

Published on *Bakersfield Life* (<http://www.bakersfieldlife.com>)

BakersfieldLife.com
Bakersfield's Premier City Magazine



[Home](#) > [Travel](#) > Explore Catalina this month

Explore Catalina this month

By *Marisol*

Created *December 28, 2010*

By: Lois Henry

Posted by **Marisol** Tuesday, December 28, 2010 at 10:49 PM

Viewed

0 comments



The Buffalo Run is a great way to see areas of Catalina usually closed to the general public. Photo courtesy of Pacific Sports.

If you're thinking of going to Catalina, I have two words for you: Do it!

Now is the perfect time to plan a quick jaunt to this island playground 20-some miles off California's coast from Long Beach.

It's the off-season so hotel rooms are all cheaper. And the weather is still nice enough to do most everything you want.

If that's not enough motivation, then maybe you need a goal to work off those holiday pounds. In that case, I recommend setting your sites on Jan. 22 when the uber fun and challenging 12th annual Buffalo Half Marathon will be held this year.

Yes, it's 13.2 miles, which is a looong way, and it's up Catalina's famous hills so it's not easy. But there's no pressure in this race. Everyone I ran it with last year was just out to have fun. You meet lots of nice people, and it's a well-organized race with plenty of aid stations courtesy, of Pacific Sports.

Lots of people walk the steep parts, by the way, and the last three miles are all downhill. (Hey, if I can do it, anyone can!)

Besides there's no better way to see parts of the island usually closed off to the general public and afterward you can indulge yourself with one of the absolutely best burgers on the planet at Eric's on the Pier with zero guilt.

If you just can't make the Jan. 22 race, Pacific Sports also hosts a full marathon on the island March 12 (lots of Bakersfield runners sign up for this one so you're bound to see someone you know). This race also includes a 5k, 10k and a kids' run.

A portion of the proceeds from both races goes back to Avalon schools.

You can register for the Jan. 22 Buffalo Half Marathon at <http://www.pacificsportsllc.com/buffalo-run-registration> or up to the day of the race on site.

Maybe you're up for adventure, but without the pain and suffering.

If so, I highly recommend the Catalina Zip Line Eco Tour.

Yes, they have a new zip line that gives adrenaline junkies a wild (but very safe) ride from a hillside perch down a steep canyon to the sea.

I spied the platforms being built last February during the Buffalo run and immediately booked a return trip in May. It's a little pricey at \$92.50 per person. But that's way less than going to Costa Rica or Mexico to zip line.

And what a rush!

The first moment you step off the platform into thin air is admittedly terrifying. Then, after you realize you are NOT going to die, you can't help letting out a wild "whoop!" as you speed toward the next platform.

Seriously, you gotta try it! Check it out here:
http://www.visitcatalinaisland.com/avalon/tour_zipline.php

I'm already running out of room, and I haven't even gotten to all the hiking, camping and biking you can do on the island, if you're so inclined.

For that you need to go through the Catalina Island Conservancy, which provides tours and tons of information for

places to visit and how to get there.

You can find the Conservancy at:

http://www.catalinaconservancy.org/index.php?s=visit&p=places_to_see

And there are tons of boat and other tours, too many to list. But you can find a plethora of them on the Zip Line site or the Chamber of Commerce site: <http://www.catalinachamber.com>. The chamber also has a handy calendar of events and specials and packages for sale.

Getting there is simple. I've gone out of the downtown Long Beach landing, but you can also catch ferries from San Pedro.

I took Catalina Express both trips (**<http://www.catalinaexpress.com>**), and they're very easy to work with and accommodating if you have to change travel plans. It's about \$60 round trip.

OK, now you have no excuses. Whatever you love in a getaway, it's right off our own coast. So, go, run, zip, enjoy!

• **Travel**

Source URL: <http://www.bakersfieldlife.com/content/explore-catalina-month>