

FACTS ABOUT BUENA PARK

LOCATION

What was once an agricultural area overflowing with dairy farms, orange groves and berry fields has grown to become the entertainment capital of Southern California. Located in Orange County, Buena Park is just 5 miles from Disneyland®, 10 miles from Huntington Beach and 20 miles from Los Angeles.

DINING

Foodies flock to Buena Park to check out Yelp's #1 rated restaurant, Porto's Bakery and Café. Grab a Chicago-style dog at Portillo's or some finger-licking comfort food at Mrs. Knott's Chicken Dinner. Rock out at Rock & Brews, the brainchild of Gene Simmons and Paul Stanley of KISS that offers American classics and over 100 craft brews. Satisfy your sweet tooth with tasty delights from 85°C Bakery or devour the popular hot fudge volcano at Farrell's Ice Cream Parlour.

ENTERTAINMENT

Home to 5 of the 7 major attractions in Orange County, Buena Park's world-class entertainment includes Knott's Berry Farm theme park, Knott's Soak City Waterpark, Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament, Pirate's Dinner Adventure, Teatro Martini, Big Air Trampoline Park, John's Incredible Pizza and Ralph B. Clark Interpretive Center. Most attractions are within walking distance from each other along the one mile stretch of the Beach Boulevard Entertainment Corridor.

SHOPPING

The Buena Park Mall offers 1.2 million square feet of affordable shopping options, enticing restaurants and family friendly entertainment. Located outside of the theme park, Knott's California MarketPlace features one-of-a-kind boutiques like the Berry Market, Virginia's Gift Shop and Snoopy Headquarters.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Buena Park hotels offer more than just comfortable accommodations, visitors can enjoy unique experiences such as Snoopy tuck-in service in the 16 Snoopy-themed rooms at the Knott's Berry Farm Hotel, newly renovated suites at Radisson, make-your-own waffles at the Fairfield Inn & Suites, relax with a glass of wine by the outdoor fire pit at the Courtyard by Marriott and splash around in the heated outdoor pool at the beautifully renovated Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center. Guests will also enjoy the affordability of no resort or parking fees and complimentary shuttle service from most hotels to local attractions including Disneyland®.

EVENTS

Every visit is a new experience with seasonal celebrations all year long. Indulge in over 100 delicious treats during Knott's Boysenberry Festival, catch Snoopy & the Peanuts Gang in a Christmas ice skating show during Knott's Merry Farm, dig for real fossils on Family Fossil Days or catch a free outdoor performance during the Summer Concert Series. During October, Buena Park is transformed into the Halloween Capital of the World with over 1,000 menacing monsters at the largest Halloween event in the country, Knott's Scary Farm; family-fun at the interactive dinner show, Vampirate's; haunted tours at the Olde Tyme Fall Festival; trick-or-treating with your favorite Peanut's Characters at Knott's Spooky Farm; and a frightfully fun costume contest with unlimited beer tastings at Rock & Brews Monster Beer Fest. During December and January, Buena Park honors Military Personnel with exclusive offers and free admission to Knott's.

CALIFORNIA WELCOME CENTER

Open 7 days a week, the center's friendly staff can assist travelers with driving directions, dining options and local landmark recommendations. Visitors can also pick up **FREE** city maps, destination travel guides, attraction brochures, computer and internet access, attraction tickets and book last minute hotel rooms.

HISTORY OF BUENA PARK



The story of Buena Park dates back to 1783 when California belonged to Spain, and Pedro Fages was the Governor of this part of the country. He was given permission from the King of Spain to make land grants in California, and gave one such piece of land to Manuel Nieto, ex-corporal of the "Leather Jacket" guards of the Portola Expedition. This piece of land extended from the San Gabriel River to the Santa Ana River, and from the ocean to the road, from San Gabriel Mission. In 1834 Manuel Nieto's land was divided into five ranchos. One of the five ranchos was named Rancho Los Coyotes and totaled 48,806 acres. Buena Park is located near the center of this rancho.

Rancho Los Coyotes is a center of California and American history, for it was here in January 1847, that Commodore Robert S. Stockton and his band of Americans rested in preparation for the battle of the San Gabriel River. The battle was won and the outcome of the Mexican War (1846-48) was settled in this area. The exact location of Stockton's encampment is historically marked near the Los Coyotes Country Club in the Bellehurst area of Buena Park.

In 1885, James A. Whitaker, a wholesale grocer from Chicago, bought 690 acres of the Stearns Rancho, part of what was once the sprawling Rancho Los Coyotes. Whitaker intended to create a cattle ranch, but Santa Fe Railway officials convinced him to use the land for a new town. Whitaker filed his township papers in 1887 in Los Angeles County - Orange County had not been formed - to create the town of Buena Park. The City was not incorporated until 1953. Buena Park first became known as a dairy center and both the Santa Fe and Southern Pacific railroads built depots. The Lily Creamery started operations in Buena Park in 1889. With the exception of a few wineries, the creamery was the first industry in the city.

In 1920 Walter and Cordelia Knott moved to their 20 acre property located near Highway 39 in Buena Park, California. The young family along with their four kids were determined to be successful farmers and soon enough their crop of rhubarb, asparagus and berries were delicious enough to sell at a roadside stand. Business was booming and Cordelia soon opened a tea room where folks came from miles around to buy her fresh jams and jelly. Their good luck continued when a family friend, Rudolph Boysen and Walter Knott created the boysenberry—a cross between a raspberry, loganberry and blackberry. Highlighting their signature new berry, Cordelia expanded her tea room and began making homemade biscuits, fried chicken dinners and boysenberry pies. As the restaurant grew in popularity so did the long wait times, which led to the creation of Knott's Berry Farm's first attraction - Ghost Town. Since 1934, over 20,000,000 guests have eaten at Mrs. Knott's Chicken Dinner Restaurant and it continues to serve the same famous menu - chicken, biscuits, and boysenberry pie. Over the years, the Knott family continued to develop Knott's Berry Farm into the one of the most popular amusement parks in America. In December of 1997, after 78 years of ownership by the Knott family, Knott's Berry Farm was acquired by Cedar Fair, L.P., owners and operators of family-oriented entertainment park brands coast to coast.

Over the years Buena Park has made great strides in creating a diverse entertainment area which offers a wide selection of hotels, restaurants, and themed attractions. The City of Buena Park has its own local history park located on Beach Boulevard. Travel back in time by touring the city's Historic District featuring several preserved buildings: The Whitaker-Jaynes House serves as the city's local history museum; the Bacon House is one the oldest surviving structures in the area; the Tice House, a charming cage and the Stage Stop Hotel, is currently home to the only California Welcome Center in Orange County. At the Whitaker-Jaynes House, visitors can tour an extensive museum displays including items from the Lynx Women's Softball Team from the 1940's, a wedding dress display, a pictorial history of Buena Park's entertainment venues as well at the Dreger Clock and various photos of the famous clock throughout history. To tour the Whitaker-Jaynes House or Bacon House call (714) 562-3570.

AND THE AWARD GOES TO...

BUENA PARK

The lively city of Buena Park is a popular tourist destination that offers year-round mild climate and premier proximity to Disneyland®, shopping and beaches. In fact, Buena Park's award-winning attractions, restaurants and hotels have earned it the distinction as one of the **'Most Fun Small Towns'** in America by Rand McNally.



One of the city's largest attractions Knott's Berry Farm, was honored with the prestigious **Linsberg Applause Award**. The accolade is bestowed to the best amusement park's in the world and it's easy to see why Knott's won with its first-class entertainment, storied past and thrilling rides -- including one of the world's longest and tallest wooden roller coasters, GhostRider. In the summer, visitors are invited to be part of the Wild West story of Calico through the fun-filled experience, Ghost Town Alive! The winner of the Themed Entertainment Association's (TEA) **Outstanding Achievement Award for the**

Best Interactive Experience, Ghost Town Alive lets visitors choose to help the sheriff or bandits, get a mustache painted on at the barber shop, participate in an old-fashion hoedown or play a game of cards at the saloon.

Seven time winner of **Tripadvisor's Certificate of Excellence Award** and ranking amongst the most popular dinner shows in the country is Medieval Times Dinner and Tournament. Their popular venue offers jousting, sword fighting and a four-course meal fit for a king. If looting and pillaging is more your style, Pirate's Dinner Adventure welcomes landlubbers to partake in the World's Most Interactive Dinner Show. Voted **OC Weekly's "Best Tourist Attraction in Orange County,"** visitors are dazzled by the swashbuckling swordplay, aerial artistry and special effects.

Buena Park offers several esteemed restaurants including **Yelp's #1 Restaurant in the County**, Porto's Bakery and Café. The world-famous Cuban restaurant offers everything from their signature potato balls and desserts to authentic Cuban sandwiches and drinks. Start the day off with a cup of Joe at Coffee Code, named **"Best Coffeehouse in Orange County"** by OC Weekly or Van Dyke Coffee Roaster, silver medalist in the **North American Golden Bean Competition** for the best roast. Chicago based company, Portillo's and winner of five **Silver Platter Awards** for the best restaurant in the country serves up the tastiest sausages, Italian beef sandwiches and hamburgers around. For an affordable yet sophisticated menu visit Spencer's Bistro, prepared by **"Orange County's 2014 Best Chef,"** Spencer Kim. Of course no meal is complete without dessert and Farrell's Ice Cream Parlor's oversized treats have earned them the honor of **Best Restaurant, Best Ice Cream and Nickelodeon's Best Family Friendly Restaurant**. Award-winning Chef's Henry Cheng, Chili Yin and Li Che Chen offer the freshest pastries and desserts in town at 85°C Bakery Cafe.



After a full day of excitement, rest well in one of Buena Park's award-winning hotels like the Fairfield Inn and Suites. The properties updated rooms, complimentary breakfast, free Wi-Fi and friendly staff earned it **Tripadvisor's 2017 Certificate of Excellence Award**. Voted **Business of the Year** by the Buena Park Chamber of Commerce, the Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center has undergone a multi-million dollar renovation featuring modern rooms, large renovated pool area and full service restaurant and bar. Winning the **Spectrum Award for Excellence in Customer Service**, Knott's Berry Farm hotel boasts a large outdoor pool with water features, full-service restaurant, state-of-the-art fitness room and spa, elegant lobby and 16 Snoopy-themed rooms where the beagle himself will come and tuck your kids into bed.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, BUENA PARK

Buena Park is home to exciting tourist attractions like Knott's Berry Farm, Soak City Waterpark, Pirates Dinner Adventure, Medieval Times and much more. But what you may not realize is that numerous Buena Park entertainment venues have been featured in many of your favorite movie and television shows.

One of the most recognized landmarks in town, Knott's Berry Farm has been the backdrop of many feature films and television programs including *Knocked Up*, *America's Next Top Model*, *The Next Food Network Star*, *Parenthood*, *Criminal Minds*, *A&E's Storage Wars*, *Hell's Kitchen*, *Jay Leno's Garage* and *Bert the Conqueror*.

In Season 15 of the CW television show, *America's Next Top Model*, the prospective contestants are taken to Knott's Berry Farm to test their modeling ability under a stressful situation. The ladies made their best attempt to be graceful for the built in camera system while riding the 55MPH roller coaster, Silver Bullet. The 2007 film *Knocked Up*, a romantic comedy starring Seth Rogen, opens up with his character Ben Stone and his thrill seeking friends riding Knott's Berry Farm roller coasters - Supreme Scream, Xcelerator and Silver Bullet. Live demos are a staple of every *Food Network Star's* repertoire. Season 10 finalists take the stage to perform a food demo for hundreds of amusement park visitors at Knott's Berry Farm.

Across the street from the theme park resides Knott's Independence Hall, a brick by brick replica of the original landmark in Philadelphia. This is the location of several scenes from the 2004 featured film *National Treasure* starring Nicolas Cage.



Another fan favorite is the 1996 film *The Cable Guy*, this comedy starring Jim Carrey features a scene at Medieval Times Dinner and Tournament. In one of the memorable scenes from the movie, Ernie and his friend Steven find themselves a part of the performance as they face one another in a humorous battle scene.

Most recently, an episode of the soap opera television show *The Bold and the Beautiful* aired showing the cast dining at Medieval Times Dinner and Tournament.

CELEBRITY SIGHTINGS

Not only has Buena Park been a city captured on the big screen and television but it's also a hot spot for celebrities and their families. Celebrity sightings around town include professional athletes: Kobe Bryant, Shaquille O'Neal, David Beckham, and Tony Hawk. Recording artists: Vanilla Ice, Katy Perry, John Mayer, Demi Lovato and Gwen Stefani. Television and Movie Actors: Chef Gordon Ramsey, Seth MacFarlane, Neil Patrick Harris, David Caruso, Abigail Breslin, Corbin Bleu, Kurt Russell, Kate Hudson, Molly Ringwald, Kevin Hart and Dylan McDermott.

