

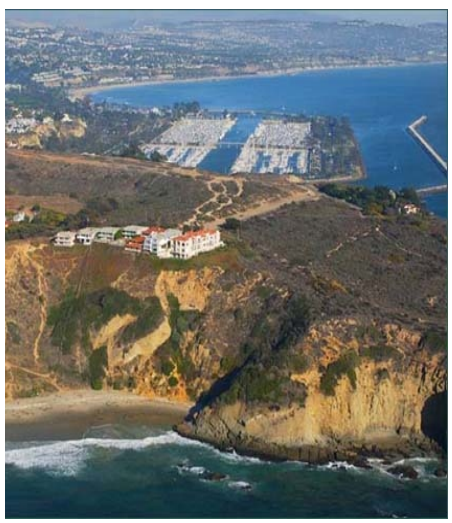
## Dana Point



*The Pilgrim located at the Dana Point Harbor near the Ocean Institute by the Headlands.*



*The Dana Point Harbor, a modern Marina on the Pacific Coast.*



*The Headlands landmark. Great for whale watching and nature walking.*

Dana Point is a peaceful, yet exciting coastal city located in South Orange County, California. The population was 33,351 at the 2010 census. It has one of the few harbors along the Orange County coast with ready access via State Route 1 Pacific Coast Highway. It is a popular local destination for surfing and was home to a legendary surf break called Killer Dana.

The city was named for Richard Henry Dana, Jr., author of *Two Years before the Mast*, which included a description of the area. In the 1800s, Dana traveling aboard **The Pilgrim**, a cowhide trading vessel, described the locale, as "the most romantic spot on the coast". Dana Point is now a developed harbor and growing city. A replica of Dana's ship, the Pilgrim is located at the Harbor and is used as a classroom by the Ocean Institute located at the base of the Headlands. This area is designated California Historical Landmark #189.

## Dana Point Harbor

For two centuries before it was sculpted into a modern marina, the curve of the Pacific Coast that is now **Dana Point Harbor** was a natural anchorage within Capistrano Bay for wind dependent trading ships.

Situated halfway between San Diego and Los Angeles, Dana Point's rugged coves attracted mainly fishermen and surfers. Then in the 1920s, the marine terraces above the surf were carved into streets, but the community's development was stilled by the national financial crash of 1929. Now Dana Point has matured into a popular recreation and resort port, as well as a thriving residential city, while much of the natural beauty that inspired namesake Dana has been preserved.

## The Headlands

The landmark **Headlands** is a 121.3 acre site characterized by scenic and natural features including sheer coastal bluffs, environmentally sensitive habitat areas, scenic vistas, pedestrian trails, a 28 acre Conservation Park and approximately 41 acres of additional parks and open space. The Headlands is a great location for whale watching and nature walking. Located next to world class beaches and surfing locations like Salt Creek Beach and the Strands, the Headlands has served as a landmark sight to sailors throughout history.