

## Laguna beach cottage for \$35 a night? State says 'sure'

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Crystal Cove State Park. Photo by D. Ramey Logan via Wikimedia Commons

Want to pay \$35 a night for a beach cottage in Laguna?

That's not just a fantasy, and state officials may make such cottages in Crystal Cove State Park in Laguna Beach even more inviting as they ponder a multi-million dollar plan for affordable accommodations along the normally pricey shore.

That \$35 nightly rate is pretty cheap compared to nearby luxury hotels. The cheapest online rack rate room for this coming weekend at the Ritz-Carlton Laguna Niguel starts at \$685 a night, but you can snag an ocean view room with a fireplace for about \$1,000 a night, including a \$30 daily "resort fee."

The California Coastal Commission Wednesday will decide whether to approve a \$26 million proposal to renovate the last of 46 oceanfront cottages at the popular [Crystal Cove State Park](#) in Orange County.

Commissioners are scheduled to consider a development permit to refurbish 17 historic cottages that will increase overnight accommodations at the park, which occupies a stretch of scenic coastline between Laguna Beach and Newport Beach, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Officials say the new cottages will create 22 affordable rental units, including a dormitory-style lodge, The Times reported. Prices will range from \$35 a night for a lodge bed to \$245 a night for the largest cottages that sleep up to 10 people.

When finished, the cottages will help relieve the park's heavy demand for affordable rental units and complete the current project to renovate the Crystal Cove Historic District. The commission staff recommends approval of the permit, according to The Times.

"Our organization, California State Parks and the California Coastal Commission have been working together on this project for almost two decades," Laura Davick, vice president of the Crystal Cove Alliance, a nonprofit involved with preservation of the park, told The Times.

In addition to rebuilding the cottages, the proposed work includes grading, a 650-foot beachfront boardwalk, utility lines, landscaping, expanded parking and mitigation for environmental impacts.

—*City News Service*