



**TRAVEL**

# Beyond DISNEYLAND

There's a whole lot more to the Californian city of Anaheim than Mickey Mouse *writes CHLOE LAL*

*Woman's Day's* Chloe prepares for an epic helicopter ride.

The Anaheim Packing House is a must-visit.

The city is known for its craft beers.

**G**rowing up, my dream was to get a one-way ticket to Anaheim so I could move into Cinderella's Castle at Disneyland. Now I'm an adult, I want to say I've moved on from that dream, but there really is something magical about the happiest place on earth.

In fact, it turns out that Anaheim offers a whole lot of happy – and you don't even need to set foot in the world's most famous theme park to find it.

**LA minus wheels**  
The cool Californian city offers a laid-back vibe with plenty of surprises. You'd never guess, but if you venture beyond Disneyland's gates, you'll be rewarded with a beautiful town to explore. Unlike most of nearby

LA, everything in Anaheim is very central, so you'll rarely need a car to get around.

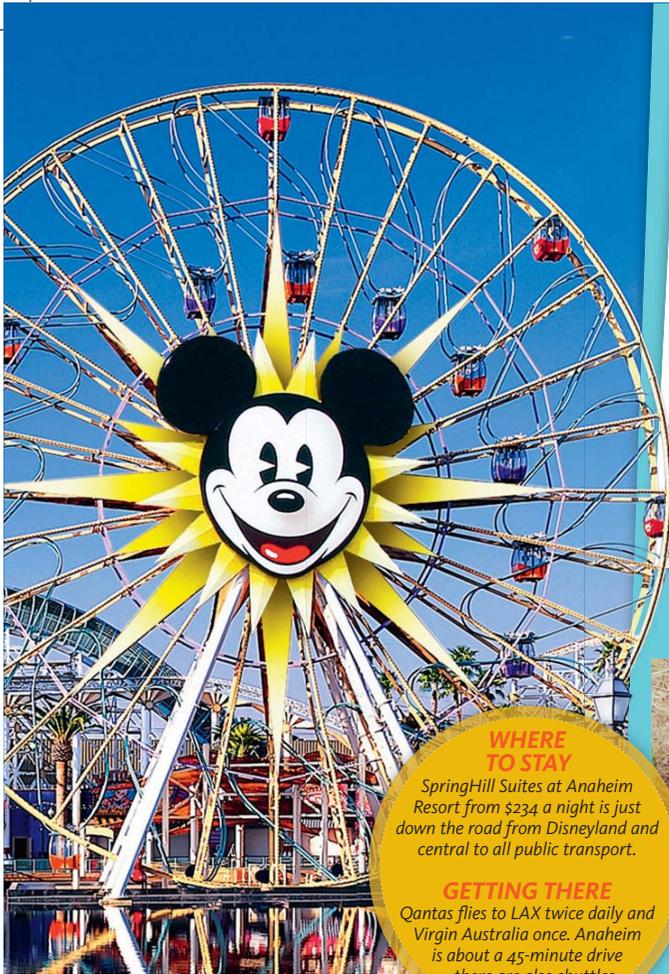
**Foodie wonderland**  
The Anaheim Farmers' Market in the Downtown district offers some great organic fresh produce and vintage stalls, especially on Thursdays. Warning: you'll want to eat all the food on offer, but try to pace yourself, because the restaurants are phenomenal!

Don't miss local delight Pour Vida. This delicious taco joint owned by celebrity chef Jimmy Martinez serves up tacos under \$10. I couldn't go past the Spicy Ahi Tuna taco.

**A swingin' good time**  
Wander to the other end of the street for an adventure that'll make you wish you hadn't eaten quite so much... The guys at SwingIt Trapeze are incredibly

80 *Woman's Day*

Pictures: Getty Images, Thinkstock.



**WHERE TO STAY**  
SpringHill Suites at Anaheim Resort from \$234 a night is just down the road from Disneyland and central to all public transport.

**GETTING THERE**  
Qantas flies to LAX twice daily and Virgin Australia once. Anaheim is about a 45-minute drive – there are also shuttles available.

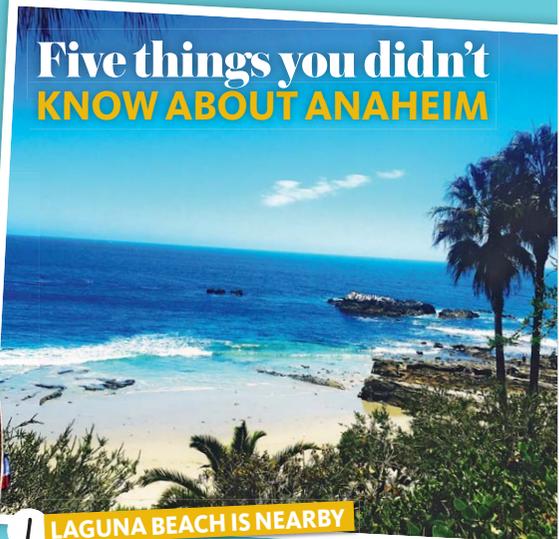
friendly, and no matter your age or fitness level – mine was in the negative – they'll have you soaring in no time!

**Retail therapy**  
Next, a spot of shopping is in order. Check out Rare, next door to the trapeze school. One of California's first curated Goodwill shops, it sells hand-picked denim, designer shoes, vinyl and retro homewares (I found a stunning 1950s phone for only \$20). Remember, you're in the backyard of fancy Orange County, aka "The OC", so expect to find amazing bargains!

**True brews**  
While Anaheim certainly offers some of the best shopping and entertainment to be found in Southern California, it was the food that captured my heart. The Anaheim Packing House

is a must-visit. Originally an orange-packing house for Sunkist built in 1919, it's now a carefully curated food hall bursting with gourmet delights. It was there I sampled the best grilled cheese I've ever eaten. Outside you'll find a perfectly manicured garden and the Anaheim Brewery. The entire city is becoming renowned for delicious beers, and in the sweltering Californian heat a chilled beer is the ideal way to cap off your afternoon.

**Adventure time**  
Anaheim has so much to offer, but for big and little kids alike, make sure you squeeze in at least a full day at Disneyland and Knott's Berry Farm theme park – which is equally fun and traumatising, depending on how you feel about rides!



## Five things you didn't KNOW ABOUT ANAHEIM

### 1 LAGUNA BEACH IS NEARBY

The famous Californian beach is a short 40-minute drive away and the ideal location for some serious celebrity spotting!



### 2 CATS ARE ON THE DISNEYLAND PAYROLL

At night, a select group of cats, aka "mousers", are employed to control the real-life mouse population. If you're lucky, you will spot them lingering around on the hunt for their next meal.

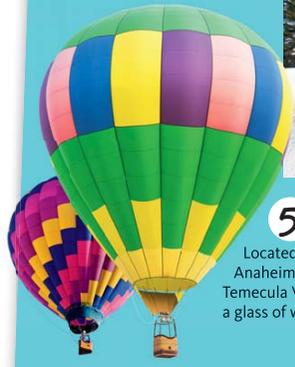
### 3 GWEN'S A LOCAL

Pop singer Gwen Stefani hails from Anaheim! Her band No Doubt formed there in high school back in the '80s, and since going solo, she still loves performing in her hometown.



### 4 FROM SEA TO SKI

You can surf in the morning then drive 90 minutes from Anaheim to Big Bear Lake, known for its amazing mountains and perfect skiing conditions.



### 5 YOU CAN TOUCH THE SKY

Located approximately one hour from the Anaheim area is the beautiful wine country of Temecula Valley. Open year-round, it's perfect for a glass of wine and a thrilling hot-air balloon ride.