

NEWPORT BEACH



Along the Pacific Ocean of California, in Orange County, the city of Newport Beach has several different villages that make up this diverse beachside town. Balboa Island, the Balboa Peninsula, Cannery Village, Corona Del Mar, Mariner's Mile, Fashion Island, Lido Marina Village, Back Bay Reserve and Newport Center are among the many hot spots to visit.

Voted as the world's "Best All-Around Sports Beach" by Details Magazine, Newport Beach is an ideal vacation destination for the entire family. With a warm, moderate climate and more than nine miles of pristine beaches, the destination is home to an amazing array of athletic activities. Surfers enjoy some of Southern California's best waves along the Balboa Peninsula. Beach lovers can run, bike or skate along the boardwalk or catch a game of beach volleyball on one of the many courts. The choice of water activities is endless and includes

kayaking, rowing, canoeing, sport fishing, snorkeling, scuba diving, windsurfing and sailing.

Featuring the largest small boat harbor in the world, Newport Beach is a sailing and boating enthusiast's dream. Newport is home to more than 9,000 boats and yachts where visitors can enjoy harbor cruises and charters touring the charming bay. Sail and motorboat rentals are available, as are romantic gondola rides through the intricate canals of the harbor. Ferry rides to Balboa Island are offered throughout the day and for those with an adventurous spirit, there are luxury yacht excursions to Catalina Island.

Other aquatic activities include snorkeling, scuba diving, windsurfing, sailing or boogie boarding at Big Corona Beach. During the winter months, visitors can observe the California Grey Whale migration and other marine life such as dolphins, sea lions and seals.

Visitors will experience nature's finest as they hike, mountain bike or jog through the Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve, a 752-acre coastal wetland. The reserve is a birdwatcher's paradise and is home to 200 rare and endangered bird species. Red-tailed hawks, turkey vultures, roadrunners and prairie falcons are just a few of the species that inhabit the area. A 10-mile, multi-use trail loops around Upper Newport Bay and free two-hour walking nature tours are held every Saturday and Sunday. With more than 37 parks spanning 154 acres and 73 miles of trails, Newport Beach offers a variety of routes for any activity.

From Newport Pier to Santa Ana River Jetty lies the Newport Beach Municipal Beach with ideal bodysurfing conditions, great surfing and sand volleyball courts. The boardwalk is often busy with roller bladers, runners, skateboarders and bicyclists. Corona del Mar Beach, a popular snorkeling spot, offers fire

pits and grills, picnic tables and showers. Big Corona Beach provides the ideal location for a family retreat with fire rings, a snack bar and restrooms. There are also a variety of serene Bay Beaches, perfect for families, in and around Newport Beach. Balboa Island offers beaches at the end of each street and the Balboa Peninsula provides a quiet area sheltered from the wind with a lifeguard tower, restrooms, showers and parking.

For further information please call 800-94-COAST or www.newportbeach-cvb.com.

15th Annual Taste of Newport

Friday, Sept. 19: 6-11 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 20: 4-11 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 21: Noon-8 p.m.

Newport Center Drive, Fashion Island
The Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce and the LA Times will be hosting the 15th Annual Taste of Newport.

Featuring samplings from 35 local restaurants.

www.tasteofnewport.com

95th Annual Newport Harbor

Christmas Boat Parade

Wednesday, December 17, 2003

6:30 pm: Newport Harbor- Parade outlines entire harbor. The Parade runs each evening from December 17-21, 2003. Since 1919, when Southern California's largest and oldest boat parade began, the Newport Harbor Christmas Boat Parade has drawn millions to view over 100 boats decorated for the holidays as well as the elaborately decorated homes surrounding the harbor. Both boats and homes compete for trophies and publicity in this magical holiday event. The parade runs 2 and 1/2 hours beginning at 6:30pm each evening.

The spectacular parade has been rated in the top 10 holiday attractions in the country by the New York Times.