

Hub & Spoke

By Elana Andersen



Newport

Remember that time when the family would hop in the car for a day's drive into the country to taste yummy berry and rhubarb pie from Mother Knott's roadside stand? The weekends away to visit a beachside artists' colony and wonder at their displays of art works that were alive on stage, and that even longer trip to witness the annual nesting of swallows. And, then, there was the fragrant drive past orange groves on the way to

the first visit to the Happiest Place on the Earth.

All these places are now better known as Knott's Berry Farm, Laguna Beach and the Pageant of the Masters, the San Juan Capistrano Mission and, of course, Disneyland. Orange County is an ideal destination for a hub-and-spoke itinerary with an opportunity to enjoy and explore these and the many other county attractions. Perhaps the biggest challenge will be to select which of its 34 cities to use as a base. Each offers a range of accommodations and has a distinctive style and attractions.

Buena Park

At Knott's Berry Farm there are thrill rides for all ages, entertainment, and various other amusements. Its California Market Place features various shopping options and the famed Mrs. Knott's Chicken Dinner Restaurant. Other attractions located on Beach Boulevard include, **Movieland Wax Museum**, **Medieval Times Dinner Theater** and **Ripley's Believe It or Not Museum**.

Discover a World of Art & Culture

The Huntington

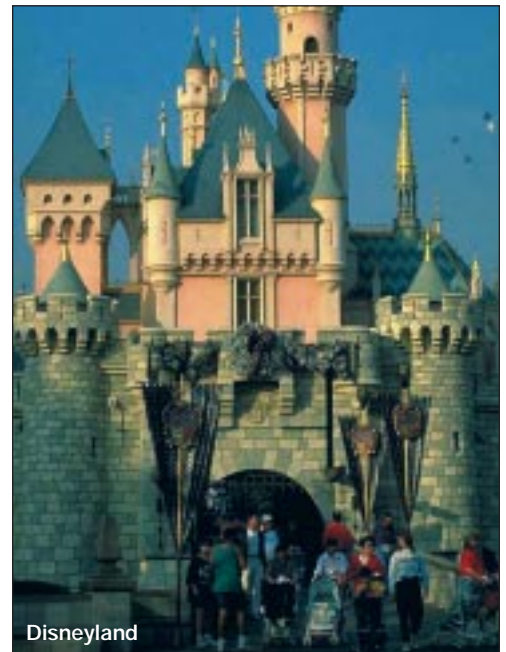
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Anaheim

The **Disney Resort** is celebrating its 50th year of sharing Walt Disney's magic with visitors. The complex includes Disneyland, California Adventure, Downtown Disney, several hotels and resorts and the Anaheim Convention Center. For an insider's view of the Magic Kingdom, take the "Walk in Walt's Footsteps" tour, which is filled with fun facts and offers a behind-the-scenes view of the park from its creator's perspective and vision.



Disneyland

Mother Colony House was built in 1857 by the area's first German settlers. Tours are held on Thursday and Friday, by appointment, with a focus on the area's early history. At the **Anaheim Museum**, displays and artifacts highlight the people who lived in the region in the late 1800s.

Fullerton and Yorba Linda

Downtown Fullerton has retained its charming old town atmosphere with more than 70 preserved historic buildings and antique and collectable shops.

The **Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace** is located in Yorba Linda. Its many exhibits include the life and politics

of the 37th president. It also offers special exhibitions covering global topics and there are special events, presentations and forums. Guided tours are offered.

Orange

The **Crystal Cathedral**, a 12-story high glass sanctuary, is home to Reverend Robert Schuller's Hour of Power television broadcasts. The sanctuary seats almost 3,000 and its tower windows open during Sunday services (9:30 and 11 a.m.) to permit those who still use the parking lot for churchgoing to listen to the service. Cathedral tours are available Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Orange's Historic District has over 1,200 structures of historic relevance and the Chamber offers a map and guide to the district. A must-see is the 100-year-old Watson Drug and Soda Fountain that dishes up a variety of old-time fountain specialties.

Santa Ana

The **Bower Museum of Cultural Arts** is renowned for its collections of art and artifacts of indigenous people from around the world. It is also host to many of the region's most respected visiting exhibitions including the present feature, "Mummies: Death and the Afterlife in Ancient Egypt: Treasures from the British Museum," through April 15, 2007.

At the **Discovery Science Center** you enter what appears to be a 10-story cube set on axis to discover a plethora of hands-on and interactive science exhibits, gadgets and anomalies.

The **Santa Ana Artists Village** has a collection of 150 artists' lofts, studios, galleries and craft centers. The first Saturday of each month, 7-10 p.m., visitors have an opportunity to talk with artists, see works in progress, purchase items directly from the creators and be

HIDDEN JEWELS

Leisure Group Travel asked native Southern Californian Sandy Dhuyvetter, Executive Producer/Host of TravelTalkRADIO, TravelTalkNEWS and TravelTalkTV, about her favorite local beaches. Here are her responses:

Coming in 3rd is Long Beach

California. Long Beach has long been overlooked by the cool crowd, but when it comes to style, Long Beach has its own. It's a far cry from the Long Beach of the 60s and 70s when the navy ruled and crime was commonplace. At that time the streets were rough and the beach community was filled with drugs, alcohol and hopelessness. Today even the carnival called the PIKE is sporting a new California beachside look. Clean, filled with color and new beginnings, Long Beach is as hip as the gas lamp district in San Diego, yet filled with grace from yesteryear with the Queen Mary sitting in her harbor and the old skyscrapers that have been remodeled into townhomes overlooking the Pacific.

Coming in 2nd is Huntington Beach.

Huntington Beach is a must for West Coast visitors. The corner of Highway 1 and Main Street is the brand, the symbol, the icon representing everything Southern California. Within a block you will find cool bikes, beach bars, one of a kind boutiques, surfers, awesome cars, beautiful girls, boogie boarding, beach volleyball and the pier.

My favorite west coast area has got to be my home of Encinitas, Calif.

Known for its perfect waves for surfing, the City of Encinitas was founded over 100 years ago and is now made up of five communities that take pride in their own distinct personalities. "Historic

Encinitas" fills the Highway 101 Corridor that parallels the beautiful beaches and ocean. "New Encinitas" centers on El Camino Real ("The Kings Highway"), founded by the early missionaries from Spain. "Cardiff-by-the-Sea" is made up of quaint homes dotting the hillsides overlooking the sea. "Leucadia" is famous for its giant eucalyptus trees that line the main thoroughfare on the Coast Highway. "Olivenhain" (which means "olive grove" in German) boasts plenty of

Sandy at the beach in Encinitas



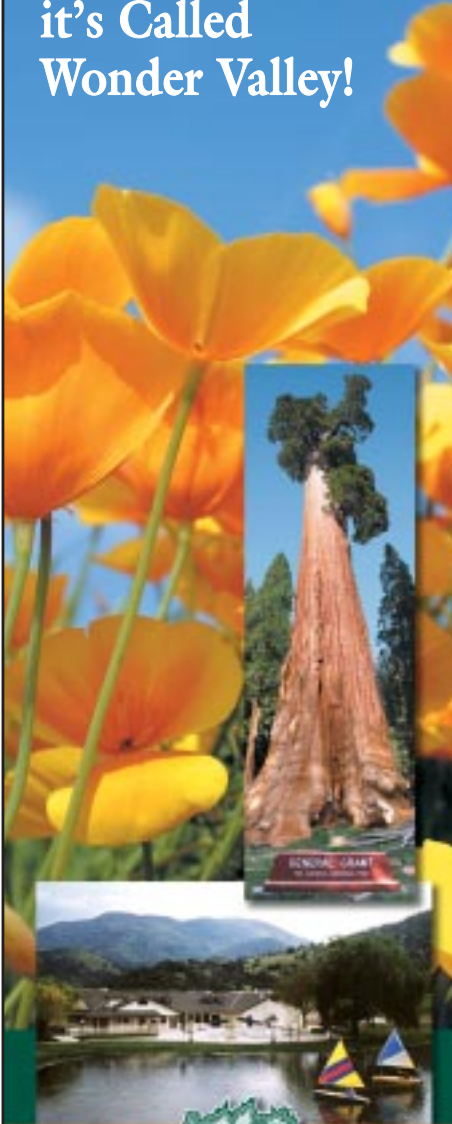
open horse country, pastures, and a rural way of life. This is where we have raised our children and where we call home today.

Encinitas has a significant flower growing industry and many people claim that it is the Flower Growing Capital. As the city has developed, it has grown up around the pre-existing flower growers. Quail Botanical Gardens is a beautiful oasis to visit with an Amazon Rainforest and the largest display of bamboo in the world. The gardens of the Self Realization Center are beautiful and sit overlooking the ocean in a serene garden-like setting. *Welcome to Encinitas anytime!*

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ORANGE COUNTY, CALIF.

entertained by various musical groups. This is a free event.

The **Santa Ana Zoo** is located in Prentice Park and is home to more than 250 species. Its main feature is the primate exhibit.

Costa Mesa

The Lab and The Camp (Antimall) are centers for non-traditional shopping with alternative music and apparel stores and shops specializing in outdoor sports gear.



Orange County
Performing Arts Center

The **Theater District** includes the Performing Arts Center, which is home to Opera Pacific, Pacific Symphony Orchestra, Pacific Chorale, and Philharmonic Society of Orange County. Also here is the South Coast Repertory Theater and the California Scenario Sculpture garden. Free tours of the theater complex are available on Wednesday and Saturday.

Huntington Beach

This community boasts over eight miles of beaches and some of the state's best surfing action. There is a small but interesting **International Surfing Museum** which displays memorabilia and photographs about the area's surfing history.

Newport Beach

Newport Harbor Nautical Museum features several galleries with photographs, art, ship models and memorabilia.

Orange County Museum of Art displays over 6,500 works which chronicle

FAST FACTS

Population: 2.94 million

Land Area: 789 sq. mi.

Elevation: sea level up to 5,687 feet

**Annual Average
Precipitation:** 13 inches

Average Temperatures:
Winter: 45-65° Spring: 50-70°
Summer: 59-79° Fall: 54-76°

Time Zone: Pacific

Contacts:

Anaheim 714-765-8852
www.anaheimoc.org

Buena Park 800-541-3953
www.buenapark.com

Fullerton 714-871-3100
www.fullerton.org

Yorba Linda 714-993-9537
www.yorbalindachamber.org

Orange 800-938-0073
www.orangechamber.org

Santa Ana COC 714-541-5353
www.santaanachamber.com

Costa Mesa 714-435-8530
www.costamesa-ca.com

Huntington Beach 714-536-8888
www.hbchamber.org

Newport Beach 949-467-2743
www.newportbeach-cvb.com

Laguna Beach 800-877-1115
www.lagunabeachinfo.org

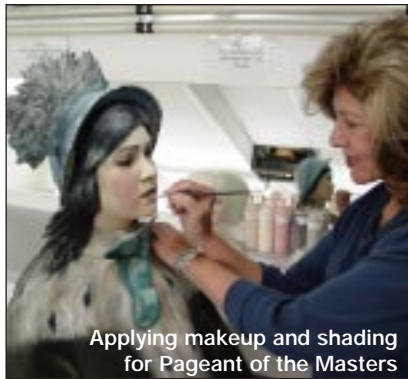
San Juan Capistrano 949-493-1171
www.sanjuancapistrano.org



the State's art-history from the mid-19th century to present.

Laguna Beach

This community is best recognized for its art treasures which include many galleries,



Applying makeup and shading for Pageant of the Masters

Festival of Art, Pageant of the Masters, Sawdust Art Festival and Art-A-Fair. These four festivals are all scheduled throughout the summer months, each offering art displays and special events, presentations and performances. The Gallery Art Walk is offered the first Thursday of each month from 6-9 p.m. Studios are open and there is free admission at the Laguna Art Museum.

San Juan Capistrano

Mission San Juan Capistrano is a 10-acre California landmark which was founded in 1776 by Father Junipero Serra. It has lovely grounds and a historic church and is best known for its swallows which nest in the building eaves every March. Living History Days are offered monthly the first Saturday.

While in Los Angeles, come see What's Next

at the new Autry National Center.

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Autry National Center

Next Stop: Placer Valley



Minutes from the state's capital via I-80, Placer Valley is California's newest destination for group travelers. The region -- which includes Roseville, Rocklin and Lincoln -- already plays host to hundreds of groups each year, attracted by our year round calendar of festivals and cultural events, Las Vegas-style gaming and name brand shopping. From boutique to antiques, outdoor markets to major malls, Placer Valley is one of the West Coast's biggest regional shopping centers. Let us help you plan your next itinerary. Call our Group Sales Department at 800-773-0522 or send an email to groups@placertourism.com. For more ideas, visit www.placertourism.com.

Placer Valley

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