



Let's Taco-Bout It: Fresh Catch of the Day in Encinitas

Trish Sanderson June 10, 2015

A Tour of Some of Our Favorite Tacos in Encinitas

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Head to Encinitas, the surf and yoga sanctuary situated along the historical Highway 101 in North San Diego, and hunt down the perfect fish taco. You'll find your center, and it'll be full.

One of the many perks of living in Southern California is the beach, and what pairs better with beach-life than tacos and beer? It's only natural that tacos have become a part of our weekly diet with Mexico right next door to us. In fact, we locals love tacos so much we even dedicated a whole day of the week to them with Taco Tuesday! And we found a few taquerias for next Tuesday that you can dive into some amazing fish tacos.

Jorge's Mexicatessen

267 N El Camino Real, Ste E
Encinitas, CA 92024
760.942.6809

The fish here is deep-fried but somehow manages to keep the fresh ocean flavor that other shops generally lose in the batter. This hidden gem doesn't even have a website and boasts a simple, family feel. You'll find the food at Jorge's Mexicatessen a cut above your average taco shop as everything is made with strong, home-style recipes and flavor. Plus they take credit cards, so no need to arm yourself with cash.

Haggo's Organic Taco

1302 N Coast Hwy 101 #101
Encinitas, CA 92024
760.753.6000 | www.haggosorganictaco.com

With a bit of Baja in every bite, you can't go wrong with a couple of aptly named Cousteau tacos. These yumtastic tacos feature non-GMO corn tortillas, sautéed and seasoned fresh local catch, cabbage slaw, cumin-lime crema with a mango salsa cruda cilantro. Jasmine rice and red beans offered on the side perfectly round out this organic dish. With a proud ownership committed to quality, this local favorite is located just a few blocks from downtown Encinitas North on the 101 in Leucadia.



El Nopalito

560 Santa Fe Dr

Encinitas, CA 92024

760.436.5775 | www.el-nopalito.com

For over 30 years, this local joint has been serving up the perfect Pescado (fish) Tacos. This family-owned business is renowned for its fresh salsas and handmade, authentic tortillas made in-house each morning. If you go in early enough, they will still be warm, and they have all the pickled veggies you could want. Taco heaven it may be, but it also doubles as a grocer stocking every authentic ingredient you would want to pick up along with your lunch.



Fish 101

1468 N Coast Hwy 101

Encinitas, CA 92024

760.943.6221 | www.fish101restaurant.com

Here you'll find California-style Baja Fish Tacos at their finest, topped with cabbage, pico de gallo, crema, guacamole and a Chile de Arbol salsa on the side. Fried or grilled by the seriously committed crew on site, you can choose varieties based on the fish of the season. Communal

tables, a back patio and local beers are also offered at Fish 101. Found in the neighborhood of Leucadia, the fight for street parking is well worth it.



The Fish Shop Encinitas

1010 S Coast Hwy 101

Encinitas, CA 92024

760.436.4665 | www.thefishshopencinitas.com

With a dog-friendly patio and an awarding-winning taco called the TKO Taco, Encinitas newest, local business is serving up their freshest catches. Tacos here are a choose-your-own-adventure experience broken out into simple steps. Start by choosing your fish, anything from mahi-mahi and ahi to local halibut and albacore. Next, pick your seasoning or a marinade like teriyaki or chipotle glaze. Finally, select taco-style and throw sides of fries, onion rings or salad into the mix for a plate that'll make your taste buds sing of the sea.



Bety's Tacos

1464 Encinitas Blvd

Encinitas, CA 92024

760.632.1512 | www.betystacos.com

Tourists who stumble into this family-run shop just east of I-5, realize they're in a local den. This gem is a small, family-run establishment with a clearly authentic menu. The fish tacos vary, get them fried or simply grilled. You'll often find catches like red snapper offered along sides of perfectly spiced beans and street taco type toppings. But once they sell out, they're out. Also, make sure you grab a side of the notable homemade salsa.



Juanitas Taco Shop

290 N Coast Hwy 101

Encinitas, CA 92024

760.943.9612

Curators of fast, easy and authentic fish tacos that'll please your palate, Juanitas is a busy taqueria with few tables, limited parking, and a line out the door. Each order comes with two tacos topped with cabbage, cheese, crema and guacamole. We recommend the green sauce and then a trip to nearby Moonlight Beach. If you didn't already want to move to Encinitas, you will now.