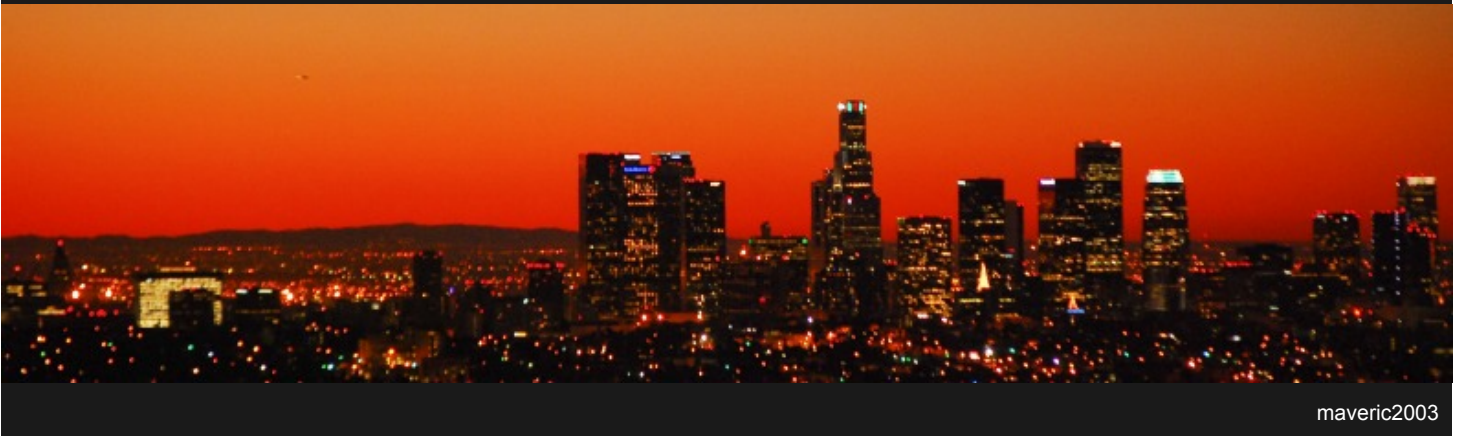




nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



maveric2003

Southern California AAA Five Diamonds (2011)

San Diego, Carlsbad, Ojai Valley, Laguna Beach, Santa Barbara, La Jolla, Beverly Hills, Marina del Rey, Newport Beach, Westlake Village, Dana Point, Los Angeles, 2 Days

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: Day One -- Restaurants

Day Two -- Hotels

Please note:

-- The Four Seasons no longer manage the Four Seasons Aviara Resort, it is now run by Park Hyatt and the proper link is: [Park Hyatt Aviara Resort, Carlsbad](#)

-- I included a listing for the Spa at the Island Hotel Newport Beach; the link to the hotel proper is: [Island Hotel Newport Beach](#)

-- The Montage Beverly Hills and Studio, Laguna Beach are on the Forbes Five Star list but not the AAA list. I was feeling charitable so I put them up here anyways.

[Photo of Beverly Hills Hotel courtesy by Alan Light]

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Los Angeles, San Diego, Laguna Beach

DAY NOTE: RESTAURANTS (Please note that I also added "Studio" to this list; it received the Forbes Five Star Ranking but not the AAA Five Diamonds.)



Belvedere (The)

Fine dining - the American way!



Addison

Inspired culinary design



Studio

Studio Dining!

Day 2 - Carlsbad, Los Angeles, Dana Point, La Jolla, Newport Beach, Marina del Rey, Laguna Beach, Ojai Valley, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Westlake Village, Beverly Hills

DAY NOTE: HOTELS

Please see the guide description for a proper link to the Island Hotel Newport Beach and the Fours Seasons Aviara Resort—the latter is now the Park Hyatt Aviara Resort.

Also note that I added "Montage Beverly Hills" to this list; it received the Forbes Five Star ranking but not the AAA Five Diamonds.



Four Seasons Resort, Aviara

Expected luxury



Beverly Hills Hotel and Bungalows

Elite, extravagant



The Peninsula Beverly Hills

Refined & Incredibly Chi-Chi



St. Regis Monarch Beach

Essence of Luxury



Ritz-Carlton Laguna Niguel

The Ritz experience while overlooking the Pacific



The Lodge at Torrey Pines

Miles of Glorious View



Spa at the Island Hotel (The)

4000 square foot of luxury spa in Newport



Four Seasons Hotel Los Angeles at Beverly Hills

One of the best



The Ritz-Carlton, Marina del Rey

A waterfront paradise



The Resort at Pelican Hill



Ojai Valley Inn & Spa

Leisure retreat



The Grand Del Mar

European-styled influence



Four Seasons Resort, The Biltmore Santa Barbara

Luxury Personified



Simpson House Inn

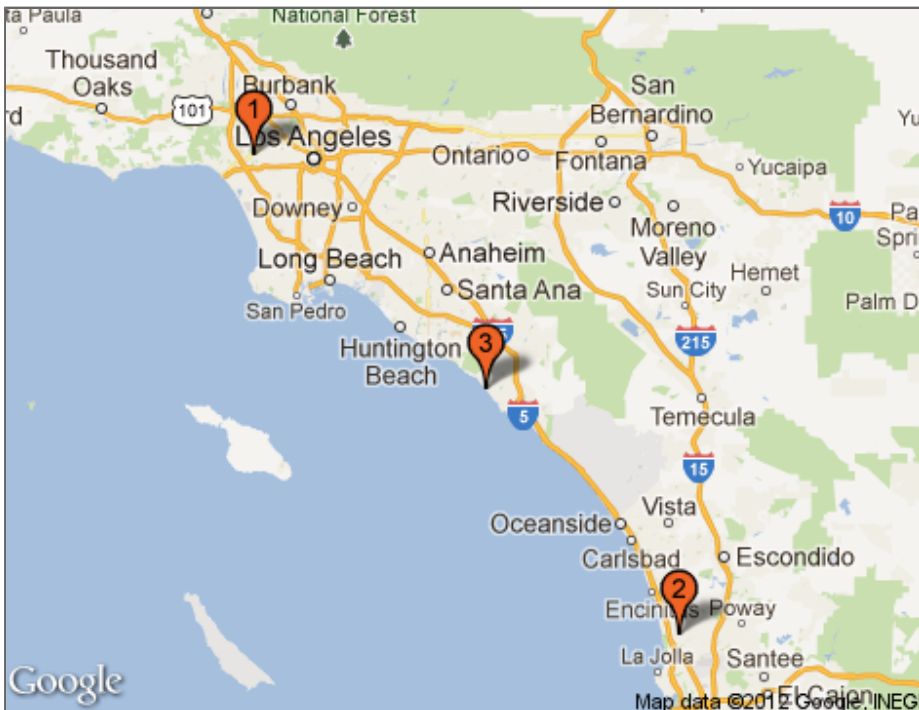


Four Seasons Westlake Village



Montage Beverly Hills

Day 1 - Los Angeles, San Diego, Laguna Beach



QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: RESTAURANTS (Please note that I also added "Studio" to this list; it received the Forbes Five Star Ranking but not the AAA Five Diamonds.)

contact:

tel: 1 310 551 2888 (Hotel) / 1 800 462 7899 (Hotel)
fax: 1 310 788 2319 (Hotel)
www.peninsula.com/belvedere

location:

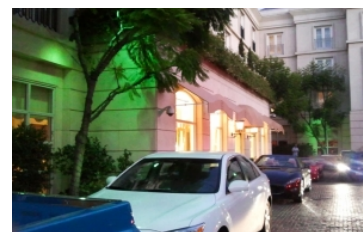
9882 S. Santa Monica Blvd.
Los Angeles CA 90212

hours:

Breakfast: Daily: 6:30am to 11:00am; Lunch: Monday - Saturday: 11:30am to 2:30pm; Dinner: Daily: 6:00pm to 10:30pm; Brunch: Sunday - 11:00am to 2:30pm

1 Belvedere (The)

DESCRIPTION: This restaurant located at the sophisticated and well-known Peninsula hotel at Beverly Hills sets up a standard of its own with its eclectic modern American cuisine. Chef Sean Hardy doesn't refrain from experimenting with the traditional American cuisine and ends up giving you a whole new array of unique dishes, which are a combination of various cuisines. So be it the ever delightful Biscuits and Gravy for breakfast, a Californian Cobb Salad with Roasted Chicken, Bacon, Avocado for lunch or the wholesome Italian Macaroni & Cheese for dinner, the kitchen here can cosset all your whims! The scenic patio and private rooms prove to be an added luxury. © wcities.com



wcities

contact:

tel: 1 858 314 19
fax: +1 858 314 1920
<http://www.addisondelmar.com>

location:

52 Grand Del Mar Way
San Diego CA 92130

hours:

Tuesday - Thursday, 6:00pm
- 9:00pm; Friday - Saturday,
5:30pm - 9:30 pm. Closed
Sunday and Monday.

2 Addison

DESCRIPTION: Dining at Addison provides an experience in taste and ambiance from individual sips to the arched walkways leading to the restaurant, which is, after all, named for an architect. Artistically arranged bites wear tiny herbs and flowers or perch next to dabs of sauces. The seasonal menu is complimented by a wine list with choices from around the world. Addison is located at The Grand Del Mar resort destination. © wcities.com



citysearch

contact:

tel: +1 949 715 6000
fax: +1 949 715 6100
<http://www.studiolagunabeach.com>

location:

30801 South Coast Highway
Laguna Beach CA 92651

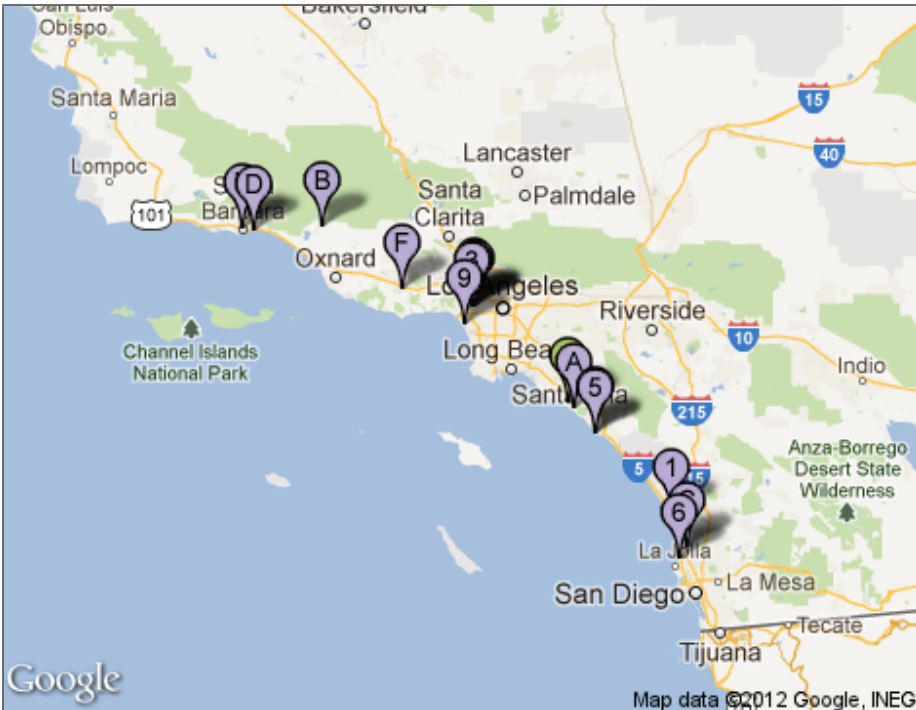
hours:

Tu to Su from 05:00 PM to
10:00 PM

3 Studio

DESCRIPTION: Studio is located within the Montage Resort & Spa. It offers you a delectable French menu blended with Californian influences. Chef James Boyce ensures that all the seasonal ingredients put to use, are of the finest quality, with splendid wines for company! Besides, though the a la carte menu changes everyday, the base for the dishes remains the same with very little experimentation. Attention is given to details and services are personalized. So, sit back and enjoy your meal while taking in the panoramic Pacific coastline! © wcities.com

Day 2 - Carlsbad, Los Angeles, Dana Point, La Jolla, Newport Beach, Marina del Rey, Laguna Beach, Ojai Valley, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Westlake Village, Beverly Hills



QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: HOTELS

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Also note that I added "Montage Beverly Hills" to this list; it received the Forbes Five Star ranking but not the AAA Five Diamonds.

contact:

tel: +1 760 603 6800 / +1 760 603 6888 (Reservations)
fax: +1 760 603 6801 / +1 760 603 6878 (Reservations)
<http://www.fourseasons.com/aviara/>

location:

7100 Aviara Resort Drive
Carlsbad CA 92009

1 Four Seasons Resort, Aviara

DESCRIPTION: Those of you who know Four Seasons quality will not be disappointed, and those who have yet to stay at a Four Seasons resort are in for a delightful treat. 45 miles north of San Diego, you will find one of the newest luxury resorts in the city. Built on a hilltop that overlooks the Arnold Palmer-designed Aviara Golf Club, this resort is also home to the Aviara Golf Academy. Rooms are replete with trademark amenities: original artwork, plush furnishings, marble bathrooms, private balconies, and patios. Its spa deserves a special mention - indeed, it is the main reason many visit this



Hotels.com

hotel. The 15,000-square-foot Spa offers treatments indoors and outdoors, has a solarium lounge, whirlpools, saunas, steam rooms and locker rooms, and offers so many services that it would be impossible to mention them all here. Massages can also be given in your room if booked a day in advance. © wcities.com

contact:

tel: +1 310 276 2251 / +1 800 283 8885 (Toll free)
fax: +1 310 887 2887
<http://www.thebeverlyhillshotel.com/>

location:

9641 Sunset Blvd
Los Angeles CA 90210

2 Beverly Hills Hotel and Bungalows

DESCRIPTION: The "Pink Lady," originally built in 1912 and immortalized as the "Hotel California" by the Eagles, underwent a two-and-a-half-year, multi-million dollar renovation in 1995. The hotel re-opened swankier, bigger, and with more attitude than ever. This legendary hotel remains a magnet for Hollywood's elite and rising stars. One of only 14 hotels nationwide, it has received the Five Star award for five consecutive years. Are you a tennis fan? Try your backhand here on Alex Olmedo—head pro and champion from Wimbledon. The Beverly Hills Hotel is famously the home of the Polo Lounge. Even if you don't travel in that rarefield strata, valet park at the hotel and stop by the Polo Lounge for a drink. Or simply relax in the hotel's lavish Spa by La Prairie. It's an experience you will never forget! © wcities.com



Hotels.com

contact:

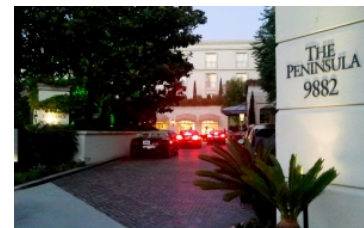
tel: +1 310 551 2888
fax: +1 310 788 2319
<http://beverlyhills.peninsula.com/>

location:

9882 South Santa Monica Boulevard
Los Angeles CA 90212

3 The Peninsula Beverly Hills

DESCRIPTION: The Peninsula hotel, adjacent to powerhouse talent agency CAA, caters to guests with a refined sense of style and a taste for the good life. The hotel features opulent decor, impeccable service and incredible amenities. For many years it has been one of the premier spots in town to be seen. Power breakfasts and lunches are common at the onsite restaurant Belvedere, which also serves dinner. The Roof Garden Terrace serves light lunches seasonally. The Living Room, which offers a view of the garden, also offers tea, champagne and cocktails. Visit the in-house Spa for some relaxation. Valet parking is additional. Rolls Royce or Limousine service is provided in the area. Check-in is available 24 hours. © wcities.com



wcities

contact:

tel: +1 949 234 3200
fax: +1 949 234 3201
<http://www.stregismonarchbeach.com>

location:

1 Monarch Beach Resort
Dana Point CA 92629

4 St. Regis Monarch Beach

DESCRIPTION: Let's cut to the chase: The St. Regis Monarch Beach Resort is one of the finest luxury hotels I have ever had the pleasure of reviewing -- and I've reviewed a lot of luxury hotels. They nailed it with this one, setting a standard for all other resort hotels to follow. Everything oozes with indulgence, from the stellar service to the striking artwork, high-tech electronics, absurdly comfortable beds, stellar restaurants, and a 30,000-square-foot spa that will blow your mind. The \$240-million, 172-acre resort opened on July 30, 2001, with a massive star-studded gala, and has since been wooing



Hotels.com

the wealthy with its gorgeous Tuscan-inspired architecture and soothing ocean views. Perfection is all in the details, and the St. Regis is full of them: a three-lane lap pool with an underwater sound system; a yoga, spinning, and "movement" studio; a full-service Vogue salon; private poolside cabanas; fantastic cuisine at Michael Mina's popular **Stonehill Tavern** restaurant; couples' spa treatment rooms with whirlpool baths and fireplaces; an 18-hole Robert Trent Jones, Jr., golf course; and even a private beach club. The guest rooms are loaded with beautiful custom-designed furniture, 32-inch Sony Vega flatscreen TVs with CD/DVD audio systems and a 300-DVD library, huge marble-laden bathrooms with glass shower doors that must weigh 100 pounds, and the most comfortable bathrobe I've ever worn. The resort's only caveat is that it's near the beach, but unlike the Ritz-Carlton Laguna Niguel and Montage, it's not on it. The view of the terraced pool area, golf course, and shimmering ocean beyond is fantastic, however, and the hotel offers complimentary shuttle service to the 2-mile-long beach, as well as exclusive access to the **St. Regis Beach Club**, where attendants set up chairs, towels, and umbrellas, and also take food and beverage (including alcohol) orders. You can even hire a "Surf Butler," who will take your measurements for a wet suit, bring out a long board, and give you surfing lessons. **Facilities:** 6 restaurants; lounge; wine cellar tasting room; 3 pools; 18-hole golf course; 3 tennis courts (lit for night play); Spa Gaucin and a fitness center; 2 hot tubs; kid's club; concierge; complimentary local shuttle; 24-hr. business center; retail shops; 24-hr. room service; in-room massage; babysitting; laundry service; dry cleaning; executive-level rooms; morning paper; 24-hr. butler service. © Frommer's

contact:

tel: +1 949 240 2000

fax: +1 949 240 0829

http://www.ritzcarlton.com/html_prop/resort.asp
location:
 1 Ritz Carlton Dr
 Dana Point CA 92629

5 Ritz-Carlton Laguna Niguel

DESCRIPTION: After a sorely needed \$40-million renovation to keep up with neighboring resorts such as the Montage and St. Regis, this Dana Point grande dame has recaptured its status as one of the top resorts on the Orange Coast. From its perch on the edge of a 150-foot-high bluff overlooking an idyllic 2-mile-long beach, the view from most every window is spectacular (you can spend hours on your balcony admiring the ocean view). The most welcome change is that every guest room and public space has been completely remodeled with a much more chic and contemporary look (gone are those frumpy prints of English fox hunts). The spacious rooms are now outfitted with 42-inch plasma TVs with DVD players, sumptuous furnishings and fabrics, an Italian-marble bathroom equipped with a double vanity, and the most comfortable feather beds I've ever slept in. The resort's new **Restaurant 162'** is a dramatic improvement as well, with gorgeous ocean views and superb cuisine (the Ocean Curry is fantastic). Other improvements include a new luxury spa and oceanfront fitness center. As always, lush terraces and colorful flower gardens abound throughout the well-tended property, and service -- in typical Ritz-Carlton style -- is unassuming and impeccable. Garden tours, beach shuttles, surf lessons, and excellent kids' programs are available as well. **Facilities:** 2 restaurants; 1 lounge; 4 outdoor tennis courts; health club; spa; children's



Hotels.com

programs; concierge; regular shuttle to/from the beach and the golf course; business center; free Wi-Fi; 24-hr. room service; in-room massage; babysitting; laundry service; dry cleaning; executive-level rooms. © Frommer's

contact:

tel: 800/656-0087
fax: 858/453-7464
www.lodgetorreypines.com

location:

11480 N. Torrey Pines Rd
La Jolla CA 92037

6 The Lodge at Torrey Pines

DESCRIPTION: Ten minutes north of La Jolla proper, you'll find this triumphant Craftsman-style creation at the edge of the Torrey Pines Golf Course. The Lodge brims with clinker-brick masonry, art glass windows and doors, Stickley furniture, and exquisite pottery. Most rooms fall into two main categories. The less expensive are an unstinting 520 square feet and lavished with Tiffany-style lamps, period wallpaper, framed Hiroshige prints, and lots of wood accents; views face a courtyard carefully landscaped to mimic the rare seaside environment that exists just beyond the hotel grounds. More expensive rooms overlook the golf course and the ocean in the distance; most of these have balconies, fireplaces, and giant bathrooms with separate tub and shower. The 9,500-square-foot spa specializes in treatments utilizing coastal sage and other local plants, and there's an elegant pool. An excellent restaurant named after painter A.R. Valentien features superb seasonal vegetables; Valentien's wildflower watercolors line the walls, and his personal effects and medals are found in glass bookcases. © Frommer's



citysearch

contact:

tel: +1 866 554 4620 (Toll Free)
fax: +1 949 759 0568
http://www.theislandhotel.com/Island-Spa.aspx

location:

690 Newport center Drive
Newport Beach CA 92660

hours:

Daily 8am-9pm

7 Spa at the Island Hotel (The)

DESCRIPTION: The Spa at The Island Hotel Newport Beach covers 4000 square feet of area. The usual gamut of treatments include body wraps, facials, pedicures, manicures, waxing, full body experience, to Volcanic detoxifying, therapy rituals, aromatherapy, reflexology, and stone therapy. Choice is between an hour to half a day or a full day experience. Prior reservations are required. The spa also has packages which include an hour of treatment, breakfast and parking for one vehicle. Individuals can choose to stay for a couple of days too. © wcities.com



citysearch

contact:

tel: +1 310 273 2222 / +1 310 786 2227 (Reservations)
fax: +1 310 859 3824 / +1 310 385 4927 (Reservations)
http://www.fourseasons.com/losangeles/

location:

300 S Doheny Dr
Los Angeles CA 90048

8 Four Seasons Hotel Los Angeles at Beverly Hills

DESCRIPTION: Nestled near Beverly Hills, the Four Seasons is host to the moneyed elite, quirky creative types, and fabled stars who are used to the best of the best. There is no expense spared when it comes to providing the utmost quality in amenities, style and service. European paintings, exquisite flower arrangements and beautiful gardens are the norm throughout this breathtaking hotel. Host to the working person too, the staff offers a vast array of business services including translation services, secretarial services, audio visual



Hotels.com

equipment, cellular telephones and much more. The in-house Spa provides various therapies and massages, while the Gardens restaurant provides for an open-air dining space. © wcities.com

contact:

tel: +1 310 823 1700
fax: +1 310 823 2403
<http://www.ritzcarlton.com/en/Properties/MarinadelRey/Default.htm>

location:

4375 Admiralty Way
Marina Del Rey CA 90292

9 The Ritz-Carlton, Marina del Rey

DESCRIPTION: The Ritz Carlton at Marina Del Rey is located near Venice Beach and Malibu, and offers easy access to the numerous attractions in the surrounding area. This picturesque waterfront hotel offers luxurious accommodations, and facilities like a 24-hour fitness center and a spa. Indulge yourself in a stylish setting and an ambiance that never ceases to pamper you! © wcities.com



Hotels.com

location:

22701 Pelican Hill Road S
Newport Coast CA 92657

A The Resort at Pelican Hill

DESCRIPTION: Location.

The Resort at Pelican Hill is located in Newport Coast, close to Fashion Island and Orange County Museum of Art. Additional area points of interest include Newport Pier and University of California-Irvine. **Resort Features.**

The Resort at Pelican Hill features a restaurant, a poolside bar, and a bar/lounge. Room service is available 24 hours a day. Recreational amenities include an outdoor pool and a fitness facility. The property's full-service health spa has body treatments, massage/treatment rooms, facials, and beauty services. This 5.0-star property has a business center and offers limo/town car service and audio-visual equipment. High-speed Internet access is available in public areas. This Newport Coast property has event space consisting of banquet facilities, conference/meeting rooms, a ballroom, and exhibit space. Additional property amenities include a concierge desk, gift shops/newsstands, and self parking. **Guestrooms.** Guestrooms have balconies. Beds come with premium bedding. Fireplaces are featured in each room. Coffee/tea makers and minibars are offered. Bathrooms feature bathrobes. Wireless Internet access is complimentary. In addition to in-room safes, guestrooms offer phones. 40-inch flat-panel televisions have DVD players. Air-conditioned rooms also include CD players.



Hotels.com

contact:

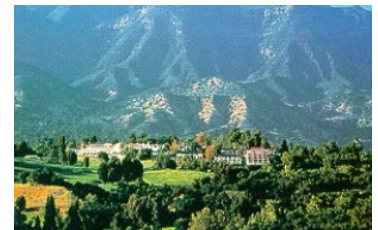
tel: +1 805 646 1111 / +1 888 697 8780 (Toll Free)
fax: +1 805 646 7969
<http://www.ojairesort.com/>

location:

905 Country Club Rd

B Ojai Valley Inn & Spa

DESCRIPTION: Location. Nestled between rugged, tree-shaded mountains in a secluded 220-acre valley is the Ojai Valley Inn & Spa in Ojai, Calif. Ojai Village is within one-half mile, Lake Casitas is five miles away and the Ventura County beaches are within 14 miles.



Hotels.com

Ojai CA 93023

Hotel Features. Maravilla, the resort's signature restaurant, presents California Central Coast cuisine highlighted by fresh local fruits and seasonal vegetables. The Oak Grill boasts American grill favorites and indoor or al fresco dining. Jimmy's Pub serves up thin-crust, New York-style pizzas and a selection of draft beers and coastal wines. Lighter fare including salads, smoothies and wraps are offered at the Spa Café. For business needs, the property hosts conference rooms, a business center and complimentary wireless Internet access in public areas. A championship 18-hole golf course is located on the resort's grounds with PGA professionals on hand to organize group events or individual instruction. Special treatments are available for golfers and mothers-to-be at the Spa Ojai. Menu offerings include the Skin Dream Relaxation Wrap, Sun Lover's Facial and Bindi Sugar Body Glow. Yoga, Pilates, Tai Chi, and meditation sessions are also offered. Recreational amenities include hiking and biking trails, a riding stable and golf driving range. Fees may apply for these activities. Additionally featured are three swimming pools with pool cabanas available for day rental and a children's petting zoo.

Guestrooms. The 308 guestrooms and suites are ornamented in Spanish colonial-style with dark-wood furnishings and accents in ecru, mauve and Swiss blue. Most rooms offer private balconies or patios which frame views of the nearby mountains and golf course. Select rooms feature fireplaces. Each includes 300-thread-count sheets and duvets, plasma flat-screen televisions with cable access. High-speed Internet access is offered in all guestrooms.

Expert Tip. The Ojai Valley Inn & Spa's championship golf course has been the host site to seven Senior PGA Tour events. © wcities.com

contact:

tel: +1 858 314 2000
fax: +1 858 314 2001
<http://www.thegradndelmar.com>

location:

5300 Grand Del Mar Court
San Diego CA 92130



The Grand Del Mar

DESCRIPTION: Resembling a Tuscan villa transported to the foothills of Del Mar, this luxury resort boasts a Las Vegas-like opulence, from its marbled lobby to its manicured croquet lawn. Paying homage to the Spanish Revival creations of architect Addison Mizner, the Grand Del Mar features fragrant landscaping, Mediterranean-style courtyards, terraces and walkways with sweeping views of the Tom Fazio-designed golf course, as well as outdoor fireplaces and fountains. Other amenities include tennis courts, four swimming pools, a teen activity center, and a 21,000-square-foot spa. The signature restaurant, **Addison**, is one of San Diego's most refined dining rooms, and is the county's only AAA 5 Diamond restaurant. The resort's name is truly no idle boast; this is one grand hotel.

Note: Gay rights activists have called for a boycott of this property in response to the owner's \$125,000 contribution to Proposition 8 which, as of this writing, has outlawed same-sex marriage in California; visit www.boycottmanchesterhotels.com. © Frommer's



Hotels.com

contact:

tel: +1 805 969 2261
fax: +1 805 565 8323
<http://www.fourseasons.com/santabarbara/>

location:

1260 Channel Drive
Santa Barbara CA 93108

D Four Seasons Resort, The Biltmore Santa Barbara

DESCRIPTION: This gem of the American Riviera manages to adhere to the most elegant standards of hospitality without making anyone feel unwelcome. It's easy to sense the ghosts of golden-age Hollywood celebs such as Greta Garbo, Errol Flynn, and Bing Crosby, who used to play croquet on the hotel's perfectly manicured lawns and then head over to the private Coral Casino Beach & Cabana Club -- because that's exactly what today's privileged guests are still doing. The Four Seasons company acquired this Spanish-style hacienda (ca. 1927) in 1987 and restored the 20-acre property without spoiling a bit of its historic charm. Rooms have an airy feel, heightened by white plantation shutters, light-wood furnishings, and full marble bathrooms with all the modern amenities. Guests can amuse themselves with a putting green, shuffleboard courts, and croquet lawn. In addition to two acclaimed dining rooms, the Biltmore offers a no-holds-barred Sunday brunch that draws folks from 100 miles away. The hotel's most recent addition is the Spa, a multimillion-dollar, 10,000-square-foot Spanish-style annex that houses numerous treatment rooms, a swimming pool and two huge whirlpool baths, a state-of-the-art fitness center, and, for the big spenders, 10 oceanview deluxe suites with fireplaces, in-room bars, changing rooms, and twin massage tables (essentially, your own private treatment room). © Frommer's



Four Seasons Resort The Biltmore

contact:

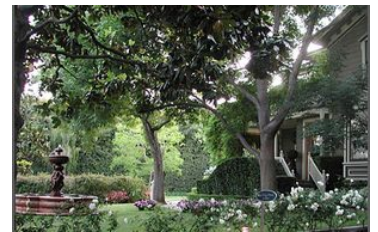
tel: 800/676-1280
fax: 805/564-4811
<http://www.simpsonhouseinn.com>

location:

121 East Arrellaga Street
Santa Barbara CA 93101

E Simpson House Inn

DESCRIPTION: The Simpson House is genuinely something special. Rooms within the 1874 Historic Landmark main house are decorated to Victorian perfection, with extras ranging from a claw-foot tub and antique brass shower to skylight and French doors opening to the manicured gardens; romantic cottages are nestled throughout the grounds. The rooms have everything you could possibly need, but most impressive are the extras: the gourmet Mediterranean hors d'oeuvres and Santa Barbara wines served each afternoon, the enormous video library, and the full gourmet breakfast (delivered on delicate china). Fact is, the Simpson House goes the distance -- and then some -- to create the perfect stay. Although this property is packed into a relatively small space, it still manages an ambience of country elegance and exclusivity -- especially if you book one of the cottages. © Frommer's



Simpson House Inn

location:
2 Dole Dr
Westlake Village CA 91362

F Four Seasons Westlake Village

DESCRIPTION: Location.

Located in Westlake Village, Four Seasons Westlake Village is in the business district and attractions in the region include Pepperdine University. **Hotel Features.**

Dining options at Four Seasons Westlake Village include 3 restaurants. A poolside bar and a bar/lounge are open for drinks. Room service is available 24 hours a day. Recreational amenities include 2 spa tubs. Also located on site are an indoor pool, an outdoor pool, a health club, a fitness facility, and a sauna. The property's full-service health spa has body treatments, massage/treatment rooms, facials, and beauty services. This 5.0-star property has a 24-hour business center and offers small meeting rooms, secretarial services, and technology support staff. Wireless and wired high-speed Internet access is available in public areas (surcharges apply). This Westlake Village property has 42700 square feet of event space consisting of banquet facilities, conference/meeting rooms, a ballroom, and exhibit space. Wedding services, tour/ticket assistance, and translation services are available. Guest parking is available for a surcharge. Additional property amenities include valet parking, a concierge desk, and multilingual staff. This is a smoke-free property. **Guestrooms.** 269 air-conditioned guestrooms at Four Seasons Westlake Village feature iPod docking stations and minibars. Accommodations offer garden or courtyard views. Beds come with pillowtop mattresses, Frette Italian sheets, down comforters, and premium bedding. In addition to separate sitting areas, these individually furnished and decorated rooms include desks and sofa beds. Bathrooms feature phones, televisions, makeup/shaving mirrors, and designer toiletries. Wired high-speed and wireless Internet access is available for a surcharge. In addition to complimentary newspapers and laptop-compatible safes, guestrooms offer cordless phones with voice mail. 42-inch LCD televisions have satellite channels, DVD players, and pay movies. Rooms also include coffee/tea makers and windows that open. Guests may request refrigerators, microwaves, and hypo-allergenic bedding. A nightly turndown service is offered and housekeeping is available daily. Guestrooms are all non-smoking.



Hotels.com

contact:
<http://www.montagebeverlyhills.com/>

location:
225 N Canon Dr
Beverly Hills CA 90210

G Montage Beverly Hills

DESCRIPTION: Nestled in the legendary golden triangle just steps from Rodeo Drive, Montage Beverly Hills is a celebration of splendor, of beauty, of art and luxury. It is the first hotel of its kind to be built in the area in 16 years—paying homage to an earlier era of graceful living and refined comfort while also offering the most modern amenities. With an exterior designed in the Spanish Colonial Revival style and an interior designed with classically elegant furnishings—reminiscent of the Golden Age of Hollywood and Spanish-Italian and Moroccan aesthetics in sundrenched colors of gold,



Hotels.com

salmon, coral and cream—Montage Beverly Hills complements the rich history and tradition of Southern California's most celebrated neighborhood. Guests are invited to feel at home in their very own luxurious estate. Over one quarter of the 201 well appointed guestrooms are suites. Parq and the Conservatory Grill share a devotion to culinary excellence. From the topiary garden views to the elegant décor, Parq offers a beautiful setting for people engaging in high society at night or conducting business by day. The 20,000 square-foot two-story Spa Montage offers a true spa experience in the heart of Beverly Hills and the rooftop pool offers panoramic views of downtown Los Angeles and the Hollywood hills. You will be in the midst of all Beverly Hills has to offer while surrounding yourself in ultimate luxury.

© Hotels.COM

San Diego Snapshot

Local Info

Semi-tropical San Diego, with its mean temperature of 70 degrees, Mediterranean-like white-washed stucco buildings and strong cultural influences from southern neighbor Mexico, is as close to visiting a foreign country as visitors could get and yet, is as American as apple pie.

The heart of this bustling city lies at the foot of the harbor just minutes by car from Lindbergh Field, where most travelers disembark. Spanning from the North County beach areas to the South Bay cities along the Mexican border, San Diego is one of the top ten largest cities in the United States, and while all of these areas fall under the San Diego umbrella, each individual community maintains its own personality, geography and identity. In San Diego's case, the whole is truly greater than the sum of its parts.

Downtown

Less than three miles from the airport is downtown proper. This thriving commercial area with its active waterfront is a bustling, colorful combination of major hotels, convention facilities, restaurants, nightclubs and shopping venues. Its focal point is Horton Plaza, an architectural masterpiece that holds trendy shops, lively restaurants, a movie theatre and even an ice rink during the holiday season. Horton is ideal for parking and within walking distance to any of the restaurants, shops or clubs just outside its walls.

Just east of Horton Plaza is the Gaslamp District, a 16-block source of civic pride. Once slated for destruction, this area has been reclaimed by the people of San Diego thanks to the 1970s Redevelopment Plan. Where once dilapidated warehouses and run-down Victorian houses stood, and where no one dared to enter after dark, the Gaslamp District has now become the pulse of the city. The area even includes Balboa Theater, a historic venue that until recently was closed for reconstruction and now opens its doors for local plays, ballets and more.

Due west of downtown is the Embarcadero, a fun daytime location where visitors can take in leisurely views of the bay, hop aboard a harbor cruise (including the infamous "booze cruise" of the Bay, better known as the Bahia Belle) and enjoy

seafood at its finest. For shopping, visit Seaport Village, a 14-acre shopping and dining complex designed to emulate early California-style architecture.

Balboa Park

No visit to San Diego would be complete without a trip to Balboa Park. Home to the world-famous San Diego Zoo, the park is much more than a beautiful place to see exotic animals. Gardens and grounds in Balboa Park were established as a city park for the people in 1868. In preparation for hosting the Panama-California Exposition of 1915, a celebration of the opening of the Panama Canal, founding fathers, architects and master gardeners collaborated to create the fine Spanish Colonial Revival-style buildings and gardens that still grace the grounds today. Additional buildings were raised on the site in the early 1930s, this time incorporating the look and feel of the Mayan civilization and California's early indigenous peoples. Within the confines of the park, visitors can enjoy scores of museums and art galleries including the Museum of Man, San Diego Museum of Art, Timken Museum of Art and Spreckel's Organ Pavilion (for a dollar saving Balboa Park experience, visit the park on the first Tuesday of any month, where admission to the museums are free).

Old Town

For a taste of what San Diego was like in its earliest years, take in the sights and sounds of this colorful settlement now preserved as a state historic park. Famous as the first European settlement in California, this area is also well known for its glorious year-round gardens, mouth-watering Mexican dishes, lilting Mariachi music and free-flowing margarita; though typically touristy, there are some true tortilla souls that can be found amongst all the trendy trinkets. Be sure to spend a little time browsing through Bazaar del Mundo, truly a marketplace of the world. While it might be typical to dine on Mexican cuisine inspired by the San Diego history, for an extravagant just a block from all the "fiesta" rush, Harney Sushi is a local favorite that flavors fish in unheard of ways.

Within easy walking distance from the center of Old Town is the Presidio, a must-see while in San Diego. This structure, now a historic landmark, is where Junipero

Serra established the first of the Spanish missions in California.

La Jolla

A short drive up the coast takes visitors to La Jolla, "the jewel" in Spanish. Despite its dense population, the people of this affluent city have somehow managed to maintain its natural beauty. Cliffs along the main streets overlook the beaches and coves along the Pacific Ocean; tropical vegetation creeps and climbs across red-tiled roofs and verandas; and sunsets at La Jolla Shores are simply spectacular. Enjoy the village's serene center, where fish restaurants, chic boutiques and La Jolla locals are in abundance, like George's at the Cove- famous for their modern, American ambiance and cuisine- as well as Warwick's Books, ideal for every school/project need.

Beyond breathtaking oceanfront scenery, which can be enjoyed on bike, by walking or just by driving along La Jolla Boulevard, this seaside community is also home to the Birch Aquarium, which features the largest oceanographic display in the United States. Just up the hill from the town center, the Aquarium is located just across the street from the University of California, San Diego, whose 25,000 university students make up the majority of the area.

North County

Travel a few miles further north along the coastal drive to reach Del Mar, a smaller beach community that supports itself with farmer's markets, surfers and restaurants. Famous for its racetrack founded by Bing Crosby and fellow Hollywood cronies during the 1940s, this seaside town offers as much to families as it does to racing aficionados. Beaches here are clean and family friendly; boutiques and open-air restaurants line the main street, giving it a Riviera-like quality. The city even boasts the new L'Auberge, which took over the Hollywood favorite resort Stratford Inn and remains a residence for socialites and affluent guests year round in Del Mar's average 70 degree temperature.

Moving inland, the city of Escondido is a quieter, more rural version of San Diego, replete with avocado and livestock ranches, vineyards and granite-strewn hillsides. The community hosts the San Diego Zoo's 2,200-acre Wild Animal Park, an extension of the city's world-famous zoo providing

San Diego Snapshot continued

visitors a look at animals in the wild. Bates Nut Farm is another rare feature for the area, where visitors from around the county enjoy the biggest pumpkin patch as well as hundreds of vast acres open to the public to enjoy while snacking on delicious nuts.

Just north of this city, visitors can find the renown Carlsbad Flower Fields and LEGOLAND California, great for those with young children in tow. Carlsbad's beaches also offers big time surfers some of the best waves in the area, where locals are always welcome.

South Bay

Visitors would be remiss if they never traveled south from the city proper into

the area referred to as the South Bay. The main city in this area is Chula Vista, home to one of San Diego's greatest music and entertainment venues, the Coors Amphitheatre. This entertainment complex provides state-of-the-art acoustics, VIP tables complete with cocktail table service, stadium seating and picnic seating on grassy knolls. Adjacent to the amphitheater, visitors (and especially their children) can cool off in the watery fun at Knott's Soak City U.S.A.

The most renaissance of the south bay cities has become North Park, a relatively untapped area that is now home to some of the area's most unique restaurants,

live music venues, bars/ nightclubs and more. Just a shuffle inland and you'll find a hubbub of activity on 30th Avenue that houses local bars- like the Bar Pink Cocktail Lounge- and the hidden Italian adventure Alexander's on 30th.

While each district of San Diego has an original flair, the various sections blend seamlessly into a thriving, cosmopolitan city. From the North County beaches to the downtown shopping districts, San Diego's first-class attractions consistently please tourists and locals alike.

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Carlsbad Snapshot

Local Info

Introduction

North of Del Mar and a 45-minute drive from downtown San Diego, the pretty communities of Solana Beach, Encinitas, and Carlsbad provide many reasons to linger on the California coast: good swimming and surfing beaches, small-town atmosphere, an abundance of antiques and

gift shops, and a seasonal display of the region's most beautiful flowers.

Carlsbad was named after Karlsbad, Czechoslovakia, because of the similar mineral (some say curative) waters each produced. Carlsbad's once-famous artesian well was capped in the 1930s, but was redrilled in 1994-- and the healthful water is flowing once more. Along with its neighbor Encinitas, Carlsbad is a noted

commercial flower-growing region. A colorful display can be seen at **Carlsbad Ranch** each spring, when 50 acres of solid ranunculus fields bloom into a breathtaking rainbow visible even from the freeway. In December, the nurseries are alive with holiday poinsettias.

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Ojai Valley Snapshot

Local Info

A windy drive along picturesque Highway 33 will take you from the salty shores of Ventura to the dusty artist enclave of Ojai. The four-square-mile village of a mere 8,000 residents sits in a rare east/west running valley punctuated by oak groves, avocado orchards, and looming mountains. Each evening the setting sun casts a rosy glow on the Topa Topa bluffs, and locals (who include everyone from healers and bohemians to artists and cowboys) stop what they're doing to take in what's known as "the pink moment."

For thousands of years, the Chumash performed healing rituals and soaked in the natural springs known for curative powers. Since then, seekers and philosophers (including the renowned Jiddu Krishnamurti) have called Ojai home—a defining trend obvious in the community's many esoteric shops and bookstores. The Krotona Institute and School of Theosophy welcomes guests

to its extensive library, and Bart's Books has a nice selection of spiritually driven reads. Outside of town, the area's sulfuric hot springs are another tool that have been used for spiritual healing and channeling meditation. Many of the springs are hidden off the beaten path, and well-known Sespe Hot Springs can be found a 10-mile hike in from the trail head at the end of Forest Service Road 7N03. If you want to soak, you might have to work for it...but it's well worth the trek. For a less labor intensive escape, head to Ojai Valley Inn & Spa for a relaxing Kuyam treatment (which uses desert clay, inhalation therapy, and a traditional Chumash guided meditation), or a good old fashioned massage. The hotel's luxe accommodations are also a treat, with rooms spread around the sprawling 220-acre Spanish Colonial style resort. Closer to town you'll find reasonably priced, kid-friendly accommodations like the mission-style Blue Iguana Inn (croquet set included), and lakeside campsites are available along the 32 miles of Lake Casitas shoreline.

Known for being home to a great deal of creative energy, Ojai's downtown is lined with art galleries. Celebrated artist and studio potter Beatrice Wood is arguably the most well known of the town's artisans—she lived in Ojai until her death at 104 years old. To meet the current talents creating in Ojai, don't miss the annual Artists' Studio Tour in October, which allows you to hop from one studio to the next and meet the artists in person. If perusing shops downtown for one-of-a-kind pieces, Human Arts carries local jewelry, while its domestic counterpart Human Arts Home offers accessories for your abode.

With healing spiritual traditions, creative energies, restful accommodations, and the fabled "pink moment," you'll feel refreshed after visit to Ojai—whether you're there for a few days or a few hours.

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Santa Barbara Snapshot

Local Info

Situated along an east-west section of the Pacific Ocean and the Santa Ynez Mountains, Santa Barbara stretches from pristine south-facing shores to the rugged San Rafael Wilderness Area. Known for its creative and diverse population of free-thinking hippies, dedicated farmers, surfing cowboys, inspired artists, discreet celebs, fabled eccentrics, and students from all over the world, this town was built upon the dreams of an industrious bunch—a requisite trait needed to come up with ways to afford the seaside enclave's ever increasing cost of living. But whether dwelling high on the hog in the coveted Hope Ranch, Riviera, and Montecito neighborhoods, or in a modest pad on the westside of State Street, north in Goleta, or on the breezy Mesa, Santa Barbara residents love their town and it's evident in the city's boisterous festivals. The annual Summer Solstice Celebration is a pagan paradise, Old Spanish Days Fiesta is a nod to the city's roots, and Earth Day began in town as a response to the area's devastating 1969 oil spill. In between festivals you can always count on weekly farmers markets to bring together chefs, shoppers, and the soil-tilling growers in the community—including winemakers from the renowned Santa Ynez Valley grape-growing region, and ranchers who work the same land founded by the city's earliest Spanish inhabitants.

With Brooks Institute of Photography, Santa Barbara City College, University of California Santa Barbara, and Westmont College within a stone's throw of each other, heaps of students frequent State Street's quaint coffee shops, bookstores, restaurants, music venues, and of course, the many clubs and bars that come alive at night. But not all of the city's favorite

haunts are reserved for student life; locals favor off the beaten path pubs, cafes, and wine bars that serve up Central Coast vintages, creative farmers market inspired dishes and cocktails, and live music. The legendary Santa Barbara Bowl is an intimate amphitheater nestled into a neighborhood hillside and draws big names to the stage, including well-known music makers that call the county home—think David Crosby, Jack Johnson, and Kenny Loggins. Historic downtown theaters including the Arlington and the recently refurbished Granada host dance and theater companies, comedians, authors, politicians, and more, who are wooed by UCSB's celebrated Arts & Lectures program.

The intrepid traveler will be glad to know that outdoor adventures are also on the menu in Santa Barbara. Hiking, mountain biking, and rock climbing are favorite activities in the Santa Ynez Mountains, while Pacific waters are prime for surfing, stand up paddling, kayaking, diving, and more. The mountains are a few miles from the heart of town and offer everything from short day hikes and bike rides, to multi-day backpacking trips. Famed wave riders Kelly Slater and Bobby Martinez have been known to ride local point breaks, but plenty of nearby waves are slow and safe for beginners. If you'd rather enjoy a dry day on the water, charter a sailboat from the Santa Barbara Sailing Center or head to the harbor and hop on a water taxi for a sunset cruise. Of course, you can always get your aquatic fix with a stroll along the shore and fish'n' chips from Harbor haunts Brophy Bros. and Longboards, or even on the sand at Shoreline Beach Cafe.

If shopping and eating are your main concern, look no further than downtown's State Street—home to boutiques, cafes, and bookstores. Pick up Santa Barbara

styles at local shops such as Wendy Foster and Blue Bee, or hit the bigger department stores in Paseo Nuevo—a mall of cobble stone pathways that lead to a movie theater, restaurants, salons, and more. To indulge in the city's gastronomic delights, stay on State Street for authentic Italian cuisine and wine on tap at Palazzo, or walk a few blocks off State for melt-in-your-mouth butternut squash ravioli with sage butter sauce at family-owned Ca Dario. With the city's strong Latin roots, you can count on epic Mexican eats at Carlitos Cafe and Cantina and Los Arroyos, and Argentinian treats and flamenco dancing at Cafe Buenos Aires. Local fish and California fare (think salads and anything with avocado) are also around every corner—The Hungry Cat serves up the freshest fish and imaginative cocktails, and Milk & Honey specializes in wine and tapas. If you dare to venture away from downtown, you'll find fabled haunts that have been serving Santa Barbara for decades. Arnoldi's is a classic Italian eatery with fierce bocce ball tournaments out back, and Harry's has served its hearty sandwiches and cocktails to everyone from Robert Mitchum to Bo Derek. Once the lights go down, dusty pubs, sleek bars, and live music venues open for business around State Street. Since 1928, Joe's Cafe has maintained its reputation for the stiffest drinks around, while across the street the James Joyce is known for big band tunes, peanut husk-covered floors, and Santa Barbara Blondes (by the pint and on the dance floor).

From historic watering holes, fine dining, wild nightlife, and rootsy bands to notable landmarks and adventure on both land and sea, Santa Barbara has a little something for everyone.

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La Jolla Snapshot

Local Info

From art galleries and trendy boutiques to world-class golf courses and stunning beaches, La Jolla's attractions please travelers from far and wide. Each district is uniquely different, yet all are similar with respect to one important facet: top-notch quality.

Business District

While La Jolla is most well known for its incredible shoreline, the city's upscale business district is hardly modest. Located on the eastern side of La Jolla, law firms, financial institutions and tech industry outposts dominate this district, along with modern shopping centers and a wealthy residential area. The world-famous Scripps Memorial Hospital & Medical Research Center resides here, as well as the San Diego Mormon Temple, a remarkable place of worship that, oddly enough resembles an ice castle.

Perhaps the most notable establishment in this region of La Jolla is the University of California at San Diego, which hosts a world-renowned medical school and a number of other rigorous academic programs. If you're in town in the spring, embark on a Grunion Run with some of the University's marine biologists. Prefer indoor entertainment? The University is home to one of the region's most popular attractions, the La Jolla Playhouse, founded by Hollywood stars and now famous for showcasing new, cutting-edge plays.

Another popular site in the vicinity is Mount Soledad, where you'll find the colossal and controversial Easter Cross, as well as a breathtaking panoramic view of the whole county, from the northernmost beaches to the Mexican border.

La Jolla Village

Known to locals as "the Village," La Jolla's downtown area, though geographically

tiny, is jam packed with enough shops, restaurants, hotels, salons and galleries to draw hordes of wealthy patrons from around the region and around the globe. Girard Avenue is widely acknowledged to be La Jolla's main drag (home to everything from surf shops like World Core to fine-art galleries like Images of Nature and elegant boutiques like Neroli), although Prospect Street has often been dubbed "the Rodeo Drive of San Diego" (thanks to specialty shops like such as Aja and perhaps despite neighborhood haunts like John Cole's Book Shop). Art lovers will be glad to know that the San Diego Museum of Contemporary Art is located here in the village, along with smaller operations like the Cosmopolitan Fine Arts gallery.

If neither art nor shopping are your cups of tea, La Jolla Village also features the La Jolla Recreation Center and La Jolla Woman's Club, great places to spend an afternoon, both in buildings designed by renowned architect Irving Gill.

After a day of patronizing the arts and spending some cash at upscale boutiques, travelers need not venture out of the Village for a delectable meal. The Spot and Roppongi are popular establishments. Nightlife also flourishes in the area, as top comedians perform at the La Jolla branch of the Comedy Store.

Shoreline

Perhaps the most memorable of La Jolla's districts is the Shoreline. La Jolla is home to one of the most spectacular waterfronts in Southern California, complete with remarkable caves, cliffs, beaches and sunsets. Children young and old gather in droves for unbelievable seal watching at Children's Pool Beach. Nearby Ellen Browning Scripps Park is a green and inviting cliff-top open space perfect for a picnic, a mid-afternoon snooze or a game of volleyball. If you get tired of

the sun, venture into La Jolla Caves, an underground cavern just as much a part of the local ecosystem as the shore itself.

La Jolla's beaches are eminently welcoming to surfers, sunbathers, snorkelers, scuba divers and swimmers, and all of these activities make for superb means by which to enjoy this geographically dramatic stretch of coast. Feel at home in the chop? Treat yourself to a surfing lesson courtesy of Surf Diva. If Earth-bound thrills such as these prove too tame, take to the skies! Paragliding and hang gliding are offered at Torrey Pines Gliderport.

Travel a short distance north from La Jolla Cove and see marine life up close at Birch Aquarium. This world-famous oceanographic museum, operated by the Scripps Institute of Oceanography, showcases marine life native to the entire continental shelf, from the sounds of the Pacific Northwest to the warm waters of Baja.

Even though La Jolla's beaches and caves are heralded throughout Southern California, one of the coastline's most popular attractions has nothing to do with sand or surf. Torrey Pines Golf Course, the only public course on the PGA circuit, offers two challenging 18-hole courses, and spectacular views of the surrounding natural beauty.

After so much activity, complete the day by dining just above the waters of the Pacific. George's At The Cove and the Crab Catcher, both perched on the cliffs above the cove, draw diners from all around the region eager to feast on tasty food and breath-taking ocean views. Cody's, on the other hand, is a neighborhood favorite with a splendid view of Ellen Browning Scripps Park across the street.

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Los Angeles Snapshot

Local Info

People either love it, or they hate it--but no matter what, Los Angeles makes no excuses and changes itself for no one. And you've got to admire that. Made up of dozens of communities, there is no one single experience that can sum up the life and the heartbeat of this city. But what can be noticed about Los Angeles by both tourists and locals alike is the hustle-and-bustle lifestyle, the vibrant and unique neighborhoods, and the extreme diversity that sets it apart from any other city. From the eternal sunshine and Hollywood glitz to all the small communities with their own distinct cultural personalities, this City of Angels will forever be many things to many people.

Downtown

While not exactly in the center of town geographically due to the sprawling nature of the city, Downtown Los Angeles is still teeming with activity. There are cultural hotbeds like Olvera Street and Chinatown that are just minutes away from Los Angeles landmarks such as the Bank of America Building and the Walt Disney Concert Hall. And if you have a hankering for more art and culture while Downtown, the Museum of Contemporary Art(MOCA) is a definite must-see.

Hollywood

The big sign just about says it all--Hollywood is glitz, glamour, and unavoidable. While many people are critical of Hollywood, they still can't help but satiate their curiosity by visiting this busy area. The center of things is, without a doubt, Hollywood Boulevard, location of world-famous tourist spots including Mann's Chinese Theater, the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and the Kodak Theatre where the Oscars are now held annually.

The Miracle Mile/Hancock Park area is another of L.A.'s historical neighborhoods. Here you will find Wilshire Boulevard's Museum Row. The museums are contained within Hancock Park, a small but peaceful oasis in the center of hectic urban activity. To venture into the far distant past, stop by the Brea Tar Pits, La, and to immerse yourself in a famous museum, the LACMA: Los Angeles County Museum of Art is a popular attraction on Miracle Mile.

Ritz West Hollywood is home to one of the city's most famous(or infamous) attractions: the Sunset Strip. Here you'll find most of the city's hippest clubs frequented by up-and-coming actors and socialites, as well as some of the city's finest hotels and shopping, including the upscale Melrose Avenue Shopping District. West Hollywood is also the center of the city's gay and lesbian community, and it puts on one of the flashiest and most exhilarating annual Halloween parades in the state.

Beverly Hills and the Westside

This world-famous city with its world-famous zip code is synonymous with wealth, status, and celebrity. The understated elegance and grace of the residential neighborhoods are balanced out by Rodeo Drive, which offers some of the finest(and most expensive) shopping in the world.

Santa Monica and Beach Cities

Back in the heyday of Route 66, Santa Monica was the end of the line. Today, this beachfront community offers the best in entertainment for all ages on its famous Santa Monica Pier. You can enjoy some carnival-style food and games or take a ride on the ferris wheel for a breathtaking view of the city and shoreline. When you're ready for some shopping, the active Third Street Promenade has a diverse directory of stores and eateries.

The motto of the coastal community of Malibu is "27 miles of scenic beauty," and that about describes it best. The main attraction here is the drive along the Pacific Coast Highway, which takes you past beach after beach on one side of the road and million-dollar hilltop estates on the other. Make sure you have plenty of film and sunscreen. Even at night, the stars just seem brighter.

Venice, just south of Santa Monica, is the city's home to all things eclectic and many things downright bizarre. This small, artsy beach town offers one of the greatest collections of cafes, bars, galleries, antiques and one-of-a-kind shops around. Weekend afternoons on the boardwalk are definitely a memorable experience for any visitor to the city.

San Fernando Valley

On the other side of the Hollywood Hills sits "The Valley," as known by locals. It features a seemingly endless sea of suburban cul-de-sacs, strip malls, funky shops and restaurants. Hollywood makes its presence known in the cities of Burbank and Universal City, which are home to Warner Bros. Studio and Universal Studios. There are two things you can always count on in the Valley: the earthquakes always feel stronger, and the temperature is always 10 degrees hotter.

South Central and Compton

Although the South Central neighborhood of Crenshaw gained worldwide publicity as the center of the infamous 1992 riots, this area is rich in history and culture. South Central also is home to famous Los Angeles landmarks such as the Watts Towers, the historic Shrine Auditorium, and Exposition Park. Within the famed Exposition Park is the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, the California Science Center, and the IMAX California Science Center. It has also long been a place of culture and diversity, as evidenced by the African American Cultural Center.

Long Beach and the South Bay

Long Beach is a fairly large city in its own right and is a neighbor to the well known district of Orange County. Aside from a plethora of shopping and dining options, this beach community is perhaps best known for the Queen Mary, a Titanic-esque ocean liner now permanently docked here and open for tours. They also have many outdoor activities for tourists to take advantage of, as well as museums and beaches that all can enjoy.

The South Bay is made up of smaller beach towns and quiet neighborhoods such as Hermosa Beach, Redondo Beach, Manhattan Beach and Palos Verdes Estates.

Pasadena and Points East

Pasadena is one of the most prominent communities in the entire state of California. Old Town Pasadena provides one of the greatest clusters of bars, shops, cafes and restaurants in the entire L.A. area. The city is also known for the Norton Simon Museum, which is the largest collection

Los Angeles Snapshot continued

of art owned by one man, and the Rose Bowl. And every New Years' Day, this not-so-sleepy town becomes the focus of the entire world for the annual Tournament of Roses Parade.

East L.A., as evidenced by its name, forms the eastern edge of the city and is a great example of a neighborhood rich in cultural expression.

LAX and Inglewood

LAX is one of the largest airports in the United States, when it comes to the sheer number of people passing through its hallways. The airport is the main feature of the otherwise-sleepy, suburban neighborhood of Westchester. This pocket of quiet, tree-lined streets and neighborhood schools and churches is a refreshing oasis in an often-frenetic city.

Inglewood features a wide variety of restaurants, music and sports venues. Here you will find Hollywood Park Racetrack and the The Forum arena, an entertainment hotspot. Inglewood also hosts the annual Hollywood Black Film Festival, which pays homage to African-American filmmakers of past, present and future.

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