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*Eden, age 3, of Mission Viejo

holiday gift guide

Foxes, foosball and toys for Fido ... we have something for *the whole family!*



The **only cookie recipe** you'll need this season (*It's that good!*)

Say 'thank you' with style

YOUR HOSTESS WILL LOVE THESE FESTIVE FINDS



Beach bungalow getaway

Pacific Edge Hotel's mini luxe lodges are so close ... yet they feel as if they're a world away.



Lounge in style during a leisurely day's stay at The Bungalows, located in Laguna Beach.

My family, the eight of us, hit the road for a day away with little more than the clothes on our backs. We were traveling light with carefree spirits, as we headed down the idyllic Laguna Canyon Road to celebrate two family birthdays. Our group of kids, ranging in age from 2 to 22, was comprised of sisters, cousins, and beach girls and boys who love their beach toys.

We arrived at 11 a.m. at The Bungalows on Laguna Beach. The friendly, laid-back resort staff was on hand to greet us, promptly escorting our crew to our reserved cottage, our home away from home located near the blue Pacific.

Within moments, we effortlessly acclimated into our very edgy digs, named Fox Head, which included a black leather sofa, zebra-print rug, framed vintage photos, a kitchen and a stylish bathroom,



Debbie Lavdas and her husband, Ray Tomlinson, enjoy their day in the Fox Head Bungalow.

complete with a shower wallpapered with the image of an Fox bikini model. Indeed, our fun bungalow echoed all things Fox Head, an Irvine-based company that lives and breathes surf, BMX, wakeboarding and motocross.

After we cued some music, we hit our private outdoor deck and began partaking in the nonstop culinary platters

brought to us, paired with a few pitchers of margaritas. While the big people basked in the sun, the younger ones played mere steps away in the waves.

Everything is so easy and breezy at The Bungalows, it makes for an ultimate day at the beach. Unlike anything else in Orange County, these swanky, stylish day retreats offer locals and visitors alike a premier "daycation" and an escape from the regular grind.

The Bungalows, each of which has a unique vibe all its own, are the brainchild of the folks at Pacific Edge Hotel. The hotel's team ingeniously transformed five of their prime seaside rooms into indoor-outdoor gems.

Last spring, they amped up the escapism ante by inviting five local lifestyle brands to get their hands on the retreats and design the spaces in their own look. The Bungalows have been stylized by Fox Head, Billabong, The Sleepy Hollow Group, Hobie and Tuvalu, and Gorjana

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PACIFIC EDGE HOTEL AND DEBBIE LAVDAS

& Griffin. Each cottage has its own wildly exquisite look, from Fox's cool design to Sleepy Hollow's inviting, tranquil vibe to Gorjana & Griffin's sleek modern-nautical comfort.

Up to 10 guests per bungalow are invited to play for the day with all the comforts of a luxe getaway. There's no need to lug beach gear, fight for a parking space or deal with all the other hassles that come with a "leisurely" trip to the shore. A cottage stay includes a fully catered day on the sand, where you can sip a drink, jump in the water or retreat into the shade of your private Laguna Beach abode.

Bungalow packages start at about \$650 a day, depending on the season, the day of the week and special holidays. The price includes food and beverages prepared by The Deck restaurant, located next door. Packages feature bottle service, pitchers of specialty cocktails (non-alcoholic drinks are available, too) and exclusive Bungalow Platters, such as fruit and cheese, mare caprese, assorted sandwiches and many other culinary delights.

After hours of beach play, an



Chill out in the Billabong Bungalow, a cool mix of surf, sea and topical art.

array of divine dishes, tasty, refreshing birthday cocktails and a spectacular pastel sunset, we departed just after 8 p.m. We'll definitely be back for the next great birthday bash – or perhaps much sooner: a relaxing winter day.

To book a day at The Bungalows, or for more information, email bungalows@pacificedgehotel.com or call 949.281.5720. The Bungalows offer a day-use experience only, but overnight rooms are available at Pacific Edge Hotel. 

STYLISH BUNGALOWS

Each of the five plush, trendy cottages comes with a kitchen, shower, flat-screen TV, tunes, A/C, daybeds, direct access to the beach and beach attendants. Take your pick of the following design options:

- * **BILLABONG** – A surfer's paradise that includes surf art, wood accents and colors of the sea
- * **FOX HEAD** – Cutting-edge cool; dark, dramatic beach style
- * **GORJANA & GRIFFIN** – A natural nautical infusion of West Coast casual and East Coast polish
- * **HOBIE AND TUVALU** – A beach cottage designed with playfully energetic elements and pops of color
- * **THE SLEEPY HOLLOW GROUP** – A sublime, romantic interpretation of the Laguna coastline

Bungalow extras include private massages, airbrush-spray tans, manicures and pedicures, and a whole lot more.



All ages can play all day, just steps from the waves.



Enjoy platters from the Bungalow Menu, as well as delectable dishes from The Deck restaurant.