

South Orange County

(Laguna Beach, Dana Point)

Home to multiple beachfront hotels and resorts with meeting space

Enjoy world-renowned mountain biking trails for all levels of expertise, hundreds of miles of hiking, dramatic vistas, verdant hills and marine sanctuaries



Laguna Beach

The picturesque Laguna Beach is a beach town with both a serious luxurious streak and a legit artists' community.

Laguna Beach's art scene dates back to the early 20th century, when the area's sea cliffs became a popular setting for directors of silent films. Today, dozens of galleries dot downtown and the glassy Laguna Art Museum exhibits pieces by California artists.

Every summer, the city also plays host to a handful of popular art festivals. The Sawdust Art & Craft Festival features local art in an outdoor setting while the Festival of Arts Pageant of the Masters pays homage to famous masterpieces with tableaux vivants (living paintings), where actors pose as the artworks in an outdoor theater under the stars.

Much of the town's beauty, however, is not man-made. Laguna's six-mile, scalloped coastline includes romantic sea coves, untouched seaside cliffs and a variety of distinct experiences.

Things To Do

Main Beach is steps from the city center. For a more remote experience, try walking the incredible staircase at Thousand Steps Beach, hiking the seaside cliffs at Crystal Cove State Park, or checking out La Tour, the castle-like structure on Victoria Beach.

Some of the best views, however, are found along the aptly named Top of the World hike, which starts in Alta Laguna Park. During summer and fall, keep your eyes out for giant blue, fin-back and minke whales, or see the majestic creatures up close on a tour with operator Davey's Locker.

One of the town's coolest attractions, meanwhile, is happily free! Go to the Pacific Marine Mammal Center to visit injured seals and sea lions that were rescued off the region's beaches and are recuperating before being returned to the wild. The small, family-friendly center, which opened in the 1970s, was the first of its kind in California.





Laguna Beach Hotel

The Hotel La Casa del Camino

- 36 guest rooms
- 4,810 square feet of function space

Originally built in 1929 as a Hollywood retreat, the hotel has been restored and combines Old World charm with the latest amenities. Just steps from the beach, shops and art galleries.



Dana Point

The southern origin of California's Highway One offers some gorgeous drama, like beach town Dana Point. It was named after Richard Henry Dana, who first arrived there on a trading ship circa 1835 and was entranced by the romantic cliff-lined area.

Things To Do

Check out Hobie Surf Shop, boutiques and eateries along this stretch of Highway 1, as well as nearby Salt Creek Beach, Baby Beach and Doheny State Beach. The quiet harbor waters create abundant options for kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding and sports fishing.

Many of Dana Point's hotels and eateries sit on cliffs above the harbor or on the water itself, and offer sustainable and locally sourced seafood.



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