



**nileGUIDE**

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



frandango24

# Epic Theme Park Escepage

**Orange County, 2 Days**

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# Guide Description



**AUTHOR NOTE:** Come and enjoy the fantasy and family fun that Orange County has to offer, stay for a weekend have stories for a lifetime. This is an action packed weekend that will take you to two of the most prolific theme parks in the world. Knott's Berry Farm and Disneyland will be the playground for you family. Along the way dine in the jungle at the Rain Forest Cafe, and chow down like a cowboy at Overland Stage Southwestern Grill and BBQ Company, it is a real mouthful. Bring the family and enjoy some of the infinite options in Orange County.

# Itinerary Overview

things to do  
restaurants  
hotels  
nightlife

## Day 1 - Orange County

**DAY NOTE:** Before you begin your fun filled day at Disneyland be sure to take advantage of the complimentary breakfast at the Anabella Hotel. Along with their breakfast you will enjoy beautiful rooms, in a perfect location near to Disneyland. Now that you are full round up the group and head toward the Magic Kingdom. Here you will find hundreds of attractions, ranging from roller coasters, to photo opportunities with your favorite Disney stars. When you get and rumbly in your tumbly enjoy any of the fine eateries in the Magic Kingdom. If it is a warm day be sure to take the plunge on the Log Ride, its a family favorite. When it is time to eat dinner, be sure to dine in the jungle, more specifically the Rain forest Cafe. This is a delightful experience for the entire family. Animatronic animals, simulated thunderstorms and great food are waiting for you. You will be in the Downtown Disney area to eat dinner, so be sure to wander around, there are many shops that may have the souvenir you want from your visit to Disneyland. A fun stop is the ESPN Zone, if you are a sports fan this is a must see, and if not, it is still really cool. After your long day return to the Anabella Hotel and put your feet up and relax, for tomorrow is busy too.



### Disneyland

The original Magic Kingdom



### Rainforest Cafe

Jungle Retreat



### ESPN Zone

Catch some Action while Dining



### Downtown Disney

Downtown With Disney



### Anabella Hotel

Beautiful Hotel

remember let you lunch settle before you attempt Montezuma's Revenge or any of the other coasters. To keep along with the western theme mosey on over to Overland Stage Southwestern Grill and BBQ Company. If you think the name is a mouthful, then you will be in awe the great food you will be served. They use only the best ingredients and it shows. They also have a kids menu, and that is always nice. When you are ready for bed head back to the Anabella Hotel for a well deserved rest.



### Knott's Farm Bakery

Old-fashioned sweets



### Knotts Berry Farm

Berry The Hatchet



### Overland Stage Southwestern Grill & BBQ Company

Award Winning Diner



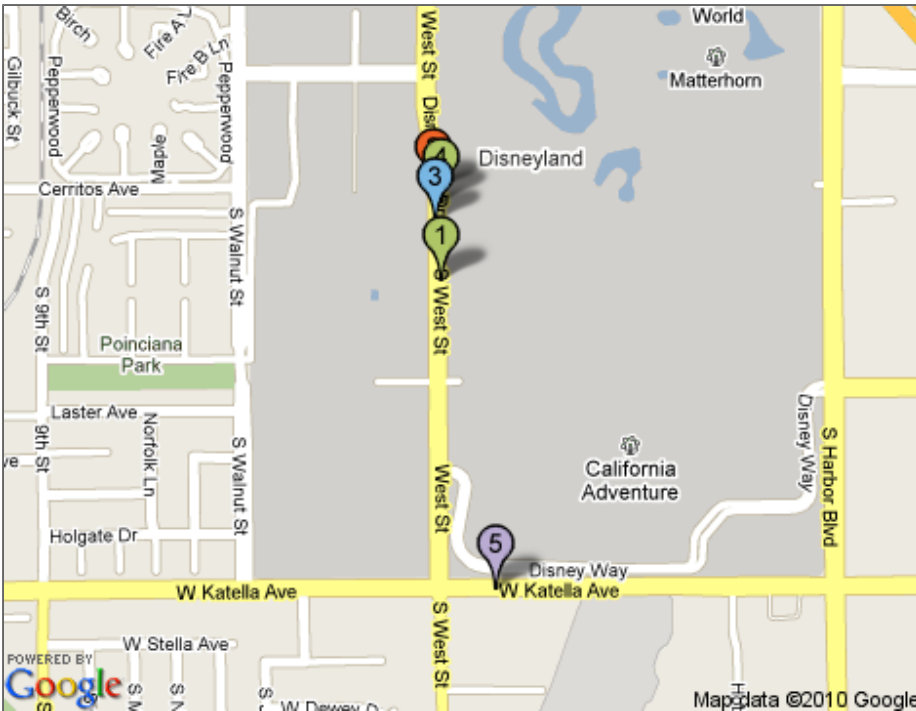
### Anabella Hotel

Beautiful Hotel

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**contact:**  
tel: +1 714 781 4565  
<http://disneyland.disney.go.com/>

**location:**  
1313 South Disneyland Drive  
Anaheim CA 92802

## 1 Disneyland

### OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Visiting at the height of the season? Consider buying a three day ticket (if the cost isn't a factor) allowing Magic Morning early admission to beat the holiday crowds.

**DESCRIPTION:** Opened in 1955 and with the construction overseen by Walter Elias Disney himself, the Anaheim Disneyland will always be the original Magic Kingdom. Open all year round, Mickey Mouse, Snow White and friends are always in attendance to greet you and your family. The park itself is divided into a series of distinct 'realms' populated with various



Photo courtesy of jondoe forty1

rides and experiences. Besides that, an itinerary of parades and a shopping district help to broaden out the experience. The hours at Disneyland change according to whichever season you're visiting in, so ensure you check the website or call before finalizing your plans - you don't want to miss out on having the insanely infectious "It's a Small World" tune running through your head.

© NileGuide

**contact:**

tel: +1 714 772 0413  
http://www.rainforestcafe.com  
/

**location:**

1515 South Disneyland Drive  
Anaheim CA 92802

## 2 Rainforest Cafe

**DESCRIPTION:** A theme cafe in Downtown Disney District, the Rainforest Cafe is a fun destination. Bringing to life the true 'Rainforest' ambiance with greenery, waterfalls, and animated apes, the cafe is a hit with youngsters. Live parrot shows are held outside the restaurant everyday from noon to 6p. They serve sumptuous cuisine from all over the world and comes in good, large portions. At the Rainforest Village, you can pick up mementos, jewelry, fashionable apparel and accessories for your kids' rooms. © wcities.com



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**contact:**

tel: +1 714 300 3776  
fax: +1 714 300 3760  
http://espnzone.com/anaheim/

**location:**

1545 Disneyland Drive  
Anaheim CA 92802

**hours:**

M-Th 11a-11p, F 9a-mid, Sa  
10-mid, Su 9a-11p

## 3 ESPN Zone

**DESCRIPTION:** This is a popular sports bar, always brimming with life and entertainment in the Downtown Disney District. There's a **Sports Arena** for gaming enthusiasts and **Screening Room**, wherein you can catch every sporting action live. The **Studio Grille** serves American grilled varieties from steaks to chicken with Caesar. Barbecued chicken is served as well as shrimp varieties and the American burgers and sandwiches. Beers to go with and dessert after are just the way to end a casual meal. © wcities.com



citysearch

**contact:**

tel: +1 714 300 7800  
http://disneyland.disney.go.com/disneyland/en\_US/moreMagic/downtownDisney/promo/etail

**location:**

1500 South Disneyland Drive  
Anaheim CA 92802

## 4 Downtown Disney

**DESCRIPTION:** This unique area combining shopping, dining and special events is open year-round and provides a Disney-flavored, admission-free center for the city of Anaheim. There is usually live music and street entertainers. Much of the fun is free, although special concerts will have a fee. The schedule changes daily, so most visitors grab a free copy of "Downtown Disney Today" from the newsstands located throughout the area. The holiday season is especially busy with strolling musicians, yuletide decorations and special events for kids and adults alike. Your first three hours of parking is free, with additional validations available from the restaurants and theaters. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of mikewoods

**contact:**

tel: +1 714 905 1050  
fax: +1 714 905 1055  
<http://www.anabellahotel.com/>

**location:**

1030 W Katella Ave  
Anaheim CA 92802

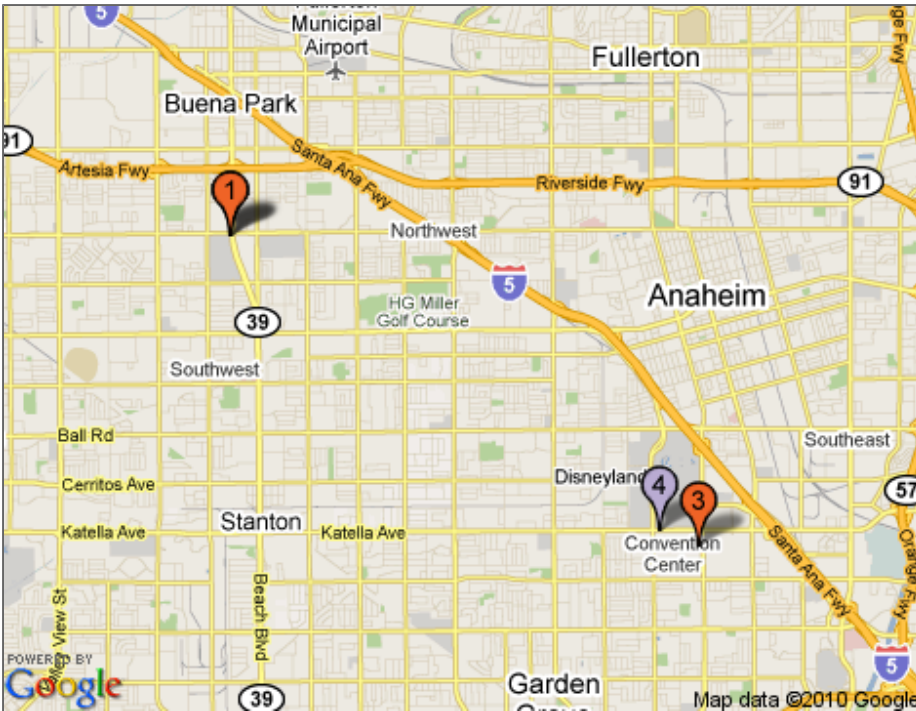
**5 Anabella Hotel**

**DESCRIPTION:** Recognized with 'Anaheim Beautiful Property' award, this deluxe hotel is situated right across from the Disneyland and on the Anaheim Convention Center campus. 23 different types of lavishly appointed rooms and suites cater to discerning guests in the city. While at the hotel, you can be sure to catch all the action happening at the resort as well as the nightlife. With concierge and friendly waiting staff, this place is truly a luxurious experience worth what you spend here. © wcities.com



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# Day 2 - Orange County



## QUICK NOTE

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**contact:**  
tel: +1 714 220 5094  
<http://www.knotts.com/>

**location:**  
8039 Beach Boulevard  
Buena Park CA 90620

**hours:**  
Su-Th 11a-11p, F-Sa 11a-noon

## 1 Knott's Farm Bakery

**DESCRIPTION:** Anybody who has been in southern California for any length of time knows that there is a reason for the word "berry" in Knott's Berry Farm. The farm's bakery - located outside of the entrance so you don't have to enter the park to enjoy - is full of all kinds of berry-laced goodies, from blueberry muffins to boysenberry pie. It's all about the berries, and visitors enjoy a treat on the spot or take the goodies home with them. Either way, you will be "berry happy". © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Knott's Farm Bakery

**contact:**  
tel: +1 714 220 5200  
<http://www.knotts.com>

**location:**  
8039 Beach Boulevard  
Buena Park CA 90620

## 2 Knotts Berry Farm

**DESCRIPTION:** Knotts Berry Farm, long home to the Peanuts characters, has been a favorite for families visiting the Orange County area for quite some time. Exploiting various cultures over several themed areas including, Fiesta Village, Indian Trails, and Independence hall, visitors get a second or even third-hand look at the influence of these cultures in California life as well as providing visitors cheery commercial outlets in which to stage rides such as Xcelerator and Montezooma's Revenge. Other areas such as The Boardwalk feature rides like Supreme Scream which, measuring in at an astounding 312 feet, is the tallest structure in the county. Overall, if you're looking for something to please the kids (and maybe give yourself a rest) Knott's is a truly excellent choice. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of nalilo

**contact:**  
tel: +1 714 750 1811  
fax: +1 714 971 3626  
<http://www.starwoodhotels.com/sheraton/property/dining/index.html>

**location:**  
1855 South Harbor Boulevard  
Anaheim CA 92802

**hours:**  
Su-Th 5p-10p, F-Sa 5p-11p

## 3 Overland Stage Southwestern Grill & BBQ Company

**DESCRIPTION:** 'Overland Stage Southwestern Grill & BBQ Company', is undoubtedly a place which you can not afford to miss. Located in the grand Sheraton Park Hotel at the Anaheim Resort, it serves sumptuous meals that are prepared with great care. The chef uses the best and freshest ingredients along with choicest of spices to create a memorable and delicious meal. The decor and ambiance have a heavy old western influence. They also have a special kid's menu and an extensive wine list. © wcities.com

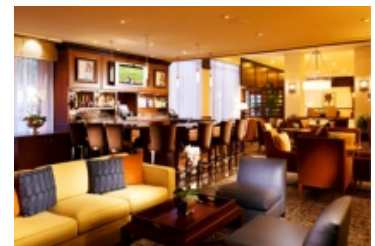


Photo courtesy of (insert name of point of interest)

**contact:**  
tel: +1 714 905 1050  
fax: +1 714 905 1055  
<http://www.anabellahotel.com/>

**location:**  
1030 W Katella Ave  
Anaheim CA 92802

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# Orange County Snapshot

## Local Info

Orange County ain't what it was. When the Beach Boys were at their height, typifying the gleaming white privilege of Richard Nixon's birthplace, it was Happy Days on holiday (without the subversive Italian element).

The picture today is much different. The world famous beaches, bleached blonde locals, original Magic Kingdom, and entrenched conservatism still remain, but the years have brought gradual, beneficial change. The Democrats achieved unprecedented success in Orange County during the 2008 presidential election, while the social and cultural demographics are also much changed from Nixon's day with, as an example, a strong Vietnamese presence now established in the City of Westminster.

And, while the Beach Boys (none of whom could actually surf) continue to be played every third song on local radio station, K-Earth, a younger generation of locals are more likely to think of No Doubt as the representative OC-born band of recent years: inventive, exciting, and with a definite global appeal.

### OC geography

This substantial 948 square mile rectangle of California, with the longer edges lined up along the west coast and pushing out towards the San Bernardino Forest in the east, contains among the 34 towns within its borders the capabilities to cater for almost any tastes. That said the main draw remains the unending coastline, and its rhythmic battery by the Pacific Ocean.

Stretching the full length of the county, from the OC's southernmost city of San Clemente (aka: the Spanish Village by the Sea) and the westernmost tip of Seal Beach (home to a National Wildlife Preserve), the beach is the focal point for much of life in the OC. Millionaire homesteads in Newport and Laguna Beach cap the semi-arid hills of the OC hinterland, jostling for maximised ocean-views from their perches. Choice surf spots such as Huntington Beach, Salt Creek, and San Onofre are never without their attendant

pods of amphibious wetsuit-wearing surfers, often in the water from as early as 6am to avoid the crowds and lay claim to the best waves.

### Surfin' USA

Surfing being what it is in Orange County (Huntington Beach, proudly known as "Surf City USA" lays claim to the origins of the practice in the US), it's also possible to come across surfing competitions throughout the year at any of these prime surf spots; just look for a few branded pavilions, some long lenses plus assorted "dudes" (probably some kids who should be at school). Two competitions particularly worth catching are the Huntington Beach-located US Open (July 18-26), like a local festival with live music and a skateboarding arena included, and the Hurley Pro Trestles (13-19 Sept), held at Lower Trestles near San Clemente.

### Historical pockets

If you're looking for more concrete history than the ongoing surfing tradition practitioners (although Huntington does have an International Surfing Museum), there are some historical pockets of interest available in the OC; but if it's a top priority, it must be said that there are continents of alternatives that would have proved more suitable holiday destinations. However, Mission San Juan Capistrano is always a popular choice, famous for its classic Spanish Colonial architecture and the Return of the Swallows celebration which marks the annual migration of the swallows from Argentina to the OC. Nearby Dana Point also holds an historical gem: a replica of the brig Pilgrim (the boat upon which Richard Henry Dana rode in on to eventually write "Two Years Before the Mast", and who Dana Point is named after).

History can also be uncovered in unexpected places, such as along the hiking trails (or dirt bike tracks, depending on your perspective) that unspool throughout the beautiful canyons that you can find just a few miles inland from

the coast. The Dripping Cave (found in Aliso and Wood Canyons Park), a prime example of the wind-carved sandstone caves that litter the region, was the hideout for stagecoach bandits, reminding you of wilder times in this now most settled of regions.

### Top stops

And nowhere is more settled than the twin jewels of the region: Laguna Beach and Newport Beach (the latter incorporating Balboa Island and the Balboa Peninsula). These two towns, on the surface, are distillates of old school Orange County, with millionaire residents and, in the case of Newport's Balboa Island, gleaming powerboats docked at the end of private piers. But, look closer, and you see what the super-rich are buying here is the cosy, local feel that sets these towns apart from their in-county cousins. Laguna, home to a stretch of stunning beaches backed by sea-cliffs (1,000 Steps Beach is a perennial local favorite), is also Orange County's local artist epicentre, with a small gallery almost every second shop (for a closer look, attend the annual Sawdust Festival when local artists open their studios to the public). Walking around Newport's Balboa Island feels like stepping backwards into a more innocent time: at the Fun Zone there's a big wheel, a 50's style diner on the pier, and stands at which to buy the local specialty of frozen bananas.

If that all sounds a little too nostalgic, South Coast Plaza, the great commercial heart of Orange County, awaits just off the I-5 for all those keen to indulge in some serious mall-time. For the wandering gourmand, increasing ethnic diversity coupled with OC resident Michelin-starred chefs ensure a galaxy of choice (for all budgets) when it comes to deciding where to eat. Oenophiles, unsure whether to go straight to Napa, can find local wineries in Orange County (Laguna Canyon for one), and are also within easy striking distance of the many vineyards found in the Temecula Valley.

## Orange County Snapshot continued

The thing about Orange County is that it's full of surprises. Yes, there's Disneyland (now expanded to include the rides of sister-park, California Adventure, and the music of the House of Blues), coastline to die for and the laid-back surfer vibe. But there're also intense chilli cook-offs, bizarre traditions like the Laguna Niguel annual mooning of the Amtrak train service, and America's richest two-day rodeo. Remember that when deciding your itinerary, leave a couple of days free to explore and find out what you can uncover. © NileGuide

### History

Although perhaps now more closely associated with sprawling oceanfront mansions and designer flip-flops, the coastal region between Los Angeles and San Diego has a past rooted in conflict over land, the Catholic Church, and agriculture.

#### The Mission Era

Originally inhabited by the Tongva and Juaneño/Luiseño people, a group of Spanish explorers and missionaries bound for the legendary Monterey Bay reached the region in the mid-1700s. Father Junipero Serra, founder of the Alta California Mission chain, was among the party and established the Mission San Juan Capistrano in 1776 making it the first permanent European settlement in California. The Mission was built and maintained by the native people who were converted to Christianity by the Spanish monks. Once converted, most of these native Californians were permitted to own land, undoubtedly the impetus for many of the transformations. During this time the cattle industry thrived in area with the development of a port at Dana Point, and a busy trade of tallow, hide, and other goods developed between New England and the West Coast. Mexico gained its independence from Spain in 1821 and the California missions fell into a state of disrepair. Subsequent drought and disease wiped out the cattle and killed crops, and the mission economy was further damaged

by increased secularization implemented by the Mexican government. Unrest continued, and Mexico eventually lost control of the territory with Mexican-American war of 1846-1848 and the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

#### California Becomes a State

With statehood in 1850 issues over land arose, as citizens were required to show documentation of landownership in order to retain their holdings. Because much of the land had been freely parceled out and distributed by the Spanish and Mexican governments, many people lost their land. Taking advantage of this, entrepreneurs such as James Irvine bought up huge amounts of land and planted more drought resistant crops such as walnuts, avocados, and the citrus for which the county was later named. Settlements sprung up, aided by the expansion of the railroads. An electric trolley system was put in place carrying passengers to and from Los Angeles making the region more accessible and resulting in the founding of Huntington and Seal Beach as resort communities.

#### Orange Becomes County

The discovery of silver in the Santa Ana mountains in 1887 caused another population surge, and as the 20th century approached the area was bursting at the seams. Tired of the long trek to Los Angeles to do official business and concerned that their needs were not being adequately addressed, residents began to push for self-government. In 1889 their wish was granted, and paying homage to its agricultural roots the county was named "Orange." While the trolley lines promoted growth and tourism during the early 1900s, it was the introduction of the automobile and freeway system that made an impact on the latter half of the century. Completion of US 101 and I-5 made this coastal haven even more accessible, and Orange County became a popular getaway for early Hollywood. The end of WWII saw another population increase when the military bases that had dominated the area closed and service men and women settled in the area and raised families. In 1955

Disneyland opened in Anaheim, followed by Knotts Berry Farm in 1968 setting the standard for the newest form of American entertainment, the theme park.

#### Modern History and Development

Today Orange County is the second most populous county in California, fifth in the nation. Known for its wealthy population and political conservatism, the region has entered pop culture's spotlight in recent years with hit TV shows like The O.C. and reality series such as MTV's Laguna Beach. A mecca for successful people of every profession, the area is at the center of the "Tech Coast," a term coined to describe Southern California's economic transformation from aerospace and defense to a international, multi-tech industries. The South Coast is home to of mega companies and some of the top research universities. Home to some of the country's most exclusive and expensive communities, Orange County has set the standard for master planned luxury development. With its sunny climate, sandy beaches, wealth of recreational activities, and world class dining and shopping its no wonder those with big bank accounts choose to live here. ©

### Hotel Insights

Orange County, encompassing a number of cities and towns, offers a diverse selection of accommodations to choose from. From beach bungalows and oceanfront resorts to Disneyland's digs, there is an appropriate place for every occasion and person within the towns that make up Orange County.

#### San Juan Capistrano & San Clemente

For those looking to stay in the picturesque and historical areas of San Juan Capistrano and San Clemente, there are plenty of options for any budget. The Capistrano Seaside Inn offers a romantic getaway with ocean views and lush gardens at a moderate price. If you're visiting San Juan Capistrano in March, the Best Western Capistrano Inn provides a great location for watching the swallows return to the Mission. In San Clemente, the Casa

## Orange County Snapshot continued

Tropicana Inn& Spa is a comfortable bed and breakfast with themed rooms. Designed to look like a California, the Country Plaza Inn By San Clemente Beach boasts a variety of amenities including fresh fruit every morning and complimentary newspapers.

### Laguna Beach& Dana Point

As one drives north or south along Highway 101, California's green highway signs announce the upcoming exits for "Beach Cities," referring to the beautiful, hip, coastal towns of Dana Point, Laguna Beach, and beyond. If you're looking for renowned golf courses, pristine beaches, high-end boutiques, or world-class surf spots, these unforgettable and unique cities are a must-see! Leading the list of Beach Cities' accommodation options is the Ritz-Carlton Laguna Niguel. Named "the best hotel in North America" by the readers of Travel & Leisure. If the pricey rates of the Ritz aren't exactly your "cup'o tea" check out The Surf & Sand. Here, guests are treated to their very own balcony with ocean views and a unique restaurant, Splashes, which features only the finest in Mediterranean cuisine. Other luxury accommodations include the St. Regis Monarch Beach which offers many interesting packages, and Montage Resort & Spa, which boasts amenities that define luxury.

### Anaheim

Obviously, the main attraction for decades in the area has been Disneyland and its accommodations are no less famous. The Disneyland Hotel and the neighboring Disneyland Paradise Pier Hotel have been mainstays for visitors to the park where kids of all ages can dine with Mickey, Pluto, and all their friends, or simply experience the luxury of the "happiest place on earth". If you're looking for something a little homier, Dolphin's Cove Resort features a wide range of condominiums that are fully-equipped with kitchens, patios, and even a mini-golf course. For more wallet-friendly options off the park grounds, the Fairfield Inn Anaheim Disneyland Resort is located right across the street and the Castle Inn

Suites lets you stay in your own castle in between visits to Cinderella's.

### Costa Mesa& Irvine

The immediate areas surrounding John Wayne Airport, the cities of Irvine and Costa Mesa offer many accommodation options for business travelers or those who just want to explore the area. The Atrium Hotel and Hilton Irvine/Orange County Airport are both convenient distances to the airport as well as nearby shopping and restaurants. Also near some of the area's major shopping and popular local spots are Westin South Coast Plaza, which is connected to one of Orange County's trendy fashion centers, South Coast Plaza, and Holiday Inn Express Costa Mesa/Newport Beach provides easy access to some of the best beaches in the county.

### Huntington Beach& Newport Beach

Being only a stones throw away from the most luxurious harbor in the region, Balboa Bay Club, has been alive and well since 1948 treating visitors (and many times the Hollywood elite), to four-diamond luxury amenities spread out over 15 incredible beachfront acres. Whether it's the prime waterfront dining or the short distance to Fashion Island, visitors will quickly realize why it has been dubbed "The Host of the Coast." Perhaps you're looking for a more affordable luxury experience. If so, you might want to explore the Newport Beach Marriott Hotel & Spa offering guests a rejuvenating spa experience in a comfortable and relaxing location. So whether you're looking to get away from it all, or simply trying to get close to everything, Orange County has options for every style of traveler.

©

### Restaurants Insights

While Orange County is known for its famous beaches, mega shopping centers, and "Magic Kingdom," it's also chock full of spectacular dining spots. Their restaurants offer diverse culinary sites from places around the world including Mediterranean,

Greek, French, Japanese, Hawaiian, and good old American style cuisines.

### Laguna Beach/Dana Point

When in the Laguna Beach area, you'll be able to eat at luxurious locations where the dishes match the spectacular views from their ocean side seating. Have a taste of Belgium at Brussels Bistro where you'll find a traditional atmosphere that serves Belgium beer. Next up for the tour of international cuisines is the Aegean Cafe whose Greek dishes are only part of the experience. Waiters will serenade you with traditional Greek songs and balance things on their noses to create an upbeat, high-energy environment for your dining pleasure. If you're in the mood for a true Hawaiian and Polynesian experience, stop in at the Royal Hawaiian. Try the Mahi Mahi or Teriyaki Halibut at Claes Seafood. For a more historical dining experience, be sure to drop by The Cottage, a home built in 1917 that has been converted into a restaurant. Made famous for their breakfast menu, you can have brunch in a comfortable, back-in-the-day setting. Want to dine on the beach without dealing with sand and seagulls? Resting merely five feet above sea level, Five Feet feels as if you're on the beach without having to be at the beach. Las Brisas is known for its authentic Mexican food right alongside the beach as well.

### Newport Beach/Costa Mesa/Huntington Beach

Newport Beach offers a variety of restaurant choices that will whet your appetite. After a day of parading on Balboa Island's boardwalk, stop in The Spaghetti Bender where their marinara sauce tastes as if its homemade. The Clubhouse is a perfect place to get the country club experience without the pricey membership dues. They serve American style cuisine such as chicken potpie and mashed potatoes. Hana No Ki serves everything but sushi. They pride themselves in serving often overlooked Japanese dishes like Grilled Fish Saikyo-yaki and Shime Saba. For genuine Southern-fried comfort, check out Memphis Soul Cafe. Their menu

## Orange County Snapshot continued

consists of Soul Meatloaf, Cajun Gumbo, Shrimp Creole, Soul Burgers, and much more. Located on a floating riverboat, Anthony's Riverboat Restaurant serves Fresh Northern Halibut, Lobster Tail, Roast Prime Rib of Beef, and New York Steak. Not to worry if you're vegetarian. The Avanti Cafe serves a vegetarian menu where dishes are made from locally grown vegetables. Located on the Newport Pier, The Rockin' Baja Lobster provides a fun, upbeat atmosphere. Their "Baja Buckets" are the thing to try. You can stuff them with whatever seafood or meat you choose.

### Anaheim/Orange

After a trip to the "happiest place on Earth," try these equally incredible places to dine. Located in the Disneyland Hotel, Granville's lamb chops, fish plates, and ribs are everything but Mickey Mouse. Within the Disneyland Paradise Pier Hotel, drop in for some sushi and tempura at Yamabuki. Continue following your dreams while in Downtown Disney at Catal Restaurant & Uva Bar. They serve Mediterranean style food such as "Paella a la Valencia" and "Duck Leg Confit."

Anaheim White House marks the spot for lovers of not only Italian food, but Italian celebrities as well. Their plates, named after Italian personalities, have names such as "Versace Whitefish" and "Dolce & Gabbana Sand Dabs." Although you will have to make a reservation at least a month in advance for The Hobbit, it's well worth it once inside because you get to take a tour of the chef's kitchen which is located in a 1930s Spanish home. One place, three zones: Restaurant, Taqueria for those on the go, and the Cantina. At Tortilla Jo's, you have it all, literally.

©

### Nightlife Insights

Orange County's entertainment scene is crammed with endless possibilities for locals and visitors alike. Whether you like fine art or hard rock, the OC is the place for you. Its beautiful seaside surroundings and nearly perfect weather creates ample opportunities for your "things to do" list.

### Art & Museums

The true beauty of Orange County is matched by equally exceptionally creative representations that celebrate California culture and contemporary art. Located at the popular Fashion Island Newport Beach, the Orange County Museum of Art features collections that concentrate on California art and late 20th century pieces. California impressionism can be seen at The Irvine Museum where they're dedicated to spreading awareness about the current condition California's natural environment. If you're interested in the works of local artists, check out the Art Institute of Southern California-Ettinger & Reynolds Galleries, that features works by students, and the Orange County Center for Contemporary Art whose emphasis is on freedom to express oneself through contemporary art. At the Irvine Fine Arts Center, you can see an array of innovative artistic expressions including ceramic, multimedia, photography, and much more.

For the seafaring enthusiasts, you will be happy to know that Orange County's proximity to beaches makes it a perfect place to see art about maritime history. The Vallejo Gallery is dedicated to portrayals of the American and British ships of the past. Also, at the Newport Harbor Nautical Museum, you can see a historical boat that is docked at the harbor and learn about the history of Newport harbor while getting some fun-in-the-sun time too. While the art of Orange County is relatively California-based, the Laguna Art Museum features works that have a global reach as well. Here, you can find classic and modern art by both local and internationally distinguished artists. The Bowers Museum of Cultural Art has artifacts from Southeast Asian, Mexican, and Native American cultures.

### Music

The music scene in Orange County offers about as much as you can imagine. An assortment of venues brings music to the ears of Orange County residents and visitors. Places such as Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre and Honda Center offers

just about everything from Lollapalooza to classical concerts to the Mighty Ducks of Anaheim. Jazz fans will appreciate the Steamers Cafe where jazz musicians from around the world grace the stage. For a night of the OC's local artists, stop by The Hub where you can sip on a latte while checking out some music performers. The Coach House is a favorite spot for those that enjoy seeing their favorite musicians in the most intimate of settings.

### Theater & Film

Theater & film is a significant part of Orange County's entertainment field. For Broadway fans, be sure to visit the Orange County Performing Arts Center and the Segerstrom Center for the Arts which feature shows including "Cats" and "Miss Saigon." The South Coast Repertory and Costa Mesa Civic Playhouse features many classic and contemporary plays. The Brea Curtis Theatre puts on many comedies, dramas, and also has The Kids Culture Club which is ideal for family outings where you can see ballets and jugglers. Want to see modern plays such as "Grease"? Stop by the La Habra Depot Theatre. For a fun excursion with friends, check out Medieval Times. In addition, the Newport Beach Film Festival brings to film buffs a chance to not only watch films, but also an opportunity to meet with the screenwriters, directors, and cinematographers as well. **Research Institutes & Exhibits**

While Orange County's claim to fame is its all-the-rage beaches and shopping centers, the Orange County Natural History Museum offsets this representation by being a research facility dedicated to environmental preservation. The Ocean Institute of Dana Point also serves as an educational facility for students and tourists alike.

### Nightclubs

Although there's a lot to do during the day, the OC is one happening place at night. The young, hip crowd of Costa Mesa likes to go to The Shark Club where they play pool and check out the 2000 gallon shark tank. For a wild time, after a day in Laguna Beach catching your rays, drop in at the Sandpiper Lounge for their "4

## Orange County Snapshot continued

second poured" drinks and live music. For an even wilder night out, check out Club Rubber, located at the Galaxy Concert Theatre. Here, you can run amok among the most eccentric crowd of the OC and participate in one of the club's monthly themes such as "Catholic School Girl" and "60s Psychedelics." At Club M, sushi lovers can get their fill of "Spicy Tuna Rolls" and sake bombs before dancing the night away at the restaurant's club. The same goes for the China Beach Canteen. For those that like to try new things, this place breaks the mold by blending Chinese food and reggae music under one roof.

### Outdoor Activities

Beautiful Orange County is also booming with outdoor activities. A day trip hot spot is the Newport Landing Boardwalk and Newport Pier, where friends, families, tourists, and locals enjoy shopping, eating, and taking in the splendor of the harbor. Take advantage of the harbor by doing some day fishing at Newport Landing Sportfishing. Balboa Island's relaxing atmosphere makes it a perfect place to spend the day on an island.

If you're an avid golfer, the OC's golf courses are certainly up to par. Come play all 18 holes at Westridge Golf Club or, if you're up for a challenge, play on the hills of the Anaheim Hills Golf Course. The Strawberry Farms Golf Club and Aliso Viejo Ice Chalet are also great places to practice your swing.

Last but certainly not least, Disneyland, is one of the OC's must-see spots. Dubbed the "Magic Kingdom," Disneyland brings visitors from far and wide to see attractions like Pirates of the Caribbean and the Matterhorn.

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### Things to Do Insights

Touring Orange County and nearby Los Angeles requires a car. Luckily, while in the OC, you don't need to travel far to come across the world famous beaches or the lesser well known but locally just as loved expanses of wilderness and ecological

preserves. In and around those, here are a few further tips to local areas:

**Huntington Beach** It's Surf City USA, so walk the pier and check out the surfing, or, better still, get in the water yourself. If you'd rather not get your wetsuit dirty, so to speak, but still like the vibe, then head over to the International Surfing Museum to get an historical perspective. Surfed out? Then head over to the extensive collections exhibited at the Orange County Museum of Art.

**Laguna Beach** Don't be put off by its name, 1,000 Steps Beach really doesn't have that many steps and is the gem of the local beaches. Time your visit for the Sawdust Festival to really tap into the artistic vibe of this town, or check out the extraordinary Pageant of the Masters (not nearly as ridiculous as it sounds (well, nearly)). If you're looking for a better vantage point for those holiday snaps, try nearby Aliso and Wood Canyons Park for spectacular views up the coast.

**San Clemente** Nestled at the southernmost tip of the county, San Clemente (also known as "The Spanish Village by the Sea") makes a great stop before heading on to San Diego or Mexico, but is also a lively, scenic destination in its own right (Richard Nixon used to love it). Stroll Avenida del Mar dipping into the many boutiques and cafes that line the street, before reaching the beachfront, home to arguably the most beautiful of the OC's extensive collection of pier.

**Dana Point** A quiet town positioned in between Laguna Beach and San Juan Capistrano, Dana Point is centered around its tranquil harbor. There're some good beaches here, and a sense of timelessness prevails as you walk the breakwater between the fishermen and standing surfers. Above the harbor, stunning views south are readily available.

**Balboa/Newport** A self-contained Avalon for the extremely well off, Balboa Island maintains a local charm that surprises (even more so after seeing the floating fibreglass castles of Balboa homeowners docked on their private piers). Walk down the island's

Marina Avenue before hopping on the ferry to the peninsula. Spend some time at the nostalgic Balboa Fun Zone, book a boat tour around the harbor, and stop by for excellent live music and dinner at the Studio Café.

**Anaheim** Home of the theme parks. On this hallowed ground you'll find the hyperactive trinity of Disneyland, Disney's California Adventure and Knott's Berry Farm. Keep the doors locked upon approach, you don't want the overexcited kids making an early break for it across the I5.

**San Juan Capistrano** Most famous for its historical elements, namely the remaining examples of adobe architecture evident in the Old Town and the Mission San Juan Capistrano. The mission, over two hundred years old and perhaps the best preserved example of its kind, is part of a chain of missions built along the California coast by the Spanish. A good time to visit is during the annual Return of the Swallows Festival, an event held to welcome the famous migrating swallows returning from Argentina to nest in the eaves of the mission.

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### Travel Tips

By Air

**John Wayne Airport (SNA):** The only commercial service airport in Orange County. It is located 35 miles south of Los Angeles, between the cities of Costa Mesa, Irvine, Newport Beach and Santa Ana. (+1 949 252 5200/<http://www.ocair.com/default.asp>)

John Wayne Airport is home to the following major airlines:

Alaska Airlines (+1 800 252 7522/<http://www.alaskaair.com>) American Airlines (+1 800 433 7300/<http://www.aa.com>)

Continental (+1 800 525 0280/<http://www.continental.com>) Delta (+1 800 221 1212/<http://www.delta.com>)

Southwest (+1 800 435 9792/<http://www.iflyswa.com>) United (+1 800 241 6522/<http://www.ual.com>) US Airways (+1 800 428 4322/<http://www.usairways.com>)

## Orange County Snapshot continued

Airport Map& Information:[http://www.airguideonline.com/airports/airport\\_sna.htm](http://www.airguideonline.com/airports/airport_sna.htm)

Airport Services:[http://www.airguideonline.com/airports/airport\\_sna2.htm](http://www.airguideonline.com/airports/airport_sna2.htm)

Airport Transportation:[http://www.airguideonline.com/airports/airport\\_sna3.htm](http://www.airguideonline.com/airports/airport_sna3.htm)

Long Beach Airport(LGB) is an alternative airport when flying to Orange County, situated midway between Los Angeles and Orange County. Long Beach Airport provides very efficient ground transportation, and the lowest-cost parking in the region.(+1 562 570 2619/<http://www.longbeach.gov/airport/default.asp>)

### Airport Parking Service

John Wayne Airport offers a variety of parking options: Four terminal parking structures at the rate of \$1 per hour or \$17 per day, an off-site(Main Street) parking lot for \$1 per hour or \$12 per day and valet parking for \$23 per day are available. The Main Street Parking Lot offers a complimentary shuttle service to the Terminal every 15 minutes. All parking options are available for short and long-term parking.(+1 949 252 5200)

Park'N Fly(+1 800 763 6895/<http://www.pfnetwork.com>)

### Rental Car Companies Include

Alamo(+1 800 327 9633/<http://www.alamo.com>) Avis(+1 800 831 2847/<http://www.avis.com>) Budget(+1 800 527 0700/<http://www.budget.com>) Enterprise(+1 800 325 8007/<http://www.enterprise.com>) Hertz(+1 800 654 3131/<http://www.hertz.com>) National(+1 800 227 7368/<http://www.nationalcar.com>) Thrifty(+1 800 367 2277/<http://www.thrifty.com>)

### Taxis

John Wayne Airport Yellow Cab Service(+1 800 535 2211/+1 714 535 0156/<http://www.cayellow.com>)Shuttles

Shuttles are located on the Arrival(Lower) Level in the Ground Transportation Center. Coordinators are available to assist you with your ground transportation needs.

ABC Shuttle(+1 714 719 4197/<http://www.abcshuttleatjohnwayne.com>) Advance Shuttle(+1 800 567 7500/<http://www.advanceshuttle.com>) Express Shuttle(+1 800 427 7483/<http://xpressshuttle.com>) Disneyland® Resort Express(+1 800 828 6699/<http://anaheimsightseeing.com>)

### Buses

Orange County Transportation Authority(+1 714 636 7433/<http://www.octa.net>)

Serving Orange County, regular fare is \$1.25; free for children under 6. Greyhound(+1 800 231 2222/<http://www.greyhound.com>)

### By Train

Train stations are located throughout Orange County, with Metrolink servicing stations between Los Angeles and San Diego as well as east to San Bernardino County. Amtrak also passes through these stations but has limited stops on weekends. See websites for more details:

Amtrak(+1 800 USA RAIL/<http://www.amtrak.com>) Metrolink(+1 800 371 LINK/<http://www.metrolinktrains.com>)

### By Boat

Catalina Express: Equipped with airplane-style seats, panoramic viewing windows and refreshments on board, Catalina Express offers year round service and up to 30 departures daily from ports in Long Beach, San Pedro and Dana Point. Views of the Pacific coast don't get any better than this, and you may even catch a glimpse of dolphins swimming alongside the boat in this memorable boating trip for the whole family.

### By Car

Orange County is connected by a maze of California State and Interstate freeways.

The major Interstate freeways are: I-5, I-405, and I-605.

The major California State freeways running east-west are: CA/SR-91 and the CA/SR-22.

Running north-south: CA/SR-57, SR/CA-55, CA/SR-133, CA/SR-73, CA/SR-261, CA/SR-133, CA/SR-241, and CA/SR-241.

If traveling overseas, take the safety precaution of registering your trip at <https://travelregistration.state.gov> and for helpful, practical advice about traveling technicalities and safety standards check out <http://travel.state.gov/>.

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## Fun Facts

**Orange County State:** California  
**Country:** United States

### Orange County By The Numbers:

**Population:** 3,072,336 **Average January Temperature:** 67° F/19° C **Average July Temperature:** 87° F/30° C **Average Annual Rainfall:** 13 inches/33 centimeters

### Quick Facts:

**Major Industries:** Tourism, Business Services, Manufacturing, Education, Health Care

**Ethnic Mix:**(64.81%) White,(13.59%) Asian,(1.67%) African American,(0.70%) Native American,(0.31%) Pacific Islander(30.76%) Hispanic or Latino

**Electricity:** 110 volts, 60Hz, standard two pin plugs

**Time Zone:** GMT- 8

**Country Dialing Code:** 1

**Area Code:** 949& 714

### Did You Know?

Orange County's economy is larger than all but 31 nations in the world, ranking ahead of Israel, Portugal, and Singapore.

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## Orange County Snapshot continued

### Weather

Statistics	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Temperature C												
Average High	19	20	20	22	23	25	28	29	28	26	22	19
Average Mean	14	15	15	17	18	20	23	23	23	20	17	14
Average Low	9	10	11	12	14	16	18	18	18	15	11	9
Temperature F												
Average High	95	94	98	106	102	112	107	105	110	108	100	91
Average Mean	58	60	60	63	65	69	74	75	73	69	63	58
Average Low	28	34	35	39	46	50	54	53	51	41	38	30
Rainy Days	6	6	6	3	1	0	1	0	1	2	3	5
Rain Fall (cm)	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.5
Rain Fall (in)	2.9	3.1	2.6	1.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.3	2.0	2.0

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