

# Pictures in Wonderland: The Bolsa Chica Wetlands



Ben and I walked The Bolsa Chica Wetlands in Huntington Beach today. It's one of Orange County's unsung treasures. The Reserve is about 300 acres of preserved coastal wetlands, including bluffs, marshes, and mesas. It's a major migration spot for thousands of birds each year –kind of like a hotel along Route 66, but for sandpiper and pintails. When you get there you cross a wooden bridge, over a coastal inlet\*, that leads to a looped trail which takes about an hour to walk (if you're not with a five-year-old who has to jump off every rock).

As a high school student, some of my friends and I trained as docents through Amigos de Bolsa Chica to lead tours on Saturdays (which they still do). Sadly, all I can remember is the term "Pacific Flyway" and talking bitterly about urban runoff. It's entirely the only reason I know what a coastal inlet\* is. I only "led" one tour and promptly quit because it was WAY too cold out there. Pathetic? Yes. Shallow? Yes. True? Unfortunately, yes.

It's still a beautiful place to take a stroll and get your fill of nature, wildlife, the great outdoors and all that kind of thing...

\*\*\*\*\*

We listen to some Van Morrison on the way home:  
Tupelo Honey

---

# Orange County Daily Photo: Wings



Guess where?

\*\*\*\*\*

Today I'm listening to David Bowie's "Kooks"

You can go to my BLIP.fm Channel to listen to all my songs.

---

# Orange County Daily Photo: Dana Point Harbor



We spent the day after Thanksgiving exploring Dana Point Harbor.

\*\*\*\*\*

Today I'm listening to Split Enz "Six Months in a leaky boat."

You can go to my BLIP.fm Channel to listen to all my songs.

---

# Orange County Daily Photo: The jetty in Dana Point



We spent today in Dana Point. We desperately wanted to avoid anything shopping related and I certainly didn't want to post a picture of a mall and all that madness.

That's my family up there on the jetty. My son, Ben, had a breakthrough today—he was so brave! He climbed on top of the jetty even though he was afraid. Larry kept telling him, "Ben, do it even though you 're scared. That's what bravery is all about." After he conquered half the jetty, he wanted to climb everything in sight.

Emily would have done more rambling, but her high(ish) heels prevented true real exploration. So instead we wandered barefooted through the tide pools. I will post more pictures tomorrow.

Still taking a break from any real writing on my blog—just enjoying the holiday. Hope you are as well.

\*\*\*\*\*

Today I'm listening to: Aztec Camera "Walk out to winter."

You can go to my BLIP.fm Channel to listen to all my songs.

---

## Orange County Daily Photo:

# The Great Park Balloon in the sky



This is my picture for SkyWatch Friday. Click over to SkyWatch Friday and see the sky from around the world.

\*\*\*\*\*

Today I'm listening to Ben Folds' "Such Great Heights"

You can go to my BLIP.fm Channel to listen to all my songs.

---

## Orange County Daily Photo: Surprises



I love a surprise. When I downloaded my pictures I was so happy to see this seagull following my kids as they ran on the beach in Huntington.

That's all a kid needs—a big beach to explore.

With Christmas hot on my trail, catalogues clogging my mailbox, and commercials for Brats Dolls baffling my sensibilities, it's good to remember kids really don't need much to be happy. I wish you could have heard them laughing. We were there for hours.

#####

Today I'm listening to: Three different versions of "I shall be released," sung by three of my favorite artists: Bob Dylan, Nina Simone, and Jack Johnson. Such a beautiful song.

You can go to my BLIP.fm Channel to listen to all my songs.

---

## Orange County Daily Photo: PCH and Main Street



It was blustery and cold down at PCH and Main Street in Huntington Beach yesterday—it finally felt like Fall. This old car pulled in front of me just as I was taking the picture, which made me happy.

Today I am listening to: The Waterboys "The whole of the moon"

You can go to my BLIP.fm Channel to listen to all my songs.

---

## Orange County Daily Photo: Old Town Tustin



Just one of the many advantages of having a giant for a dad.



The Vintage Lady is my favorite store on El Camino Real.

Old Town Tustin doesn't have a lot of draw for me but, there are a few fine places. Rutabegorz, The Acorn Naturalist, and The Vintage Lady are the best spots. The city also made this perfectly square little park (pictured above), which was nice of them.

□□□□□□□□□□

Today I am listening to: Chet Baker's "Let's Get Lost."

You can go to my BLIP.fm Channel to listen to all my songs.

---

## Orange County Daily Photo: Lookout in Corona del Mar



These lookout binoculars wouldn't do much good on this foggy morning, but I liked their shouting orange color against the grey.

My kids are home for the next week so I don't know how much writing I will be able to do. Oh, I wanted to mention I am also writing for my husband's company blog: The Lounge at Broughton Hospitality. Which is mostly travel-related links, pretty pictures, and company ~~gossip rumors~~ news. So, if you just can't get enough of my imperious opinion-giving or marginal taste you can visit me there, too.

□□□□□□□□

Today I'm listening to: Squeeze's "Last Time Together."

You can go to my BLIP.fm Channel to listen to all my songs.

---

# Orange County Daily Photo: The Great Park Balloon



Arrived at The Great Park too late to ride on the Great Park Balloon, but we had fun running around with George. We will try again tomorrow.



Today I'm listening to: When in Rome's "The Promise."

You can go to my BLIP.fm Channel to listen to all my songs.