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UNITED STATES

Anaheim for the adults

Kids don't get all the fun in the home of Mickey Mouse. There are cool things for grown-ups too, **Celeste Mitchell** writes

ANAHEIM, the home of Disneyland in Southern California, might not be on your travel radar if you don't have children or prefer a perfect ramen or rioja to queuing for roller coasters.

But the home of the Mighty Ducks and Angels is stepping it up for the grown-ups. Here are five reasons to consider Anaheim beyond Disneyland.

The Packing House

The old Sunkist packing house – the last from the agricultural era after which Orange County was named – has made way for a gourmet food hall, with stalls serving up everything from grilled cheese to gelato popsicles, coffee and waffles.

The lofty ceilings allow light to flood the space, which has been styled for optimal Instagramming. Upstairs, a small theatre shows silent black-and-white films on loop;

vintage Anaheim citrus ads line the walls; and outside, the park plays host to farmers' markets, yoga and games of horseshoes.

Microbreweries

Want to give your town some serious hipster cred? Open a craft brewery. In Anaheim there are six breweries in industrial sheds that surround the city centre, but expect that number to double by the end of

2015, along with the addition of a whisky distillery.

Across the park from the Packing House and next to cult burger joint Umami is Anaheim Brewery, a pre-Prohibition brewery revitalised by local beer connoisseurs Barbara and Greg Gerovac.

Center St Promenade

Mexican might be the pork belly of food trends in Australia in 2015, but the tacos at Pour Vida have just blown all others

out of the water. Everything is made in house, including the squid-ink tortillas for sea, and the spinach tortillas for garden.

Elsewhere on the promenade we walk into Center Street Cheese to taste Californian chevre and a Dutch

coconut milk gouda before trying the Ink & Bean coffee saloon and writing bar for a "nitro" coffee.

Other must-sees are Barber (a craft beer bar/barber); a mini Airstream caravan housing a free book

swap; and a carefully curated Goodwill Store around the corner that's more H&M than suburban Vinnies.

Trapeze school

I like to think I'm adventurous, but I didn't anticipate freezing in fear at the top of a trapeze tower during my first lesson.

OC's trapeze school, SwingIt, has set up shop just near the Packing House and offers daily lessons. Sadly, I don't graduate past first round, but a friend manages to progress to being caught by one of the coaches, all within a couple of hours.

OC Helicopters

We almost missed our rock-star moment, and it's all Obama's fault. Turns out, he's in town – more specifically, in the air – and a no-go zone surrounds his every movement. "We're two miles outside that, otherwise we wouldn't be flying today," our pilot, Ric, tells us.

After we walk through a hangar of private planes worth \$20 million-plus each, we hop into Ric's sleek blue chopper. Soon we're taking in panoramic views over Crystal Cove State Park, Laguna Canyon and celebrity mansions, before the clouds part in time for us to swoop around dramatic cliff faces and over Laguna Beach. Sorry, Obama, but I reckon our flight might just have pipped yours.

GO2 ANAHEIM

GETTING THERE

Virgin Australia flies from Melbourne to Los Angeles. virginaustralia.com

Anaheim is a one-hour drive from LAX.

STAYING THERE

The new SpringHill Suites at Anaheim Resort/Convention Center is in the centre of the city and a short walk to Disneyland and the Anaheim



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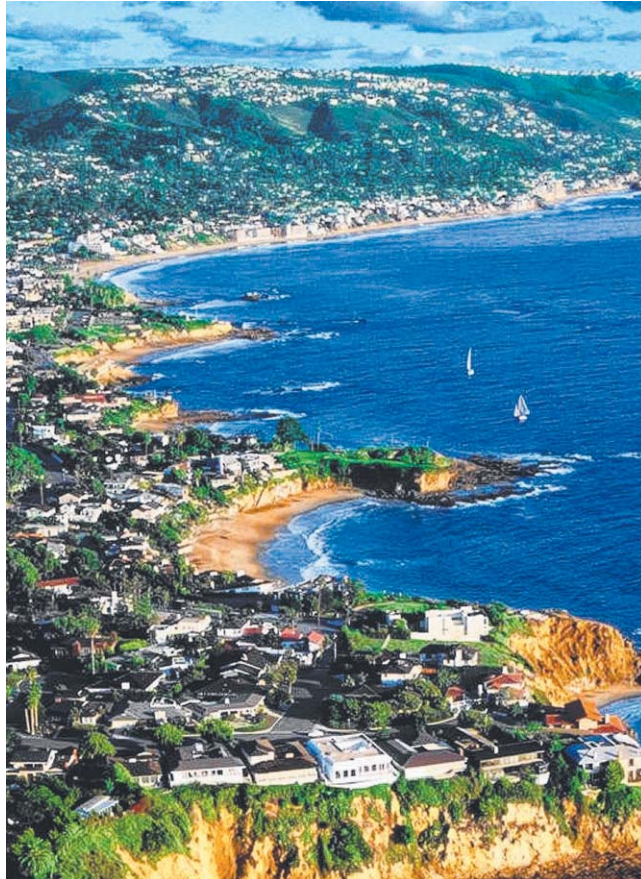
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DOING THERE

- Anaheim Packing House
anaheimpackingdistrict.com
- Anaheim Brewery
anaheimbrew.com
- Bottle Logic
bottlelogic.com
- Noble Ale Works
noblealeworks.com
- The Bruery
thebruery.com
- Pour Vida
pourvidalatinflavor.com
- OC Helicopters tours
ochelicopters.com
- SwingIt Trapeze
swingittrapeze.net



SPECTACULAR:The Laguna Beach coastline. **Picture:** Alamy