

Angel's

*Be Alive!*Angel Gomez,
Director of
Member
Services

Zippering

The Catalina Island Zip Line Eco Tour

Hello again, everybody!
Wow, do we have some cool fun for you this month.

I went to the brand new Catalina Island Zip Line, and I had a blast.

It's the only zip line in LA and Orange Counties, and it features five separate zips and a 440-foot drop.

What's a zip line, you ask? Well, it's a steel cable that runs high above some awesome terrain. After you put on some important safety equipment, they click you to it, and then you let gravity do its thing. Awesome!

On this zip line, you travel close to three quarters of a mile over five consecutive zip lines at heights of 300 feet above the canyon floor at speeds pushing 45 mph. Whew!

Beginning at the Hog's Back gate, high in the hills near Avalon and descending through Descanso Canyon, you pause at several eco-stations along the way before continuing on the journey. At each station, hosts give you a presentation on some of the unique and interesting aspects of Catalina Island, its wildlife, history, and the areas you are passing through.

Eventually exiting at Descanso Beach, the journey takes approximately two hours.

Wow!

The views of the Long Beach Harbor on the Catalina Express boat ride over were wonderful, and the actual duration to Catalina was about 45 minutes to an hour. We took the very first departure at 6:15 a.m. (be there 45 minutes early). Remember: Buy your Catalina Express Tickets from the Club and save!

We arrived on Catalina before 8 a.m. and had a wonderful meal at Original Jack's Restaurant across from the Vons Express Store. I was bummed that they gave us O.J. from a carton, not freshly squeezed,

which is always better. But, other than that, the food was good, and so was the service.

The zip line, which cost a reported \$1 million to build, was *amazing!* It was my first time, and let me tell you, wow! Talk about getting your heart beating.

Our zip line adventure started at 10 a.m. (be there by 9). Catalina Island has a main street right on the beach -- follow it to the casino. Keep walking about five minutes along the beach until you see

I'm flying!

the beach. Turn inland and you will see the signs for the zip line.

Can you take cameras on the zip line? Yes, you can take a small camera with you. You should be holding on to the zip line, but because of all the safety features you can hold the camera in one hand and hold the zip in the other. That, by the way, will increase your excitement!

You get instructions at the meeting point, and then you suit up for the adventure. Make sure you use the

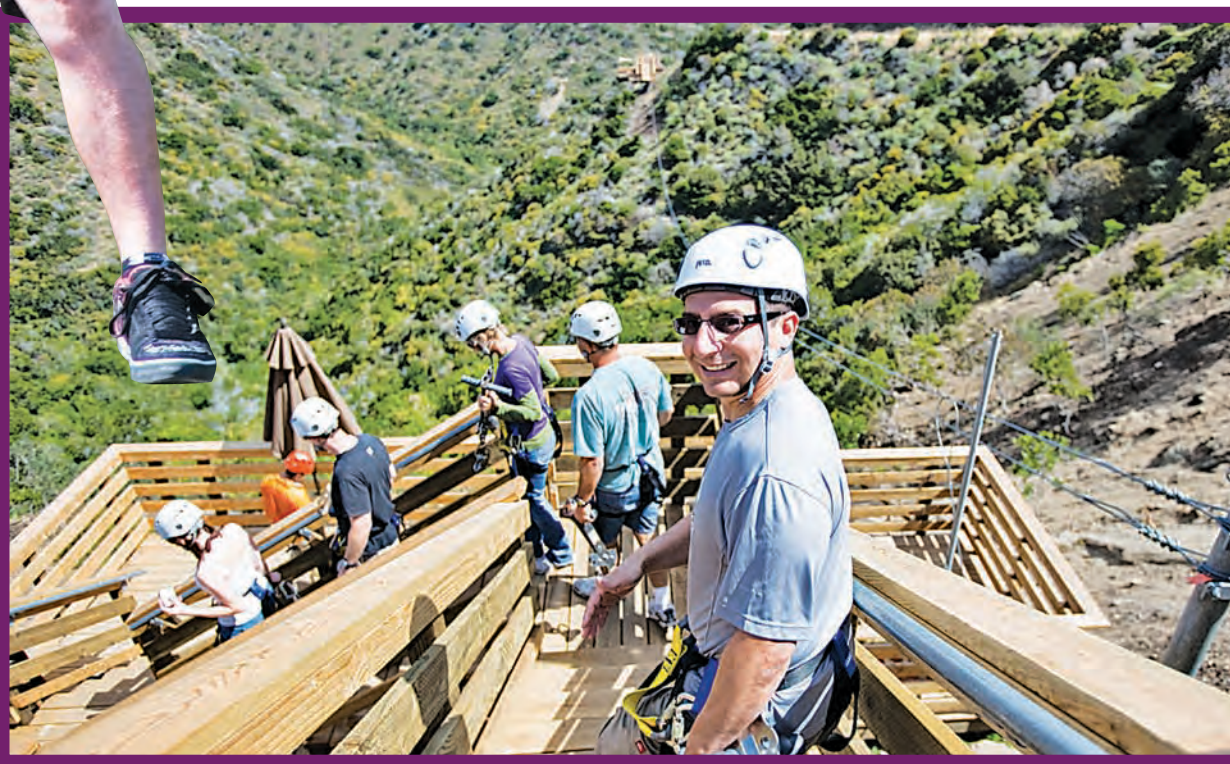
restroom before you leave; it's a total of two hours from beginning to end. Once you're suited up, you will take a short bus tour through the area going up to the first of six zip lines. The first zip is short, but I think it helps you get ready for the next one. As the instructors said, "Now that you had a small appetizer, next is the main course," and they were right. The first gets your heart beating fast, and the second takes you into overdrive.

The views are amazing, and after you have finished four of the zip lines, you actually want there to be more than five drops. We were looking around, and people started asking, why not make another zip line from that mountain or that one? You really get into it as your body and mind get used to the feeling.

The crew was very friendly, and the adventure was totally worth it. I want to go back and do it all over again. Two thumbs up!

We made plans to return to Long Beach at 3:45 p.m., so we finished the zip line by 2 p.m., and that gave us plenty of time to get lunch and enjoy the coastal view until our 3:20 p.m. boarding time. All this in one day! I would recommend to all of you to make the call and get you tickets today. Note that there are age, height and weight limits.

**As always,
be safe and *Be Alive!*
— Angel**



Approaching the first of five drops; the other end can be seen in the top center of the photo.

Catalina Island

Send me your photos!
 I would love to see your pictures! Send them to me at agomez@cityemployeesclub.com

Along on Catalina



Catalina Island Avalon Harbor plaque. We're in Avalon!



David and I, just before I drop into the abyss. "Watch that first step!"



The zip line area.



I'm enjoying my Monte Cristo sandwich at the Original Jack's next to Vons Express.



Marcus and I saddle up for the zip line ride.



After a day of really hard work, an iced, blended drink hits the spot.



Passing the casino to the zip line starting point.



Instructor David demonstrates the proper zip line form before heading off to the real thing.



After the zip line, here are our tour guides and other zip liners.

Catalina Express Information:

SAVE MONEY:

Buy the Catalina Express tickets at the Club Store and get the famous Club discount! Catalina Express' regular price is \$66.50 (round trip), but Club Members save \$10 (kids save \$5 off kids' prices).

- Catalina Express is the most trustworthy way to Catalina. The boats leave from Long Beach, San Pedro and Dana Point (you want to go to Avalon, not Two Harbors). Catalina Express parking costs \$14 daily per 24 hours. Prorated rates may be available.

Zip Line Information:

- NUMBER OF SEGMENTS:** Five
- LONGEST SEGMENT:** 1,045 lineal feet
- MAXIMUM HEIGHT:** 300 feet above Descanso Canyon floor
- RIDER WEIGHT LIMITS:** 60 to 245 pounds
Elevations vary from 500 feet to 60 feet above sea level
- DURATION:** Approximately two hours
- SEASON:** Year-round
- COST:** \$89 plus tax. No child pricing.
Reservations strongly recommended.
- RESERVE BY PHONE:** (800) 626-1496