



nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



Eclectic Orange

Santa Ana, Orange County, Disneyland, Newport Beach, Irvine, 2 Days

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: Orange County is know for many things; Disneyland, Knott's the beach. After this trip you will know it for its vibrant culture, its deep respect for both classic and contemporary art. This is a place that celebrates the passion that life has and it is intoxicating, you just feel full of life here. Along the way dine at some traditional restaurants as well as some ethnic ones to complete the experience. The food will be amazing, Greek, European, German, American, what else can you want.

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Newport Beach, Disneyland

DAY NOTE: Breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and sometimes the best tasting too, Pacific Whey Cafe thinks it is. Enjoy any of their decadent pastries or breakfast burritos for a great start to the day. Gallery 224 and its mix of contemporary art from a multitude awaits you. There is always something new at this gallery so be sure to keep a sharp eye. When art appreciating begins to make you hungry head to Sundried Tomato Cafe for a fresh healthy lunch. Their whole menu is exciting and has taken the boring out of traditional meals. The Sawdust Art Festival is a Laguna Beach tradition, and a really fun one at that. Here you will find jewelry, ceramics, paintings, any and everything you can think of. It is a really cool place. If you can tear yourself from the Sawdust there is another Festival of Arts waiting for you, this festival showcases over 140 renowned artists. There are also performances later in the night as well. For dinner the Aegean Cafe serves amazing Greek foods as well as great wines. From appetizers to dessert this place is awesome. The lively Greek atmosphere is reinvigorating as well, perfect for the start of a night. If you are still up for some more fun The Phoenix Club is waiting for you, this is a cool German inspired place to enjoy a few beers or other beverages. When you are ready to call it a night head back to the Crystal Cove beach Cottages for a well deserved rest.

you can order a variety of items such as tapas, or sandwiches, or Tangata Garlic Fries. No matter what you will be happy. Post dinner festivities are at Ambrosia where you can sip on cognac and smoke a cigar if that is what you so choose. Or you can enjoy their wine cellar, or any other of their spirits.



Britta's Cafe

Brunch & More



Cafe Mozart

Award-winning European cuisine



Tangata

Artsy food



Pacific Whey Cafe

See What's Cooking!!



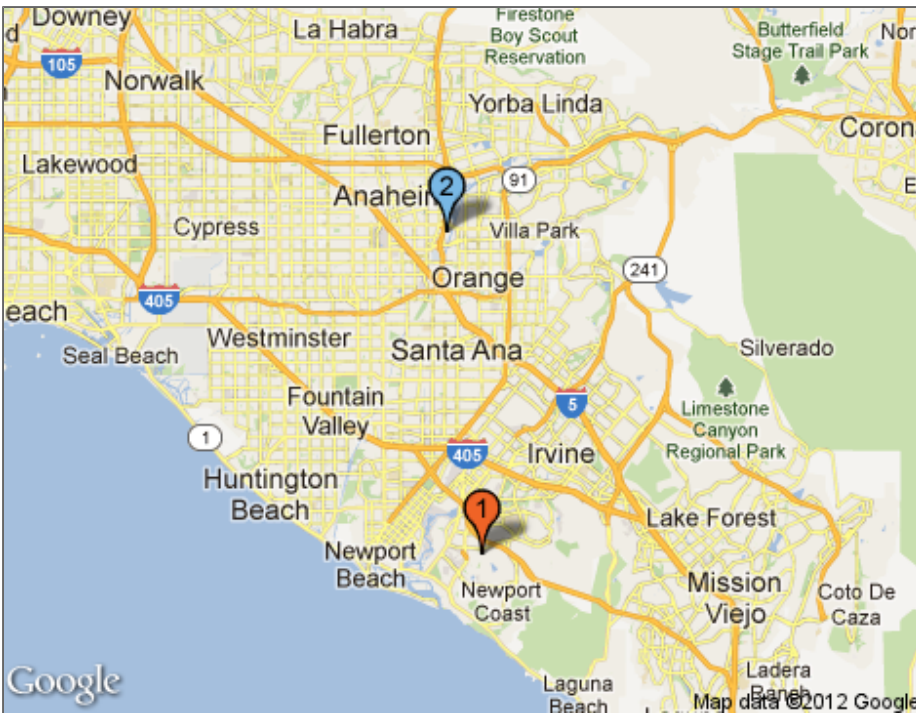
Phoenix Club (The)

Germany theme restaurant and bar

Day 2 - Irvine, Orange County, Santa Ana

DAY NOTE: Wake up early, enjoy the sunrise on your waterfront cottage, honestly it will be worth it. For breakfast Britta's Cafe has just what you need, fresh seasonal dishes make this place a treat. The Indie Fest USA is a really interesting concept, independent films need music so why not have place where that interaction can occur, and all for the fans, why not? Lunch is served at Cafe Mozart, a beautiful flower filled setting with authentic European dishes. After lunch the Bowers Museum of Cultural Art is a cool place to get some local history presented in a captivating way. The building itself is part of the history, which makes it all that much better. After your history lesson the Orange County Center for Contemporary Art is a really nice showcase of established as well upcoming artists. For dinner you do not need to travel too far, Tangata is located in the Bowers Museum. Here

Day 1 - Newport Beach, Disneyland



QUICK NOTE

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contact:

tel: +1 949 644 0303
<http://www.pacificwhey.com/index.html>

location:

2622 San Miguel Drive
Newport Beach CA 92660

hours:

Daily 7a-8p

1 Pacific Whey Cafe

DESCRIPTION: Pacific Whey is renowned for home style comfort food that's made from scratch. The variety includes seductive pastries, fillet mignon and breakfast burritos. The cafe caters to vegans with special vegetarian options to standard favorites. This is one cafe that can easily satiate the toughest food critic with a single taste. The pastries look heavenly and taste that way too. This cafe is a must go for any one visiting the Orange County. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Pacific Whey Cafe

contact:

tel: +1 714 563 4166

<http://thephoenixclub.com/>

location:

1340 South Sanderson

Avenue

Anaheim CA 92806

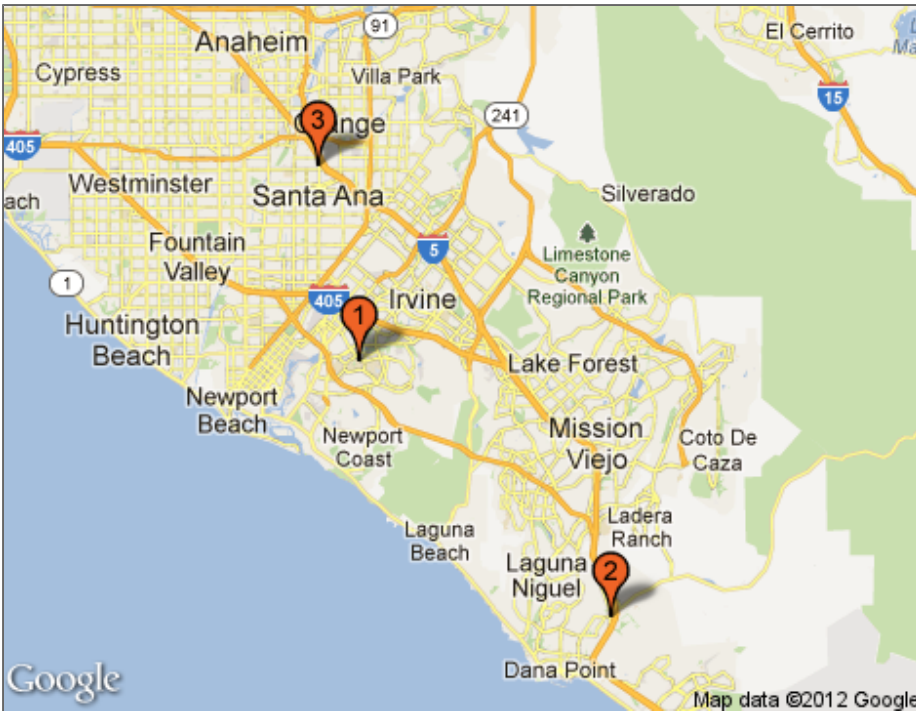
2 Phoenix Club (The)

DESCRIPTION: Inspired by German heritage and traditions this German American cultural center has a European charm to it. At the Phoenix Club visitors can choose to dine at the lavish Loreley Restaurant or choose to relax at the Bierstube Pub. Served at the place is tasty German delicacies like Steak Salat mit Champignon and Geschnetzeltes Schweinelendchen. Dessert is also available here and so are several kinds of beer. Regular events are also held at the club from time to time. So many options for relaxation and entertainment make this place popular among the locals. © wcities.com



citysearch

Day 2 - Irvine, Orange County, Santa Ana



QUICK NOTE

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contact:

tel: +1 949 509 1211
fax: +1 949 509 0111
<http://www.brittascafe.com>

location:

4237 Campus Drive
Irvine CA 92612

hours:

M-F 7:30a-10p, Sa-Su
7:30a-10:30p

1 Britta's Cafe

DESCRIPTION: Britta's Cafe is quite famous for its breakfast and brunch combos. It looks charming and enticing with its outdoor seating and rather pleasant location. The menu changes seasonally and offers a great variety, also there is a good choice of wines available here. Granted the food here is a bit pricey but good enough. Try the chocolate cake with ice cream its simply delicious! © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of (insert name of point of interest)

contact:

tel: +1 949 496 0212
<http://www.cafemozart.net>

location:

31952 Camino Capistrano
San Juan Capistrano CA
92675

hours:

Tu-Sa 11:30a-9p

2 Cafe Mozart

DESCRIPTION: This charming restaurant, owned by Sigmund and Elizabeth Hau for more than 20 years, has won acclaim from critics, such as Elmer Dills and Doris Crandall. The setting is very romantic. Diners eat inside or in the gorgeous, flower-filled courtyard. The clientele includes many return visitors who can't resist the food or the charm. Tourists love the atmosphere and the beautiful setting. Some items you will find on the menu include Bratwurst, hamburgers, prawns, Sauerbraten, Chicken Schnitzel, Pepper Steak, Vegetarian Pasta, Fettucine Primavera, Beef Wellington, New Zealand Rack of Lamb and more. It is a good mix of Central European and European dishes, with prices ranging from \$5 to \$22. There is a full bar and a good wine list which features German wines and beers, ranging from \$7 to \$35 per bottle. © wcities.com



Cafe Mozart

contact:

tel: 7145500906
www.patinagroup.com/tangata
a

location:

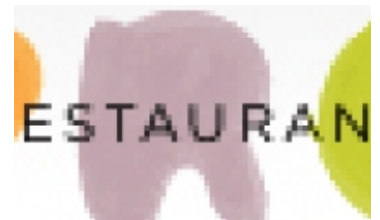
2002 N. main St.
Santa Ana CA 92706

hours:

Tu to Su from 11:00 AM to
03:00 PM

3 Tangata

DESCRIPTION: Located in the beautiful Bowers Art Museum, Tangata provides a fantastic ambience, Spanish style patio and courtyard, bright flowers and a swanky sky-lit inner room with high ceilings. Once you are peacefully nestled in your seat, order from a number of delectable Californian dishes. In true Californian style, tapas and sandwiches are on the menu. These sandwiches have a punch, like the Roasted Butternut Squash and Manchego Cheese with White Truffle Oil. If you want something a bit more substantial, try the Oven slow-roasted Half Chicken instead - it comes with Basque jus and Tangata garlic fries. The restaurant also organizes banquets for special events and what better place to have a private party or a wedding reception surrounded by beauty and art. You can bring your own alcohol but corkage applies. © wcities.com



Tangata

Orange County Snapshot

Local Info

The picture today of Orange County is much different than its image from when the Beach Boys were big. The world famous beaches, bleached blonde locals, original Magic Kingdom, and entrenched conservatism still remain, but the years have brought gradual, beneficial change. The Democrats achieved unprecedented success in Orange County during the 2008 presidential election, while the social and cultural demographics are also much changed from Nixon's day with, for example, a strong Vietnamese presence now established in the City of Westminster.

While the Beach Boys (none of whom could actually surf) continue to be played every third song on a local radio station, K-Earth, a younger generation of locals are more likely to think of No Doubt as the representative OC-born band of recent years: inventive, exciting, and with a definite global appeal.

OC geography

This substantial 948 square mile rectangle of California, with the Pacific Ocean along the west and the San Bernardino Forest in the east, contains 34 towns within its borders with the capabilities to cater to almost any taste. With shopping, restaurants, and plenty of outdoor activities, the main draw remains the unending coastline.

Stretching the full length of the county, from the OC's southernmost city of San Clemente (aka: the Spanish Village by the Sea) and the westernmost tip of Seal Beach (home to a National Wildlife Preserve), the beach is the focal point for much of life in the OC. Millionaire homesteads in Newport and Laguna Beach cap the semi-arid hills of the OC, battling for the best ocean views. Choice surf spots such as Huntington Beach, Salt Creek, and San Onofre are never without their attendant pods of wetsuit-wearing surfers, often in the water from as early as 6am to avoid the crowds and lay claim to the best waves.

Surfin' USA

Surfing being what it is in Orange County (Huntington Beach, proudly known as "Surf City USA" lays claim to the origins of the practice in the US), it's also possible to come across surfing competitions throughout the year at any of these prime surf spots. Two competitions particularly worth catching are the Huntington Beach-located US Open (mid-July), like a local festival with live music and a skateboarding arena included, and the Hurley Pro Trestles (mid-Sept), held at Lower Trestles near San Clemente.

Historical pockets

If you're looking for more history than the ongoing surfing traditions (although Huntington does have an International Surfing Museum), there are some historical pockets of interest around the OC. Mission San Juan Capistrano is always a popular choice, famous for its classic Spanish Colonial architecture and the Return of the Swallows celebration which marks the annual migration of the swallows from Argentina to the OC. Nearby Dana Point also holds its own historical "hidden secret" - a replica of the brig Pilgrim (the boat upon which Richard Henry Dana rode in on to eventually write "Two Years Before the Mast", and who Dana Point is named after).

If you are a presidential history buff, be sure to stop by the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum in Yorba Linda, situated on the land where Nixon family lived until 1922. You can't miss the building - it has an actual Army One helicopter outside (and yes, you are able to step aboard).

History can also be uncovered in unexpected places, such as along the hiking trails (or dirt bike tracks, depending on your perspective) that wind throughout the beautiful canyons that you can find just a few miles inland from the coast. The Dripping Cave (found in Aliso and Wood Canyons Park), a prime example of the wind-carved sandstone caves that litter the region, was the hideout for stagecoach

bandits, reminding you of wilder times in this now most settled of regions.

Top stops

Nowhere is more settled than the most popular areas of the region: Laguna Beach and Newport Beach (the latter incorporating Balboa Island and the Balboa Peninsula). These two towns, on the surface, are distillates of old school Orange County, with millionaire residents and, in the case of Newport's Balboa Island, gleaming powerboats docked at the end of private piers. But look closer, and you see what the super-rich are buying here is the cozy, local feel that sets these towns apart from their in-county cousins. Laguna, home to a stretch of stunning beaches backed by sea-cliffs (1,000 Steps Beach is a perennial local favorite), is also Orange County's local artist epicenter, with a small gallery almost every second shop (for a closer look, attend the annual Sawdust Festival when local artists open their studios to the public or their weekly Art Walk during the summer). Walking around Newport's Balboa Island feels like stepping backwards into a more innocent time - at the Fun Zone there's a big wheel, a 50's style diner on the pier, and stands at which to buy the local specialty of frozen bananas.

If that all sounds a little too nostalgic, South Coast Plaza, the great commercial heart of Orange County, awaits just off the I-5 for all those keen to indulge in some serious mall-time. For the wandering gourmand, increasing ethnic diversity coupled with OC resident Michelin-starred chefs ensure a galaxy of choice (for all budgets) when it comes to deciding where to eat. Oenophiles, unsure whether to go straight to Napa, can find local wineries in Orange County (Laguna Canyon for one), and are also within easy striking distance of the many vineyards found in the Temecula Valley.

The thing about Orange County is that it's full of surprises. Yes, there's Disneyland (now expanded to include the rides of sister-park, California Adventure,

Orange County Snapshot continued

and the music of the House of Blues), coastline to die for, and the laid-back surfer vibe. But there are also intense chilli cook-

offs, bizarre traditions like the Laguna Niguel annual mooning of the Amtrak train service, and America's richest two-day rodeo. Remember that when deciding your

itinerary, leave a couple of days free to explore and find out what you can uncover.
© NileGuide

Disneyland Snapshot

Local Info

Located in Anaheim about 35 miles from the Los Angeles International Airport, "the happiest place on earth" can also be one of the most crowded. Mostly because it has something for everyone, since it's not only a theme park, but also a resort and shopping mecca. The area in and around the theme park also features Downtown Disney, and the Anaheim GardenWalk, where restaurants, malls, boutiques and bars can be found in abundance.

As crowded as Disneyland can be, accommodation is usually not a problem, since there are three large hotels on the resort property and hundreds more in the surrounding city.

Disneyland Theme Parks

There is now a bewildering array of themes and water parks at Disneyland Park, which started out small back in 1955. Each of the attractions comes with its own motif--from Animal Kingdom to Hollywood Studios to Blizzard Beach--and each is classified based on the target age, from toddlers to senior citizens.

All around Disneyland, visitors can mingle with their most-loved Disney characters, who make regular casual appearances and also perform in parades and other entertainment attractions. If you want to take home your very own miniature version, there are many shops offering collectibles and souvenirs.

If you're not the sort who enjoys rides, you can take in a performance by a live band or by the Disney characters. Visits during Halloween and Christmas are extra-special because there are many activities held at the park to mark these holidays.

Disneyland California Adventure

To get an even bigger dose of Disney characters, check out California Adventure, which is across Disneyland Park and "celebrates the stories and characters of Disney films with thrilling attractions and entertainment." It features rides for little kids, big kids and adults. The site also offers the Mission Tortilla Factory and the Wine Country Trattoria for sit-down dining. After dark, the recently installed World of Color delights audiences with a water-

jet show that blends color, fire, light and Disney characters.

Popular Rides and Attractions

There are rides at Disneyland that regularly feature long lines, but they're worth the wait. Splash Mountain is about half a mile long and culminates in a final plunge of five stories. Indiana Jones Adventure does a great job of bringing the film to life with an adrenaline pumping dash in a Hummer on a quest to claim the Jewel of Power. Pirates of the Caribbean is an indoor boat ride that allows your imagination to roam as you float through realistic pirate scenes and settings. (If you'd rather not wait in line, be sure to pick up a Fastpass, so you can save your place in line while you grab a drink or check out other attractions.)

Amid all the noise and the fun, guests can still enjoy a little peace and quiet on the Disney Railroad, a charming old narrow-gauge railroad that first chugged to life in 1955. It circles the park and is an easy way to get from one place to another or just spend a little relaxing downtime.

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