



Disneyland & Orange County

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Best Places to Eat

- » Bluewater Grill (p600)
- » French 75 Bistro & Champagne Bar (p604)
- » Sabatino's Sausage Company (p600)
- » Napa Rose (p590)
- » Nick's Deli (p595)

Best Places to Stay

- » Shorebreak Hotel (p596)
- » Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa (p588)
- » Newport Channel Inn (p600)
- » Casa Laguna Inn (p603)
- » Montage (p603)

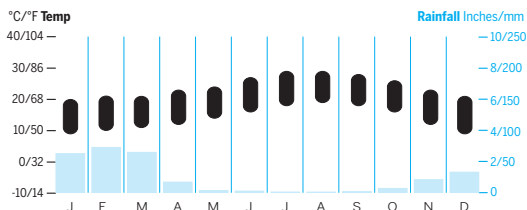
Why Go?

Once upon a time, long before the *Real Housewives* threw lavish pool parties and the rich teens of MTV's *Laguna Beach* screamed at each other on our TV screens, Orange County's public image was defined by an innocent animated mouse. Even in his wildest imagination, Walt Disney couldn't have known that Mickey would one day share the spotlight with Botoxed socialites and rich kids driving Porsches along the sunny Pacific Coast Hwy. But Walt might have imagined the bigger picture – those same catfighting teens will someday grow up, get married and bring their little ones to Disneyland, too.

These seemingly conflicting cultures, plus a growing population of Vietnamese and Latino immigrants seeking the American dream, form the county's diverse population of more than three million. And while there's truth to the televised stereotypes, look closer – there are also deep pockets of individuality and open-mindedness keeping the OC real.

When to Go

Anaheim



May Spring break draws crowds, then numbers drop until Memorial Day. Sunny and balmy days.

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

Sep Blue skies, cooler temperatures inland, fewer crowds at the theme parks.



Disneyland & Orange County Highlights

1 Meet Cinderella, ride Space Mountain, cruise past rowdy pirates and finish the day with fireworks at **Disneyland park** (p583)

2 Join an eager crowd of Pixar enthusiasts and visit **Cars Land** (p588), a brand-new section of Disney California Adventure park

3 View world-class art at the **Bowers Museum of Cultural Art** (p593)

4 Go for pho in the Vietnamese enclave of **Little Saigon** (p594)

5 Watch the pros hit the waves in Surf City, USA, also known as **Huntington Beach** (p595)

6 Shop the boutiques, ride a bicycle along beach paths and watch beautiful people in **Newport Beach** (p597)

7 Check out the bohemian-chic art scene of Laguna Beach with the **First Thursdays Art Walk** (p603) or, in summer, at the **Festival of the Arts** (p604)