

## Surfing at Kelly's Cove

Surfing gained popularity in San Francisco after World War II, and was centered at Kelly's Cove on Ocean Beach.

It had been known to the world since the late 1800s, when Hawaiian surfer James Apu gave a demonstration at the 1894 San Francisco Midwinter Fair. Surfing was popular in Southern California in the early 1900s.

Young surfers began meeting in the 1940s at Kelly's Cove, a section of beach just south of the Cliff House (formerly known as Cliff House Beach). They would set fire to a rubber tire on the beach that would burn all day and act as a beacon to surfers in the water.

These pioneers of Northern California surfing created a culture and lifestyle that exists today. Annual reunions are held at Kelly's Cove. Ocean Beach is still regarded as a highly desirable location for dedicated surfers, who held the 2011 International Surf Open there.



Nathan H. Hall 2012

Professional surfer Kelly Slater catching a wave at Ocean Beach, 2012.