

Printable Orange County Assisted Living Side-by-Side Comparison Worksheet

A practical worksheet for comparing up to three assisted living communities in Orange County

How to use this worksheet

Complete one column per community using the same prompts in the same order. Where an answer is missing or unclear, note it and follow up before making a final decision. This worksheet is a tool for structured comparison, not a scoring rubric. Use it alongside guidance from a physician, elder care consultant, senior living advisor, attorney or financial professional as appropriate.

Raya's Paradise | 101 Avenida Calafia, San Clemente, CA | (949) 420-9898 | rayasparadise.com

Communities Being Compared

	Community 1	Community 2	Community 3
Community name			
Date toured			
Primary contact			

Licensing and Inspection

Comparison Point	Community 1	Community 2	Community 3
RCFE license: current and active			
Licensed capacity			
Type A citations (past 2 years): number and status			

Comparison Point	Community 1	Community 2	Community 3
Type B citations (past 2 years): number and status			
Most recent inspection date and outcome			
Complaint-related visits or citations in public record			
Community response when asked about citation history			

Cost and Contract

Comparison Point	Community 1	Community 2	Community 3
Base monthly rate			
Services included in base rate			
Key add-on or care level charges			
Projected full monthly cost			
Annual rate increase policy and history			
Deposit amount and refund terms			

Comparison Point	Community 1	Community 2	Community 3
Discharge conditions and required notice			
Long-term care insurance accepted			
Contract reviewed before signing			

Care Level and Staffing

Comparison Point	Community 1	Community 2	Community 3
Daytime staffing structure			
Evening and overnight staffing structure			
Weekend staffing structure			
Awake overnight staff: confirmed and circumstances			
Absence coverage plan			
Care plan development and review process			
Care escalation process			

Comparison Point	Community 1	Community 2	Community 3
Staff continuity and assignments			
Caregiver tenure and turnover (ask directly)			
Dementia care training confirmed			

Safety and Emergency Preparedness

Comparison Point	Community 1	Community 2	Community 3
Fall prevention features observed			
Fall documentation and family notification process			
Emergency Disaster Plan: on file and last reviewed			
Wildfire and earthquake evacuation protocols			
Power outage management plan			

Meals, Activities and Daily Life

Comparison Point	Community 1	Community 2	Community 3
Resident engagement observed during tour			

Comparison Point	Community 1	Community 2	Community 3
Staff-resident interaction (unscripted moments)			
Dining environment and meal quality			
Activities programming match for your loved one			
Outdoor space: condition and actual resident use			
Room personalization allowed			

Family Communication

Comparison Point	Community 1	Community 2	Community 3
Health change notification process			
Fall and incident notification protocol			
Primary family contact and response time			
Visiting policies confirmed			
Care plan review participation confirmed			

Comparison Point	Community 1	Community 2	Community 3
Grievance process confirmed			
Responsiveness during comparison process			

Post-Tour Follow-Up

Comparison Point	Community 1	Community 2	Community 3
Family reference (with consent) available			
Second visit at different time: completed or scheduled			
Admission agreement reviewed before signing			
Room availability and wait time			
Average resident length of stay (ask directly)			
Leadership or ownership changes in past 2 years			
End-of-life and hospice coordination process			
Recent changes in past 12 months (staffing, ownership, programs)			

Overall Impressions and Decision

Comparison Point	Community 1	Community 2	Community 3
First impression on arrival (cleanliness, smell, noise, resident activity)			
Confidence in administrator and care team			
Comfort level with how questions were answered			
Would your loved one be comfortable here?			
Unresolved concerns or red flags			
Top choice today			
Biggest unresolved concern before deciding			
Follow-up needed before deciding			
Second visit scheduled			
Physician, advisor or family review needed			

Using This Comparison

A community that answers every category confidently, specifically and without deflection is demonstrating something meaningful beyond the content of its answers. Differences in how communities respond to the same questions are often as informative as the answers themselves. This worksheet is a tool for structured comparison, not a scoring rubric. Use it alongside guidance from a physician, elder care consultant or senior living advisor as appropriate.

Final Notes Before Deciding

Top choice today	
Biggest unresolved concern	
Follow-up needed	
Second visit scheduled	
Physician, advisor or family review needed	

Important Disclaimer

This worksheet is provided for general informational and organizational purposes only. It is not medical, legal, financial, clinical, regulatory, emergency or other professional advice.

It should not replace a personalized care plan, a physician evaluation, licensed professional guidance, legal or financial advice, facility-specific documentation or emergency services. Assisted living needs, care options, costs, safety risks, licensing requirements and family circumstances vary by individual, community and time.

Families should verify current licensing information, facility records, inspection history and regulatory requirements directly through the California Department of Social Services before making a decision. Contracts, fee schedules, care levels, staffing practices and provider policies can vary and may change over time.

For sudden confusion, chest pain, serious injury, suspected stroke symptoms, suicidal statements or immediate danger, call 911 or seek urgent medical care. For concerns about cognitive decline, fall risk, medication safety, elder financial exploitation, abuse, care placement, licensing or contracts, speak with a qualified healthcare professional, licensed care provider, appropriate agency, attorney or financial professional.

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Raya's Paradise is a licensed senior living community in San Clemente, CA, serving Orange County families with assisted living, memory care, respite care and hospice support. Boutique coastal care with more than 30 years of experience behind it.

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