

Old Towne Orange

BY LAURA CHEN DAVIES ■ PHOTOGRAPHS BY LORI ANDERSON

The heart of Old Towne Orange is its plaza, also known as “the circle”—a circular road that envelops a small park and fountain and shoots out to the surrounding streets. The neighborhood’s design remains just as its founders envisioned it in the mid-19th century. Mom-and-pop restaurants and independent shops are the mainstays, and Old Towne has so many antiques outlets that it calls itself the antiques capital of California. The best part about visiting is that all you have to do is park

your car or take a train. Your legs can take it from there.

To Do

- **Farmers Market**
Thursdays
- **Orange International Street Fair**
September 4–6

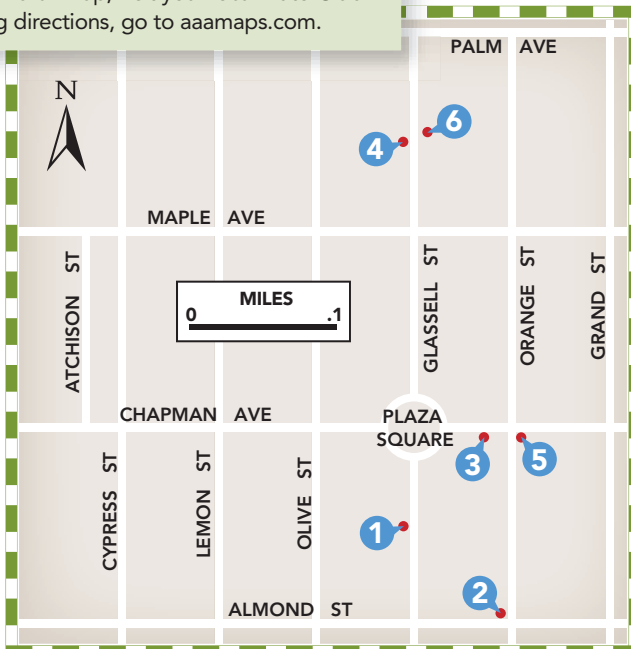
SAVOR Fuel up for the day at **Blue Frog Dessert House–Bakery** ①, which

serves tasty huevos rancheros. Be sure to order the Mexican drinking chocolate topped with whipped cream. 136 S. Glassell Street. (714) 538-3764. Enjoy a delicious grilled meat loaf or pesto-and-brie chicken breast sandwich at **P.J.’s Abbey Restaurant** ②. The Gothic-style Victorian structure, once a Baptist church, hosts live entertainment Thursday through Saturday nights and daytime and evening jazz performances on Sunday. 182 S. Orange Street. (714) 771-8556; pjsabbey.com. No trip to Old Towne Orange is complete until you take a seat at the counter of **Watson’s Drugs and Soda Fountain** ③, order a malt or root beer, and go back in time to the 1950s. 116 E. Chapman Avenue. (714) 633-1050.

SHOP Step inside **The Dragonfly Shops & Gardens** ④ for a trove of treasures, including handmade jewelry and clothing. 260 N. Glassell Street. (714) 289-4689; dragonflyshopsandgardens.com. Stop by **Down Home American Country Antiques Inc.** ⑤, where 30 dealers offer furniture, toys, books, quilts, and other Americana. 200 E. Chapman Avenue. (714) 288-9208; downhomeantiques.com.

SIT IN Hear music or open-mic poetry readings on some evenings at **The Ugly Mug** ⑥, a coffee shop with an indoor sitting area and outdoor patio. 261 N. Glassell Street. (714) 997-5610; theuglymug.com. **W**

Old Towne Orange is located between the intersections of Interstate 5 and State Routes 57, 22, and 55. To visit, take SR 22, exit at Glassell Street, and proceed north. Or ride Metrolink to the Orange station, which is a few blocks east of Old Towne. For a free Orange County–North map, visit your local Auto Club office. For driving directions, go to aaamaps.com.



Please call to check hours and availability of businesses, attractions, and events before you visit. Orange Chamber of Commerce, (714) 538-3581; orangechamber.com.