About Laguna Beach

Did You Know That:

From 500 BC to 1769 AD Shoshonean people inhabited the Laguna area. A village on Aliso Creek named Putuiden survived until the arrival of the Spanish colonists.

Legend has it that in 1818, an Argentine pirate named Hippolyte Borchard and his crew buried booty from a raid on Mission San Juan Capistrano at the site of Treasure Island in South Laguna. No treasure has ever been discovered here at what has also been the site of many feature films.

During the 1870s homesteaders began claiming most of the land forming Laguna because it was not part of the surrounding Spanish land grant ranchos. Planting eucalyptus trees as a timber crop was a typical way the settlers met property improvement conditions in the Homestead Act.

In 1888 a stage coach line through Laguna Canyon connected the settlement with the Atcheson, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad station at what is now Irvine Old Town. It wasn’t until 1926 that Pacific Coast Highway opened from Newport to Laguna in a ribbon cutting ceremony by Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks. In 1927 soon after the highway opening, Laguna Beach, with a population of 1,900, became the first incorporated city in south Orange County.

In 1968 the City completed purchase of 1,000 feet of beachfront, saving it from development and creating Main Beach Park, our "Window to the Sea." Shortly after, Jim Dilley, a local bookstore owner with a vision, proposed a concept to surround Laguna with a greenbelt. His vision is now a reality punctuated in 1991 by a citizens’ vote of over 4:1 to tax themselves $20 million to stop development in the Canyon and begin acquisition of what is now Laguna Coast Wilderness Park.

On October 27, 1993, an arsonist set fire to the Canyon. Eighty percent of the Laguna Coast Wilderness Park and City hilltops were razed, burning over 300 homes. Rising from the ashes, the homes and Park enjoy a rebirth that is a glowing tribute to the strength of the people of Laguna Beach and, of course, Mother Nature.

All buses are accessible to the disabled

All buses carry bicycles

Surfboards up to 6'
**Self-Guided**

**TOUR LAGUNA by BUS**

With this guide to help, can you think of a better way to feel the charm of Laguna’s eclectic neighborhoods and panoramic views than by jumping on the City bus at a cost of 75 cents for less than an hour’s round trip on each of the three routes?

The Gray, Blue and light Blue routes leave the Depot Monday through Saturday at 30 minutes past the hour, except at 12:30 P.M.

As you ride the bus, refer to the neighborhood descriptions and points of interest shown on the overleaf of this guide to provide you with a taste of Laguna.

For those wishing to return and walk areas of particular interest passed during your bus ride, obtain the "Heritage Walking Companion" to this brochure. There is even more information available to assist you regarding historic structures, art in public places, galleries, antiques, etc. This information may be found at the following locations (refer to map locator below):

- Visitor Center - 252 Broadway;
- Historical Society - 278 Ocean Ave.;
- Chamber of Commerce - corner of Glenneyre and Laguna;
- City Hall - 505 Forest Ave.

Long-term parking is available in the Lumberyard City Parking Lot and three-hour metered parking is located in the City’s Glenneyre St. Parking Structure.
Gray Line

Top of the World  This route climbs to an elevation of 1,000' above sea level, providing panoramic views of the city. Alta Laguna Park is a large community park one block from the bus line.

Laguna Canyon, site of the three famous summer art festivals. Laguna Canyon is also the main entry to the 6,000-acre Laguna Coast Wilderness Park.

North Laguna  You will ride along the beach and through the neighborhoods containing many of Laguna's older homes. You are encouraged to return and stroll by these historic private homes on the Heritage Walking Tour (see companion brochure).

Blue Line

Central Laguna  has some of Laguna's most interesting historic buildings, both residential and commercial. This area is also on the Heritage Walking Tour.

Arch Beach Heights  Breathtaking views await you in this neighborhood. Note the very small lots that were once given away as an incentive to buy

Heisler Park
Oceanfront bluff park with trails, marine refuge tide pools, lawn bowling, shuffleboard, picnic tables, barbecues.

Main Beach Park
Laguna's "Window to the Sea" with volleyball, basketball, play equipment, benches, picnic tables, public showers.

Moulton Meadows Park
Hilltop park with canyon views, grassy playing field, picnic tables, barbecues, tennis, basketball, parcours, play equipment.

Points of Interest

Murphy-Smith House, 278 Ocean:  C. 1920, this former home is an example of an early clapboard beach bungalow. Home to the Laguna Beach Historical Society, it is open to the public and contains Laguna memorabilia and visitor information.

City Hall and Firehouse, 505 Forest:  The Firehouse, c. 1931, and City Hall, added in 1951, are Mediterranean Revival style. Note the old pepper tree in front of City Hall that was planted in the 1880s. Visitor information is available at City Hall.

412 Glenneyre St.:  C. 1897, the settlement-style Cope House is the oldest remaining dwelling in the downtown area and the third oldest in Laguna.

Art Festival Grounds:  Sites of the internationally famous Laguna Art Festivals (4a Festival of the Arts & Pageant of the Masters, 4b Art-A-Fair and 4c Sawdust Festival) held during July and August.

Laguna Playhouse:  Located at 606 Laguna Canyon Rd., the playhouse is the award-winning venue for live theater on-stage.

482 High Dr.:  C. 1938, this hillside Spanish-Mediterranean villa is a grand example of many homes of this style situated throughout Laguna.

310 Hawthorne:  C. 1917, this board-and-batten Craftsman style cottage bears one of the bronze City Historic Structure plaques. As you continue through this area note the many homes from the '20s and '30s and sense a feeling of the past.

287 Myrtle:  C. 1931, another sample of the many homes of this era. Look beyond the shrubs and trees at the old Cotswold door and stonework.

290 Wave St.:  C. 1926, this eclectic "Witches' House" with wood shingle siding and multi-gabled roofs was designed and built by Vernon Barker, chief architect of the UCLA Medical Center.

Laguna Art Museum:  307 Cliff Dr., site of outstanding award-winning exhibits and a permanent display of turn-of-the-century California impressionists depicting many local landscapes and seascapes.

1166 Glenneyre:  C. 1930, "The Chateau" was for many years a downtown landmark before it was saved from "progress" and demolition in 1974 and relocated to the current location as an antique center.

1762 and 1796 Glannavrn:  Twin more pyramidal...
Enjoy the winding roads through the hills and canyons. Much of Laguna's eclectic architecture can be seen here.

Bluebird Canyon

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Bluebird Park

Site of Sunday Concerts-in-the-Park (Aug.—Sept.), picnic tables, barbecues, basketball, playground.

Main Beach Park

Laguna's "Window to the Sea" with volleyball, basketball, play equipment, benches, picnic tables, public showers.

Diamond St. Beach Overlook Park:

An example of the overlooks at ends of almost every street between Thalia and Moss. Note the European-style home that once belonged to actress Bette Davis. The overlooks are a good way to see Laguna coves and oceanfront homes.

Moss Point:

The completion date of this estate's original structure is unknown but it is believed to be the sixth oldest in Laguna (it was renovated in 1905). The other residence dates from 1917. President Woodrow Wilson stayed here while campaigning for the League of Nations in 1917.

1322 Catalina:

C. 1930, the Carriage House, with a design reminiscent of New Orleans, is the only B&B located in a Laguna residential area.

Main Beach Park

Laguna's "Window to the Sea" with volleyball, basketball, play equipment, benches, picnic tables, public showers.

South Laguna

was incorporated into the City of Laguna Beach in the late 1980s. South Laguna enjoys its own distinctive eclectic atmosphere of dramatic hillside and oceanfront homes.

Ritz Carlton

Before heading back to the depot, the bus will take you to this famous resort, perhaps for high tea.

Victoria Beach

Travel south along the coastline past the Bette Davis house and Moss Point to this neighborhood, which is known for its unique and historic architecture and dramatic coves.

Treasure Island


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