



# SoCal Scene

What's to do in Anaheim?  
Plenty! Check out these  
places to go

**BY MARK LUCE**  
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

**I**n 1857, the land you'll occupy when you attend the annual Golf Industry Show, set for Feb. 19-27 in Anaheim, Calif., was nothing to crow about. A passel of German immigrants, led by one George Hansen, formed a small community of farmers who found their economic answer by growing oranges. But it took the imagination of Walt Disney to turn this sleepy villa into the entertainment mecca that it is today. Disneyland, which opened in 1955, brought the entire world to Anaheim, and over the years it has grown into the bustling hub of Orange County.

As you take in the show, remember that Southern California has a tremendous amount to offer in terms of sights and sounds. Though it will take a rental car and patience to venture out on L.A.'s notorious freeways, the metro's offerings are among the finest in the world.

I first encountered L.A. as a teenager, taking in the majesty of the 1984 Olympics, which took our Volkswagen microbus family all over the area and its surrounding mountains. At the time, it was the sheer size that so impressed me. Years and about a dozen trips later, the allure of SoCal beckoned me to move there, and we settled along the ocean in Long Beach. The stay was cut short by my better half's pregnancy, but the Midwesterner in me still longs for endless days of gorgeous weather surrounded by equally gorgeous people doing especially charming things. So as you head out to explore the sometimes surreal, sometimes

hectic but always-adventurous La-La Land, we here at *Golfdom* are happy to point you in a few directions we think you might enjoy.

### Good Eats

Californians are known for their healthy lifestyles and laid-back attitudes, but when it comes to dining, Southern California boasts some of the best restaurants around. Whether the high-end French luxury of L'Orangerie (903 N. La Cienega Blvd., 310-652-9770) or the world-famous hot dog stand Pink's (709 N. La Brea Blvd.), there's a place here for every palate.

Near the convention center stands the phenomenal Napa Rose, located inside Grand California Hotel at Disneyland (1600 S. Disneyland Dr., 714-956-6755). According to Ingrid Kidd Goldfarb, a Long Beach resident, the Napa Rose sets the standard for service, and its "wine country cuisine" is spectacular. "They have great wine selections and beautiful décor," Kidd Goldfarb says.

After dinner, a stroll through downtown Disney, a veritable downtown (no admission) with interesting shops and bars, will cap a nice evening, she says.

For a more intimate, unique experience, Kidd Goldfarb suggests The Hobbit (2932 E. Chapman, 714-997-1972). There's only one seating at night, so make reservations early. "We were there for a special occasion," Kidd Goldfarb says of one of the area's most romantic spots. "We had our dinner in the wine cellar. The food was interesting and excellent."

Exploring Los Angeles proper will yield even more culinary delights, says David Ulin, book editor of *The Los Angeles Times*. Ulin particularly enjoys the fare at Sushi Roju (445 W. 3rd St., 323-655-6767). "If you want to get in and out, go early," he says. "If you want to gaze at young celebrities, go late. Great food." In the same vein, Ulin loves the cuisine and the striking view at Yamashiro, (1999 N. Sycamore, 323-466-5125) located at the peak of the Hollywood Hills.

When more classic fare strikes your fancy, Ulin heartily recommends The Apple Pan (10801 W. Pico), a 1940s-style lunch counter. "It's a good lunch dive. They've got great burgers and tuna fish sandwiches," he says. "I love that place." And if your spin on classic is a

Pink's 67-year-old location can be a place to see celebrities, but don't come too hungry; a line is almost inevitable.



large steak and large martini, then Ulin says Musso & Frank (6667 Hollywood Blvd., 323-467-7788) is the way to go.

Filmmaker Seth Wiley, too, likes his steaks and fish, choosing the pot roast or a Kansas City Steak at Jar (8225 Beverly Blvd., 323-655-6566), or the phenomenal sushi at Matsuhi (129 N. La Cienega, 310-659-9639). Wiley also enjoys the famous Mr. Chow (344 N. Camden Dr., 310-278-9911), a Chinese restaurant that serves pricey, but "really excellent food."

Excellent food can also be found in the south, especially in Long Beach and Seal Beach. Kiersten Short, a consultant and a mom, finds the atmosphere at Mahe (1400 Pacific Coast Highway, 562-431-3022) in Seal Beach to be as good as its food. "They have great cocktails, great food and great sushi," she says. Two other restaurants with more American menus also appeal to Short — Long Beach's Lasher's (3441 East Broadway; 562-433-0153) and The Madison (102 Pine; 562-628-8866). "Lasher's has the most fancy-pants meatloaf I've ever had," she says. "The Madison is in a former bank that hosts wine tastings in the safety deposit box area. The place is gorgeous."

### Night Moves

When it's time to unwind, the city offers several spots to catch a cocktail. Ulin fancies L.A.'s

*Continued on page 36*



### Southern California Soundtrack

Give these compact discs a listen to help you get your Southern California vibe going:

- X – “Los Angeles”
- Eagles – “Hotel California”
- Red Hot Chili Peppers – “Mother’s Milk”
- Randy Newman – “Little Criminals”
- Jackson Browne – “Running on Empty”
- Tom Waits – “Nighthawks at the Diner”
- War – “Why Can’t We Be Friends”
- Aimee Mann – “Bachelor No. 2”
- The Byrds – “Sweetheart of the Rodeo”
- The Doors – “L.A. Woman”
- Dr. Dre – “The Chronic”
- Beck – “Midnight Vultures”
- Fishbone – “Truth and Soul”
- No Doubt – “Tragic Kingdom”
- Rickie Lee Jones – “Rickie Lee Jones”

*Continued from page 35*

Tom Bergen’s Tavern (840 S. Fairfax), a classic Irish pub and the H.M.S. Bounty (3357 Wilshire Blvd.), which he deems a dive that’s never been discovered. “It’s totally opposite of the glittery side of L.A.,” he says.

Wiley has been known to tip the trademark Scorpion Bowl at the Polynesian paradise known as Trader Vic’s (9876 Wilshire Blvd.) and soak in the old-time Hollywood vibe at Formosa (7156 Santa Monica Blvd.) Kidd Goldfarb swears by the view of Long Beach Harbor from the stunning bar at Tantalum (6272 E. Pacific Coast Highway), while Short enjoys sipping Mojitos and people watching at West Hollywood’s Bar Marmont (8171 Sunset Blvd.)

### Who’s Playing?

Sports fans will find an embarrassment of riches during the weekend of the show, as the Los Angeles Lakers, Los Angeles Clippers and Los Angeles Kings play in the Staples Center

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(staplescenter.com, 213-742-7340). On Friday, Feb. 23, Kobe and friends take on their former archrivals, the Boston Celtics. On Saturday, Feb. 24, the Clippers face cross-state foes Golden State. Saturday evening, you can catch California-style hockey as the Los Angeles Kings host the Colorado Avalanche.

Those with tastes more classically aligned can take in the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Walt Disney Concert Hall (111 South Grand, 323-850-2000), arguably the finest space in the world to hear a concert, as well as marvel at Frank Gehry's architecture. On Friday night, the Philharmonic will play Brahms' Fourth Symphony, and it will tackle Brahms' Third and Fourth Symphonies on Saturday. Jazz lovers might try The Baked Potato, the mellow home of the best jazz in Los Angeles. (3787 Cahuenga Blvd.; 818-980-1615).

Not feeling so pretentious? Try any of these classic L.A. live-music spots for a rollicking good time: The Roxy (9009 Sunset Blvd., 310-278-9457); The Troubadour (9081 Santa Monica Blvd., 310-276-6168); or the House of Blues Sunset Strip (8430 W. Sunset Blvd., 323-848-5100) and the House of Blues Anaheim (1530 S. Disneyland Dr., 714-778-2583).

### The Arts

Art fans will find a bevy of options in Los Angeles, starting with the excellent space at the L.A. County Museum (5905 Wilshire Blvd., lacma.org), which features a superb exhibition on Rene Magritte through March 4. For vistas with your galleries, visit the stunningly beautiful Getty Center (1200 Getty Center Dr.; getty.edu/museum/). Even if art is not your bag, the center provides breathtaking views. Those more into gallery hopping might find the Bergamot Station in Santa Monica (2525 Michigan Ave., bergamotstation.com) a bit more their style, with a couple dozen galleries operating where the city's trolley line once stopped.

Other spots of particular note are the Griffith Observatory (2800 E. Observatory Road, 213-473-080), a favorite of Short's with its unbelievable views and jaw-dropping planetarium show. Short, Wiley and Kidd Goldfarb all agree on one of their favorite below-the-radar spots, The Huntington Gardens in

San Marino (151 Oxford Road, 626-405-2100). By turns the trio described the 120-acre botanical garden as "relaxing," "a hidden oasis," and "restorative."

Those aren't words normally reserved for much in the city that glitters.

One final thing: Remember to be patient with the heavy traffic, have fun and enjoy the show. ■

### Off the Beaten Path

As a lifelong resident, Golfdom Contributing Editor Geoff Shackelford knows what makes Southern California cool. Read his column, "To Live And Sightsee in L.A.," on page 24.

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