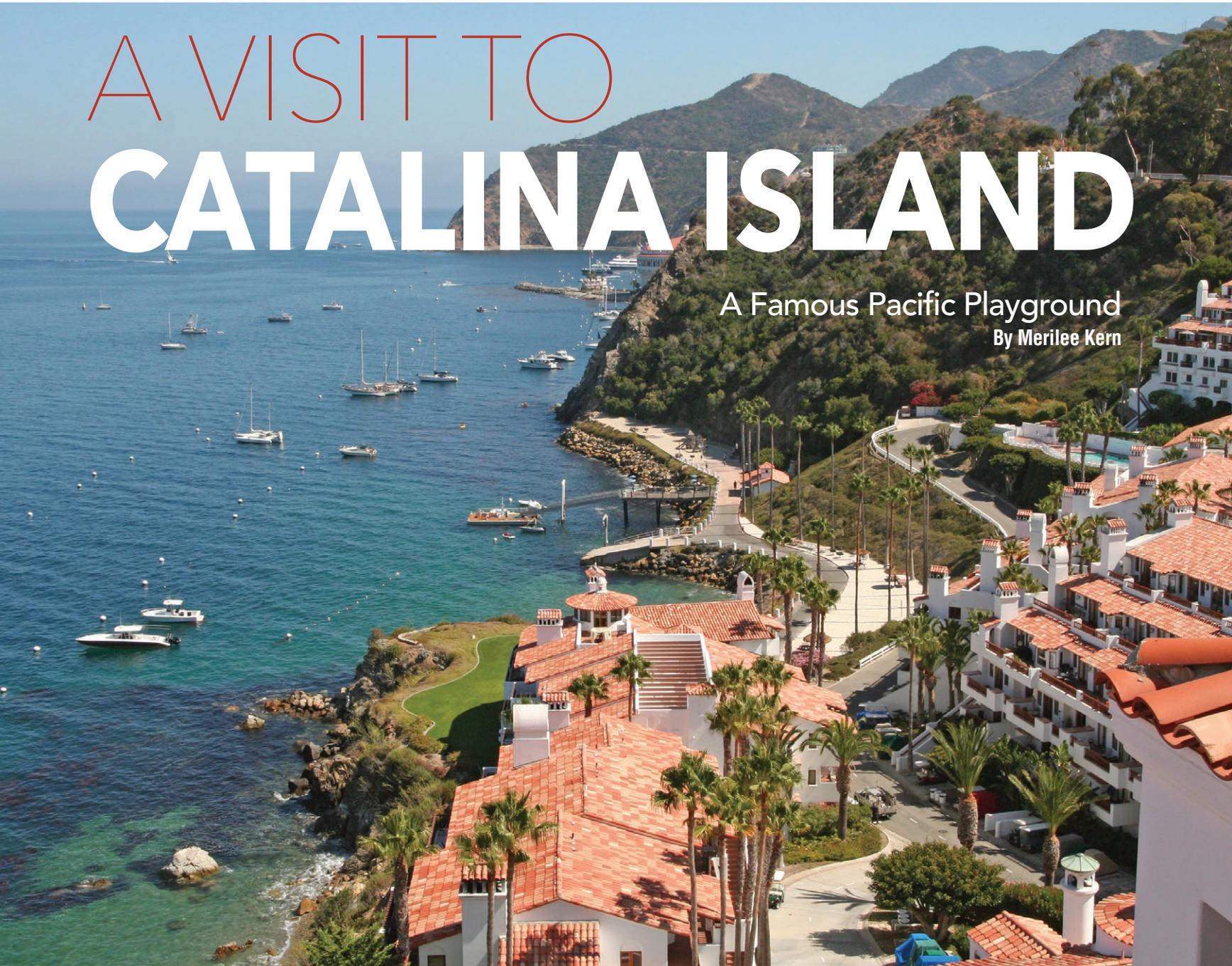


A VISIT TO CATALINA ISLAND

A Famous Pacific Playground
By Merilee Kern



Just 22 miles west of Dana Point, off the Southern California coast, Catalina Island has long been regarded as a Pacific paradise where families, romantics, adventurers and business folk come to stay and play. The island's idyllic small beach town charm is just a quick boat ride away from fast-paced city life. Whether venturing over for a day, a weekend, or longer,

Catalina Island is teeming with leisure and adrenaline-pumping activities suitable for adults and children, alike.

I recently jaunted over to Catalina Island for a three-day family sabbatical where we enjoyed the perfect mix of lodging, lounging, learning, dining and entertainment. Below is our itinerary that I wanted to share with Power Boating Canada readers.

Day 1:

9:50am: Depart to Catalina Island from Dana Point

Catalina Express whisks you off to Catalina Island in just a 60-minute journey from Dana Point among other ports of call that include San Pedro and Long Beach. The company's fleet of eight modern, high-speed luxury catamarans and

On the evening of my family's visit, our spectacular starters were the Roasted Brussels Sprouts with cranberries, almonds, pancetta and honey mustard; as well as the Black Mussels served with roasted garlic in a savory broth and served with grilled ciabatta bread. Our entrée selections consisted of the cooked-to-perfection Grilled Pacific Salmon plated with roasted fingerling potato and a fennel purée topped with an orange vinaigrette; amply portioned Shrimp and Mussels Scampi atop pasta tossed in a garlic-laden tomato sauce; and a to-die-for Scallop with Wild Mushroom Risotto. For dessert, the decadence continued as we sampled the Warm Flourless Chocolate Cake with Cabernet berries; Vanilla Bean Cheesecake served with a citrus syrup and raspberry coulis; Port Wine Poached Pear with Sable cookie and ricotta mousse; and the fabulous Caketini comprised of orange spongecake, poached black berries, and crème anglaise drizzled with chocolate sauce. It was sweet ending to the perfect weekend getaway!

Day 4:

9:45am: Depart from Avalon to Dana Point

Settle in to a comfortable seat while the boat whisks you back to reality.

Even though our vacation was brief, this itinerary provided the perfect balance of relaxation and revelry. And, while much ground was covered relative to the Island's family-friendly activity options, the destination offers so much more. There are a wide range of day and night tours and activities to suit everyone's interests, including golf, the casino, copious expeditions, rock climbing and a wide selection of divine dining. No matter how you choose to spend your time on Catalina Island, it's sure to be a retreat to remember. ↴

"The Luxe List" Executive Editor Merilee Kern scours the luxury marketplace for exemplary travel experiences and extraordinary events. Follow Merilee on Twitter <http://twitter.com/LuxeListEditor> and Facebook www.Facebook.com/TheLuxeList.

