

# HEAVENLY HIGHWAY

## THE PACIFIC COAST FROM MALIBU TO LA JOLLA

By Carole Dixon

There are few outings more therapeutic than a meandering coastal drive – especially one that takes you from the tony shops and restaurants of Malibu south to the luxe Mediterranean-style village of La Jolla. So put the top down, make Westime's two beach town boutiques your start and finish points, and slow down to enjoy the scenic wonders as you cruise 130 miles of Pacific coastline.





*Top to Bottom:  
Malibu Beach Inn,  
the Queen Mary,  
the pool at  
Pelican Hill.  
Opposite: Del Mar  
Thoroughbred Club*



### **Malibu**

After you peruse the luxury watch and jewelry selection at Westime Malibu in Malibu Village, check out eclectic clothing and accessories retailers nearby such as Maxfield, Calypso St. Barth, James Perse, Kitson and Intermix. Stop for a seafood tower lunch at Mastro's Ocean Club and book a table overlooking Malibu's world-famous beachfront. Stroll to the end of Malibu Pier, or put your feet in the sand while keeping an eye out for celebrities along Carbon Beach, aka "Billionaire's Beach." To get you suitably relaxed for your journey south, invest in a massage at the oceanfront Malibu Beach Inn's spa.

### **Long Beach**

Make your way through bustling Santa Monica, hip Venice Beach, the surfer towns of the South Bay, and along the massive adjacent shipping ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach to see the majestic Queen Mary come into view. Britain's famous luxury ocean liner is permanently docked here, and hosts a staggering array of events and activities. The grand dame of ships features 346 staterooms and suites, four restaurants and an award-winning Sunday brunch. Museum-quality exhibits showcase the golden age of ocean liners, as well as its use as a service ship in World War II. Families will love the 250,000 Lego bricks currently on display, while grown-ups opt for the Barrel Dinner Series that includes cocktail pairings. Beware of Halloween, when this queen becomes a haunted ship.

### **Newport Beach**

Watch for big waves as you drive through Huntington Beach, the official Surf City USA. And as you reach beautiful Newport Beach, take an overnight break at the Resort at Pelican Hill. Overlooking the Pacific Ocean, and set among 504 rolling acres, the luxury resort stretches from the cliffs of Crystal Cove beach to its own 36-hole Tom Fazio golf course. Luxury amenities include a state of the art spa, and the Northern Italian cuisine at Andrea, plus an adjacent café with a homemade 'gelato of the day'. Should you decide to stay for a few days, check into a coastal-view villa with a private terrace, and block out time to work on your tan at the Coliseum Pool, one of the largest circular pools in the world.



*Clockwise from top left:  
Engine room on the  
Queen Mary;  
Selanne Steak Tavern,  
San Juan Capistrano  
Mission; La Valencia  
Hotel; Cuisine at Med*

**Laguna Beach**

Continuing to the southern edge of Orange County brings you to Laguna Beach, an artistic community by the sea. In the summer months, attend its world-renown Pageant of the Masters, an open-air performance featuring actors, musicians, intricate scenery and costumes that bring great paintings to life. Enjoy a romantic dinner at Selanne Steak Tavern (co-owned by hockey legend Teemu Selanne). Set in a historic home from the 1930s, the restaurant's best dining seats are everywhere: at the bar, by the fireplace, on patio and even upstairs. Catch the sunset while strolling along Victoria Beach, just north of the Montage resort.

**San Juan Capistrano Mission**

Stop at this 200-year-old landmark and tour the Serra Chapel, which is the oldest operating church in the state. You can also learn about the legendary swallows that flock to this monument. Afterwards, take a leisurely walk by the old train station, admiring the quaint bungalows, boutiques and cafes.

**Solana Beach and Del Mar**

There are thrilling reasons to visit north San Diego County in the winter and the summer. The PGA tour plays through each January, with Torrey Pines' two golf courses providing some of the most dramatic ocean-front holes in the sport. Walk the courses with your favorite players for fresh air and spectacular views. In the summer, spend a day cheering on your favorite racehorse at the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club, where Seabiscuit made history, and Hollywood heavyweights since the Rat Pack have spent quality R&R time. Cruise down Cedros Street for boutique shopping, followed by an alfresco cup of coffee at Lofty.

**La Jolla**

Conclude your journey in La Jolla, one of America's most picturesque and affluent communities. Stretch your legs with a walk along the bluffs or cool off in the waters north of town at La Jolla Shores. Westime La Jolla is located in the heart of town on Prospect Street, just across from the historic and recently renovated La Valencia hotel. La Valencia's MED restaurant boasts a fantastic view of the surf, whether you dine on the patio, in the lounge or the main dining room. Toast your accomplishment with champagne that sparkles like the sun setting into the Pacific waves.

