



Festival of Arts offers a variety of art workshops for children.

FESTIVAL FUN *For Families*

Laguna Beach's summer festivals present a wonderful opportunity to introduce young people to the world of art.

BY ASHLEY RYAN

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Crafting the perfect summer arts festival itinerary isn't easy, especially with so many options here in Laguna Beach. Should you choose Laguna Art-A-Fair, Festival of Arts, Sawdust Art & Craft Festival—or all three?

Families will find that all of Laguna's art festivals provide unforgettable experiences for kids of any age, as each offers a unique blend of captivating artwork, enthralling activities and ways for children to let their imaginations run wild.

"Summertime is typically

the time for families to take a trip to a new and exciting destination," says Bill Johnson, vice president of marketing and publicity at Laguna Art-A-Fair. "An art festival provides the opportunity to embark on a multitude of journeys through the eyes, inspiration and imagination of dozens of fine artists and artisans."

While they may be close by, each of the local festivals serve as unique, creative destinations for families, offering one-of-a-kind experiences. Step inside the festival grounds,

and discover just how thrilling it can be to spend summer days delving into the world of art.

LAGUNA ART-A-FAIR

As the only art show in town that doesn't restrict residency in any way, Laguna Art-A-Fair is a great way to get children interested in the diverse world of art. In addition to painting and photography, masters come together to showcase and discuss the beauty of a wide range of mediums—everything from glass, ceramic, wood and

June 30 - Sept. 3
art-a-fair.com

metal to mixed media, fiber art and leather.

"Our fine art festival offers visions of places you've never been or new perspectives on those a bit more familiar," Johnson says. "You may discover fascinating artwork focused on details frequently overlooked or special moments in time that pass by all too quickly. ... The lessons of art appreciation and nurturing

Family Art Day at Festival of Arts takes place on July 16.



July 5 - Aug. 31
foapom.com

artistic creativity begin in early childhood and can easily last a lifetime."

A typical day at the festival should include viewing the large selection of juried artwork, spending some time wandering through an array of originals and reproductions. Visitors of all ages are sure to find inspiration as they chat with artists and view their work, and may even discover the perfect piece to take home. "There is something for everyone, where mom and dad can finally find the art treasures they've been longing for and their children can find mini masterpieces for their own rooms," Johnson says.

A few festival artists tend to capture children's attention more than most. "Children love the whimsical acrylic artwork

and award-winning children's books by Laura Seeley," he notes, adding that kids are also drawn to Laura Curtin's wildlife oil paintings (think bright pink elephants and baby blue rhinos) and Scott E. Sutton's colorful fine art paintings.

Aside from the artwork itself, families can explore the demonstrations that reveal the artists' insight and techniques. Older teens—ages 16 and up—can partake in daily art workshops that include a wide

variety of topics, from water-colors to sculpting.

Time is sure to fly by as you explore Laguna Art-A-Fair, and Tivoli Too offers a chance to enjoy delicious, full-service meals without having to leave the festival grounds. Live music fills the entertainment courtyard on the weekends, and a new dance floor encourages parents and children alike to show off their moves.

"We like to think that we appeal to all ages," says Mike

Cahill, president of Laguna Art-A-Fair. "... One of the children's favorite spots on the grounds is the koi pond in ... [Tivoli Too]. My granddaughters always congregate there when they visit."

FESTIVAL OF ARTS

An itinerary full of exciting events will appeal to the whole family at Festival of Arts. Celebrating its 85th year showing juried artwork in Laguna, the festival—which is open to artists from all over Orange

June 30 - Sept. 3
sawdustartfestival.org



There are many hands-on opportunities for young artists at Sawdust Art & Craft Festival.

County—will debut its renovated grounds this summer, featuring a new exhibition area, a concert stage, space for workshops and more.

Because there is so much to do and see here, Exhibits Director Ron Morrisette says Festival of Arts is the ultimate summertime activity for families and children of all ages.

"On Mondays, younger kids can have fun with our Art and Story Time, featuring a new story and art project every week," Morrisette says, noting that the event, which is free with festival admission, is a big hit with toddlers. "... We also offer free art projects all day long. We're the only festival to partner with the Orange County Department of Education to feature the top student artists from the Imagination Celebration in our Junior Art Gallery."

The new Junior Art Gallery provides a chance for local students to showcase their art professionally. It will also host a ribbon reception on July 9, where families can meet the children whose art is displayed within.

In addition, children can partake in youth art education classes on the festival grounds. Taught by artists who work in various mediums, the program has added new classes in illustration, fiber art, recycled art, marbling and birdhouse-making.

Aside from classes and galleries, there are plenty of themed days to keep children engaged. On July 16, families can partake in Family Art Day, where kids will be presented with coupon booklets good for a variety of on-site activities, like printmaking and treasure hunts. Then, the Festival Runway Fashion Show on Aug. 12 will captivate audiences with vibrant couture designs created by festival artists out of reclaimed or recycled materials. The following day, Aug. 13, marks the Festival of Arts birthday bash.

"And, of course, no other festival has the world-famous Pageant of the Masters," Morrisette says. "Kids and adults alike are 'wowed' when art literally comes to life in this one-of-a-kind show."

This year's theme, "The Grand Tour," will present destination artwork that will take viewers on a journey.

But it doesn't end there. The festival also boasts live music, plenty of space for picnicking and a convenient location that is walking distance from the playground at Main Beach.

SAWDUST ART & CRAFT FESTIVAL

Those who want to introduce their kids to local artwork need to pay a visit to the Sawdust Art & Craft Festival, where exhibitors in the summer show must be Laguna Beach residents.

Children who are inspired to make some artwork of their own at the festival can visit the Children's Art Spot, a booth that is geared toward young artists between the ages of 4 and 7. This spot offers a variety of art lessons in everything from painting to ceramics. On Wednesdays, the same booth offers a special Preschool Art Morning, where even the smallest of artists can create their own masterpieces.

Another treasure sure to delight festivalgoers this year is the return of the 1960s Volkswagen bus. Redesigned by Sawdust artist Jeff Lavinsky, the bus will provide the perfect photo opportunity for little ones and their families.

One more fun experience for families is a fashion show that will be hosted on the festival grounds Aug. 12. Clothing and textile artists exhibiting at Sawdust Art & Craft Festival will be invited to feature their best fashion designs, something youngsters are sure to love.

While art is the main focus of every Sawdust festival, the laid-back atmosphere and outdoor eucalyptus grove create an environment that's especially welcoming for families with children. Special entertainment will also take place on select days, including magic shows on Saturdays and Sundays as well as visits by Balloon Divas throughout the weekends.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON EXPLORING LAGUNA'S CREATIVE SCENE, SEE OUR ARTS LISTINGS ON PAGE 102.

CALENDAR

DON'T MISS THE SPECIAL EVENTS, CREATIVE CLASSES AND MORE AVAILABLE AT THE ART FESTIVALS THIS SUMMER.

FESTIVAL OF ARTS SPECIAL EVENTS

(Free with festival admission unless otherwise noted)

Adult and Teen Art Workshops: Fridays at 5 p.m. and Saturdays at 10 a.m., July 7 - Aug. 26 (\$50 per class)

Wine and Painting Nights: Saturdays, July 8 - Aug. 19, and Friday, Aug. 25, 8:30 p.m. (For adults 21 and up; \$50 per class)

A Salute to the Arts: Sundays, July 9 - Aug. 27 (excluding July 16), 2-4 p.m.

Art & Story Time: Mondays, July 10 - Aug. 28, 11 a.m. to noon

Youth Arts Education Workshops: July 10 - Aug. 31, Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. (\$15-\$25 per class)

Rising Stars Music Series: Tuesdays, July 11 - Aug. 29, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Art Talks and Tea: Wednesdays, July 12 - Aug. 23, noon to 1 p.m.

Art, Jazz, Wine & Chocolate: Thursdays, July 13 - Aug. 31, 5:30-7:30 p.m. (\$20)

Step Into the Spotlight Music Series: Fridays, July 14 - Aug. 25, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Concerts on the Green: Saturdays, July 15 and 22, Aug. 5 and 19, 1-2:30 p.m.

Family Art Day: July 16, noon to 3 p.m.

Festival Runway Fashion Show: Aug. 12, noon to 3 p.m.

LAGUNA ART-A-FAIR WORKSHOPS

Beginning June 30, these weekly classes are offered throughout the summer for aspiring artists 16 years and older. They are priced at \$45 for each four-hour session and \$30 for each two-hour session. Supplies are included.

Mondays: Traditional Watercolor

Tuesdays: Jewelry

Wednesdays: Watercolor; Acrylic Abstracts and Collage

Thursdays: Acrylic

Fridays: Oils

Saturdays: Watercolor; Acrylic Abstracts and Collage

Sundays: Leather Work

SAWDUST ART & CRAFT FESTIVAL SPECIAL EVENTS

Theme Days: Visit during Surf Day (July 1), Mardi Gras Day (July 15), Green Day (July 16), Speakeasy Day (July 29), Country Western Day (Aug. 5) or Beatles Day (Aug. 19).

Art Alive: Watch art come alive during Tuesday artist demonstrations, July 10 - Aug. 28, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sip, Talk & Walk: Explore the festival grounds with tales from an insider—and complimentary wine—each Wednesday, July 12 - Aug. 23, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Fashion Show: Local clothing designers will draw inspiration from 2-D and 3-D artworks to create a one-of-a-kind collection showcased at "HeART of Fashion" on Aug. 12.

Artists' Benevolence Fund Auction: Proceeds from this Aug. 13 art auction will support the Artists' Benevolence Fund.

Tropical Tuesdays: Sip Hawaiian beer while enjoying the sights and sounds of Island life at the Sawdust Saloon, July 4 - Aug. 29, 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Preschool Art Morning: Little ones can learn basic art skills and explore different art mediums on Wednesday mornings from July 5 - Aug. 30, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Arts & Craft Evening Classes: Learn a new skill at the festival's Thursday arts and crafts classes, July 6 - Aug. 31. Prices and times vary.