

The Great Tide Pool

TALES OF PACIFIC GROVE, CALIFORNIA
by local award-winning author, [Brad Herzog](#)



AROUND THE WORLD IN EIGHT DISHES

I was musing recently about my fascinating friends in Pacific Grove who emigrated from overseas—their ancestry is Swiss, German, Armenian, Italian. I'm always hungry for global origin stories.



But sometimes I'm simply hungry, and PG's culinary scene offers myriad exotic options, too, whether it's sushi at [Zum](#)... or a chorizo omelette at [Los Amigos](#)... or tom kha soup at [Pacific Thai Cuisine](#)... or snapper Yucatán at [Peppers MexiCali Café](#)... or three-cheese rigatoni at [il vecchio](#).



You can opt for drunken noodles at [Mai Thai Cuisine](#), chile relleno at [Mandos](#), a blackened shrimp quesadilla at [Michael's Grill & Taqueria](#), or pasta puttanesca at [La Mia Cucina](#). Or, at [International Cuisine](#), everything from Jordanian hummus to Israeli fried falafel nuggets to chicken shawarma in Lebanese spices.

Yes, PG's international options abound. But I've designed a gluttonous excursion that can take you, in a manner of speaking, around the world in eight dishes:

Start with morning tea in Paraguay. At [Café Guarini](#), Paraguay native Liliana Rodas de Araujo offers (along with a selection of empanadas) yerba mate, a traditional herbal tea made from Ilex paraguariensis plant. Use it to wash down a delicious sweet bread—dulce de leche media luna.

Next, how about breakfast in France. Make your way to [Patisserie Bechler](#), where you can order a chicken crepe and a raspberry croissant.



An early lunch? Take a trip to India—a **Taste of India**, where you can opt for lamb korma or tandoori chicken. But you have a hefty gastronomic journey ahead of you, so perhaps some traditional mulligatawny soup (lentil soup made with chicken, herbs and Indian spices) and maharaja naan (naan stuffed with nuts and cherries). Then, a later lunch (yup), which can take place in the eastern Mediterranean. **Petra Restaurant** offers Greek and Middle Eastern cuisine like moussaka (grilled eggplant with meat tomato sauce topped with bechamel).



Your 'round-the-world journey is halfway done.

You'll want an afternoon snack, of course. Perhaps a trip to Mexico... by visiting the Fairway Shopping Center on Forest Avenue. At **Aquino's Birrieria**, you can find nearly every burrito under the sun—carne asada, spicy jalapeno, even an XXXtra hot Cheetos burrito. Of your snack can simply be a Mexican smoothie—a strawberry horchata. Dinner? The Couscous Lamb Shank Algerois with North African spices and harrisa at **Fandango** can transport you to the southern Mediterranean. Or, if you prefer, visit Spain via the Paella Fandango.

Dessert? Go to Italy and **Mezzaluna Pasteria**. Two words: pistachio gelato. And then how about capping off this gastro-quest with a pint of Guinness at a British pub... or maybe a cocktail called Strawberry Fields. Both are available at **Monarch Pub**.

So there's your journey. Bring your appetite. Pack a sense of adventure. And loosen your belt.

*The Great
Tidepool*