

WINTER 2010 WHEREOC.COM

Orange County

# Where

## WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE

Dining issue: The hunt is on for the best game dishes in town. Plus the hottest new ingredients on O.C. menus.



CIRQUE DU SOLEIL'S KOOZA LEFT TURN JEWELRY IN LAGUNA  
GOLD FEVER AT THE MISSION MUST-SEE NEIGHBORHOODS

The 2008 Olympic Gold Medal-winning U.S.A. Men's Volleyball team is based in Anaheim, and the women recently moved here, too. The Anaheim Arsenal basketball team plays at Anaheim Convention Center.

Sammy Lee, midcentury Olympic diving gold medalist (1948 and 1952), recently got a star on the Anaheim/Orange County Walk of Stars, joining Walt Disney, Gene Autry and the Righteous Brothers.

Anaheim recently raised its cultural sights with **Muzeo**. The center, at the Carnegie Library (1908), features traveling exhibitions. It also dedicates space to Anaheim history.

## BUENA PARK

In 1920, Walter and Cordelia Knott rented 20 acres of farmland and opened a chicken restaurant and a roadside stand from which to sell their produce. Knott's Chicken Dinner Restaurant remains a cornerstone of **Knott's Berry Farm**, 10 minutes from Disneyland. Walter Knott built the park's first themed area, Ghost Town, to entertain guests waiting for a seat in the restaurant; Ghost Town now has its own Spurs Chop House steakhouse.

Today, diners stroll through a replica of Independence Hall or visit the California MarketPlace shopping area. Inside the park, thrill seekers enjoy the 30-story-high **Supreme Scream** and roller coasters including **Montezooma's Revenge** and the **Silver Bullet**. Each themed area offers rides, shows, shops and dining. They include the Boardwalk, Camp Snoopy and the original Ghost Town.

There's more to do in Buena Park than just Knott's Berry Farm—believe it or not!

**Ripley's Believe It or Not! Museum**, in fact, is one option. Ripley "odditoriums" celebrate the grotesque and bizarre stuff Robert Ripley discovered on his travels. Among wacky art-

works are *The Last Supper*, created from 280 pieces of toast, and portraits in laundry lint.

Adjacent to Ripley's, **Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament** provides 11th-century-inspired family entertainment including jousting, pageantry and Lipizzaner stallions. Serfs and wenches serve a four-course feast in the grand arena, sans silverware. Don't miss the sword store. **Pirate's Dinner Adventure**, also a family dinner show, delivers swashbuckling swordplay, aerial artistry, pyrotechnics, comedy and romance aboard a replica of an 18th-century Spanish galleon anchored in a 250,000-gallon indoor lagoon.

Find these attractions in Buena Park's "entertainment corridor," one block north of Knott's Berry Farm along Beach Boulevard.

## ORANGE

Old Towne Orange is on the National Register of Historic Places. At one mile square, the historic district is California's largest. Many consider it the state's antique capital—you'll find more than 50 antique shops, plus 10 antique malls. The area looks back to the future with new galleries, restaurants and lounges.

You can pick up a map to the Plaza Historic District at the Orange Visitor Bureau (439 E. Chapman Ave.); start your tour at the Plaza, at Chapman Avenue and Glassell Street.

**The Block at Orange**, a huge shopping, dining and entertainment center, is at the confluence of the 5, 57 and 22 freeways. **Vans Skatepark** is a dynamic draw, as are upscale discount shopping destinations such as Saks Fifth Avenue OFF 5th and the new Neiman Marcus Last Call Store.

Architecture buffs should include a stop at 12141 Lewis St. in Garden Grove. They'll find Philip Johnson's **Crystal Cathedral**, once described by *Newsweek* as "the most spec-

tacular religious edifice in the world," Richard Neutra's Tower of Hope and Richard Meier's International Center for Positive Thinking.

## FULLERTON

Historic downtown Fullerton offers upscale and vintage boutiques and antique shops.

Numerous fine restaurants include the outstanding **Cellar**, which occupies the original cellar of the 1920s-era California Hotel. **Steamers Cafe** is the county's premier jazz spot. The area is ideal for a pub crawl, and an ideal place to start or end is **Commonwealth Lounge**, which has a speakeasy vibe.

Architectural walking-tour maps of the area are available at the **Fullerton Museum Center**, which is housed in a Spanish Colonial Revival structure built in 1941 and consistently offers intriguing exhibits; the Leo Fender Gallery focuses on the electric-guitar pioneer, a Fullerton native.

The architectural tour includes examples of Mission Revival, Zigzag Moderne, Beaux Arts, Streamline Moderne and Italian Renaissance-inspired styles. The **Muckenthaler Cultural Center**, in a 1920s Italian Renaissance-style mansion, hosts changing design and cultural exhibits.

In Yorba Linda, near Fullerton at the county's northern border, the **Richard Nixon Library & Birthplace** offers exhibits, photos and memorabilia that illuminate the private and public lives of the late president as well as the county's largest public rose garden.

Birch Street Promenade is a pleasant stretch of shopping, dining and entertainment in downtown Brea. Tenants include White House Black Market boutique, Color Me Mine and new night spot Sky Lounge. **W**

For bold items, see listings in the **where** guide. For a map of these neighborhoods, see page 70.

## GREAT FIND TEA OF TRANQUILITY

Hot tea, cool lounge: New **Tranquill Tea Lounge** offers 85 varieties of loose-leaf tea, tea accessories and tiling on tea-friendly fare including salads and sandwiches. There's raspberry vanilla oatmeal for early risers, sweets including white chocolate lavender scones, macarons and mochi ice cream. Teas can be served hot or iced. They include sweet jackfruit, Mayan chocolate chai, Jasmine Dragon Phoenix Pearled, Ti Kuan Yin Monkey, Piecked Oolong, Silver Needle white tea and blended rooibos. There are tea smoothies, too. Décor is clean and urban as opposed to Victorian or Asian; the spot offers tea tastings and tea and dessert pairings. 106 W. Wilshire Ave., Fullerton, 714.869.3577

