California Dreaming at The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel

Written by Amanda Rumore

California living is the envy of all, and us Phoenicians are known for taking advantage of the beautiful coastal state to our west. It's no secret that throughout the year, many Phoenix residents opt for family road trips to Southern California.

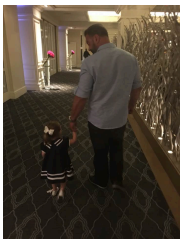
Dana Point is a city located in southern Orange County, California. It has one of the few harbors along the Orange County coast, and with ready access via State Route 1, it is an ultra- popular destination for Phoenix families looking for a luxurious road trip.

As a mom, I know firsthand that a family trip can quickly become hard work if not planned properly. And planning properly definitely includes finding family friendly accommodations. For those of you planning a family trip to Orange County, we have found an internationally-acclaimed resort that is synonymous with luxury, and is also family friendly.

The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel

The Ritz offers a playful approach to true California luxury at this distinguished Dana Point address, resting atop a 150-foot bluff along the coastline. Surrounded by panoramic views of the Pacific and the sandy shores of Salt Creek Beach below, there is no better place to experience the beauty of Southern California.

Renowned for the ultimate family beach vacation destination, the Ritz truly offers something for every guest. With the immersive and adventurous Ritz Kids program, finely crafted luxury experiences for adult and plenty of activities to enjoy together, every vacation here becomes unforgettable. From seaside recreation to pet friendly amenities and beyond, here in Laguna at this Five Diamond resort, the spirit of Southern California thrives around every corner. Travelers seeking a personal journey can rejuvenate in the hotel's ocean-inspired spa or tee off on the greens while adventure seekers can choose from one of 15 eco-excursions or set out for a day of surfing on the Pacific.



When planning your trip, here are some details you'll want to know:

Rooms – Ocean view and fireside rooms (with personal fire pits that come with ingredients to make smores) and suites that offer immeasurable luxuries (and plenty of space) for families!

Dining – Savor the extraordinary selection of fine oceanfront restaurants at The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel along the coast of Dana Point. Prepare your senses for a culinary experience unlike any other with some of the most popular restaurants and dining destinations in the Orange County region. The six restaurants and bars include:

- Raya - Pan-Latin coastal cuisine with ocean views!

- enoSTEAK - Intimate steakhouse featuring only the highest quality ingredients.
- 180blu – Amazing oceanfront lounge featuring panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean, refreshing hand-crafted beverages and small plates.
- The Market Place – A variety of coffee, espresso, sweet treats and more for the no-fuss experience.
- Bar Raya - Fine cocktails and appetizers are served alongside the breath-taking ocean views and stylized, silver bar.

- The Dana Pool Café - Casual poolside dining.

Ritz Kids – The Ritz Carlton is actually recognized for their dedication to making sure guests of all ages have memorable experiences. Baby Ready, Toddler Fun, School Age Action and Cool for Teens are some of the programs the Ritz offers, which includes a variety of services, amenities and age appropriate items for your mini-me's.

Family Adventures – The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel provides a weekly schedule filled with eco-adventures that the entire family can participate in. Garden Tours, Sea Hiking, Boogy Boarding, Organic Gardening (and making your own organic pizza) and Whale Watching are some of the highlights of a typical week at this resort!

Beach Butler at Salt Creek Beach – The Ritz Carlton Beach Butlers offer personalized beach services to guests enjoying a relaxing day at the beach. Beach Butler services include setting up beach chairs, umbrellas, towels and offering food and beverage. They can also provide sand toys, noodles, fins and body boards at the beach (and pool,) as well as sun screen and tanning lotion. The Beach Butlers also provide transportation to and from the beach on the Beach Shuttle, which offers an astonishing view of the 150-foot bluff along the coastline.

In true Ritz-fashion, the Laguna Niguel location offers The Ritz-Carlton Spa featuring 12 luxurious treatment rooms, a salon & spa boutique, ocean-front fitness center and wellness classes, two tennis courts, two outdoor swimming pools, two outdoor whirlpools and a children's playground. For more information and to book your travel, visit www.ritzcarlton.com/en/hotels/california/laguna-niguel.

Amanda Rumore is a writer, mom blogger and lifestyle expert. Scottsdale-based, by way of Chicago and Los Angeles, she lives with her husband, Anthony, daughter, Mia Valentina, and Boston Terriers, Gigi and Harley. Amanda is the founder of ValleyGalInc.com, writes for various magazines and appears on local television stations featuring family-focused stories. She was also voted "Favorite Valley Mom 2016" in the Best of the Valley!