 15 minutes.

Newport Dunes: \$100 pre-paid reserved lot (Jamboree & Back Bay Dr) or \$50 day-of lot (Bayside & PCH), first-come.

Locals’ truth: bikes beat cars all day. Rideshare surge after the show is real – walk a few blocks first.

VIEWING SPOTS BY VIBE

- Official: the sand at Newport Dunes.
- Free & elevated: Castaways Park bluff.
- Boat parade: Marina Park or Balboa Island’s seawall.
- On the water: anchor outside the Dunes lagoon.
- Low-walking: Lookout Point, Corona del Mar.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Fireworks of any kind are illegal in Newport Beach – including “safe and sane.” • Safety Enhancement Zones run July 3–6 in West Newport and Corona del Mar, with steeply increased fines.
- No alcohol on beaches, streets, sidewalks, or parks. • Beach shade structures max 6 ft. • Water balloons and squirt guns at passersby: also illegal. Really.
- Text NBJULY4 to 65513 for the City’s official July 4 alerts. • Report illegal fireworks to the non-emergency line: (949) 644-3717.

JADE’S LOW-STRESS ITINERARY

Beach walk before 9 a.m., then home. Host or graze through midday – stay off the roads. At 8:30, blanket and a layer at Castaways Park for the 9 o’clock show; you’re walking back to the car by 9:45 and in bed by 10:30. No parking drama, no traffic, all the fireworks.

Thinking about making Newport Beach permanent?

The 4th is the town at full volume – harbor, beach, and neighborhood traditions all at once. I help buyers match the neighborhood to the life they actually want.

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SCAN FOR THE FULL GUIDE

Event details verified against City of Newport Beach, Newport Dunes, and American Legion Yacht Club sources as of July 1, 2026 – confirm times and rules with official pages before heading out. Informational only; not legal advice. Equal Housing Opportunity.