



Anaheim TODAY

Travel Today Feature May 2012



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Pip Tips

Shop, shop, shop: Mainplace, South Coast Plaza, Fashion Island, Orange Outlet Mall or Citadel Outlets—all easily accessible from Anaheim.

Eat: Tony Roma's on S Harbor for ribs as only the US can do. And many other easily accessible choices at Gardenwalk, Ruth's Chris and Mortons for steaks.

Refreshment: Visit a real sports bar—Clancy's Clubhouse—big TV's boutique beer or ESPN zone Downtown Disney.

Off the beaten track: San Juan Capistrano—historic and beautiful Mission buildings and gardens, and one of the best Mexican Restaurants nearby in an ancient adobe house—need a car!

Beach it: Newport and Balboa Island—hire a bike get some exercise on the boardwalk, or wander around Laguna and look at the art, go surfing at Huntington. Finish with a margarita at Las Brisas!

Enjoy!



Anaheim's Wider Charm Lures Kiwis



A growing number of New Zealanders are now travelling beyond the thrills and spills of Anaheim's well-known theme parks and discovering the wider Orange County region—from the beaches lining the Pacific Coast Highway to exploring Orange or shopping up a storm at the numerous malls and outlet centres.

"Anaheim is still seen as an excellent value base from which clients can explore the entire Southern California region," says GO Holidays US expert Sheralyn Black. "So many attractions have recently opened such as Transformers 3D at Universal Studios and Manta at SeaWorld, or Disney's Cars Land which is opening next month, and not only is it attracting new visitors to the region—but we're also seeing an increase in repeat business."

The comment is supported by figures which continue to show growth from the New Zealand market, but there's also the potential for agents to earn more money from selling Anaheim, due the high Kiwi demand for other attractions and regions in the area.

"Anaheim and the OC remain firmly embedded in the New Zealand psyche as the place for both a Kiwi family holiday experience with the myriad of attractions besides the beloved theme parks and the wonderful children's dinner theatre experiences," says lo-

cal Anaheim Orange County Visitor and Convention Bureau manager Pip Ashford. "Now New Zealanders are now heading 'out' from the Anaheim square to enjoy the wonderful experiences of the beaches, spas, restaurants and cultural events that are constantly on offer."

*Ashford says Harvey World Travel choosing to hold its annual managers conference in Anaheim/OC endorses the importance the Kiwi travel industry places on the region as a premier long-haul destination in its own right, and 'with the continued support of airlines operating to Los Angeles, and now including Air Pacific, the profile is continually strengthening.' Almost 100 Kiwi agents and suppliers are in Anaheim this week for the conference (themed The Future Is Yours).

Getting Around

The tourism-focused Anaheim resort, located around a 45-minute drive from LAX, is an easy destination to navigate. Many of the restaurants and attractions are within walking distance, or are on the ART bus routes. Self-driving in the area is easy, some hotels offer free parking, and the attractions are well sign-posted. There's also a host of day tours on offer within and from Anaheim for clients looking to explore—but without the need to self-drive.

Disney Price Increase

GO Holidays is urging agents with Disneyland-bound clients to lock in their park tickets before the price of tickets increases by up to 20% from 08 Jun. The increase is for guests visiting the parks from 01 Oct, and the amount depends on the duration and type of ticket purchased, says the wholesaler. Agents should ensure that all bookings for travel from 01 Oct onwards are paid in full no later than 07 Jun to avoid the increase.

Sheraton Credit Bonus

The Sheraton Park Hotel at the Anaheim Resort (located within walking distance to Disneyland, Disney's California Adventure Park and Downtown Disney) is offering a bonus USD25 bar and restaurant credit per night for travel through to 31 Mar (for stays of two nights or more). Restaurants include Molly's Kitchen and the Territorial Saloon.



Can I Have S'More?

Say S'mores: GO Holidays' Jason Buckley, on left, and Adrian Turner from Harvey World Travel are pictured perfecting the American art of making s'mores beside a fire pit at The Waterfront Beach Resort at the weekend. The beach-side resort has reported growing business from the Kiwi market, and offers packages which allow clients to cook their own s'mores at a beach firepit from USD15pp. Wholesalers have details.

Get Ready To Be Floored

Next month Disneyland will mark the culmination of a five-year redevelopment of the Disney California Adventure Park by opening a number of new attractions. The highly-anticipated Cars Land, inspired by the Disney/Pixar Cars movie, opens 15 Jun with new rides including the Radiator Springs Racers and Mater's Junkyard Jamboree (remind Anaheim-bound clients that the park will be closed 14 Jun to prepare for the opening). Also opening next month is the new Buena Vista Street entrance. *Travel Today* will be at the Disneyland Resort next month to report on the developments.



SHERATON PARK HOTEL AT THE ANAHEIM RESORT ★★★★★

5 NIGHTS IN A RUN OF HOUSE ROOM FROM \$495pp*

BONUS: Guests staying 2 nights or more will receive a Resort Credit Gift Card of USD\$25 per room per night for each night of their stay redeemable at hotel restaurant and bars.

*Price is per person twin share. Based on travel 28 May - 31 Mar 13. Subject to availability. Conditions apply. *Based on 2 children sharing with 2 adults per room in existing bedding.

Kids under 18 years stay FREE!^



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The Quintessential So Cal Experience

Hyatt Upgrades

The Hyatt Regency Huntington Beach Resort & Spa has undergone a USD6 million renovation. Designed to offer a true coastal living experience, the hotel now offers a contemporary bungalow style.



Beach Day Tours

For those who want to experience the region, but don't want to drive, Southern California Gray Line offers a Surf City USA Tour every Tue, Thu and Fri.

The trip includes a photo stop at the Queen Mary then heads to Huntington beach to allow clients to explore the beach, shops and local restaurants. Wholesalers have pricing details.



Sitting clifftop watching the sun melt into the ocean, cocktail in hand, is something of a local institution for the Southern California locals—and a highly recommended end to a day trip to the Orange County beaches.

While always popular with the locals, the OC coastline gained a higher global profile after starring in numerous television shows. It's where the locals head to relax and socialize and offers an insight into the local culture.

Newport, Huntington and Laguna Beaches are the most popular of the

beachside settlements, each with its own charm.

The beaches are located 30-40 minutes drive from Anaheim, and the region is ideal for clients looking for something outside of the Anaheim Resort.

... Events

There's a host of events held across along the OC coastline each year—including the Nike US Open of Surfing (Jul) and The Festival of Arts at Laguna Beach (Jul-Aug). For more events see anaheimoc.org

If Only Sheep Travelled

The Anaheim Orange County Visitor and Convention Bureau is eyeing some innovative plans to grow its arrivals from the Kiwi market.

"More Kiwis travel to Anaheim than any other international market per capita—if only we could get your sheep to travel," quipped the bureau's Luanne Miracle.

Speaking at Harvey World Travel manager's conference in Anaheim yesterday, Miracle said arrivals from New Zealand continued to grow, and that agents were key future growth. She urged the consultants to keep clients informed about the region's ever-expanding holiday options.

Surf City USA

For a slice of surf culture, the laid back feel of Huntington Beach offers a quintessential SoCal (Southern California) experience. Clients can either surf the legendary breaks, or sit at the end of the pier and watch the experienced surfers from a front row seat.

A number of operators offer surf lessons for those who want to get closer to the action and there's also a surf museum. In addition, the area boasts a wide selection of restaurants and beachside bars.

... Newport

Home to the rich and famous, Newport Beach and Balboa Harbour offer more of a high end coastal experience. Also the base for day trips to Catalina Island, clients can take a cruise across the picturesque Balboa Harbour or shop at the upscale Fashion Island mall.

For something a little different, suggest clients rent a beach cruiser bike (around USD10 a day) and enjoy an easy cycle. To complete the experience suggest a meal at the 1940s themed Ruby's diner, located on the Balboa Pier on their bike ride.

... Laguna

The northern-most of the three beaches is the arty settlement of Laguna Beach, home to an eclectic array of boutiques, independent restaurants and art galleries. Best explored by meandering through the streets or along the clifftop, there are also numerous hiking trails in the area for active clients.

Ideal for families Laguna Beach also has a tide pool which will keep the younger travellers amused for hours.

For a slice of local life, suggest clients head to Las Brisas for a clifftop margarita. But be warned, the place is popular with the locals so they may have to fight for an oceanview table.



Now Offering Disney-inspired Family Suites

Located off the hustle and bustle of Harbor Blvd, but still right in the heart of Disneyland Resort, the Holiday Inn & Suites Anaheim is attracting a growing number of Kiwi guests.

- The property can offer its New Zealand clients the VIP treatment and a welcome amenity and card is available for clients upon request.
- Travel agent rates are also available.

For more details contact Kelly Guinn
kellyg@hianaheim.com

CLICK HERE



SURF CITY USA

- HUNTINGTON BEACH SHUTTLE

*Spend the day at Huntington Beach
(same day return shuttle from Anaheim)*

\$49 per person*

*Based on travel until 31 Mar 13. Departs Tues, Thur & Fri only. Conditions apply.

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Spoiled For Choice When It Comes To Fun

Knotts Berry Farm

The US' first theme park Knotts Berry Farm remains a popular day trip option—and it's now also easier to get to Knotts as the park is a stop on the ART bus service. As well as all the favourite attractions (including Camp Snoopy for the little ones) the park now boasts Wind Seeker—a ride with two person gondolas that climbs 91m before swinging riders around for a 60-second 'flight'. The Soak City water park is located adjacent to Knotts, with 22 water rides. See knotts.com



New Legoland Hotel

America's first Legoland Hotel, with interactive Lego décor and rooms themed after Legoland's Pirate, Adventure and Kingdom areas, is due to open in the 2013 northern summer. With 250 two-room suites, the hotel promises to immerse guests in the world of Lego, with a 'spectacular' entrance, themed play areas, family pool, restaurant and Lego models.

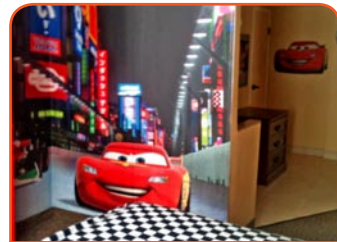
Lux Bus Family Deal

High-end coach company Lux Bus now has an Anaheim and Los Angeles Family Pass. The scheduled daily service between the two points is USD100 per transfer, for up to five people, a saving of 40%, says Lux Bus' Michelle Eversgerd.



Disneyland is the key attraction for many Kiwis visiting Anaheim, but there's also a wide range of other theme parks, attractions and experiences in the area.

Day tours are said to be the most popular way for clients to see the other sights in the Anaheim region, but GO Holidays has reported an



Themed Suites At HI

The Holiday Inn Anaheim now has Disney-inspired suites to cater for families. The property has two of the two-bedroom suites, themed around the Cars, Monsters Inc and Toy Story movies, and has plans to add two more in the coming months. "They're proving to be hugely popular and with the addition of a planned splash park we're really tailor-making the property to be more family-friendly," says Holiday Inn Anaheim's Kelly Guinn.

... Agent Rates

"Because we love Kiwis, and always want to grow the number of New Zealanders visiting our property we're offering consultants agent rates," says Guinn. For details e-mail kellyg@hianaheim.com

increasing number of Kiwis choosing to self-drive for more flexibility. That said, GO's Sheralyn Black says SeaWorld's free ride offer (in conjunction with Southern California Grayline) has been 'a huge hit' with the Kiwi market with more and more Kiwis making the daytrip down to San Diego.

Themed dining experiences are said to be enjoying a resurgence, along with trips to Hollywood.

Battle Of The Dance

Theme dinners are an institution in Anaheim and the latest addition is Battle of Dance. The dinner and dance show features a variety of dance styles from pop and Bollywood to Latin and Flamenco. Tickets include a three-course meal. Wholesalers have details. See battleofthedance.com

Manta Takes Flight

A new roller coaster that takes riders from watching manta rays in underwater flight to 'flying' like a ray themselves, opened at SeaWorld San Diego last weekend.

Not for the faint-hearted, the coaster (shaped like a giant manta ray) reaches speeds of up to 111k/hr, a vertical force of 3-4Gs and drops 16.5m.



"Gliding, flying and diving through more than a dozen twists and turns, riders will feel as if they are a ray, taking flight from sky to sea—so close at times that the Manta's wings skim the waves," says the park.

The ride, the first coaster at the park, features a launch tunnel with images of rays projected onto a 270° screen before riders are propelled on their manta 'flight'.

Adding to the atmosphere, Forbidden Reef, an attraction where guests feed and touch bat rays, will be incorporated into the Manta experience.

HOWARD JOHNSON PLAZA HOTEL ★★

5 NIGHTS IN A STANDARD ROOM FROM \$399PP*

Add on return Disneyland Resort Express transfers from \$39 per adult & \$29 per child (3-11 years)

Kids under 18 years stay FREE!*

*Price is per person twin share. Based on travel until 31 Mar 13. Subject to availability. Conditions apply. *Based on 2 children sharing with 2 adults per room in existing bedding.

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Soar, dive and twist like a ray on SeaWorld's first multi-media double-launch coaster, Manta®. Then, surround yourself with gliding rays, plus touch and feed these incredible animals.

Take a FREE* Ride to SeaWorld®



Take advantage of FREE* transportation and dine with SeaWorld's biggest star Shamu®. Enjoy a delicious buffet meal while seated on Shamu's poolside patio for an experience you'll never forget.

Contact your preferred wholesaler for packages including SeaWorld California.

*Transportation included with a full-priced, single-day admission from Anaheim to SeaWorld San Diego via Southern California Gray Line motor coach. Not valid with any other offers, promotions or discounts. Offer expires 12/31/12. Other restrictions apply. © 2012 SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment, Inc. All rights reserved.





Anaheim OC Insider Tips For Agents

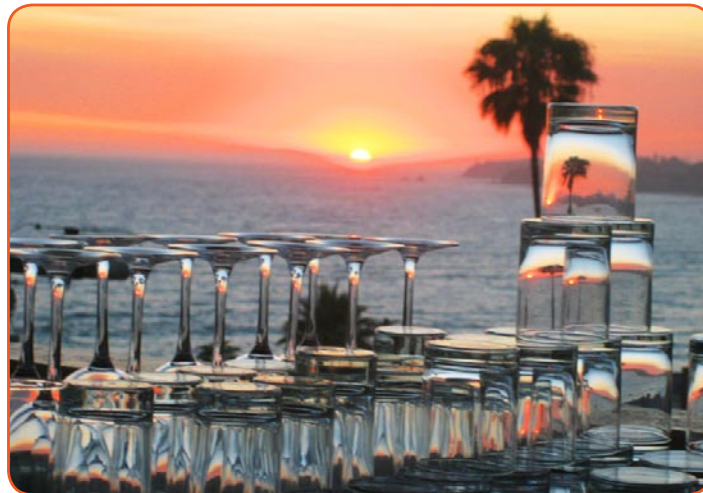
ART Expands Service

The Anaheim Resort Transit (ART) is celebrating 10 years of service and now offers coach transport on 19 routes in the area.

The ART has expanded beyond the hotel to Disneyland Resort transfer service and now also offers transport to numerous local highlights including the Crystal Cathedral and Outlets at Orange (route 16); and Knotts Berry Farm and Medieval Times and Pirates Dinner Adventure.

ART also offers services to the Westfield Mainplace Mall in Santa Ana and the Discovery Science Centre.

A one-way ticket is USD3 for those 10 years and over or USD4 for a full day. See rideart.org



Agents looking to upskill their Anaheim product knowledge, and potentially earn more in commission, need to join the Anaheim Orange County's Specialist Program, says the visitor bureau.

There are now 190 Kiwi consultants who have completed the Anaheim Orange County Specialist Program—but Ann Gallagher, vice president, tourism development Anaheim/Orange County Visitor & Convention Bureau says it wants to get hundreds more accredited Kiwi agents. “We want to grow that number of Kiwis [enrolled in the programme], it’s the best way for your team members to find out all there is to see and do in

Anaheim, do encourage them to become Anaheim Orange County specialists,” Gallagher told franchisees at the Harvey World Travel conference in Anaheim this week.

It takes just minutes to register and begin the programme and agents will receive a certificate upon passing the on-line training modules as well as going into the draw for prizes. See travel-trade.anaheimoc.org

Deals And Discounts

For clients looking to stretch their budget the Anaheim/OC Visitor and Convention Bureau offers a host of discount coupons from activities to dining. See anaheimoc.org/coupons

Cars Land By Web Cam

Many agents know that the Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel is located across the road from Disneyland’s Matterhorn Mountain and near the main gate entry—but did you know the hotel is also home to the only live webcam looking into the Disney parks, asks the hotel’s Willie Simpson.

The live Matter Cam feed offers views over Matterhorn Mountain, Space Mountain, California Screamin’, Mickey’s Fun Wheel and the parks’ fireworks shows. “And for Cars fans, the Matter Cam also offers a sneak peek of the Radiator Springs waterfall at Disney California Adventure’s new Cars Land (opening 15 Jun),” he adds. See hojoanaheim.com

Anaheim Garden Walk

Located close to the Disneyland Parks is the Anaheim Garden Walk, an outdoor shopping and dining precinct offering a host of options such as Roys, The Cheesecake Factory and PF Chang’s China Bistro. For details see anaheimgardenwalk.com

OC Summer Festivals

Summer festivals in Orange County kick into high gear Jun-Aug, says the Anaheim/Orange County Visitor and Convention Bureau. Events include the Dana Point Concours d’Elegance, celebrating 30 years of automotive heritage; and Art-A-Fair, 29 Jun-02 Sep, Festival of Arts, 01 Jul-31 Aug, Sawdust Art Festival, 29 Jun-02 Sep and Pageant of Masters, 07 Jul-31 Aug, all at Laguna Beach.



Angels and Ducks

If clients are looking for something a little different, urge them to experience another American institution, and head to the ball park to watch a baseball game. The Anaheim Angels play numerous home games over the Apr-Sep season and there’s a wide range of tickets available. The Angels Stadium is a stop on the ART system or is about a USD10-USD12 taxi ride from most Anaheim area hotels. The city is also home to past Stanley Cup winners the Anaheim Ducks hockey team. The hockey season runs Oct-May, and the team plays at the Honda Centre, also a short drive from most resort area hotels.

Helpful Apps

For clients looking for a little more help to plan their holiday, there’s a number of Anaheim travel apps. The free Anaheim/OC Travel Guide iPad only app offers information on the region including shopping, attractions and dining, while the myAnaheim app (also free) details events and there’s the facility to ask questions. For Disney-bound clients the Disneyland Wait Times App is available for iPhones and iPads. It costs USD0.99 and details waitlists across the Disneyland and Disney California Adventure parks.

CATALINA ISLAND TOUR

Shop, swim, snorkel or simply relax on a day tour to beautiful Catalina Island.

\$119 per adult \$99 per child (2-11yrs)

Based on travel until 31 Mar 13. Departs Tues, Thur & Fri only ex Anaheim. Conditions apply.

CALL OUR GO AMERICA EXPERTS NOW ON 09 914 4002 FOR FULL DETAILS!



Soar, dive and twist like a ray on SeaWorld’s first multi-media double-launch coaster, Manta®. Then, surround yourself with gliding rays, plus touch and feed these incredible animals.

Take a FREE* Ride to SeaWorld®



Take advantage of FREE* transportation and dine with SeaWorld’s biggest star Shamu®. Enjoy a delicious buffet meal while seated on Shamu’s poolside patio for an experience you’ll never forget.

Contact your preferred wholesaler for packages including SeaWorld California.

* Transportation included with a full-priced, single-day admission from Anaheim to SeaWorld San Diego via Southern California Gray Line motor coach. Not valid with any other offers, promotions or discounts. Offer expires 12/31/12. Other restrictions apply. © 2012 SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment, Inc. All rights reserved.





Shopping Anaheim 101: Tips For Kiwis

In Anaheim

Downtown Disney District and the Anaheim Garden walk can't be beaten for shopping location, choice and convenience for those staying in Anaheim, says GO Holidays. Both locations are an easy walking distance to most Anaheim hotels and each offer a range of well-known restaurants.

Discounted Disney

The Disney Character Warehouse in Fullerton, near Anaheim, offers a range of Disney merchandise at discounted prices—said to be up to 80% off the original price. It's located at 243 Orangefair Mall.

These days a trip to the US is not complete without a little retail therapy thanks to the higher NZD and amazing US sales, and Anaheim is no exception.

From the high-end brands at South Coast Plaza at nearby Costa Mesa through to numerous outlet malls including at Citadel, Anaheim has options to suit all budgets.

Walmart, Target and K Mart stores are ideal for the budget conscious or those looking for toys.

Clients short of time should head to the Outlets at Orange (formerly the Block at Orange) which offers outlet shopping just 1.5 miles from the Anaheim resort hotels, and an easy trip on



the Anaheim Resort Transit (ART), or by car.

For the more serious bargain hunter suggest they head to the Citadel Outlets. Located about a 30min drive from Anaheim clients can easily self-drive or catch the Shopper Shuttle, which offers numerous daily departures. The mall offers a huge range of well known brands at a fraction of the retail cost, and is well worth the trip—and international visitors can save more money by grabbing a coupon booklet from Citadel Guest Services.

For those looking for a Westfield mall, Mainplace in Santa Ana has all the usual suspects and is now a stop on the ART system. Shuttles also operate to South Coast Plaza from Anaheim hotels and a VIP savings passport is available for travellers.

How Much Shopping?

With many airlines moving to a one piece 23kg bag allowance shoppers need to keep an eye on the weight of their purchases. Air New Zealand, for example, charges USD70 for a second item of checked luggage up to 23kg—but if clients are going to shop, that extra cost is often easily paid for by the money saved from a couple of purchases.

An ideal way to check bag weight is by using travel scales. Travel Comfortable's Jill Gardner has reported increased demand for the scales in recent month. The most popular item, she says, is the Korjo scales which weigh bags of up to 50kgs. She is offering the scales to *Travel Today* readers for \$45. See travelcomfortable.com

Take Photo ID

Many US retailers will ask international shoppers for photo identification when they pay by credit card. Agents could advise clients of this simple, yet invaluable point!

Avoid Peak Times

To maximise shopping time urge clients to head to the outlet malls at off-peak times, such as early morning, as the outlet stores are also popular with the locals.

Coupon Deals

For further savings a range of discounts and deals are on the Anaheim OC Visitor and Convention Bureau's website. For the current discounts see anaheimoc.org/coupons



Win Passes For A VIP Shopping Experience

Clients can now add a little indulgence to their South Coast Plaza shopping experience. The high end Costa Mesa shopping precinct has opened a hospitality suite for its VIP and international visitors. The Access Suite (pictured above) offers Wi-Fi, newspapers, magazines, a flat-screen television—as well as free champagne, wine, beer, coffee, soft drinks and light snacks. The suite is open daily and also boasts a sports room. Seasoned shopper, and Stella Travel Services chief financial officer Katherine Kennedy, visited the lounge

earlier this week said the suite was 'a welcome and relaxing retreat and a fantastic insider tip for Kiwi shoppers'.

An in-suite concierge offers services including personal shoppers, package check, spa appointments, wheelchair and stroller hire and restaurant reservations.

A day pass entrance to the lounge is available from hotel concierges and selected retailers. We have 10 double passes to the Access up for grabs. E-mail news@traveltoday.co.nz to go into the draw to win the passes.

CITADEL OUTLETS SHOP & SHUTTLE

Save up to 70% off retail prices at over 115 brand name stores at LA's only outlet shopping mall!

\$19pp

Based on travel until 31 Mar 13. Departs selected Anaheim hotels daily. Conditions apply.

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