



The Best Places to Jet Ski, Up and Down the West Coast

By Kate Flemma / July 30, 2026



Few summer activities capture the easygoing spirit of the West Coast quite like spending a day on the water. With dramatic cliffs, secluded coves, island escapes, and a seemingly endless Pacific coastline, the region offers some of the most scenic rides in the country. Whether you're looking to ride the crystal-clear waters of Catalina island or cruise beneath Santa Barbara's mountain backdrop, these destinations combine adventure with some of

the country's most unforgettable view. If you're planning jet skiing on the West Coast this summer, these spots deliver both scenery and adrenaline.

Catalina Island, California



Just over an hour away from the Southern California mainland, Catalina Island feels like a world of its own. Its rocky coves, dramatic coastline, and pristine water make it one of the most special places to explore by jet ski. What truly sets Catalina Island apart, however, is its incredible wildlife presence. It's not uncommon to spot a pod of dolphins swimming next to your jet ski while sea lions rest on rocks nearby. Riders can cruise the secluded beaches and rugged landscape, all while getting their daily dose of nature, wildlife, and adrenaline. For those looking to experience Catalina from the water, [Jet Ski To Catalina](#) offers guided excursions that showcase the island's best views.

Montecito, California



Known as the American Riviera, [Montecito](#), Santa Barbara's neighboring town, offers an unforgettable setting for a day on the water. This town's palm tree-lined shores contrasted with the view of the Santa Ynez Mountains create postcard-worthy views from every angle. Jet skiing here provides a unique perspective of Stearns Wharf, luxury waterfront homes, and the incredible coastline, making Montecito a favorite coastal retreat. If you're looking to experience these unique views for yourself, [Santa Barbara Jet Boats](#) offers a multitude of on-the-water options for you to find adventure in, both around the Santa Barbara and Montecito area.

Lake Tahoe, Nevada

While this destination is known primarily for skiing in the winter, Lake Tahoe transforms into a paradise for watersports lovers each summer. Its famously clear blue water, alpine scenery, and surrounding forests create one of the most picturesque jet ski destinations in the country. Riders can explore hidden coves and expansive open waters while enjoying views unlike anywhere else on the west coast. [Action Watersports](#) is a popular option in the area that makes it easy to get out on the water.

Lake Havasu City, Arizona

Although technically spanning the California-Arizona border, Lake Havasu has become one of the west coast's premier destinations for personal watercraft by hosting the annual [IJSBA World Finals](#). This popular event combines the love of watersports with high ranking competitors, making for an equally thrilling and unique experience on the West Coast. Lake Havasu City's warm weather and lively boating scene make it especially popular during the summer months. Riders can explore miles of open water, quiet coves, and the famous London Bridge, all while enjoying one of the country's most vibrant lakefront atmospheres. There are several companies that offer jet ski rentals in Lake Havasu City,

but [Lake Havasu Jet Ski Rentals](#) is a popular option for on-water tours.

Puget Sound, Washington

For a completely different West Coast experience, Puget Sound offers a ride surrounded by evergreen forests and snowcapped mountain views. The region's calm waterways provide opportunities to explore hidden inlets while watching for seals and even orcas during the right season. The combination of dramatic scenery and abundant wildlife makes this one of the Pacific Northwest's most memorable places to take a ride. [Seattle Water Sports](#) offers rentals and guided experiences that allow visitors to discover Puget Sound from an entirely new perspective.

By Kate Flemma

Kate Flemma is a writer based between New York City and the Hamptons. Her interests are fashion, travel, language learning, fitness, and finance.

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