Things to Experience in the Anaheim Area

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Anaheim and the majestic Pacific Ocean.

South California guarantees visitors a “warm reception” — any time of year. With lots of sunshine (365 days of it every year), low humidity, and very little rain the climate has often been described as “perfect.” The high average temperature in February is 66.5 degrees. The low average temp in February is 45 degrees. Not too different for us Floridians.

Casual dress is accepted as part of Southern California living, however, many restaurants do require coat and tie. For sightseeing, shopping, etc., bring slacks, casual skirts and tops. I usually always bring a bathing suit along, most hotels have indoor heated pools and/or a whirlpool, which can be relaxing after a long day.

Anaheim/Orange County is the gateway to Southern California. Nearly 35 million people visit Anaheim/Orange County annually.

Over 30 years ago, the opening of Disneyland started the dynamic tourism industry growth. Today Anaheim is still “Disneyland country” but it is also a whole lot more.

Within minutes of the area we can: enjoy the country’s oldest theme park, Knott’s Berry Farm; take part in the merriment of Medieval Times; catch a glimpse of the dazzling stars at Movie-land Wax Museum; experience thrilling adventure at Wild Rivers; and roam 42 miles of beautiful California beaches.

We will also be within easy reach of the exciting Universal Studios, majestic Queen Mary and incredible Spruce Goose. Just 90 minutes to the south is the San Diego Zoo, Wild Animal Park and Sea World.

With 36,000 guest rooms, 5,000 restaurants and a variety of sightseeing tours, rental cars and shuttles to many diverse shopping centers it sounds like we will have plenty of choices to make.

GCSAA DAY at Disneyland, Tuesday, February 14.

You can celebrate Valentine’s Day at Disneyland! GCSAA has negotiated a substantial group discount for admission to Disneyland on February 14.

Tickets are: adults — $18.00 in advance and on-site; children 3 through 11 —
$14.00 in advance and on-site. Children under 3 are admitted free.

A lot of big and little kids will be enjoying this Valentine's treat.

The Anaheim Hilton and Towers will serve as Headquarters Hotel

The hotel is situated adjacent to the Anaheim Convention Center, two blocks from Disneyland. There are numerous hotel accommodations within easy walking distance of the Convention Center. See map of area on page 64.

The Crystal Cathedral is located in nearby Garden Grove. The one-of-a-kind, 3,000-seat cathedral was designed by the noted architect Phillip Johnson with 10,000 panes of dazzling glass and has been hailed as one of the most spectacular religious buildings in the world.

Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament is an original evening of entertainment. The castle can accommodate over 1,000 guests who are served an authentic two-hour, four-course medieval banquet by serfs and wenches as gallant knights compete in daring tournament games, jousting matches, sword fights, and elegant displays of horsemanship.

Universal Studios: home of the famous movie “Jaws.”

Knott’s Berry Farm: oldest theme park in the U.S.A.
A drive along the California coastline is an experience you will always remember.

The castle, elaborately decorated, could be right out of 11th century Spain.

One of Orange County's best free "hidden" entertainment attractions is the Disneyland Hotel, which has a small world all its own.

Free family entertainment, regardless if persons are booked in the hotel, are the crowd pleasing Dancing Waters and Lights Fantastic, a dazzling production of fountains and lights dancing to popular songs; the funny Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream Puppet Theatre featuring character hosts, Sgt. Preston, Klondike Kat, Stinky Sam, and eight character puppets. Just strolling around the scenic grounds, enjoying the pretty koi fish ponds, waterfalls, and the open-air country-western show at the Wharf Bar is a bonus.

One can shop at the International Shopping Bazaar, or navigate pedal boats on the Marina. There are 16 restaurants and bars, three swimming pools and transportation to Disneyland.

Knott's Berry Farm, America's oldest and third-largest themed amusement park, exceeded in size only by the two Disneylands, and established in 1920 by Walter Knott, is 35 years older than Disneyland and the culinary birthplace of the delicious boysenberry. They serve 1.7 million chicken dinners a year and claim they are the best in Orange County.

Today's Knott's stands on 150 acres and features 165 rides, shows and attractions. You will be entertained by the Old West Ghost Town, which started the park. Their train was built in 1881 and many of the log cabins, theaters and saloons date to the 1800's.

An eight hour stay is recommended when visiting, which can include the popular chicken dinner.

Newport Beach and Balboa South Coast Plaza just eight miles south of Anaheim, is elegant Newport Beach, a premier water playground, which has long been considered to be California's salty fountain of youth. Regardless of age, it is said spirited folks here act and feel as if they were eternally young.

Flashy Porsches and BMWs line the parking lots of the yacht and country clubs, located by famed Balboa Island, energy flows through the community on the wings of billowing sails and nifty yachts, beloved surfboards and 10-speed bicycles, a popular mode of transportation.

A casual mile-and-three-quarter stroll around the main island will show a fascinating array of diversely decorated beach homes. The individuality of the homes is a California trademark.

Marine Avenue, a two-block stretch of shops, boutiques and small eateries, is always busy with activity. Near-by is the small ferry that carries cars, bicycles and pedestrians to the mainland peninsular every few minutes.

The famous Victorian-style Balboa Pavilion, built in 1905 on the Peninsula, is a historical landmark and a base for boat rentals, sportfishing and boat trips to Catalina Island.

Stylish Shopping can be experienced at South Coast Plaza, 20 miles from Anaheim in nearby Costa Mesa at the San Diego Freeway and Bristol Street, it is also the essence of high fashion, style and upscale shopping. One can walk through eight major department stores and see the distinguished names in retail in an ambiance that is difficult to match.

(cont'd. on p. 66)
Local restaurant critics claim that the SCP is unequalled for the number of noted/award winning restaurants. Across from South Coast Plaza is South Coast Plaza Village, a European-style village filled with boutiques and restaurants.

Laguna Beach, the Riviera of the West Coast, is located 25 miles south of Anaheim, artists and celebrities were first attracted here at the turn of the century because of the beauty of the coastline, the wide sandy beaches and homey village atmosphere.

Artists, actors, authors and film makers flocked south to the five-square-mile paradise, hoping they would have it all to themselves. Today the artsy ambience, fine resorts and attractive restaurants are being experienced by many.

Here you may visit more than 70 art galleries, the celebrated Laguna Art Museum, and take a resident artist studio tour.

Writing and researching this article has certainly heightened my interest in The 60th Anniversary GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show and in the Anaheim, Orange County Area.

I hope to see many of you in Anaheim.