

LA VALENCIA HOTEL



# La Jolla

Where towering waves and majestic cliffs meet contemporary castles and whimsical boutiques

La Jolla, Spanish for "the jewel," is a quaint but affluent town where Chanel-clad ladies panning for gems coexist with college kids eating frozen yogurt, and where hang gliders and surf bums frequent the same coffee shop as moguls and movie stars. The attractions? First-rate shopping, topflight hotels, postcard views and killer surfing.

**WHERE TO STAY** Opened in 1926, La Valencia Hotel (800-451-0772, [lavalencia.com](http://lavalencia.com); from \$275), dubbed the Pink Lady, has the feel of a Mediterranean villa (Oprah Winfrey, Clint Eastwood, Jessica Simpson and Nick Lachey have all stayed there). Madonna, Goldie Hawn and Catherine Zeta-Jones prefer the tranquil vibe at Hotel Parisi (858-454-1151, [hotelparisi.com](http://hotelparisi.com); from \$265). Ben Stiller and Greg Kinnear have been spotted at the Craftsman-style Lodge at Torrey Pines (800-656-0087, [torreypineslodge.com](http://torreypineslodge.com); from \$375), where a stay grants a tee time at the Torrey Pines golf course, famed for its views of turf and surf.

**WHERE TO DINE** Known for its lobster napoleon and great seasonal martinis, Fresh Seafood (1044 Wall St., 858-551-7575) has lured Cindy Crawford and Blink-182, while the views at George's at the Cove (1250 Prospect St., 858-454-4244) have drawn Brad Pitt and Don Cheadle. For a fresh cuppa joe, go to Harry's Coffee Shop (7545 Girard Ave., 858-454-7381), where Renée Zellweger has been seen.

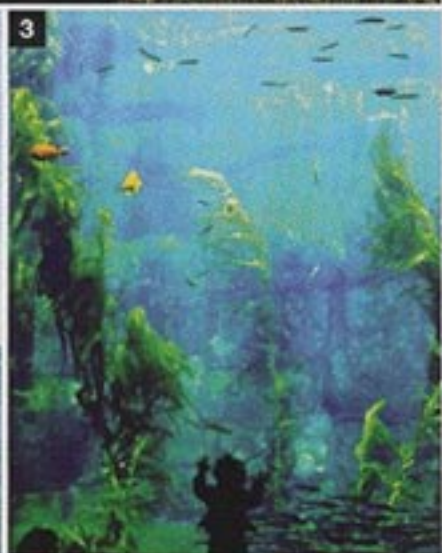
**WHAT TO DO** Minnie Driver and Carolyn Murphy learned to surf from twin sisters Izzy and Coco Tihanyi of Surf Diva (2160 Avenida de la Playa, 858-454-8273). Check out the tide pool and coastal views at Scripps's Birch Aquarium (2300 Expedition Way, 858-534-3474). Peruse shops and cafés in La Jolla Village, grab a sandwich at the Cheese Shop (2165 Avenida de la Playa, 858-459-3921), then head for Marine Street Beach off La Jolla Boulevard to catch some rays. —Jenny Wilson



Jessica Simpson



Don Cheadle



1. La Jolla Cove. 2. Catching a wave at Surf Diva camp. 3. The Birch Aquarium. 4. Sunset at George's at the Cove.