

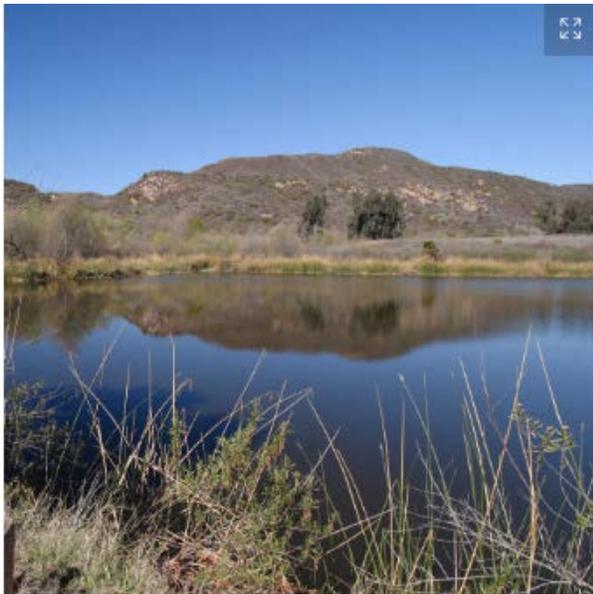
# BAZAAR

## CALIFORNIA IN 10 MODES OF TRANSPORT

*From plane to paddleboard: how to travel the Golden State in style*



From the glamorous beach towns of Orange County to the idyllic vineyards of the Santa Ynez Valley, discover California's most scenic spots.



### *By foot*

California may be best known for its beautiful beaches, but its mountains are also among the most picturesque in the US. Try hiking in Laguna Coast Wilderness Park, a 7,000-acre expanse of protected land in the San Joaquin Hills with an ecosystem that includes coastal sage scrub, oak woodlands and wildlife such as mule deer, long-tailed weasels, bobcats and red-tailed hawks. Admire the views down into the canyon, across Barbara's Lake (pictured), out to the beaches at Laguna and Newport, and up to the 5,000-foot summit of Saddleback Mountain, the highest in Orange County. You could try joining the madcap mountain bikers who career down the narrow

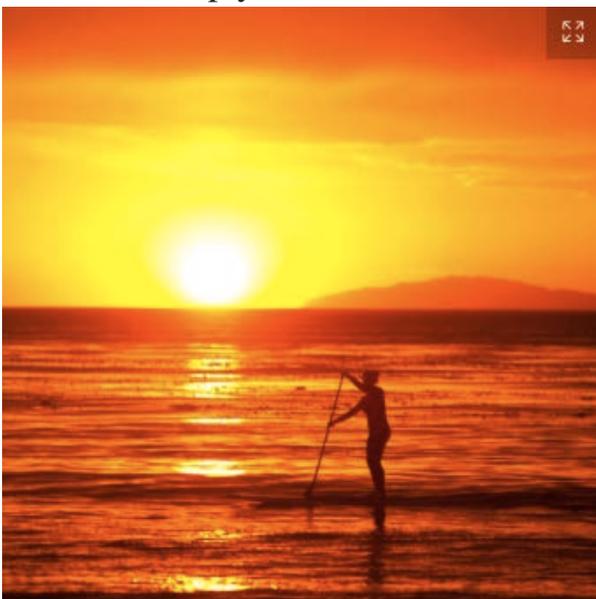
COURTESY OF VISIT LAGUNA BEACH

ridgeway towards the depths of the canyon, but on balance, you're probably safer taking part in a guided hike led by a professional tour group, such as **La Vida Laguna**.

*By Chevy*



Inextricably linked with the American Dream, this automobile has retained its potency as a symbol of success and prosperity in the US. Hop on board a classic motorcar at **Laguna Beach**'s brand-new Ranch hotel, which has a bright-red Chevy on site to chauffeur its guests around the expansive resort. Ask your driver to drop you off at the nine-hole golf course for an afternoon of practising your swing in the sunshine, then finish your day with a tropical cocktail while relaxing on a lounge beside the hotel pool. ***The Ranch at Laguna Beach***, from about £240 a room a night.



*By paddleboard*

*By paddleboard*

Believe it or not, you don't have to look like Cameron Diaz or Cindy Crawford to succeed at paddleboarding, though they do make good poster

girls for the sport. **Rocky McKinnon**, a professional surfer and paddleboarder who offers lessons in the Huntington Beach area, promises to get "anyone who can walk down the street paddleboarding within 10 minutes", and he isn't just bragging. Once you've mastered the slightly unnatural position (leaning slightly forward in standing position, with a gentle knee bend) and worked out how to steer, you'll feel surprisingly like a pro. Novices should take their first lessons on calm waters – Davenport Marina or Huntington Harbour are ideal – before progressing to a rougher ocean ride.

*By boat*



From dolphins to giant blue whales, the waters along the Newport and Laguna Beach coastlines are populated by a wealth of marine life. For the best vantage point, take a two-hour cruise with **Newport Landing Whale Watching & Dolphin Cruises**; with two decks and a full bar, the Ocean Explorer is the perfect vessel for your voyage.

*By inflatable swan*



Admittedly, this one isn't going to get you very far, but for an afternoon of sheer relaxation, reclining on one of the inflatable swans (or unicorns – yes, really) in the pool at **Huntington Beach**'s newest luxury hotel, the *Paséa*, is hard to beat. After you've swum, or rather floated, a few lengths, plunge into the hot bubbles of the Jacuzzi and then emerge refreshed and ready to dress for dinner at Tanner's, the hotel's excellent restaurant specialising in southern-Californian cuisine. ***Paséa hotel***, from about £205 a room a night.

*By rent-a-limo*



Driving up the Pacific Coast Highway is an experience that has been immortalised in countless road-trip movies. Give your journey a touch of A-list glamour by hiring a chauffeured car – **Best-VIP Chauffeured Worldwide** is a good option – to take you up State Route 1 in style. Alternatively, if you're travelling on a budget, the **Amtrak**, the US's city-to-city bus and train service, is a reliable and cost-effective way to get you from A to B.

*By bike*



**Santa Barbara's** El Encanto hotel is one of the most idyllic places you can spend a night: with its seven-acre landscaped gardens and stucco-fronted building, it has the feel of a Mediterranean villa. If you can tear yourself away from the infinity-edge pool, rent an electric bike from the hotel and cycle down to Santa Barbara's lively high street, where you can cool down with a famous **O'Connell's** milkshake, enjoy a spot of shopping and take a stroll to the end of the pier for superb ocean views. ***El Encanto***, from about £288 a room a night.

*By helicopter*



Your chances of catching a glimpse of Oprah Winfrey's extensively fenced-in mansion in Montecito are nil to zero, so your best bet is to sneak a peek at the \$28 million property from above. **Santa Barbara Helicopter Tours** operates flights for up to three people that will give you unsurpassable views of the area's beaches, mountains and vineyards, as well as a host of celebrity homes. If you're

feeling brave, ask your pilot to remove one of the helicopter doors for a daredevil experience that will leave you with the memory of the wind rushing through your ears for days to come.

*By Segway*



**Solvang** – a Danish settlement to the north of Santa Barbara, best known as the setting for the film *Sideways* – is a curious place to visit, with its Copenhagen-style architecture, Scandi design stores and quaint bakeries serving traditional Danish pastries. Make your trip even more unique by **renting a Segway** to take you from central Solvang out into the beautiful wine country of the Santa Ynez Valley. Then recover from all that exertion by enjoying dinner at the **Landsby hotel**'s restaurant Mad & Vin; the bourbon cheese fondue is a deliciously guilty pleasure.



### *By plane*

The return flight from LAX to London has the advantage of being more than an hour shorter than the outward-bound route, but the time difference takes some adjusting to, particularly if you're flying overnight. Stave off jet-lag on your return to the office by opting for one of Air New Zealand's Business Premier seats, which transform into flat beds for a comfortable night's sleep. Your ticket also gives you access to **LAX's Star Alliance business lounge** (pictured), where you can sip unlimited champagne in the unexpectedly delightful surroundings of the outdoor terrace, right up until the last boarding call. *From £2,322 for return flights with **Air New Zealand** from London Heathrow to LAX in Business Premier.*

*While you're there...*



Dine at **Splashes Surf & Sand Resort in Laguna Beach** (pictured) for fresh seaside cuisine; the seared scallops with white lentils and broccoli florets are a must.

**Indulge in** s'mores at **Waterfront Adventures**, Huntington Beach. This all-American tradition, which involves toasting marshmallows over a beachside firepit and sandwiching them between slabs of Hershey's chocolate and graham crackers, is bound to satisfy any sweet tooth.

**People-watch at Geoffrey's Malibu**, a favourite haunt for celebrities including Halle Berry, and the perfect spot for a civilised Sunday brunch. Prepare for impressively sized portions, and remember to save room for decadent desserts, including a maple blueberry cheesecake and an espresso flan.

**Stop off at Rusack Vineyard** in Santa Ynez Valley for a memorable wine-tasting experience that will introduce you to some of California's finest vintages.

**Shop at Premium Outlets** in Camarillo for discount designer shopping featuring brands from Kate Spade New York to DKNY.

*Find out more on the **Visit California website**.*