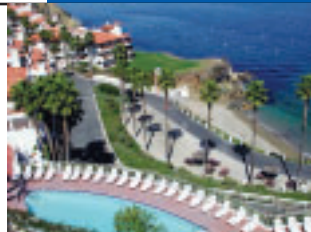


# CATALINA ISLAND



Descanso Beach, Catalina Island

**Catalina – California's year round natural resort paradise**

Only 22 miles from shore, Catalina Island has lured travelers to this 76-square mile paradise since the 1890's. William Wrigley, Jr. thrust this small resort into the limelight when he moved the Chicago Cubs baseball team spring training to Catalina in 1929; and then built the huge, circular Casino that is still the island's landmark building. Not actually a casino, this structure has been a national treasure since the early days of radio broadcast from its hallowed halls of swing, jazz and vocal music during the Big Band era of the 30s and 40s.

When arriving today via one-hour boat trips or shorter trips by air, Catalina still recalls those early days, often with live music in Avalon near the harbor. Shops, hotels and restaurants offer many choices for travelers, as well as glass bottom boat trips, safari tours into the conservation areas and peaceful vacationing at one of many resorts. Some 50 miles of trails and a handful of campgrounds are enjoyed by hikers. A nighttime Flying Fish Boat Tour allows passengers to watch winged fish perform acrobatics. A free roaming Bison herd still graze the lands where

the film, and story by Zane Grey, *Vanishing American*, were created in 1925.

Ocean sports are one of the biggest attractions, with diving, snorkeling, kayaking, parasailing, submarine rides, boating and fishing available in and around the coves or further out in the Pacific. Visitors find clear, sparkling water at Avalon's Lover's Cove, just southeast of the passenger boat dock. Children can swim close to shore in shallow water. Numerous rentals for water sports, biking and golf carts are available to travel to nearly any spot on the island.