


Where to Stay, Eat and Play in Laguna Beach Right Now

With new ocean-view hotels and travel-worthy shopping, Laguna Beach is the ultimate escape for a stress-free holiday getaway.

BY ELYCIA RUBIN  NOVEMBER 19, 2025 1:01PM



The new Studio Mediterranean restaurant at Montage Laguna Beach. MONTAGE LAGUNA BEACH

Thanks to new hotels and dining experiences, **Laguna Beach** has more to offer than ever. The oceanfront enclave is also an idyllic dupe for Hawaii and Cabo — minus the travel delays, headaches, and jetlag.

“The overall allure is the under-an-hour escapism,” says Zoe Schaeffer, who designs custom travel for high-end industry clients. “Laguna is laid-back, but also very traditional. It feels like it’s for everyone, unlike other L.A.-adjacent beach communities that can feel exclusive or insular.”

Locally Loved Restaurants + Shopping

Asian fusion eats, tropical cocktails, and creative sushi abound at **Starfish Laguna Beach**. The atmosphere is lively, especially during happy hour. Don’t miss the lobster macadamia roll and wild Thai halibut in banana leaf. Head to **Avila’s El Ranchito**, with multiple locations, for some of the best crispy tacos around. For a more secluded setting, **The Ranch at Laguna Beach** is nestled in Aliso Canyon. Its on-site restaurant, Harvest, serves up California coastal cuisine with fruits and vegetables sourced from their farm.