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* Lifeguards present during summer only unless otherwise noted in text.
** Food concessions may be seasonal.

Design: Reineke & Reineke, San Francisco
Published by: California Coastal Commission in cooperation with County of Orange, Beaches & Parks and California State Parks. © 2002
Photographs: All photography by Gregg O'Leary, except those by Pat Hardy (birds), Alan Stearn (butter), Don Price (sea at sunset), Sheree Beach (Crystal Cove), Eric Jessen (Pointe and Carmel Pt.), Aaron McConnell (Salt Creek Beach Park), Stacy Bloom (Waipouli).
Illustrations: Jeannine people courtesy of Jeannine Band of Mission Indians, Whole sale @ Wyman.
Printing: Fong & Fong
Printed on recycled paper
Orange County is known for its excellent surfing conditions at Huntington Beach, the yacht harbor at Newport Beach, and the artists' community at Laguna Beach. The coast serves as a resort area for nearby residents due to its year-round warm weather, high cliffs, wide beaches, and sandy coves. This pleasant environment provides opportunities for swimming, sunbathing, boating, fishing, diving, and surfing.

From Seal Beach to Newport Beach, broad sandy beaches are backed by low-lying plains and wetlands. Several of these wetlands have been established as nature preserves.

South of Newport Beach, uplifted marine terraces form cliffs at the water's edge, providing numerous coves for swimming and diving.

**Seal Beach**
Long, sandy beach; popular surfing and windsurfing spot. Beach parking areas have bicycle racks, wheelchair-accessible restrooms, and dressing rooms. Bike path starting at the mouth of the San Gabriel River follows its south bank inland for several miles. Call: (562) 430-2613.

**Seal Beach Pier**
There is a restaurant and fish-cleaning counter at the end of the pier. The pier adjoins a park at the foot of Main Street. Playground at base of pier in sand. Restrooms are located under the pier and outdoor showers are located next to it; both are accessible by steep ramps.

**Huntington Harbour**
Some public docks and facilities are available; water entry from Anaheim Bay. At Peter's Landing, inland from Anderson Ave., some overnight slips are available for rental, and there is a pump-out station, restrooms, showers, and laundry; call: (714) 840-1387. Free boat launch ramp is at the southeast end of the harbor at Warner Ave.; parking lot has restrooms. Public dock also at Huntington Yacht Club. A fishing dock and metered parking are located nearby at the Earl D. Percy Marine Park. Seabridge Park has a sandy beach, playground, grassy areas, picnic tables, free parking, wheelchair-accessible restrooms, and an outdoor shower. Small public beaches are at the intersection of Davenport Dr. and Edgewater Lane and at Humboldt Dr. and Mandalay Circle.

**Sunset Aquatic Regional Park**
has a small public marina at the end of Edinger Ave. Ocean access is from Anaheim Bay. Grassy areas with pathways and picnic tables overlook the bay; wheelchair-accessible picnic areas and restrooms. Several rented guest slips are available. Boat ramp is open 24 hours with a fee for use; register at office. Call: (714) 846-0179.

**Surfside Beach**
Pedestrian and bicycle access only through the Anderson St. gate of the private Surfside community. No public parking. Poles for volleyball nets. Call: (562) 430-2613.

**Sunset Beach**
A sandy beach with volleyball nets and beach wheelchair; surfing is allowed. A park one block east runs the length of the beach; it has a bike path, wheelchair-accessible restrooms and showers, and street parking. Call: (949) 509-5683.
Trinidad Island
Small island, mostly residential, has a waterfront park at the corner of Trinidad and Sagamore lanes. Park provides playground, sandy beach, outdoor shower, and wheelchair-accessible restrooms, and leads to a greenbelt crossing the island. A bike path and walkway parallels Venture Dr. and Typhoon Lane along the harbor, and meanders through the center of the island. Small public fishing dock off Venture Dr. walkway, open 5 am-10 pm.

Bolsa Chica State Beach
The beach provides free parking lot, a visitor center, picnic areas, wheelchair-accessible restrooms, dressing rooms, and beach wheelchairs. Enroute campsites are available for self-contained R.V.'s; reservations required; call: (800) 444-PARK. Paved multi-use path extends the length of the beach and connects to the Santa Ana River Trail in the south. Call: (714) 846-3460.

Blufftop Park, located on the low bluffs at the narrow southern end of the beach, has picnic areas and wheelchair-accessible vista points. There is pedestrian access to the beach area below from Pacific Coast Hwy. at Golden West, 20th, 17th, 14th, 11th, and 9th streets. A ramp at 9th St. runs from the highway to the sand; wheelchair-accessible pit toilet. Beach is not usable during high tide. At low tide clamming and fishing are popular. Good surfing.

Huntington Beach Pier
The 1,850-foot long pier has snack bars, several stores including a bait and tackle shop, and a restaurant. It is floodlit at night for fishing and surfing. Wheelchair-accessible restroom.

Huntington State Beach
A two-mile long sandy beach. Facilities include poles for volleyball nets, wheelchair-accessible restrooms, a two-mile long multi-use path, beach wheelchairs, and wheelchair access ramps that reach almost to the water. Pedestrian access at Beach Blvd., Newland St., Magnolia St., and Brookhurst Street. Group picnic sites at the ends of Newland and Brookhurst. Rangers and lifeguards are on duty all year. Call: (714) 536-1454.

Huntington City Beach
Site of international surfing competitions. Facilities include food and surf equipment concessions, beach wheelchairs, and sand volleyball courts. Stairways to beach between First St. and Beach Boulevard. Camping allowed November through the weekend before Easter. Call: (714) 536-5280.

Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve
300-acre wetland reserve where thousands of birds can be seen. A parking lot and interpretive center is at Warner Ave., near Pacific Coast Hwy. (where shore fishing is allowed); call: (714) 846-1114. Another lot is on Pacific Coast Hwy. across from the main Bolsa Chica Beach entrance, and features a loop trail with interpretive signs and benches for wildlife viewing. Tours of the reserve on first Saturday of each month; call: (714) 840-1575.

Huntington Beach Wetlands (Talbert Marsh)
Restored salt marsh of over two dozen acres. A short, wheelchair-accessible path with interpretive signs runs along the marsh, connecting to the Santa Ana River Trail. Call: (714) 963-2123.
Newport Beach & Pier
The long, sandy beach is narrow at the north end and wide at the southern end. Popular surfing spots just north of the pier and at small jetties between 18th and 56th streets. Volleyball nets; beach wheelchairs at lifeguard station. Outdoor showers and wheelchair-accessible restrooms are located at the base of the pier. The pier is a center for morning surfing and fishing; fish-cleaning sinks; restaurant. Tackle shops and shopping are nearby. For weather and surf conditions, call: (949) 673-3371.

Newport Harbor
Large yachting harbor with guest slips and 1,221 bay moorings for rent, and extensive boating facilities including pump-out stations. Harbor-master: 1901 Bayside Dr., Corona del Mar; or call: (949) 723-1002.

Balboa Beach & Pier
Most street ends lead to the beach, which provides wheelchair-accessible restrooms and equipment rentals near the Balboa Pier. Restaurant at end of the pier. Beach wheelchair available. Adjacent to the pier is Pier Plaza and Peninsula Park, with a bandstand, baseball diamonds, a playground, picnic tables, and barbecue grills. West Jetty Park overlooks the Wedge, a popular but dangerous surfing spot. For weather and surf conditions, call: (949) 673-3371.

Balboa Pavilion
Terminal for Catalina Island tours, harbor cruises, whale-watching trips, and charter boats; call: (949) 673-5245. A restaurant, gift shop, and banquet room also operate in the building. Other facilities include boat and motor rentals, fishing licenses, and bait and tackle sales. A small carnival has rides. A boardwalk runs along the bay to the Newport Harbor Yacht Club. Shops, food concessions, and restaurants are located near the Pavilion.

Balboa Island
Small island in Newport Harbor. A bayfront boardwalk circles the island with periodic small beaches and boat slips. Marine Ave. has shops and restaurants. There is a bridge to the island on the north side; an auto ferry connects the island to Balboa Peninsula on the south side; hours of operation—summer months: 24 hours; rest of year: until midnight Sun.-Thurs. and until 2 am Fri. and Sat.

Newport Harbor Beaches
10th Street Beach and 18th Street ("Mother's") Beach are popular with families due to small waves. Lifeguard, shower and restrooms at 18th Street Beach. Stairs lead to M Street Beach in a residential area; showers. Small public beach at the end of Monterey Street and another near the Yacht Club near Buena Vista Blvd. Limited metered and some free street parking. Most sandy beaches along north and south sides of Lido Isle are open to the public via several street-end public walkways; parks adjacent to walkways are private; pedestrian and bicycle access; very limited parking; no amenities.
**Newport Dunes Aquatic Park**
A 15-acre lagoon with swimming, boating, and camping facilities. Resort includes picnic tables, playground, volleyball and basketball courts, restaurant, swimming pool, and dressing rooms; entire facility is wheelchair accessible. Cabanas and other beach equipment can be rented. Boat ramp open 24 hours; launch fee. Slips and dry storage are available as well as paddleboard, kayak, sea cycle, wind surfboard, and sailboat rentals. Camping facilities include 606 R.V. spaces with full hookups; tent camping at R.V. sites. Reservations required. Call: (714) 728-DUNE. Reservations: (800) 288-0770.

**Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve**
752-acre estuary, intertidal mudflats, and salt marsh wildlife reserve; wintering area for migratory shorebirds and waterfowl. Hiking, biking, and riding trails; remain on established trails and roads. North Star Beach has a small-craft launch and kayak rentals, fishing, wheelchair-accessible restrooms, showers, and free parking. The Ecological Reserve is surrounded by the Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve. An interpretive center is at 2301 University Drive at the corner of Irvine Ave.; call: (714) 973-6820, Newport Bay Naturalists and Friends offers guided bird-watching tours the second Saturday of October through March; no reservations required. Call: (714) 973-6826 or (949) 640-6746. The San Joaquin Marsh Reserve protects 202 acres of marsh above Newport Bay. Unpaved trail from Upper Newport Bay along west side of San Diego Creek passes near edge of Reserve. Stay on trail. For information on permits and group tours, call: (949) 824-6031.

**Bayside Drive County Beach**
Sandy beach adjacent to the Orange County Sheriff/ Harbor Patrol Bureau at 1901 Bayside Drive. Wheelchair-accessible restrooms and showers; volleyball net; jetty for fishing.

**China Cove Beach**
A pair of small sandy coves along the harbor channel; volleyball net. Pedestrian access from Shell and Cove streets, and from two stairways from Ocean Blvd.: one at foot of Fernald and one from Lookout Point at foot of Goldenrod.

**Rocky Point**
Small sandy cove along harbor channel with many small, wave-formed caves. Access is by stairs or footpaths down the bluff from Ocean Blvd. near the foot of Hilltop Avenue. Paths also lead from China Cove Beach and over the rocks from Corona del Mar State Beach.

**Little Corona del Mar Beach**
Sandy cove with rocky tidepools and reefs. A walkway leads down to the beach from the foot of Poppy Avenue. Call: (949) 640-3151 or (949) 644-3047, Newport Marine Life Refuge is offshore; tours offered, call: (949) 644-3038 for reservations.

**TIDEPOOL ETIQUETTE**
Several of the beaches in southern Orange County have tidepools. Plants and animals in tidepools are very sensitive to human contact. To preserve tidepools, please observe the following rules:
- Watch where you step. Step only on bare rock or sand.
- Don't touch any living organisms. Most tidepool animals are protected by a coating of slime. Touching them with dry hands can damage these animals.
- Don't poke or prod tidepool animals with a stick. Don’t attempt to pry animals off of rocks.
- Leave everything as you found it (or cleaner by picking up any garbage you come across). Collecting organisms is illegal in most tidepools and will kill them.
Crystal Cove State Park includes Pelican Point, Los Trancos, Reef Point, and El Moro Canyon.

Crystal Cove State Park
Rocky coves, sandy beaches, grassy terraces, and wooded canyons. Visitors can dive, sport fish, swim, and surf; tidepools are plentiful. For information on diving and fishing, or to make campsite reservations, call: (949) 494-3539.

Pelican Point has bluffs, overlooks, and steep beach access ramps; diving access. A large parking lot is located at Los Trancos. Paved path on south end by restrooms leads to access tunnel under the highway, then a pathway past cottages in the Historic District to a sandy beach with tidepools and a visitor center; beach wheelchair; handicapped parking only below highway.

Pathway can also be reached by crossing highway at the crosswalk.

Reef Point has two steep, paved ramps and a stairway to a sandy beach with tidepools. Diving access: hiking trail and bike path. Pit toilets on beach at bottom of both ramps. Parking lots at above units have wheelchair-accessible restrooms, outdoor showers, and dressing rooms.

The El Moro Canyon unit provides access to inland camp sites and 18 miles of hiking, bicycling, and equestrian trails. Water available only at ranger stations. No direct beach access. Visitor center has wheelchair-accessible restrooms. The adjacent, undeveloped Laguna Coast Wilderness Park can be entered on special public access days, including weekends; call ahead: (949) 494-3932.

Northern Laguna Beaches
Several small, rocky coves north of Laguna's main beach can be reached by walkways off Cliff Dr.: Crescent Bay, which provides restrooms, volleyball net, and lifeguard, is accessible from a stairway off Circle Way and from a steep ramp off Barranca St.; Shaw's Cove from the west end of Fairview St.; Fisherman's Cove and Divers Cove from walkways in the 600 block of Cliff Dr.; Picnic Beach from a ramp at the west end of Myrtle St. in Heisler Park; and Rockpile Beach from stairs at the west end of Jasmine St. in Heisler Park. Picnic Beach has a lifeguard and showers. Good tidepools and wildlife viewing. Signs at all beach and cove accessways explain fishing regulations.

Main Beach
Sandy beach and grassy area. A frontage park includes a boardwalk, benches and tables, a playground, and volleyball courts. Restrooms at north and south end of beach; restrooms at south end are wheelchair-accessible. Beach wheelchairs at lifeguard headquarters at north end. Outdoor showers at both ends. Walkway leads to Heisler Park on the bluff, which has picnic tables, showers, shuffleboard, and lawn bowling. Call: (949) 497-0706.
Southern Laguna Beaches

The following street ends, from north to south starting just south of the main beach, have paths and/or stairs to small sandy and rocky beaches: Cleo St., St. Ann's Dr., Thelma St. (with wheelchair-accessible viewing platform and bench), Anita St., Oak St. (with wheelchair-accessible viewing platform and bench), Brooks St. (popular surfing spot), Gress St., Mountain Rd., Bluebird Canyon Dr., Agate St., Pearl St., Diamond St., and Moss Street. Woods Cove can be reached from a stairway at the 1900 block of Ocean Way between Diamond and Pearl. Sandy strip containing Victoria, Laguna, and Treasure Island beaches can be reached from the foot of Sunset Terrace and the foot of Dumond Dr., both off Victoria Drive. Limited on-street parking. Good surfing and diving.

Aliso Beach County Park

Aliso Beach is popular for boogie boarding, with picnic tables, grills, a play area, concessions, and a snack bar. Beach wheelchairs available from lifeguard headquarters; call: (949) 493-3312. Park extends onto the east side of Pacific Coast Hwy.; beach and inland sides are connected by a pedestrian tunnel; fee parking. Call: (949) 661-7013 x21.

Table Rock Beach

A stairway at the end of Table Rock Dr. leads to a sandy cove at the southern end of Aliso Beach County Park. Limited street parking.

Salt Creek Beach Park

The long, sandy beach is a popular surfing spot. Parking and wheelchair-accessible restrooms are available at a metered lot off Ritz Carlton Drive. From the west side of the lot, a paved path leads to the beach and to Bluff Park, which has barbecue grills, picnic tables, and wheelchair-accessible restrooms. Just south of Ritz Carlton Drive, a pedestrian gate, open 24 hours, leads through the hotel grounds to a paved path along the bluffs top with benches and overlooks providing views, including gray whale migration routes. At its northern end, the path joins a paved multi-use trail leading north along the shorelina. Stairways and paths lead from the trail to the beach, changing rooms, outdoor showers, restrooms, snack bar, and a path along the seawall. Paths and trails lead along a golf course and into a regional park featuring several miles of trail for hiking, biking, and horseback riding. The southern entrance to Salt Creek Beach Park is off Selva Rd. and features free parking, picnic tables, barbecue grills, restrooms, and paths and trails to Dana Strands Beach. Call: (949) 661-7013 x21.

Three Arch Cove Beach

A long walk from the north end of Salt Creek Beach Park, past the private Monarch Beach community, leads over shoreline rocks and large boulders to a small sandy cove. Public access across the Monarch Beach shoreline must be on wet sand at low tide only. Tidepools are plentiful. Respect private property.
The headlands area of Dana Point is a good place for watching California gray whales during their annual migration. Common dolphins and bottlenose dolphins are also occasionally seen offshore.

Dana Point Harbor
The harbor features extensive boating facilities and services. There are grassy areas with picnic tables and walkways throughout the harbor area, and the small stillwater “Baby Beach”; near the beach is a wheelchair-accessible fishing platform. Restaurants and small shops line a boardwalk along the marina.

Dana Point Harbor
restrooms are wheelchair-accessible. The Ocean Institute at 24200 Dana Pt. Harbor Dr. has a Tellship and programs for visitors on weekends.

For guest slip rentals, call the Harbor Patrol: (949) 248-2222. For information on boat charters, sport fishing and seasonal whale-watching trips, call: (949) 496-5794. For diving, breakwater fishing, sailing lessons, bicycle rentals, and trailer space, call: (949) 496-6177.

Doheny State Beach
Campground and day-use area. Day-use area has beachfront and a five-acre lawn with picnic tables, group picnic areas, changing rooms, and food and supply concessions. Surfing is allowed in designated areas. Beach wheelchairs; boardwalk at north end from picnic area onto sand; wheelchair-accessible fire ring at south end. The offshore area is an underwater park for divers. Campground has fire rings, tables and drinking water, and a trailer sanitation station. Four sites are wheelchair accessible; some sites for hikers and bicyclists. For camping information and reservations, call: (800) 444-PARK; for group picnic reservations, call: (949) 496-3617. For the Visitor Center, call: (949) 496-2704. For park information, call: (949) 496-6172 or 492-0802. The San Juan Creek Bikeway, which runs along the west side of the creek, begins just north of Doheny State Beach and continues inland along the creek past San Juan Capistrano.

Doheny State Beach

San Clemente City Beach
This beach extends south for two miles from the Ole Hanson Beach Club. Most beach access requires crossing railroad tracks, and most paths or stairways have limited on-street parking. Avenida Pico, which ends at Ole Hanson Beach Club, leads directly to North Beach; metered parking lot, snack stands, body board rentals, beach wheelchairs, picnic areas, volleyball, swings, firepits and grills, outdoor showers, wheelchair-accessible restrooms, lifeguard. The west ends of Dije Court, Buena Vista at W. El Portal, and W. Escondidos at W. Mariposa each have paths and/or stairs that lead to the beach. For general information, call: (949) 361-8219.

Ole Hanson Beach Club
Facilities include a snack bar at North Beach, playground, and heated six-lane public pool and wading pool with dressing room and showers; fee. Overlooks the beach. There are wheelchair-accessible restrooms, free parking, and stairs and a wheelchair-accessible ramp to beach. Open year-round. Call: (949) 361-8207.

Grunion masses build their nests in the sand. The several ne high tide is popular to collect eggs. March, Ju

Surfers at Doheny State Beach
San Clemente Municipal Pier
A popular fishing pier with fish-cleaning sinks, a bait and tackle shop, restrooms and lifeguard tower. The beach area has picnic facilities, outdoor showers, and wheelchair-accessible restrooms. Avenida Del Mar has metered parking, and leads to the beach and the pier. There is one underpass to the beach; all other access is across railroad tracks. Restaurant at the base of the pier. Call: (949) 361-8219.

San Clemente State Beach
Tent and full hook up camping sites on the bluff at the southern end of the park, with one group site for up to 50 people. Three tent and three hookup camp sites are wheelchair-accessible, as are restrooms and showers. Two steep trails lead to the beach. Beach wheelchair available at entrance kiosk. Calafia Beach Park provides access to the narrow sandy beach via a controlled pedestrian crossing at the railroad tracks. Facilities include metered parking, picnic areas, snack bar, and wheelchair-accessible restrooms. At the north end of Plaza a la Playa street is a tunnel that crosses under railroad tracks and leads to the beach. Surfing is allowed in designated areas. Call: (949) 492-3158 or (949) 492-0802.

Marine Protected Areas
There are several types of Marine Protected Areas along the Orange County coast (see map for locations). Marine Life Refuges prohibit the disturbance or taking of most marine animals and plants. Underwater Parks also protect marine life and offer excellent snorkeling and scuba diving opportunities. The Glenn E. Vidder Ecological Reserve in Laguna Beach carries the most stringent restrictions - no swimming, diving, fishing (except from shore), collecting of any kind, or boating is allowed.

For more information on coastal towns in Orange County, call the appropriate Visitors Bureau or Chamber of Commerce:
Seal Beach ........... (562) 799-0179
Huntington Beach (800) SAY OCEAN
Newport Beach ........ (800) 94-COAST
Laguna Beach .......... (800) 877-1115
Dana Point ........ (800) 290-DANA
San Clemente .......... (949) 492-1131

Information on beach closures:
High bacterial levels .. (714) 667-3752
Public transit information .......... (714) 636-RIDE

For information on coastal and marine education opportunities in Orange County visit www.coastforyou.org.

To receive a free copy of A Wheelchair Riders Guide: Los Angeles and Orange County Coast, call (510) 286-0933 or e-mail calcoast@sgc.org.

This map is based on the California Coastal Commission's California Coastal Access Guide published by University of California Press, available in bookstores or by calling (600) UC BOOKS.

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