

Catalina Island

There are many places in California that make it wonderful, but out of every place there is; Catalina Island is definitely my favorite. Catalina is a gorgeous island with so many natural features and activities to do. If you haven't heard of this amazing island, then you are in for a treat.

Catalina Island was discovered by Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo in 1542. It is 76 square miles and about 22 miles long. Not much really happened there until the 1700s when Spanish colonization really developed. After America gained California from the Guadalupe Hidalgo Treaty of 1848, the city of Avalon was founded on the island by James Lick in 1887. The island was bought by William Wrigley Jr. in 1919, whose family still owns it to this day. He invested millions of dollars into his vision of turning Avalon into a "playground for all". Wrigley started **to develop attractions** to increase the island's attention. In 1921, he bought the Chicago Cubs **baseball team and they** did their spring training on Catalina Island for thirty years! In 1929, he **built the iconic Catalina Casino**, which has the worlds largest circular ballroom, and was the first **theature designed to show talking motion pictures**. Throughout the 1900s, over 500 movies were **filmed there**. Overall, Catalina has a great history that I highly recommend looking into.

As you know, William Wrigley Jr. was the owner of Catalina Island. He shaped it to be **the incredible island it** is today. He built the amazing casino, hotels, golf course, and many other **attractions all in his vision of making Avalon a wonderful resort**. He was the one to promote **movies being filmed on the island**. One neat thing to mention is during the filming of "The

Vanishing American," twelve bison were brought to Catalina and never left. Now, bison can be found living all over the island.

Today, Catalina Island and the city of Avalon is an extremely popular tourist place. The current population is 4,096, but they get approximately 885,000 visitors each year! Over winter break, my family and I stayed in our friends home and visited Avalon for a week. It was one of the best vacations I have ever had! Some of the attractions we were able to do were, the Island Museum, the casino, the golf course, parasailing, visit the Wrigley House, and sightseeing. There was also a bison and flying fish tour, but unfortunately, we weren't able to participate in those activities. The Island's shoreline is the most gorgeous one I have ever seen. There are many great restaurants too. I highly recommend visiting.

Overall, Catalina is a magnificent island that not many people know about. There is so much to learn about and see while there. My favorite part of our trip was just walking around the town and enjoying the amazing atmosphere. If you haven't already, I definitely think you should visit this incredible wonder of California.