



# Disneyland & Orange County

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## Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Shorebreak Hotel (p246)
- ➔ Grand Californian Hotel & Spa (p227)
- ➔ Montage (p264)
- ➔ Crystal Cove beach cottages (p259)
- ➔ Casa Tropicana (p271)

## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Walt's Wharf (p242)
- ➔ Napa Rose (p231)
- ➔ 242 Cafe Fusion Sushi (p265)
- ➔ Bear Flag Fish Company (p255)
- ➔ Ramos House Café (p268)

## Why Go?

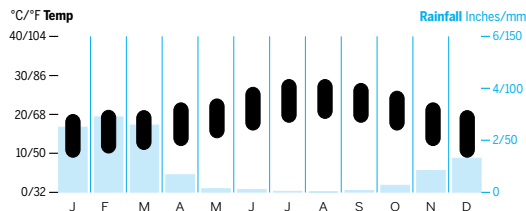
LA and Orange County may be the closest of neighbors, but in some ways they could hardly be more different. If LA is about stars, the OC is about surfers. LA: ever more urban, OC: proudly *suburban*. If LA is SoCal's seat of liberal thinking, the OC's heritage is of mega-churches and ultra-conservative fire-brands. If LA is Hollywood glam, the OC is *Real Housewives*.

Chances are the OC has seeped into your consciousness even if you've never been here. Beyond Mickey Mouse and friends, TV series from *Laguna Beach* and *The OC* to *Arrested Development* have all been set here, taking the county image from humdrum to hip, a place of mythically (gl)amorous teens, gorgeous beaches and socialite cat fights.

While there's some truth to those stereotypes – big, boxy mansions, fortress-like shopping malls, conservatives tossing Happy Meal detritus out of their Humvees – this diverse county's 789 sq miles, 34 cities and 3 million people create deep pockets of individuality, beauty and different ways of thinking, keepin' the OC 'real,' no matter one's reality.

## When to Go

### Anaheim



**May** Visitation dips from spring break to Memorial Day. Mostly sunny, balmy temperatures.

**July & Aug** Summer vacation and beach season peak. Surfing and art festivals by the coast.

**Sep** Blue skies, cooler temperatures inland, fewer crowds. Tall Ships Festival at Dana Point.

# DISNEYLAND & ANAHEIM

POP 343,250 (ANAHEIM)

Mickey is one lucky mouse. Created by animator Walt Disney in 1928, this irrepressible mouse caught a ride on a multimedia

juggernaut (film, TV, publishing, music, merchandising and theme parks) that rocketed him into a global stratosphere of recognition, money and influence. Plus, he lives in the 'Happiest Place on Earth', an 'imagined' hyper-reality where the streets are always clean, the employees – called 'cast



## Disneyland & Orange County Highlights

- 1 Meeting Mickey and screaming your head off on Space Mountain at **Disneyland**, then catching the fireworks show (p232).
- 2 Fighting outrageous bed hair inside the eye of a hurricane at the **Discovery Science Center** (p238) in **Santa Ana**.
- 3 Shopping for vintage treasures and slurping milkshakes from a soda

- fountain in **Old Towne Orange** (p239).
- 4 Building a beach bonfire after a day of surfing killer waves at **Huntington Beach** (p244).
- 5 Cycling past the as-seen-on-TV sands of Newport Beach's **Balboa Peninsula** (p249).
- 6 Discovering Orange County's alternative side

- (yes, there is one) at **The Lab** (p258) and **The Camp** (p258) 'anti-malls' in **Costa Mesa** (p257).
- 7 Watching the sun dip below the horizon from the bluff-tops of art-filled **Laguna Beach** (p260).
- 8 Being awed by the Spanish colonial history and beauty of **Mission San Juan Capistrano** (p268).