



GET AWAY *in the* Great Outdoors

BIG BEAR LAKE IS THE BEST PLACE TO ESCAPE INTO THE WIDE-OPEN OUTDOORS. SO, GRAB YOUR GEAR (OR PICK UP SOME WHEN YOU ARRIVE) AND HEAD OUTSIDE!

By Lauren Bonney

At Southern California's premier four-season mountain destination, you can enjoy well-groomed conditions for downhill skiing, rugged hiking and biking trails with beautiful lake views, and warm sunny days paddling across the lake. This jewel of the San Bernardino Mountains offers visitors a variety of epic experiences 365 days a year. All you have to do is choose your own open-air adventure.

SHUTTERS TOCK



BIG BEAR VISITORS BUREAU



BY THE NUMBERS

GREAT FOR SKIING, SNOWBOARDING, OR JUST HANGING OUT, SNOW SUMMIT AND BEAR MOUNTAIN ARE BOTH MADE FOR FUN. SEE HOW THE TWO PEAKS COMPARE.

SNOW SUMMIT

Founded: 1952
Skiable Terrain: 240+ acres
Number of Runs: 27
Vertical Drop: 1,200 feet
Lifts: 11
Moving Carpets: 5
Peak Elevation: 8,200 feet
Longest Run: 1.25 miles (Westridge)
Terrain Parks: 6

BEAR MOUNTAIN

Founded: 1943
Skiable Terrain: 198 acres
Number of Runs: 15
Vertical Drop: 1,665 feet
Lifts: 8
Moving Carpets: 4
Peak Elevation: 8,805 feet
Longest Run: 1.5 miles (Geronimo)
Terrain Parks: 14 (plus 3 pipes)



SKI IN STYLE
@ellyendee

LET IT SNOW

As the last of the autumnal colors begin to fade, Big Bear transforms into a snowy playground. With its frosty alpine lake surrounded by snow-dusted forests, two award-winning ski resorts, and clear blue skies, Big Bear is the ultimate spot for a naturally distanced winter getaway. Experience the majesty of the mountain from December through April.



Shred fresh snow at Big Bear's ski resorts.

LEE STOCKWELL

SHUTTERSTOCK (3)

More Snow, More Fun

If you're looking for something to do off the slopes, Big Bear offers other family-friendly, snow-filled activities.

SNOWSHOE SOLITUDE

Whether you're a backcountry explorer or a hesitant newcomer, snowshoeing is an ideal activity for all levels. Slowly work your way through the quiet backwoods of Big Bear, or get your heart pumping with a brisk romp through some serious powder. Learn more about the mountain's unique environment with a guided tour with **Big Bear Discovery Center** or **Action Zipline, Segway & More**. Or go your own way with rentals from **Goldsmith's Sports**.

WINTERTIME PEDALS

Who says you can't bike in the snow? For a cruise around town or a challenging spin down snow-covered backroads, rent a fat-tire bike from **Bear Valley Bikes**. Also known as fat bikes, these two-wheelers are fitted with oversized tires to ride on soft, unstable terrain, so you can rest assured that your snowy cycling experience will be made easier.

TUBULAR SLOPES

From kids to teens to adults, tubing is entertaining for everyone. Make your way up the magic carpet before racing each other down the slope on colorful inner tubes. Big Bear has three tubing areas (**Alpine Slide at**



Grab your snowshoes from Goldsmith's Sports and explore Big Bear.

Magic Mountain, Big Bear Snow Play, and Grizzly Ridge Tube Park), each with its own unique downhill courses. On Friday, Saturday, and holidays, Alpine Slide and Big Bear Snow Play offer glow tubing for some nighttime sledding.



GET THE GEAR

FIND THE PERFECT FIT.

Big Bear Mountain

Resort offers a variety of gear rentals for a safe, powder-filled day on the mountain. Rental packages include skis, boots, and poles for skiing, and boots, bindings, and boards for snowboarding. The resort also has a concierge service that will fit you at your cabin or hotel.

Stock up at **Goldsmith's Sports**, which provides packages for different skill levels. You can also get fitted for gear at the **Big Bear Mountain Resort Visitor Center Station**.



#CAREFORBIGBEAR

Our spaces are a blast to explore, and we work hard to ensure everyone has a fun and safe time on our pristine snow. Do your part to leave no trace: Pack in or properly dispose of anything you bring, including sleds, masks, and food and beverages.



SAFETY FIRST

HERE ARE FIVE TIPS TO REMEMBER WHEN VISITING IN WINTER.

1 STAY OFF BIG BEAR LAKE. The lake's ice is extremely thin and not suitable for walking or skating. Don't put your life at risk!

2 CARRY CHAINS/TRACTION DEVICES in your car from November to March, and pull off the road to put them on.

3 BRING KITTY LITTER and a shovel to get out of icy situations.

4 APPLY SUNSCREEN AND DRINK H2O. You get dehydrated and sunburnt more easily in higher altitude.

5 SLED ON TUBING HILLS. Avoid streets and private property.



Gear Up

Visit these spots for your biking needs.

BEAR VALLEY BIKES

40298 Big Bear Blvd.
bvbikes.com
909.866.8000

GOLDSMITH'S SPORTS

42071 Big Bear Blvd.
goldsmithssports.com
909.866.2728

PADDLES AND PEDALS

40545 North Shore Ln.
paddlesandpedals.com
909.936.2907

SUMMIT BIKE PARK

880 Summit Blvd.
bigbearmountainresort.com
909.866.5841

TAKE NOTHING BUT PICS



SCENIC LAKE VIEWS
@steadydayz

RIDE THE TRAILS

Big Bear is known for its mountain biking trails and single-tracks, ranging from beginner to expert-level. Ride up Summit Bike Park's chairlift with your bike to access trails on and off property, or take off on any designated trails.

MOUNTAIN BIKING

(At Summit Bike Park)

Trail: Going Green

Level: Beginner

Distance: 4 miles

Features: Gentle sweeping berms, minimal pedaling or braking, and picturesque lake views.

Trail: Cabin 89 Trail

Level: Intermediate

Distance: 1.7 miles

Features: Starting from the Aspen Glen Picnic Area, a short but thrilling ride featuring steep climbs and sharp corners.

Trail: 10-Ply

Level: Advanced

Distance: 1 mile

Features: Mix of technical single-track terrain and natural features, including drops and rock gardens.

Trail: Gray's Peak Trail

Level: Moderate

Distance: 7 miles

Features: With a nearly 1,200-foot elevation gain, this trail will make you break a sweat. The trail is closed from winter to spring for bald eagle nesting.

ROAD CYCLING

(All roads are highway routes)

Trail: Alpine Pedal Path

Level: Beginner

Distance: 2.5 miles

Features: Car-free, relaxing lakeside cruise, perfect for family rides.

Trail: Lake Loop

Level: Intermediate

Distance: 15–20 miles

Features: Hour-long pedal at a casual pace around the lake.

Trail: Onyx Summit

Level: Advanced

Distance: 9 miles

Features: Ascend the highest altitude roadway in SoCal at 8,443 feet.

Did You Know?

Professional athletes from around the world have trained in Big Bear's high altitudes, and the city has hosted its share of major cycling events such as the Amgen Tours of California.



Enjoy an easy ride with the family on Alpine Pedal Path.

FROM LEFT: SHUTTERSTOCK; LEE STOCKWELL



SAM RICE

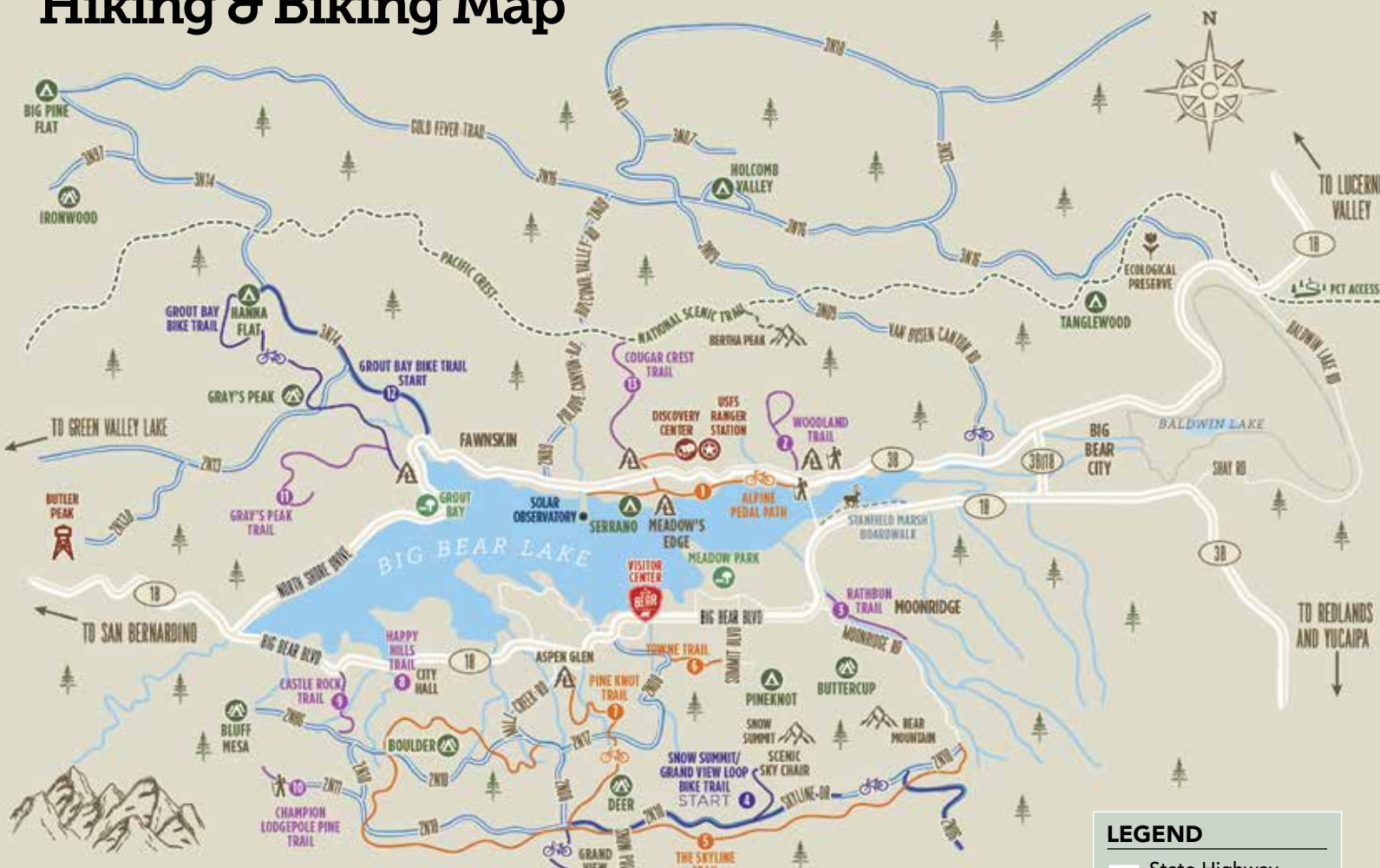
Test your cycling prowess on Big Bear's mountain biking trails.



#CAREFORBIGBEAR

Weekends are often busy in Big Bear, but don't worry — we have plenty of space to ride. When you see a full parking lot at a trailhead, move on to the next trail. For traffic-free joyrides down the mountain, make a trip during the week to enjoy our biking trails at their most pristine.

Hiking & Biking Map



- LEGEND**
- State Highway
 - Paved Road
 - Dirt Fire Road
 - - - Designated Fire Road
 - 🚲 Bike Trail
 - Multi-Use Path or Trail
 - Hiking Trail
 - - - Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail
 - 👤 Interpretive Trailhead
 - 🦅 Watchable Wildlife
 - 🚒 Ranger Station
 - 🔥 Fire Station
 - 🌳 Picnic Area
 - 🏠 Adventure Pass Required
 - 🚶 PCT Access
 - 🏕 Campground
 - 🏕 Group Campground
 - 🌿 Ecological Reserve
 - 🚒 Fire Lookout Tower
 - 👤 Visitor Center

All trails are dog friendly and require dogs to be always on leash. All mileage is round trip. For more info, visit bigbear.com. Most trailhead parking requires an Adventure Pass, available for purchase at the Big Bear Visitor Center.

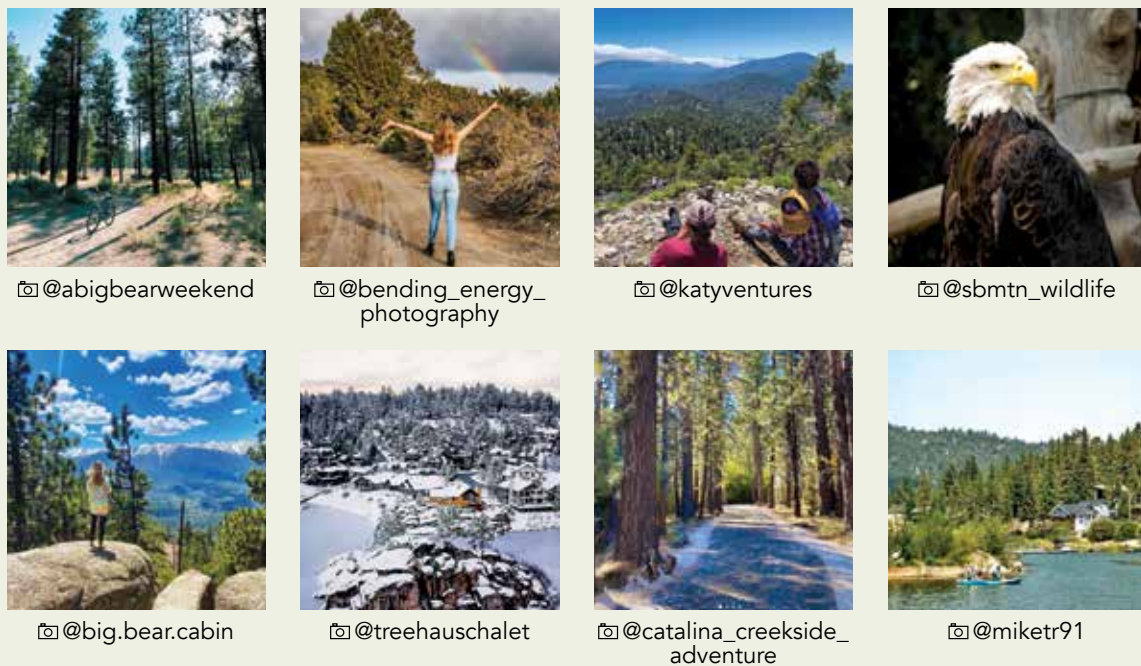
- 1 ALPINE PEDAL PATH** An asphalt path along Big Bear Lake's north shore, it is easily accessible for hikers, bikers, skaters, joggers, strollers, and wheelchairs. *5 miles, easy*
- 2 WOODLAND TRAIL** Take the self-guided tour to learn about local botany, geology, and wildlife. *1.5 mile, easy*
- 3 RATHBUN CREEK TRAIL** Adjacent to Moonridge Road, this trail provides a unique way to explore the city. *0.5 mile, easy*
- 4 SNOW SUMMIT/GRAND VIEW LOOP BIKE TRAIL** This out-and-back trail starts with a ride on the Scenic Sky Chair to Grandview Point Junction. *9 miles, intermediate*
- 5 THE SKYLINE TRAIL** Access this multi-use single-track from the east on Club View Drive, or from the west at the junction of 2N10 and 2N17. *30 miles, intermediate*
- 6 TOWNE TRAIL** Enjoy a pleasant woodland hike that's easily accessed from Big Bear Village. *3 miles, easy*
- 7 PINE KNOT TRAIL** Mountain bikers can take the Scenic Sky Chair to 2N10 and follow the Pine Knot Trail west or take off from the Aspen Glen Picnic Area. *6 miles, moderate*

- 8 HAPPY HILLS TRAIL** This ADA-compliant route gives hikers a view of wildlife and historical buildings. Parking available at City Hall. *0.5 mile, easy*
- 9 CASTLE ROCK TRAIL** One of Big Bear's most popular trails, it begins one mile east of Big Bear Dam on Hwy. 18. (Note: Parking is limited.) *2.4 miles, moderate to difficult*
- 10 CHAMPION LODGEPOLE PINE TRAIL** Located on the south side of the lake, this gentle walk follows a stream down to the Champion Lodgepole Pine, one of the largest known lodgepoles in the world. *0.6 mile, easy*
- 11 GRAY'S PEAK TRAIL** This hike offers scenic sights of Big Bear Lake below. The trail is closed from winter to spring for bald eagle nesting. *7 miles, moderate to difficult*
- 12 GROUT BAY BIKE TRAIL** This trail begins with a short climb from the Fawnskin fire station up to Hanna Flat campground. *13 miles, intermediate*
- 13 COUGAR CREST TRAIL** This trail ends at the junction of the 2,600-mile-long Pacific Crest Trail. *4-7 miles, moderate/difficult*

DAVID VELLER

TAKE ONLY PHOTOGRAPHS

THE VIEWS AT BIG BEAR LAKE WERE MADE FOR INSTAGRAM. TAG #CAREFORBIGBEAR AND #VISITBIGBEAR ON YOUR BEST PICS.



HIKE ALL DAY

Here are five trails in Big Bear Lake where you can have fun all day long.

SUNRISE
Sunrise might be the best time to explore Big Bear: The air is cool and quiet as the forests begin to stir. For a leisurely morning activity, take an easy stroll on the 1.6-mile **Stanfield Marsh Boardwalk** to see and hear the valley come to life. But for sweeping alpine vistas timed perfectly with the sun's arrival, head up the **Cougar Crest Trail**. Rest near the top to take in the scenery before heading back down or venturing on to Bertha Peak.

EARLY TO MID-MORNING
Starting out at the base of the Aspen Glen Picnic Area, the 6-mile **Pine Knot Trail** is a great option for those looking for an hours-long diversion before taking a dip in the lake. After winding through a diverse grove of white firs, Jeffrey pines, oaks, and manzanita, the trail culminates in spectacular views of Mt. San Gorgonio.

AFTERNOON
Not a morning person? Don't worry — there are still plenty of trails to discover that offer great midday hikes. An easy .6-mile trek, the **Champion Lodgepole Trail** offers a pleasant hike through lush forest (perfect for escaping the afternoon heat) before ending at Bluff Meadows, where you'll find some of the largest Lodgepole pine trees in the world.

SUNSET
Sometimes the best way to wrap up a day in Big Bear is with a sunset stroll — and one of the best spots to do that is on the 2.5-mile-long **Alpine Pedal Path** along the lake's north shore. Watch as the sun turns the water golden before dipping below the horizon. (Tip: Make sure to bring a flashlight for the trek back!)
Most trailhead parking requires an **Adventure Pass**, available for purchase at the **Big Bear Visitor Center**.

LEAVE NO TRACE: TIPS FOR VISITORS

FOLLOW THESE TIPS TO PRESERVE OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.

PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE Check the weather, make reservations when you can, and bring lots of water.

TRAVEL AND CAMP ON DURABLE SURFACES
The best trails and campgrounds are found, not made.

USE CAMPFIRES RESPONSIBLY Get your campfire permit at permit.preventwildfiresca.org.

LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND
While tempting, leave any natural keepsakes you find in the forest.

RESPECT WILDLIFE
Give animals their distance. You're in their home!

DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY Pack it in, pack it out. Bring a bag to carry your trash.

BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHERS Care for Big Bear means caring for each other! Let's make the outdoors special for everyone.




ON THE WATER

At the heart of Big Bear is its lake, and with 22 miles of shoreline, there's plenty of room to spread out. From kayaking to fishing to catching some rays, Big Bear Lake draws water enthusiasts of all kinds to its alpine shores. So, put on the sunscreen, grab those sunnies, and hit the water.



BIG BEAR VISITORS BUREAU



 Catch some air while wakeboarding on Big Bear Lake.

Play on the Water

Choose your watersport for the ultimate day on the lake.

KAYAK AND CANOE

Venture into parts of the shoreline and inlets inaccessible to motorized vessels.

Vibe: Relaxed discovery

BOAT

Charter a boat and explore the lake at your own pace, or simply relax far from the shore.

Vibe: Chill hangout

STAND-UP PADDLEBOARD

Test your balance on a paddleboard as you glide through the water.

Vibe: Great core workout

WAKEBOARD AND WATER SKI

Skiing isn't just for the snow! If you're new to wakeboarding and waterskiing, sign up for a lesson with a licensed instructor.

Vibe: Action adventure

TUBE

Rent a tube and book a licensed driver for a wild ride across the water.

Vibe: Fun thrills

JET SKI

Hop on a Jet Ski and let 'er rip. Snag your ride from any of the marinas.

Vibe: High-speed enterprise



RENT IT HERE

GRAB THE RIGHT GEAR FOR YOUR LAKE TRIP.

FISHING

Head to **Big Bear Sporting Goods** to stock up on all your fishing needs before hopping aboard with the expert anglers at **Big Bear Charter Fishing, Cantrell Guide Service,** or **Fish Big Bear Charter Services.**

PADDLES

Rent your choice of kayak, canoe, or paddleboard at **Paddles and Pedals.**

WATERSPORTS

Check out **Big Bear Watersports School** or **Designated Wakesports** for waterskiing, wakeboarding, tubing, and Jet Ski lessons and rentals.

Note: All private watercraft, including non-motorized vessels, must display a permit, which can be purchased at any marina. See **PAGE 26** for more info.



Go fishing for rainbow trout in Big Bear Lake.

Cast a Line

Reel 'em in on shore or venture out by boat for exceptional freshwater fishing.

FISHY FACTS: There are several species of fish that thrive in Big Bear Lake. The most popular are rainbow trout, largemouth bass, and channel catfish, as well as some panfish, including bluegill and black crappie. (Note: A fishing license is required and can be purchased at most marinas.)

TOP SPOTS: Spring and fall are the perfect seasons for anglers of all ages. The west end of the lake tends to see a majority of the action for trout, while hot spots for bass fishing are Eagle Point and Boulder Bay. Catfish are primarily found on the east end of

the lake near Stanfield Cutoff and the East Boat Public Launch Ramp, while panfish are typically located around South Shore near marina docks.

LAUNCH SITES: Public launch ramps are open for all vessels, motorized and non-motorized. Both ramps are located on the North Shore. Launching your vessel is free, but you'll need to pass inspection to fish for the Quagga mussel, and you will also need to purchase a Lake Use Permit. Seasonal and day permits are available for purchase at all of Big Bear's public and private marinas. •



#CAREFORBIGBEAR

Big Bear Lake is a source of joy for locals, visitors, and wildlife alike, and our valley thrives when we work together to keep it clean of litter and pollution. Recycle your fishing lines and lures, and find a list of trash sites on **PAGE 56.**



PINE KNOT MARINA

Every day is a good day on the water at Pine Knot Marina in The Village. Find your favorite way to play, with options galore for boating, fishing, cruising, and watersports.

See the lake in comfort and style on a cruise aboard Miss Liberty. During the 90-minute narrated tour, you'll hear fun facts and see amazing scenery while relaxing aboard a fully refurbished Skipperliner.

Rent a fishing boat and venture into the coves, or take a pontoon for a group outing. An on-site bait and tackle shop is stocked with all you need for fishing and fun. Pine Knot Marina also offers kayaks, paddleboards, and Jet Skis, and hosts Big Bear Watersports School, offering expert instruction in wake sports.

Boat & Jet Ski rentals:
909.633.7511
pineknotmarina.com
f pineknotmarina

Miss Liberty boat tour:
909.866.8129

SHUTTERSTOCK