



Disneyland & Orange County

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Walt's Wharf (p440)
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- ➔ Driftwood Kitchen (p453)
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Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Paséa (p443)
- ➔ Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa (p432)
- ➔ Montage (p453)
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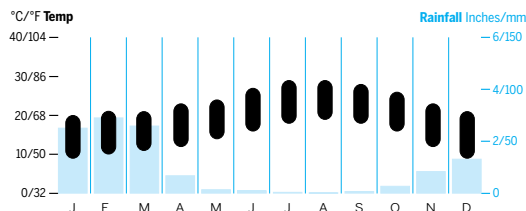
Why Go?

LA and Orange County are the closest of neighbors, but in some ways they couldn't be more different. If LA is about stars, the OC is about surfers. LA: ever more urban, OC: proudly *suburban*, built around cars, freeways and shopping malls. If LA is SoCal's seat of liberal thinking, the OC's heritage is of megachurches and ultraconservative firebrands. If LA is Hollywood glam, the OC is *Real Housewives*.

Tourism is dominated by Disneyland in Anaheim in northern OC, and beach communities promising endless summer – and very different lifestyles as you progress down the coast from Seal Beach to Huntington Beach, Newport Beach to Laguna Beach.

While there's some truth to those stereotypes of life behind the 'Orange Curtain,' this diverse county's 789 sq miles, 34 cities and 3.15 million people create deep pockets of individuality and beauty, while cool, urbanesque spots keep 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.

Jul & 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 & Orange County Highlights

- 1 Screaming your head off on Space Mountain before catching the fireworks show at **Disneyland Resort** (p428).
- 2 Fighting outrageous bed hair inside the eye of a hurricane in Santa Ana's **Discovery Cube** (p438).
- 3 Shopping for vintage treasures and slurping

- milksakes in **Old Towne Orange** (p438).
- 4 Building a beach bonfire after a day of surfing waves at **Huntington Beach** (p441).
- 5 Cycling past Newport Beach's as-seen-on-TV sands on **Balboa Peninsula** (p444).
- 6 Discovering Orange County's alternative side at the

- Lab and the Camp 'antimalls' in **Costa Mesa** (p448).
- 7 Watching the sun dip below the horizon at **Laguna Beach** (p450).
- 8 Being awed by the Spanish colonial history and beauty of **Mission San Juan Capistrano** (p454).