

ORANGE COUNTY ACTIVITIES!

*A listing of stuff that's unique¹ to Orange County. Links generally point to Yelp profiles, which will have the official website listed.
List is meant to be representative, not exhaustive.*

FOOD

Vietnamese

- [Brodard Restaurant](#), Garden Grove (also try their spin-off [Brodard Chateau](#))
- [Pho Lu](#), Garden Grove - great for pho
- [Bánh Mì Chè Cali](#), Westminster - great for bánh mì, open 24 hours
- [Thuyền Viên](#) (Phở Veggie), Anaheim - vegan-friendly Vietnamese

Japanese

- [Honda Ya](#), Tustin/Fullerton/Fountain Valley (as Kappo Honda) - great for sushi
- [Anjin](#), Costa Mesa - great for Japanese BBQ
- [Oshima Japanese Cuisine](#), Orange - great for omakase
- [Santouka](#), Costa Mesa - great for ramen
- [Shabu Shabu Bar](#), Santa Ana - shabu shabu

Korean

- [Gen Korean BBQ and Yakitori Bar](#), Tustin - AYCE (all you can eat) KBBQ
- [Cham Sut Gol](#), Garden Grove - more AYCE KBBQ
- [Hashigo Korean Kitchen](#), Costa Mesa - fusion Korean

Thai

- [Thai Gulf](#), Huntington Beach
- [Siam Taste of Asia](#), Santa Ana
- [Thai Nakorn](#), Stanton/Garden Grove

Cuban

- [Habana](#), Costa Mesa
- [Felix Continental Cafe](#), Orange

Mexican

- [Gabbi's Mexican Kitchen](#), Orange
- [Anepalco's Cafe](#), Orange - chilaquiles
- [El Toro Bravo](#), Costa Mesa - tacos
- [Taco Loco](#), Laguna Beach - vegetarian-friendly!

Peruvian

- [Inka Cantina](#), Fountain Valley
- [Casa Inka](#), Fountain Valley
- [Delicias Peruanas](#), Lake Forest

Chinese

- [Capital Seafood](#), Irvine - dim sum
- [A&J Restaurant](#), Irvine - Taiwanese
- [The Red Pot](#), Garden Grove - Chinese hot pot
- [Mas' Islamic Restaurant](#), Anaheim - Chinese Halal

¹ This means that chain establishments that appear outside of Orange County are, for the most part, excluded.

Indian

- [Annapoorna](#), Irvine - great lunch buffet
- [Laxmi Sweets & Spices](#), Tustin - Indian restaurant & market; best masala dosa
- [Tamarind of London](#), Newport Beach - upscale restaurant

Vegetarian & Vegan

- [Mitasie 3](#), Huntington Beach - Chinese/Vietnamese
- [The Loving Hut](#), Orange/Huntington Beach/Ladera Ranch
- [Avanti Cafe](#), Costa Mesa
- [Seabirds Truck](#) - food truck

Live/Raw Foods

- [Au Lac](#), Fountain Valley
- [118 Degrees](#), Costa Mesa

Mediterranean

- [Rosine's Mediterranean Cafe](#), Anaheim
- [Kentro Greek Kitchen](#), Fullerton

Pizza

- [Pieology Pizzeria](#), Fullerton - build-your-own pizza
- [Pizzeria Mozza](#), Newport Beach - sister location of the LA Pizzeria Mozza, neapolitan style pizza
- [Tony's Little Italy Pizza](#), Placentia - deep dish pizza

Gourmet Burgers

- [Slater's 50/50](#), Anaheim/Huntington Beach/Lake Forest - half beef, half bacon patties
- [Mick's Karma Bar](#), Irvine
- [The Riders Club Cafe](#), San Clemente

Seafood - Cajun/Creole

- [The Kickin' Crab](#), Westminster/Santa Ana
- [The Boiling Crab](#), Garden Grove/Santa Ana
- [Claws](#), Garden Grove

Seafood - Upscale

- [Mastro's Ocean Club](#), Newport Beach - also an excellent steakhouse
- [The Cannery Restaurant](#), Newport Beach
- [Scott's Restaurant](#), Costa Mesa

Italian

- [Mama D's Italian Kitchen](#), Newport Beach
- [Cortina's Italian Market](#), Anaheim - deli and market
- [CUCINA enoteca](#), Irvine

Asian Bakeries

- [85C Bakery Cafe](#), Irvine - extremely popular Taiwanese bakery
- [Cream Pan](#), Tustin - Japanese bakery
- [Kawaii Bakery](#), Fountain Valley

Dessert

- [The Donuttery](#), Huntington Beach
- [Jack's Bakery](#), Garden Grove - Middle Eastern (vegetarian friendly too!)
- [Patty's Cakes & Desserts](#), Fullerton

- [Strickland's Ice Cream](#), Irvine - homemade custard ice cream

Awesome All-Around (Date Night Worthy!)

- [Old Vine Cafe](#), Costa Mesa - continental cuisine, great for brunch or dinner
- [The Playground](#), Santa Ana - eclectic menu that changes daily
- [Broadway by Amar Santana](#), Laguna Beach

Food Trucks

- [Dogzilla](#) - the best hot dog you'll ever have
- [SOHO Taco](#) - the best taco you'll have at least in a long time
- [The Lime Truck](#) - winner of the Food Network's [Great Food Truck Race Season 2](#)
- [The Burnt Truck](#) - sliders and sandwiches

Coffee & Tea Houses

- [Portola Coffee Lab](#), Costa Mesa - and they even dress in white lab coats.
- [Kean Coffee](#), Newport Beach/Tustin
- [7 Leaves Cafe](#), Garden Grove - Vietnamese coffee & tea
- [Tranquil Tea Lounge](#), Fullerton

24-Hour Grubbing

- [Harbor House Cafe](#), Sunset Beach/Dana Point
- [BCD Tofu House](#), Garden Grove/Irvine - Korean

Random Cool Places

- [Bruxie](#), Orange/Brea/Irvine/Costa Mesa - waffle sandwiches. For real.
- [Eva's-A Caribbean Kitchen](#), Laguna Beach - Caribbean, great jerk chicken
- [Break of Dawn](#), Laguna Hills - Asian fusion brunch. Yep.
- [Earl of Sandwich](#), Anaheim - if you're a fan of the Las Vegas eatery, their second location is in Downtown Disney

DRINK

Lounges (with a restaurant)

- [The Crosby](#), Santa Ana - hipster den
- [3-Thirty-3 Waterfront](#), Newport Beach - cougar den
- [Mesa](#), Costa Mesa - hipster and cougar den, weirdly enough

Microbreweries

- [The Bruery](#), Placentia
- [Bootlegger's Brewery](#), Fullerton
- [Noble Ale Works](#), Anaheim
- [Pizza Port](#), San Clemente

Bars: Gastropubs

- [320 Main](#), Seal Beach
- [Haven Gastropub](#), Orange
- [Chapter One: the modern local](#), Santa Ana
- [Side Door](#), Corona Del Mar

Bars: Dives

- [Johnny's Saloon](#), Huntington Beach

- [Goat Hill Tavern](#), Costa Mesa - half off during Founders Hour (whenever that is)
- [The Swinging Door](#), Tustin
- [Cassidy's](#), Newport Beach

Bars: Sports Bars

- [Longboard](#), Huntington Beach
- [Michael's Sports Pub & Grill](#), Westminster
- [Stadium Tavern](#), Fullerton
- [The Classic Q](#), Newport Beach
- [Rudy's Pub & Grill](#), Newport Beach

Bars: Gay Bars

- [Tin Lizzie](#), Costa Mesa
- [Velvet Lounge](#), Santa Ana
- [Bounce](#), Laguna Beach

Bars: Wine Bars

- [The Twisted Vine](#), Fullerton
- [Sea Legs Wine Bar](#), Huntington Beach
- [The Winery Restaurant & Wine Bar](#), Tustin

Bars: Spots for a Bar Crawl

- **Main Street, Downtown Huntington Beach** - Gallagher's Pub & Grill, Killarney Pub & Grill, Baja Sharkeez, HB Beer Company, 2nd Floor, Hurricanes, Fred's Mexican Cantina
- **Commonwealth & Harbor, Downtown Fullerton** - Slidebar Cafe, The Continental Room, Heroes, Commonwealth Lounge, Branagan's, Stadium Tavern
- **Balboa Blvd on the Peninsula, Newport Beach** - Mutt Lynch's, Beach Ball, Baja Sharkeez, The District Lounge, Blackie's by the Sea, Blue Beet
- **Broadway, Downtown Santa Ana** - The Gypsy Den, Lola Gaspar, The Copper Door, Proof Bar, The Crosby, Chapter One: the modern local

THINGS TO DO

Amusement & Community Parks

- [Disneyland & Disney's California Adventure](#), Anaheim - the mothership.
- [Knott's Berry Farm & Knott's Soak City](#), Buena Park - possibly most popular for their transformation to Knott's Scary Farm during Halloween
- [Orange County Great Park](#), Irvine - free balloon rides 400 ft up!

Beaches

- [Huntington Beach](#) - includes a popular [dog beach](#)
- [Crystal Cove State Beach](#) - south of Newport Beach
- [Laguna Beach](#) - principal beach and [1000 Steps](#) in south Laguna

Tours

- [Davey's Locker](#) Whale Watching Tour, Newport Beach
- [Flavors of Laguna](#) Tasting Tour, Laguna Beach
- [Old Towne Orange Walking Food Tour](#), Orange

- [OC Wine Trolley](#) tasting tour, Orange

Museums & Art Galleries

- [Bowers Museum](#), Santa Ana - free first Sundays, free Tuesdays for Santa Ana residents
- [Huntington Beach International Surfing Museum](#), Huntington Beach - free entry
- [Laguna Art Museum](#), Laguna Beach - free first Thursday of every month from 5:00-9:00 pm
- [Mission San Juan Capistrano](#), San Juan Capistrano - \$9.00 admission, coupons on [website](#)

Art Walks

- [Santa Ana Artist Village](#) - first Saturday of the month
- [Santiago Art Walk](#) (also in Santa Ana) - third Saturday of the month
- [Laguna Beach Art Walk](#) - first Thursday of the month
- [Fullerton Art Walk](#) - first Friday of the month

Farmers' Markets

- [SOCO Farmers' Market](#), Costa Mesa - Saturdays 9am to 2pm
- [Irvine Farmers' Market](#), Irvine - Saturdays 8am to 12pm
- [Laguna Beach Farmers' Market](#), Laguna Beach - Saturdays 8am to 12pm

Trivia Nights

- [OC Pop Quiz](#) hosts trivia night Mon-Thu, primarily Huntington Beach area
- [Kitsch Bar](#), Costa Mesa - Tuesdays (meet fellow Redditors there!)
- [Mutt Lynch's](#), Newport Beach - Wednesdays
- [The Harp Inn](#), Costa Mesa - Wednesdays (hosted by Geeks Who Drink)

Hiking Trails

- [Peters Canyon Lake View Trail](#), Orange
- [Black Star Canyon](#), Silverado
- [Laguna Coast Wilderness Park](#), Laguna

Stand-Up Paddleboarding, Kayaking, Bicycle & Boat Rentals

- [Pirate Coast Paddle Company](#), Newport Beach - kayaks & SUP
- [Newport Fun Tours](#), Newport Beach - kayaks, SUP, boats, and bicycles
- [Marina Boat Rentals](#), Newport Beach - boats

Surf Spots

- [Huntington Beach](#), the original Surf City
- [The Wedge](#), Newport Beach
- [San Onofre State Beach](#) & [Trestles](#), San Clemente

Walkable Tourist Spots

- Downtown Laguna Beach
- Balboa Island, Newport Beach
- Main Street & Huntington Beach Pier, Huntington Beach
- Downtown Disney, Anaheim

Shopping

- [South Coast Plaza](#), Costa Mesa - high-end retail and OC's largest shopping mall
- [Brea Mall](#), Brea
- [Fashion Island](#), Newport Beach

Pro Sports Teams

- [Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim](#) (yes, that's really their name), home games at [Angels Stadium](#) -

Anaheim

- [Anaheim Ducks](#), home games at [Honda Center](#) (formerly The Pond) - Anaheim

Music Venues: Large

- [Orange County Performing Arts Center](#), Costa Mesa (Renee & Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall, Segerstrom Hall, Samueli Theater) - classical & theater
- [Verizon Amphitheater](#), Irvine
- [Honda Center](#), Anaheim
- [City National Grove of Anaheim](#), Anaheim

Music Venues: Small

- [Detroit Bar](#), Costa Mesa
- [The Observatory](#), Santa Ana (formerly the Galaxy Theater)
- [Yost Theater](#), Santa Ana
- [Coach House](#), San Juan Capistrano

Playhouses, Comedy & Jazz Clubs

- [South Coast Repertory](#), Costa Mesa
- [Irvine Barclay Theater](#), Irvine
- [Mysterium Theater](#), Santa Ana - converted chapel
- [ImprovCity](#) Comedy Club, Irvine
- [Steamers Jazz Club & Cafe](#), Fullerton

Dance Clubs

- [Sutra Nightclub](#), Costa Mesa - EDM
- [Heat Ultra Lounge](#), Anaheim - EDM
- [Tapas Flavors of Spain](#), Newport Beach - underground house on Tuesdays ([Focus](#)), tango on Wednesdays, salsa on Fridays/Saturdays, bachata on Sundays

Strip Clubs

- [Fritz That's Too](#), Anaheim
- [The Library](#), Westminster
- [The Venetian Gentleman's Club](#), Anaheim

Random Cool Stuff

- [221](#), Mission Viejo - casino-style gaming inside the Derby Thu-Sat. Password required
- [Sky High Sports](#), Costa Mesa - trampoline park (yep)
- [The Realm Games & Comics](#), Brea - weekly war-gaming (check out the schedule on their [site](#))

MEET PEOPLE: Active Social Groups

- [Orange County Redditors](#)
- [Orange County Couchsurfers](#)
- [Orange County Meetup Groups](#)
- [Orange County Yelpers](#) - free Yelp account required, but watch Events for UYEs (Unofficial Yelp Events) and CMYEs (Community Manager Yelp Events)

ANNUAL & SEMI-ANNUAL EVENTS, DAY TRIPS

'Taste Of' Events

- [Taste of Anaheim](#), mid-May
- [Taste of Huntington Beach](#), late April

Fairs & Festivals

- [Orange County Fair](#), Costa Mesa - July-August
- [Orange International Street Fair](#), Orange-Labor Day weekend
- [Tustin Street Fair and Chili Cookoff](#), Tustin-early June
- [OC Brew Ha Ha Craft Beer Festival](#), Silverado-early September
- [Oktoberfest](#), Huntington Beach - September-October
- [Pageant of the Masters](#), Laguna Beach - July-August

Holiday Events

- [Huntington Beach Parade & Pier Festival](#) - 4th of July
- [Newport Fireworks Cruise](#) - 4th of July
- Newport Beach [Christmas Boat Parade](#) (several tour companies offer viewing cruises) - December
- [Knott's Scary Farm](#) - Halloween

Day & Weekend Trips

- [Big Bear](#), San Bernardino county - boating, water sports, snow sports, hiking/biking, camping, golfing, fishing
- [Del Mar Racetrack](#), San Diego county - horse races. Accessible via Amtrak!
- [San Diego](#), San Diego county - beaches, gaming, Gaslamp Quarter, Coronado Island, pro sports, breweries, Balboa Park, Sea World
- [Palm Springs](#), Riverside county - golfing, off-roading, gaming, hiking. LGBT friendly!
- [Los Angeles](#), Los Angeles county - diversity, history, Hollywood tours, pro sports, clubbing, and generally stuff going on. Check out /r/LosAngeles' [list of activities](#)
- [Las Vegas](#), Nevada - grownups' playground! Gaming, clubbing, shopping, golfing

SUPPLEMENTAL READING

KCRW [Good Food's Restaurant Map](#), contains picks from Jonathan Gold (mostly LA) and Gustavo Arrellano (mostly Orange County, in green)

OC Weekly's [Best of Orange County](#)

CBS Local [Best of Orange County](#)

OC Register's [Best of Orange County](#)