

# Southern Orange County, CA



**VISUAL TRAVEL TOURS**

Maps Show You Where...We Show You Why!

# **Table of Contents**

[Cover](#)

[Tour Summary](#)

[Intro to Southern OC](#)

[Tips](#)

[Chapter 1 - All Around Irvine](#)

[Chapter 2 - Digs Around Dana Point](#)

[Chapter 3 - Laguna Beach Living](#)

[Chapter 4 - Crystal Cove Seclusion](#)

[Maps](#)

[Author Biography](#)

[Publisher](#)

# Tour Summary

Southern Orange County is best known for its spectacular beaches along more than 40 miles of dramatic coastline. We will be exploring via Coast Highway 1 from Dana Point north to Crystal Cove State Park, where the cliffs drop away into the flatter part of the O.C. In Laguna Beach we will visit the Marine Mammal Recovery Center, stop for a rooftop drink at the historic La Casa del Camino, and tour the scenic walkways in several communities. We'll dine in nearby Irvine and catch a show at the Spectrum Center, take the kids to Pretend City, and visit the new Orange County Great Park.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

# Intro to Southern OC





Actor John Wayne, who lived in Newport Beach, is the namesake for Orange County's John Wayne Airport near Irvine. Since Orange County is basically an extension of Los Angeles, there is plenty of

Tinsel Town located behind the “Orange Curtain.” Let’s collect our luggage and begin our tour of southern Orange County.



Residents call southern Orange County the “South County,” that is, following the county’s natural diagonal orientation along the local coastline. This is more of a cultural and demographic distinction as perpetuated

by the popular television shows and movies filmed here over the years. We will be hitting all the best beaches and attractions in our tour of the South County.



Since the premiere of the Fox hit series "The O.C.," the Bravo series "The Real Housewives of Orange County," and more recently "Laguna Beach," tourism has

increased with travelers from across the globe hoping to catch the locations depicted in the shows, or in films. These twin palms near Dana Point are called the Lucy and Desi palms, as this was the couples' favorite spot on the beach while they were filming their 1954 movie "The Long, Long Trailer."



Beyond the glamour of Hollywood, southern Orange County is also known for its spectacular beaches and a myriad of sporting possibilities. We'll explore all there is to do for the active-minded visitor, and maybe jump into a beach volleyball game too.



A short distance up Laguna Canyon Road we'll visit the Pacific Marine Mammal Center where injured and undernourished pinnipeds are rehabilitated. This is not a zoo, however, as these animals are wild, so no matter how cute they appear, there is absolutely no petting!



Back in Laguna Beach continuing our trip north, it's time to stop for a drink! We'll venture to the rooftop patio of the historic boutique Hotel La Casa del Camino for one of the best views, and mojitos, to be found in southern Orange County!



To commemorate the epic surfing conditions of the South County, ten hotel rooms in the La Casa del Camino were designed by ten different surf companies to celebrate the famous California beach and surf lifestyle. We'll pop our heads in and have a look at these charming rooms.



Just north of Laguna Beach is one of the least-known beach towns of Orange County. The Crystal Cove is so unique, so historic, and so completely entertaining that we will devote a full chapter in this tour to discovering this hidden gem of the O.C.



One unique aspect of Crystal Cove, and what sets it apart from the northern coast of Orange County, is this is where the coastline goes from flat basin to rocky headland. Here the land around Crystal Cove begins to rise quickly from the shoreline into the uplands and canyons of the San Joaquin Hills.



But this tour is more about just touring around the beach communities dotting Pacific Coast Highway 1. We will take the short hop due east to Irvine, the largest city of southern Orange Country. Irvine offers up fine dining and a multitude of entertainment activities, including Pretend City for the kids.



Shopping in the centrally-located Irvine Spectrum Center is also a carnival for the kids. But for those traveling without children, or looking for a night out, there is also the famous Improv Comedy Club for adults.



Finally, no trip to southern Orange County would be complete without having a look at the brand new Irvine Great Park being developed on the decommissioned El Toro

air base. We'll ascend this orange balloon and preview the park that will someday be twice as large as New York City's Central Park! We invite you to discover all the best attractions within the southern environs of Orange County.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)