



Disneyland & Orange County

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Best Places to Stay

- » Shorebreak Hotel (p240)
- » Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa (p222)
- » Montage (p257)
- » Bay Shores Peninsula Hotel (p248)
- » Crystal Cove Cottages (p254)

Best Places to Eat

- » Walt's Wharf (p236)
- » Napa Rose (p224)
- » 242 Cafe Fusion Sushi (p258)
- » Bear Flag Fish Co (p249)
- » Filling Station (p232)

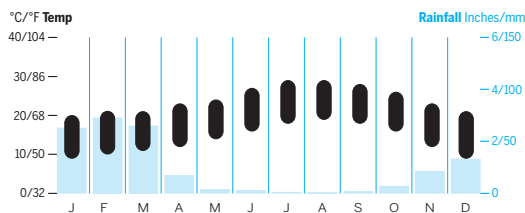
Why Go?

Never underestimate the power of the boob tube. With the successes of Bravo's *Real Housewives*, MTV's *Laguna Beach* and Fox's *The OC*, Orange County has gone from humdrum to hip. Glamorous teens, gorgeous beaches and socialite catfights have forced King Mickey to share the OC's spotlight. But the mouse isn't worried. He knows today's trash-watching teens will soon grow up, get married and bring their kiddies to Disneyland too.

Today three million people and 34 independent cities jostle for space in Orange County's 789 sq miles, a huge swath of real estate stretching south from LA to San Diego. And while there's a whiff of truth to those stereotypical images of life behind the 'Orange Curtain' – big, boxy mansions, fortress-like shopping malls, conservatives tossing Happy Meals out of their Humvees – there are deep pockets of individuality, beauty and open-mindedness keepin' the OC 'real.'

When to Go

Anaheim



May Visitation dips after spring break until Memorial Day. Mostly sunny days, balmy temperatures.

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

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

DISNEYLAND & ANAHEIM

POP 337,900

Mickey is one lucky mouse. Created by animator Walt Disney in 1928, this irrepressible rodent 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,' a slice of 'imagineered' hyper-reality where the streets are always clean, the employees – called 'cast members' – are always upbeat and there are parades every day of the year.



Disneyland & Orange County Highlights

- 1 Meeting Mickey and screaming your head off on Space Mountain at **Disneyland** (p215), then catching the fireworks show
- 2 Fighting outrageous bed hair inside the eye of a hurricane at the **Discovery Science Center** (p231)
- 3 Shopping for vintage treasures and slurping milkshakes from a soda

- fountain in **Old Towne Orange** (p232)
- 4 Building a beach bonfire after a day of surfing killer waves at **Huntington Beach** (p238)
- 5 Cycling past the as-seen-on-TV sands of Newport Beach's **Balboa Peninsula** (p245)
- 6 Falling asleep to the sound of the surf inside

- an oceanfront cottage at **Crystal Cove State Beach** (p254)
- 7 Watching the sun dip below the horizon from the bluff-tops of art-filled **Laguna Beach** (p254)
- 8 Being awed by the Spanish colonial history and the beauty of **Mission San Juan Capistrano** (p261)