

DESTINATION REPORT

YOUR TRAVEL SPECIALIST



Darl Bachmann
Ford's World Travel
623-933-8256
FAX: 623-933-0122
Email:
darl@fordstravel.com

10738 W. Bell Road
Sun City, Arizona
85351

Customer satisfaction is job #1 for me and I work tirelessly to ensure my customers receive the best service, the most up-to-date information, and the greatest value for their travel expenditures.

YOUR TRAVEL SNAPSHOT: Destinations included in this guide

San Diego, CA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SAN DIEGO, CA	Page 3
San Diego, CA - Overview	Page 4
San Diego, CA - See & Do: Sightseeing	Page 8
San Diego, CA - See & Do: Recreation	Page 17
San Diego, CA - See & Do: Nightlife	Page 22
San Diego, CA - See & Do: Performing Arts	Page 25
San Diego, CA - See & Do: Spectator Sports	Page 28
San Diego, CA - See & Do: Shopping	Page 29
San Diego, CA - Dining	Page 33
San Diego, CA - Security	Page 34
San Diego, CA - Facts	Page 36
San Diego, CA - Events	Page 44

DESTINATION GUIDE

San Diego, CA



INTRODUCTION

San Diego, California, is sunny and mild—not just in weather, but in personality, as well. This is a place where the people are friendly and the sun shines more than 300 days a year. To top it off, San Diego is blessed with considerable natural beauty: broad, gorgeous beaches on its west side, creviced canyons on the east, and sweet-smelling tropical flowers everywhere.

A quintessential U.S. Navy town, San Diego has also boomed in recent years. While new buildings have sprung up all over, the trendy downtown Gaslamp Quarter, plus such nearby attractions as Balboa Park, continue to pull in locals and tourists alike.

North of downtown San Diego, in La Jolla, prestigious scientific research institutes with names such as Salk and Scripps attract top researchers, while the glorious beaches still draw surfers and sun-worshippers in droves. Unfortunately, this growth has brought traffic—San Diego highway congestion can rival Los Angeles during morning and evening rush hours.

The greater San Diego area is actually a series of individual towns, each with its own personality. La Jolla is San Diego's answer to Beverly Hills. Coronado, a pristine stretch of land connected to downtown by the Coronado Bay Bridge, has the palatial Hotel del Coronado and broad avenues running past Victorian homes; it is also home to several aircraft carriers.

Then there are San Diego's beaches: Ocean Beach, Mission Beach, Pacific Beach, La Jolla Cove, Del Mar and many more.

MUST SEE OR DO

Sights—Endangered species at the San Diego Zoo and the San Diego Zoo Safari Park; multitudes of sea creatures at the Birch Aquarium at Scripps; the Spanish influence and historical buildings in Old Town; Cabrillo National Monument; the historic Hotel del Coronado.

Museums—The San Diego Museum of Art; Maritime Museum of San Diego; San Diego Air and Space Museum; Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego; Museum of Photographic Arts; California Surf Museum; USS Midway Museum; San Diego Museum of Man.

Memorable Meals—French Mediterranean dishes at Mille Fleurs in affluent Rancho Santa Fe; Asian tapas at Roppongi in La Jolla; alfresco dining at Asti Ristorante in the Gaslamp Quarter; fresh Italian at Bencotto Italian Kitchen in Little Italy.

Late Night—Live jazz at Croce's Park West; spectacular views at the Marine Room in La Jolla (especially at high tide); country-western dancing at In Cahoots Dancehall & Saloon; socializing at The Rooftop at the W.

Walks—Easy hiking on the bluffs at Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve (don't miss the Guy Fleming Trail for its incomparable Pacific Ocean views) or enjoying wide-open spaces and riparian landscape at Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve; casual strolling through Balboa Park; a walking tour through the historic Gaslamp Quarter; sunset ambles on the beach at Coronado or La Jolla shores.

Especially for Kids—Sand-castle construction and other beach play; LEGOLAND California Resort; SeaWorld—home of Shamu and other Orca whales; San Diego Model Railroad Museum (for kids of any age); Reuben H. Fleet Science Center for its interactive exhibits; the merry-go-rounds at Seaport Village and Balboa Park for pure old-fashioned fun.

GEOGRAPHY

The heart of downtown San Diego lies 16 mi/26 km north of the U.S.-Mexico border. The 16-block historic Gaslamp Quarter and the multilevel, postmodern Horton Plaza shopping complex mark the city center, with the San Diego

Convention Center, PETCO Park, Embarcadero and Seaport Village all within walking distance.

San Diego Bay, Coronado and the Pacific Ocean stretch to the west. The massive Balboa Park, full of museums and attractions, occupies a huge area northeast of downtown. North of downtown are historic Old Town, gay-friendly Hillcrest, the recreational paradise of Mission Bay and the upscale seaside community of La Jolla (*la-HOY-yuh*, actually a part of the city of San Diego).

Farther north are Del Mar (home of the county's horse racetrack and fairgrounds), low-key villages and the Marine Corps' sprawling Camp Pendleton. To the south is San Ysidro, the southernmost neighborhood of San Diego, and immediately south of that the border with Mexico and Tijuana.

Interstates 5 and 15, running north and south, and I-8, running east and west, are the city's major arteries. Highway 163, connecting with both I-5 and I-8 and running from downtown to the northeast, makes Balboa Park and Mission Valley easily accessible. East-west Highway 52 serves as a connector route from Santee to La Jolla. Highway 125 runs north and south, relieving traffic from South Bay to the east county. Highway 56 is the east-west connector between I-5 and I-15, providing convenient access between the inland communities and the coast.

HISTORY

According to anthropologists, humans first settled along the San Diego coast as early as 20,000 years ago and moved east into the desert areas about 12,000 years ago. When the first Europeans, led by Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo, landed on the Point Loma section of San Diego Bay in 1542, several hunting-gathering tribes had already inhabited the area for thousands of years.

In 1769, Father Junipero Serra built a mission at the top of Presidio Hill, overlooking San Diego Bay, to convert the Kumeyaay people, a small hunting and gathering society, to Christianity. The mission was moved in 1774 to its present site near a Diegueno village. As the site of California's first Spanish mission, San Diego played an important role in the state's history.

Some of the adobe and wood buildings at the bottom of Presidio Hill, in what is currently Old Town, date from the 1800s. Most of the settlers built homes here in the 1820s and 30s. As Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, the area is now a tourist district that houses restaurants, museums and shops.

In 1821, Mexico won its independence from Spain, and a few years later, San Diego became the unofficial capital of Alta and Baja California. It was governed under Mexico for about 25 years, until California came under U.S. jurisdiction after the Mexican-American War in 1850.

The city grew at a snail's pace for almost two centuries (notwithstanding a minor gold boom 1872-74) until 1907, when the U.S. Navy established a base, boosting San Diego's fortunes. By the 1930s it had grown sufficiently large enough to have hosted two World's Fairs, leaving the legacy of Balboa Park and popularizing both the Mission and Spanish-revival styles in the area.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, the U.S. Pacific Fleet moved its headquarters to San Diego. Military bases began to sprout like mushrooms, and industry and scientific research centers followed.

The city's downtown had declined after the 1960s, but the construction of Horton Plaza and a revitalization of the Gaslamp Quarter in the 1980s breathed in new life. The gentrification movement spread from downtown to Little Italy and Hillcrest, then extended to Balboa Park, North Park and City Heights in the 1990s. Today, San Diego is the eighth-largest city in the U.S. and the second largest in California.

POTPOURRI

The *Spirit of St. Louis* was built in San Diego for Charles Lindbergh's 1927 trans-Atlantic flight. The San Diego airport is now named Lindbergh Field.

The movie classic *Some Like It Hot*—starring Marilyn Monroe, Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis—was filmed at "The Del" (the Hotel del Coronado) in 1959.

Large flocks of non-native parrots live in Ocean Beach. The feral populations are thought to be the offspring of domesticated parrots that escaped and bred.

Theodor Seuss Geisel—better known to his readers and fans as Dr. Seuss—lived in La Jolla from 1948 until his death at age 87 in 1991. He used to sit at his desk and watch the whales swim by.

The late Gregory Peck was born in La Jolla in 1916. The actor was one of the founders of the La Jolla Playhouse, which has been the world-premiere site of such Broadway-bound musicals as *The Who's "Tommy"* and Matthew Broderick's revival of *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*.

At LEGOLAND, Miniland U.S.A. re-creates eight different cities within the U.S. with a collection of more than 1,200 buildings and famous landmarks built to 1:20 scale using more than 24 million LEGO bricks.

Black's Beach (just south of Torrey Pines Beach) is famous for some of its nudist regulars. The anti-nudity law is enforced on the city-owned section, but the state-owned section has been unofficially "swimsuit optional" for years.

The world's largest outdoor pipe organ is set in the Spreckels Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park. The organ, with its ornate architecture and extraordinary sound, was played at the opening of the 1915 Panama-California Exposition and became the first great outdoor organ of its kind in the U.S.

The San Diego Yacht Club has defended the prestigious America's Cup three times.

LOCATION

Passengers arriving by ship pass the tip of Point Loma and the city's first lighthouse before entering San Diego Bay. Keep your cameras handy as you approach the bay's panorama of sailboats, yachts and Navy battleships backed by the mirrored towers of downtown.

White sails soar skyward from the roof of the San Diego Convention Center, just south of the cruise-ship terminal. Farther south is the sweeping arch of the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge.

Cruise-ship captains and crew rave about San Diego's port: It's both scenic and convenient. San Diego Bay was dredged long ago to accommodate military craft, so even the largest cruise ships can dock right at the terminal (also known as the B Street Pier) at 1140 N. Harbor Drive (<http://www.portofsandiego.org>). An auxiliary cruise ship terminal known as Port Pavilion is located next to B Street. The terminal is in the center of downtown's waterfront, within walking distance of many attractions, and taxis are available.

The cruise terminal has a gift shop, free Wi-Fi, a bar and limited food service. Just outside the pastel-colored warehouselike terminal, you'll find an information booth (open when ships are in port) with brochures, maps, and bus and trolley schedules. The spacious terminal has public phones, large restrooms, a few comfy chairs and several benches. The International Visitor Information Center is located in front of the B Street Cruise Ship Terminal at 1140 N. Harbor Drive (phone 619-236-1212). It's open June-September daily 9 am-5 pm; October-May daily 9 am-4 pm.

Many attractions are easy to walk to from the port area. Seaport Village is just to the south, downtown and the Gaslamp Quarter are straight inland to the east, and just to the north are great seafood restaurants and the majestic 19th-century *Star of India* as well as other historic ships.

Public buses run along Harbor Drive in front of the ship terminal and connect to routes serving outlying tourist spots, but we don't recommend them for casual visitors. The routes tend to be long and circuitous. Some attractions (including Horton Plaza and Seaport Village) may provide shuttles from the ship terminal when a ship is in port. Ask about them at the terminal's information desk.

The bright-red San Diego Trolley may be all the transportation you need if you have only a short time in the city. It is the fastest way to get to Tijuana. There are also two trolley lines that go eastward to the communities of Barrio Logan, Mountain View, Encanto, and the cities of Lemon Grove, La Mesa, El Cajon and Santee. <http://www.sdmts.com/trolley/trolley.asp>.

A trolley stop is ideally located about two blocks from the cruise terminal at the Santa Fe train station. You might also seek a pedicab ride to a close destination. Look for drivers holding signs near the terminal and access the cabs a few steps away. Always negotiate a rate to your destination up front. <http://www.vippedicab.com>.

If you want to walk, it's 10 short blocks from the cruise-ship terminal up Broadway to Fifth Avenue, where you can catch a bus to take you up a slight hill to Laurel Street, one of the entrances to Balboa Park and its museums and zoo. From downtown San Diego going north on Fifth, all the cross streets (starting with Ash) are named after trees and are in alphabetical order. Walnut—the last tree street—is just four blocks from Hillcrest.

If you're spending more than one day in San Diego, we recommend renting a car. Several rental companies have offices at the airport. It isn't possible to rent a car at the cruise-ship terminal, but you can reserve one in advance and a rental car van will deliver you to a nearby pick-up station. Be aware that rental cars can be hard to get when there's a big convention in town, so it's best to reserve in advance.

SHORE EXCURSIONS

Typical excursions include chartered buses to shopping and sightseeing in San Diego and La Jolla, or visiting the San Diego Zoo, San Diego Zoo Safari Park, LEGOLAND or SeaWorld. Golfers will be happy to know that there are more than 90 courses in San Diego county, and the 300-plus days of sunshine means they'll rarely be rained out. Check with your travel agent for additional information.

SIGHTSEEING

Yes, San Diego's zoo *is* world-famous, and SeaWorld and LEGOLAND *are* certainly top visitor attractions. Plan to see them all, but don't forget that there are many other sightseeing experiences waiting for you in this hospitable city.

San Diego's showplace is Balboa Park, which is at the top of our list of best parks in the world. It has been called the "Smithsonian of the West" because it is the largest museum complex west of the Mississippi. As well as the zoo, it contains more than a dozen museums.

Many of them, including the Museum of Man and the San Diego Museum of Art, are housed in elaborate Spanish-colonial buildings. The park's Reuben H. Fleet Science Center also rates a visit (see one of its IMAX films), as do the San Diego Air and Space Museum and Natural History Museum.

The Park is also the site of the Old Globe Theatre, which has offered world premieres of such Broadway-bound musicals as *Into the Woods*, *The Full Monty* and *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*.

A Park-to-Bay Link bridge creates a walking or driving path from the park to San Diego Bay. If you can pry yourself away from Balboa Park, there are other attractions to visit. Walk through the Gaslamp Quarter downtown—a 16-block National Historic District with beautifully restored Victorian buildings (some date from the Civil War) housing more than 100 retailers and another 100 restaurants and nightclubs.

At the northern edge of central San Diego is the Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, near the site of California's first European settlement. It has several restored structures and museums (including a working blacksmith), as well as restaurants featuring margaritas and mariachis, galleries and shops.

If you don't get your fill of animals at the zoo or SeaWorld, head northeast to Escondido. It's the home of the San Diego Zoo Safari Park, where you can observe free-ranging animals from around the world in their large, expansive enclosures. Up-close encounters, such as a photo caravan safari and an overnight "Roar & Snore" campout within the park are also available through special arrangement and for a fee.

The Southern California CityPass offers admission to four major area theme parks, including SeaWorld. This is a good option if you plan on visiting both Los Angeles and San Diego on the same trip. If you purchase the CityPass online, you can add admission to the San Diego Zoo Safari Park or the San Diego Zoo. Price is US\$328 adults, US\$284 children ages 3-9. Phone 888-330-5008. <http://www.citypass.com/southern-california>.

Other San Diego activities include harbor excursion boat rides, some of the best beaches in California, Broadway-quality theater, historic walking tours and gardens galore.

CASINOS

San Diego County had the largest concentration of tribal communities of any U.S. county, and its 18 Native American tribes each have casinos. With so many located so close to each other, the casinos offer Vegas-style gambling 24/7 and are highly competitive. The gambling age varies by location, but ranges 18-21. The legal drinking age is 21. Children aren't allowed in the gambling areas, but they are usually allowed in pools, shops, restaurants and other areas of the casinos. Many of them offer bus service from San Diego, so contact each location for transportation options.

Barona Resort & Casino

Featuring a hotel, golf course and multiple dining choices (including game-side dining), the casino is also known for its loose slots, chipless blackjack and a wide variety of gaming options. Also on the property is the educational, hands-on Barona Cultural Center and Museum that features the history of the local Kumeyaay-Diegueno culture (Tuesday-Friday noon-5 pm, Saturday 10 am-4 pm; phone 619-443-7003; <http://www.baronamuseum.org>) with handmade pottery, reed baskets, paintings, arrowheads and 2,000 artifacts dating back thousands of years. 1932 Wildcat Canyon Road (east on Interstate 8 to the Highway 67 exit; about a

35-minute drive from downtown), Lakeside. Phone 619-443-2300. Toll-free 888-722-7662. <http://barona.com>.

Harrah's Resort Southern California

Located in North County's Valley Center, this casino offers 1,700 slots, 59 gaming tables, a 12-table poker room and 1,065 guest rooms. A large pool area that includes a lazy river and swim-up bar, full spa, eight restaurants, and a 2,200-seat indoor concert venue (think performances by such artists as B.B. King, Gladys Knight and Clint Black) and spinning DJs are also geared to attract patrons and keep them there. 777 Harrah's Resort Southern California Way (take Interstate 15 North), Valley Center. Phone 760-751-3100. Toll-free 877-777-2457. <http://www.harrahresortssoutherncalifornia.com>.

Pala Casino Spa & Resort

Set in Palomar Mountain, this Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired resort is operated by the Pala Band of Mission Indians. With 2,000 slots and 87 gaming tables, the luxury resort is second to none. The spa offers 10,000 sq ft/929 sq m of relaxation including an Olympic-size swimming pool and 12 private poolside cabanas. Entertainers include Smokey Robinson, George Benson and Al Jarreau, Cyndi Lauper and Kenny G. Sunday-Thursday 7 am-midnight, Friday and Saturday noon-midnight. 11154 Highway 76 (about 52 mi/84 km north of San Diego; take Interstate 15 north to Highway 76), Pala. Phone 760-510-5191. Toll-free 877-946-7252. <http://www.palacasino.com>.

Sycuan Casino

A premier casino with a first-class resort located down the street, 54 holes of championship golf on 425 acres/172 hectares (ranked among San Diego County's best), tennis courts, a full-service spa and top entertainment—from popular singers to boxing events. Free daily shuttles run from downtown San Diego and other areas. Monday-Thursday 4-9:30 pm, Friday 4-10 pm, Saturday 11:30 am-10 pm, Sunday 11:30 am-9:30 pm. 5485 Casino Way (east on Highway 94 from downtown; a 30-minute drive), El Cajon. Phone 619-445-6002. Toll-free 800-279-2826. <http://www.sycuan.com>.

Viejas Casino & Resort

In addition to blackjack and poker, the casino has made a name for itself with its impressive marquee of entertainers such as Poncho Sanchez and Bill Cosby. The adjacent Viejas Outlet Center features stores such as Gap and Tommy Hilfiger. They're both run by the Viejas band of Kumeyaay Indians. 5000 Willows Road (east on Interstate 8; a 30-minute drive from downtown), Alpine. Phone 619-445-5400. Toll-free 800-847-6537. <http://www.viejas.com>.

HISTORIC SITES

Cabrillo National Monument

This rocky peninsula at the tip of Point Loma was the site of Portuguese explorer Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo's landing in California in 1542. A historic lighthouse, teeming tide pools and pathways along the cliffs make this a spectacularly photogenic site. It's the third most-visited national monument in the U.S. Daily 9 am-5 pm. US\$5 per car or motorcycle; US\$3 bicyclists and walk-ins. 1800 Cabrillo Memorial Drive (follow Rosecrans off Interstate 5 to Canon Street, then turn left to Catalina Boulevard and follow it to the end of Point Loma), San Diego. Phone 619-557-5450. <http://www.nps.gov/cabr>.

Heritage County Park

This is another of the city's Victorian treasures. Located adjacent to Old Town, this 8-acre/3-hectare park features seven relocated and beautifully restored structures that include a synagogue. The park is owned by the county. Daily 9 am-5 pm. Free. 2454 Heritage Park Row, San Diego. Phone 858-565-3600. <http://www.co.san-diego.ca.us/parks/heritage.html>.

Hotel del Coronado

Across the bay from downtown and a short drive across the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge is the quaint community of Coronado and this crown jewel. Locals affectionately call it "The Del," and this beloved institution—now a national historic landmark—is worth a visit no matter where you're staying. Its fanciful turrets, cupolas, balconies and other Victorian ornamentation date from 1888. Nonguests may walk around the hotel's lobby, grounds and the expansive sandy beach nearby. Sunday-Thursday 10 am-5 pm, Friday and Saturday 10 am-6 pm. 1500 Orange Ave., San Diego. Phone 619-435-6611. Toll-free 800-468-3533. <http://www.hoteldel.com>.

Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcalá

This is the first in the chain of 21 Spanish missions founded along the California coast. Founded by Father Junipero Serra in 1769, it includes a museum and gardens. The Festival of Bells (<http://www.festivalofbells.com>), which celebrates the mission's founding, takes place in mid-July. Daily 9 am-4 pm. Suggested donation US\$5 adults, US\$3 seniors and students, US\$2 children younger than 13. 10818 San Diego Mission Road, San Diego. Phone 619-283-7319. <http://www.missionsandiego.com>.

NTC at Liberty Station

At the site of the Naval Training Center is an arts, culture, science and technology complex. It is housed in former Navy administration Spanish Revival structures (built in the 1920s-40s) that have been renovated to accommodate numerous nonprofit arts and culture organizations. One two-story building houses Dance Place San Diego, where San Diego's premier dance companies give classes and rehearse programs. Visitors can watch rehearsals through floor-to-ceiling windows. NTC's former library was converted into a facility for meetings and events. It holds free open-artist studios and performances the first Friday of every month, starting at 5 pm. Use Roosevelt Road off Rosecrans Street to access NTC in Point Loma, San Diego. Phone 619-573-9300. <http://www.ntclibertystation.com>.

Old Mission San Luis Rey de Francia

The largest of the California missions, this 1798 adobe landmark is outstanding for its glorious sanctuary and original Native American decorations. Restrictions on photography. Monday-Friday 9:30 am-5 pm, Saturday and Sunday 10 am-5 pm. US\$5 adults. 4050 Mission Ave. (a 35-mi/55-km drive north on Interstate 5; take the Mission Avenue exit and go east 4 mi/2.5 km to the mission), Oceanside. Phone 760-757-3651. <http://www.sanluisrey.org>.

Old Town San Diego State Historic Park

A six-block, pedestrian-only zone preserves structures built in the area between 1821 and 1872. A Spanish fort and mission were built nearby in the early 18th century at what is now Presidio Park. The mission was later moved farther inland and closer to the San Diego River. The Plaza del Pasado transports visitors back to the city's historic beginnings, with docents dressed in period costume. This historic area is as lively as ever with great Mexican restaurants, performance spaces and specialty shops. Daily 11 am-6 pm. Free. 2415 San Diego Ave., Suite 107, San Diego. Phone 619-291-4903. <http://www.oldtownsandiego.org>.

Thomas Whaley House Museum

In the heart of Old Town, this museum contains pioneer memorabilia from the 1860s and has been called "the most haunted house in America" as it is reputedly inhabited by seven spirits. June-Labor Day daily 10 am-9:30 pm (last tour begins at 9:30 pm); the rest of the year Sunday-Tuesday 10 am-5 pm, Thursday-Saturday 10 am-9:30 pm. US\$6 adults. 2476 San Diego Ave., San Diego. Phone 619-297-9327. <http://www.whaleyhouse.org>.

MUSEUMS

If visiting museums in Balboa Park, your best bet may be the Passport to Balboa Park, a discounted ticket book good for one-time entry to 14 museums in the park for seven consecutive days. A Passport/Zoo combo is also available. Passports can be purchased online at the Balboa Park Visitors Center or the MTS Transit store downtown. Balboa Park passports are US\$53 adults, US\$29 children ages 3-12; Passport/Zoo combos are US\$89 adults, US\$52 children ages 3-12. Phone 619-231-1640. <http://www.balboapark.org/explorer>. For short-term visitors, a Stay-for-the-Day Pass lets you choose five of the 14 museums for US\$43 for the day.

A free tram is available within Balboa Park from the parking lots 8:30 am-6 pm with extended hours during summer months (<http://www.balboapark.org/visit/parking>). Two main bus lines (Routes 7 and 120) travel through the park. Check the San Diego MTS (<http://www.sdmts.com/marketing/balboapark.asp>) or dial 511 for info.

California Surf Museum

For surf lovers of all ages, this small but charming museum chronicles the colorful history of surfing and skateboarding with rare antiques, intelligent history and an enthusiastic staff. Daily 10 am-4 pm. US\$5 adults; US\$3 students, seniors and military; free for children younger than 12. Free on Tuesday. 312 Pier View Way (about 40 mi/64 km north of downtown San Diego), Oceanside. Phone 760-721-6876. <http://www.surfmuseum.org>.

Junipero Serra Museum

The museum and Serra Cross on Presidio Hill overlooking Old Town mark the spot where Father Junipero Serra founded the state's first mission. The museum, operated by the San Diego Historical Society, contains archaeological and historical exhibits about San Diego's Spanish and Mexican eras. Call ahead for opening hours. US\$6 adults. 2727 Presidio Drive, San Diego. Phone 619-232-6203 or 619-297-3258. http://www.sandiegohistory.org/serra_museum.html.

Maritime Museum of San Diego

Experience a floating display of maritime history aboard the 1898 ferryboat *Berkeley*, the 1904 steam yacht *Medea*, the 1863 sailing vessel *Star of India*, the HMS *Surprise* (replica of the 18th-century Royal Navy frigate portrayed in the film *Master and Commander*) and a B-39 Soviet attack submarine. The exhibit "San Diego's Navy" depicts the Navy's associations with San Diego. Daily 9 am-8 pm. US\$16 adults; US\$13 seniors, children ages 13-17 and active military; US\$8 children ages 3-12; free for children younger than 3. 1492 N. Harbor Drive (Embarcadero), San Diego. Phone 619-234-9153. <http://www.sdmaritime.org>.

Mingei International Museum

Temporary exhibits and a permanent collection highlight historical and contemporary folk art from all over the world, including textiles, pottery, jewelry, wearable art, toys, dolls and costumes. Tuesday-Sunday 10 am-5 pm. US\$8 adults. 1439 El Prado (in Balboa Park—you can't miss the giant dragon statue out front), San Diego. Phone 619-239-0003. <http://www.mingei.org>.

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego

This museum at its original location offers permanent and special exhibitions of art of all media created from 1950 onward, with a spectacular walkway overlooking the ocean in La Jolla. The museum also has a branch downtown at the Santa Fe train depot (1001 & 1100 Kettner Blvd.). Daily except Wednesday 11 am-5 pm. US\$10 general admission. 700 Prospect St., La Jolla. Phone 858-454-3541. <http://www.mcasd.org>.

Museum of Photographic Arts

One of the few museums in the world devoted exclusively to photography, film and video. Changing exhibits feature internationally known artists, visual-arts pioneers, photojournalists and selections from the permanent collection. The museum bookstore has one of the largest collections of photography books anywhere. Tuesday-Sunday 10 am-5 pm. US\$8 adults; US\$7 seniors, retired military and dependents; US\$6 students; free for active military, their dependents and children age 12 and younger. 1649 El Prado (in the Casa de Balboa building inside Balboa Park), San Diego. Phone 619-238-7559. <http://www.mopa.org>.

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center

The center's seven galleries have hands-on experimental exhibits and science demonstrations as well as an IMAX theater, which presents films on subjects such as Van Gogh, spacecraft and nature documentaries. Monday-Thursday 10 am-5 pm, Friday-Sunday 10 am-6 pm. Gallery admission US\$13 adults, US\$12 seniors and children ages 3-12; Giant Dome Theater show (including gallery admission) US\$17 adults, US\$15 seniors, US\$14 children. 1875 El Prado (in Balboa Park), San Diego. Phone 619-238-1233. <http://www.rhfleet.org>.

San Diego Air and Space Museum

This place brings significant aviation and spaceflight events to life through aircraft and artifacts, including rare World War I and World War II aircraft, dirigibles and the Apollo 9 module. Daily 10 am-4:30 pm. US\$18 adults. 2001 Pan American Plaza (in Balboa Park), San Diego. Phone 619-234-8291. <http://www.sandiegoairandspace.org>.

San Diego Automotive Museum

Next door to the Air and Space Museum, this facility houses rotating and permanent exhibitions of more than 80 vehicles, from horseless carriages to future prototypes. Auto enthusiasts love the fabulous cars and motorcycles crammed into this tiny space. Daily 10 am-5 pm. US\$8.50 adults. 2080 Pan American Plaza (in Balboa Park), San Diego. Phone 619-231-2886. <http://www.sdautomuseum.org>.

San Diego Hall of Champions

Across Pan American Plaza from the Automotive Museum, this three-story museum features photos, memorabilia and an interactive media center. It focuses on San Diego sports and sports figures with connections to the city. Notables include baseball legends Tony Gwynn and Ted Williams. Daily 10 am-4:30 pm. US\$8 adults. 2131 Pan American Plaza (in Balboa Park), San Diego. Phone 619-234-2544. <http://www.sdhoc.com>.

San Diego History Center

Located in Balboa Park, this museum is devoted to showcasing the loves and lore of its namesake. The museum features artifacts, costumes, textiles, art, furniture and photographs of San Diego from its infancy on. The research library contains extensive local historical resources, including the largest photograph collection in the western U.S. with more than 2.5 million images. Daily 10 am-5 pm. US\$8 adults. 1649 El Prado, Suite 3 (in the Casa de Balboa in Balboa Park), San Diego. Phone 619-232-6203. <https://www.sandiegohistory.org>.

San Diego Model Railroad Museum

Train buffs and young children will enjoy one of the world's largest indoor model railroad exhibits, which shows detailed miniature replicas of California scenes. If you want to see the layouts being built, enter through the back door on Tuesday or Friday evenings to watch the builders at work. Tuesday-Friday 11 am-4 pm, Saturday and Sunday 11 am-5 pm. US\$9 adults. 1649 El Prado (in Balboa Park's Casa de Balboa), San Diego. Phone 619-696-0199. <http://www.sdmrm.org>.

San Diego Museum of Man

The museum's Spanish-colonial-style California Tower is a symbol of the city (and stood in for Xanadu in Orson Welles' movie *Citizen Kane*). Inside, exhibits include touchable replicas from 65 million years of human evolution and culture, from the ancient Maya to San Diego's Kumeyaay people, including a 1,600-lb/725-kg replica of a Mayan obelisk. Daily 10 am-5 pm. US\$12.50 adults. 1350 El Prado (in Balboa Park next to the Old Globe Theatre), San Diego. Phone 619-239-2001. <http://www.museumofman.org>.

San Diego Natural History Museum

An outgrowth from a group of amateur naturalists from 1874, this museum puts on special exhibits that draw visitors from all over the southwest, as when it displayed the Dead Sea Scrolls for six months. The institution's other exhibits bring the desert, ocean and shore habitats indoors. Permanent exhibits include a collection of local bones, fossils and photography entitled *Visions of Baja*. Daily 10 am-5 pm. US\$17 adults. 1788 El Prado (in Balboa Park), San Diego. Phone 619-232-3821. <http://www.sdnhm.org>.

The New Children's Museum

Part art museum, part educational center and part children's museum, the NCM encourages visitors to think, play and create through participatory exhibits and hands-on activities, and workshops with professional artists. Some projects are age-specific, but most can be enjoyed by kids of all ages. Monday and Wednesday-Saturday 10 am-4 pm, Sunday noon-4 pm. US\$10 general admission. 200 W. Island Ave. (downtown), San Diego. Phone 619-233-8792. <http://www.thinkplaycreate.org>.

The San Diego Museum of Art

The city's largest art museum has an outstanding collection of works by contemporary artists. It also displays old masters from Spain, Italy, other parts of Europe and Latin America. Its Asian collection, which rotates exhibitions of selected objects, holds more than 4,000 pieces. Monday-Saturday 10 am-5 pm, Sunday noon-5 pm. US\$12 adults. 1450 El Prado (in Balboa Park), San Diego. Phone 619-232-7931. <http://www.sdmart.org>.

The Stuart Collection

Located throughout the University of California at San Diego campus is an outdoor collection of commissioned, site-specific sculptures and installations. Artworks include Terry Allen's Trees (affectionately called "the talking trees" by university students), a sun god sculpture by Niki de Saint Phalle, neon virtues and vices by Bruce Nauman, and a video installation and corresponding installation of Buddhas watching TV by Nam June Paik. Walking-tour maps and brochures are available at UCSD's information kiosks. Daily 24 hours. Free. 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla. Phone 858-534-2117. <http://stuartcollection.ucsd.edu>.

Timken Museum of Art

This tiny jewel box next door to the San Diego Museum of Art permanently displays a collection of European old masters, 18th- and 19th-century American paintings and Russian icons from the Putnam Foundation Collection. Tuesday-Saturday 10 am-4:30 pm, Sunday noon-4:30 pm. Admission is free. 1500 El Prado (in Balboa Park), San Diego. Phone 619-239-5548. <http://www.timkenmuseum.org>.

USS Midway Museum

Experience for yourself the USS *Midway*, a 1,001-ft/310-m World War II-era "City at Sea," including the hangar deck, flight deck and more. Formerly called the San Diego Aircraft Carrier Museum, it offers a self-guided audio tour as part of the admission cost. The docents are the ones with the real insider scoop, so don't be afraid to ask questions. Daily 10 am-5 pm. US\$20 adults. 910 N. Harbor Drive (at Navy Pier, Embarcadero), San Diego. Phone 619-544-9600. <http://www.midway.org>.

NEIGHBORHOODS & DISTRICTS

Coronado

A variety of restaurants with outdoor patios or sit-down dining as well as shops, galleries and expansive beaches awaits you at the Ferry Landing Marketplace in pristine Coronado. Some call it Coronado Island, but it's actually connected to the mainland by a narrow strip of land, the Silver Strand State Beach. The best way to get there is to take the ferry from the Embarcadero in downtown San Diego or drive across the San Diego Coronado Bay Bridge. Shops open at 10 am daily. Visitor Center open Monday-Friday 9 am-5 pm, Saturday and Sunday 10 am-5 pm. Visitor Center, 1100 Orange Ave. (in the lobby of the Coronado Historical Association), Coronado. Phone 619-437-8788. Toll-free 866-599-7242. <http://www.coronadovisitorcenter.com>.

Del Mar

North of La Jolla is the beach city of Del Mar. Famous for its seaside race track, it's also home to the San Diego County Fair, held every June and July. Del Mar Village is where the well-heeled shop, dine and play along Camino del Mar. Its 2 mi/3 km of wide, sandy beaches attract surfers and sun lovers, as well. 1050 Camino del Mar, San Diego. Phone 858-755-9313. <http://www.delmar.ca.us>.

Downtown and the Gaslamp Quarter

With the Gaslamp Quarter at its heart, San Diego's downtown includes the Embarcadero (where cruise ships come and go) and the East Village (a hip neighborhood that's growing around PETCO Park). In the shadow of the San Diego Convention Center is the Gaslamp Quarter, a 16-block area where San Diego's wild side flourished in the 1800s. It now draws Victoriana buffs to its broad sidewalks and historic buildings. More than 100 merchants and an equal number of restaurants and nightspots make this National Historic District a thriving part of the modern downtown. A hip, fun area brimming with alfresco eateries, it's equally suited to families and partygoers. From Broadway between Fourth and Sixth avenues south to Harbor Drive and the trolley line. Maps and information are available from the Gaslamp Quarter Association. 614 Fifth Ave., Suite E, San Diego. Phone 619-233-5227. <http://www.gaslamplocal.com>.

Hillcrest

A 1940s neon sign over University Avenue at Fifth Street proclaims the identity of this neighborhood, which calls itself a village in the city. Hillcrest is a gay-friendly community with lots of attitude, good restaurants and street life. Its Sunday farmers market is considered one of the best anywhere for produce and flowers. <http://fabulouhillcrest.com>.

La Jolla

Upscale La Jolla (pronounced *la HOY-yuh*) is really a jewel of a town, as its name would suggest. Located about 30 minutes north of downtown, its mansions and upscale hotels overlook a beautiful cove and dramatic coastline. It is home to the Torrey Pines State Reserve, the Birch Aquarium, the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego and the University of California San Diego (UCSD). Galleries, restaurants and boutique stores line Prospect Street and Girard Avenue in La Jolla Village. Tuesday-Sunday 10 am-5 pm in winter; 10 am-6 pm in summer. 1162 Prospect St., La Jolla. Phone 858-454-5718. <http://www.lajollabythesea.com>.

Little Italy

With roots dating from the 1920s and a flourishing tuna industry, this rejuvenated retail and residential area (just blocks north of the heart of downtown) has a welcoming neighborhood feel. It's chock-full of Italian eateries (and other ethnic restaurants), food markets, stylish merchants and coffeehouses. Among its annual celebrations are Sicilian Festival (May; <http://www.sicilianfesta.com>) and the Little Italy Festa (October; <http://www.littleitalysd.com/events/little-italy-festa>). The Mercato Farmers Market pops up every Saturday 8 am-2 pm at Date and India streets. From A to Laurel streets and from Pacific Highway to Front Street, San Diego. Phone 619-233-3898. <http://www.littleitalysd.com>.

Mission Bay and Beach Cities

Located north of Point Loma, SeaWorld, the largest man-made aquatic park in the country, is home to Shamu and a variety of watersports. North of the bay are the surf towns of Ocean Beach (OB), with its vintage stores and funky surf vibe; Pacific Beach (PB), where you can find the boardwalk; and Belmont Park, which has a historic wooden roller coaster and other carnival rides.

Mission Valley

What used to be dairy farmland along the San Diego River now comprises residential areas and shopping malls. The Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcala can be found there, as well as more affordable hotels in the aptly named Hotel Circle off the No. 8 Freeway. For football fans, Qualcomm Stadium is located there. The two largest malls in the area, Mission Valley and Fashion Valley, can also be found there.

Old Town

This historic district is at the base of Presidio Hill and includes the state park and five original adobes. It tells of the city's quaint past, and the area includes some pretty-good Mexican restaurants, as well. The most famous structure in the area is the Whaley House, famed for its supposed spooks.

PARKS & GARDENS

Balboa Park

San Diego's pride and joy was the combined vision of Alonzo Horton (he's known as "the Father of San Diego") and Kate O. Sessions, who planted trees there from around the globe. The beautifully landscaped 1,200-acre/486-hectare park contains more than 15 museums, rose and cactus gardens, the Spreckels Organ Pavilion, the world-class San Diego Zoo, the Starlight Bowl outdoor theater and the Old Globe Theatre complex. There's plenty of open space for strolling and lingering. Weekends are especially active with entertainment from street performers and artists, as well as free concerts at the outdoor Organ Pavilion. On some Saturdays, a traditional tea ceremony takes place in the serene harmony of the Japanese Friendship Garden. The Balboa Park grounds are open 24 hours a day, the Visitors Center is open 9:30 am-4:30 pm daily, and museum hours vary by institution. Admission to the grounds is free, but each museum has separate admission charges. 1549 El Prado, San Diego. Phone 619-239-0512. <http://www.balboapark.org>.

Ellen Browning Scripps Park

A tiny curve in La Jolla's rugged cliff-view coastline that draws snorkelers and swimmers to its (relatively) warmer waters (in the high 60s F/20s C during summer months). The sandy beach inlet and protected sea life in this underwater preserve make it a family favorite and a small piece of paradise. The wooden beach huts perched above the ocean have been the site of many marriage proposals, and is a great area for relaxing and enjoying the view. Daily 4 am-8 pm. Admission is free. Street parking only. Coast Boulevard and Prospect Street, La Jolla. <http://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/parks/regional/shoreline/ebscripps.shtml>.

San Diego Botanic Garden

Located on 30 acres/12 hectares in Encinitas (about 25 mi/40 km north of downtown), this garden displays flora from around the globe. Areas are cultivated with vegetation ranging from bamboo groves to desert gardens to tropical rain-forest specimens. A garden shop, lectures and special events are available. Daily 9 am-5 pm. US\$25 adults. 230 Quail Gardens Drive (Interstate 5 North to Leucadia Boulevard exit), Encinitas. Phone 760-436-3036. <http://www.sdbgarden.org>.

The Flower Fields

A working ranch about 30 mi/49 km north of downtown, the attraction is a giant, 50-acre/20-hectare rainbow of yellow, orange, pink, red and white ranunculus flowers in bloom. Visitors are allowed to walk along its pathways in spring when the flowers are at their peak—although no picking is allowed. Open daily March to mid-May 9 am-6 pm. US\$12 adults, US\$11 seniors, US\$6 children ages 3-10 (a wagon ride is available, US\$5 adults, US\$3 children). Free parking. 5704 Paseo Del Norte (one block east of Interstate 5 at Palomar Airport Road), Carlsbad. Phone 760-431-0352. <http://www.theflowerfields.com>.

AMUSEMENT PARKS

If you plan on visiting San Diego for a few days and want to visit a number of attractions, you may be able to save some money by purchasing a Go San Diego Card. You can buy the card for one, two, three, five or seven days. The card allows you to visit any or all of 48 attractions, including SeaWorld, the San Diego Zoo and Zoo Safari Park, LEGOLAND, San Diego Harbor Excursions, Knott's Berry Farm (which is actually in Orange County) and all the museums in Balboa Park. You can visit each attraction one time per day, but you can visit the same attraction again on a different valid card day. One-day passes are US\$80 adults, US\$75 children ages 3-12; seven-day passes are US\$309 adults, US\$254 children. You can also customize your pass on the website; prices vary. Toll-free 866-628-9032. <http://www.smartdestinations.com/SanDiego>.

Belmont Park

On Mission Bay boardwalk, this park features the Giant Dipper, a beautifully restored classic wooden roller coaster, and nine other rides, including the FlowRider surfing platform—better known as "The Endless Wave." Monday-Thursday noon-6 pm, Friday-Sunday 11 am-7 pm. All-day pass US\$26.95 adults. 3146 Mission Blvd., San Diego. Phone 858-228-9283. <http://www.belmontpark.com>.

LEGOLAND California Resort

Inspired by the popular, brightly colored plastic bricks, the park is a kids' wonderland with entire miniature cities made of Legos, and more than 60 rides and attractions such as the nation's first robo-coaster, which allows riders to select the intensity of their ride. A "Bob the Builder" 4-D experience adds to the fun. SEA LIFE Aquarium and the water park require an additional fee. Open daily; hours vary—call for schedule. US\$83 adults (ages 13 and up), US\$73 children (ages 3-12). Various combination tickets are available. Parking US\$15. 1 LEGOLAND Drive, Carlsbad. Phone 760-918-5346. Toll-free 877-534-6526. <http://california.legoland.com>.

SeaWorld

San Diego's water theme park is an all-day adventure starring Shamu (the stage name for any of the resident Orca whales), dolphins and a series of impressive animal shows. Most shows last 20-25 minutes. Attractions include the Penguin Encounter, Shark Encounter, Manatee Rescue and a number of rides. For additional fees, the Dolphin Interaction program and several close-up tours are available to visitors. The park is open daily, with opening and closing times varying by season (extended hours during holidays and May-Labor Day). US\$84 adults and children age 10 and older, US\$78 children ages 3-9. Parking US\$16. 500 SeaWorld Drive, San Diego. Phone 619-685-4900. Toll-free 800-257-4268. <http://www.seaworld.com>.

The Wave Water Park

A warm-weather favorite for kids, the Wave offers rip-roaring waterslides, pool areas and a man-made river. Open late May-early September only; times can vary depending on day. Call ahead to confirm. US\$18.95 general admission. 101 Wave Drive (40 minutes north of downtown San Diego), Vista. Phone 760-940-9283. <http://www.thewavewaterpark.com>.

ZOOS & WILDLIFE

Birch Aquarium at Scripps

The interpretive center for the world-renowned Scripps Institute of Oceanography, Birch Aquarium is dedicated to conservation and education. Sixty tanks, including a 13,000-gal/49,210-L shark exhibit and a two-story kelp tank, house colorful fish and other sea life—putting visitors in a front-row seat for viewing them. Though seasonal, the full-moon pier walk is a highlight. A comprehensive bookshop focuses on marine science and oceanography and sells teaching materials. Daily 9 am-5 pm. US\$17 adults. 2300 Expedition Way (about 12 mi/19 km north of downtown), La Jolla. Phone 858-534-3474. <http://www.aquarium.ucsd.edu>.

San Diego Zoo

Arguably the country's premier zoo. Most of the animals (including a number of endangered species) live in natural-habitat enclosures. It has the largest koala colony outside Australia, and one of the most popular attractions is the pandas. Also be sure to see the Polar Bear Plunge, the Rain Forest Aviary and the gorilla exhibit.

A guided bus tour and a skytram ride are available if you get tired of walking around the hilly terrain. Keep in mind that the line for the bus' sun-exposed upper deck is much longer than for the covered lower deck, which is more comfortable and puts you at eye-level with the animals. Behind-the-scenes tours are available. Daily 9 am-6 pm. US\$46 adults. 2920 Zoo Drive (in Balboa Park), San Diego. Phone 619-231-1515. <http://www.sandiegozoo.org>.

San Diego Zoo Safari Park

Operated by the San Diego Zoo, this 1,800-acre/728-hectare preserve allows endangered and other special species to roam freely in settings similar to their native habitats.

The Africa Tram tour (included in the admission price) makes its way through the habitat of wild animals from a distance. Animal shows and carefully constructed paths enable visitors to view the animals from close range. Specialty tours are available at additional cost.

This park houses the world's largest number of captive rhinos. The Condor Ridge habitat is home to endangered California condors, plus other birds, mammals and a desert tortoise. Heart of Africa allows close encounters with giraffes and other regional animals.

Check the zoo website to see what newborn babies can be seen (rhino, elephant, cheetah and tiger are among the animals born in recent years). Open daily at 9 am; closing times vary, ranging 5-7 pm depending on the season. US\$46 adults, US\$36 children ages 3-11. Parking is US\$10. 15500 San Pasqual Valley Road (go 35 mi/56 km north of San Diego on Highway 163/Interstate 15 to the Via Rancho Parkway exit, turn right and follow the signs to the park), Escondido. Phone 760-747-8702. <http://www.sdzsafaripark.org>.

RECREATION

Vacationing in San Diego is like visiting a 70-mi/113-km stretch of seaside resort with enough activities to occupy you for days. You can lounge on the beach, surf in the sea or snorkel in the coves. Take a harbor cruise for an hour, dine at the water's edge or explore waterside caves.

In fact, it's very difficult not to be in, on, by or under water in this most oceangoing of California cities. If you need some help in choosing a beach, we think the best ones are La Jolla Shores, South Pacific Beach, Mission Beach, Ocean Beach, Silver Strand State Beach and Coronado Beach, which is consistently named one of the nation's top 10 beaches. All of the San Diego city beaches are smoke-free areas, as are the beaches in the coastal cities of Solana Beach, Del Mar and Imperial Beach.

If you prefer to stay dry, you can play golf at more than 90 courses, most of them public. (Try to reserve your tee time at least one week in advance.) San Diego is also a paradise for joggers and walkers. For a picturesque run, try the 6-mi/10-km trail along San Diego's waterfront, from Shelter Island to Seaport Village, a stress-reducing lope along the water's edge.

The hills around Old Town and in the vicinity of the Presidio are also exhilarating. For a challenge, try the hike up Soledad Mountain in La Jolla, or take a hike near the cliffs that overlook the Pacific Ocean in Torrey Pines State Reserve. Cyclists should hit the Mission Bay bike path. There are plenty of other options for outdoor adventure, as well, such as sportfishing and hang gliding.

BICYCLING

With boardwalks and wide bike paths, San Diego is one of the best biking cities in the country, and cruising on two wheels is a great way to see the sights. Be aware that the city has helmet laws (but don't worry—all rentals include them). A notoriously large number of bikes are stolen every year, so be careful where you lock your rental.

Holland's Bicycles

Rents bicycles, in-line skates and surreys (pedaled "bike" wagons) from the Coronado Ferry Landing. It's convenient to a great path that goes along San Diego Bay and under the Coronado Bay Bridge. Monday-Saturday 10 am-7 pm, Sunday 10 am-5 pm. 977 Orange Ave., Coronado. Phone 619-435-3153. <http://hollandsbicycles.com>.

RADD Action Sports

This small, friendly shop in Mission Beach rents bikes, in-line skates, and surf, skate and body boards. Daily 10 am-5 pm. Bike rentals start at US\$7 per hour or US\$15 per day for a beach cruiser; helmet and lock included in rental price. Surf lessons are US\$50 for 90 minutes on the waves. 3837 Mission Blvd., San Diego. Phone 858-488-7789. <http://www.missionbeachbikeandsurfrentals.com>.

San Diego Bike Shop

Located just a couple of blocks from Horton Plaza, this downtown bike shop rents everything from hybrids to electric cruisers. Monday-Saturday 9:30 am-6 pm. Rentals start at US\$10 per hour or US\$25 per day for a seven-speed beach cruiser. Helmet and lock included in rental price. 619 C St., San Diego. Phone 619-237-1245. <http://sdbikeshop.com>.

BOATING & SAILING

Harbor Island Yacht Club

Rents larger cruising boats to experienced sailors. Daily 9 am-5 pm. Rental for the smallest vessel starts at US\$135 for four hours or US\$175 per day. 1880 Harbor Island Drive (near the airport), San Diego. Phone 619-291-7245. Toll-free 800-553-7245. <http://www.harboryc.com>.

La Jolla Kayak

The La Jolla Underwater Park gives you a whole new perspective, allowing you to explore San Diego Bay by kayak or by snorkeling. Located at La Jolla Shores Beach, it also rents surf and body boards and bikes. Daily 8 am-6 pm. Single kayak rentals start at US\$30 for two hours, double rentals US\$50. 2199 Avenida de la Playa, La Jolla. Phone 858-459-1114. <http://www.lajollakayak.com>.

Mission Bay Sportcenter

With a convenient facility on Mission Bay, this center offers rentals of paddleboats, catamarans, kayaks, powerboats and sailboats. Private and group lessons are also available. Daily 10 am-6 pm. 1010 Santa Clara Place, San Diego. Phone 858-488-1004. <http://www.missionbaysportcenter.com>.

Seaforth Boat Rentals

With several locations in the San Diego area, it offers more than 200 sailboats for rent, from 16 ft/5 m to 42 ft/13 m, plus power boats and waverunners, too. Additional locations on Harbor Island, Coronado downtown and Coronado Marriott. Mission Bay location open Monday-Friday 8 am till 30 minutes before sunset, Saturday and Sunday 7 am-30 minutes before sunset. Sailboat rentals start at US\$40 per hour, US\$240 per day. 1641 Quivira Road, San Diego. Toll-free 888-834-2628. <http://www.seaforthboatrental.com>.

FISHING

Fisherman's Landing

Luxury vessels with full crew take you out fishing in style, for short trips or multiday adventures. Try your hand at yellowtail, albacore and even marlin fishing, depending on the season. Coronado Island trips start at US\$140 per adult for open party boats. Half-day fishing trips start at US\$44 adults. 2838 Garrison St., San Diego. Phone 619-221-8500. <http://www.fishermanslanding.com>.

H & M Landing

Takes half- to full-day trips, plus overnights in the waters of Southern California and Mexico. The best tuna fishing is June-September. Open party half-day fishing trips start at US\$51 per person. 2803 Emerson St. (Point Loma near Fisherman's Landing), San Diego. Phone 619-222-1144. <http://www.hmlanding.com>.

GOLF

Aviara Golf Club & Resort

This golf course was designed by Arnold Palmer and consistently wins awards. It's a favorite with celebrities, who regularly drive down from Los Angeles for a round, which may explain the platinum-level greens fees. 7447 Batiquitos Drive (about 36 mi/58 km north of downtown), Carlsbad. Phone 760-603-6900. <http://www.golfaviara.com>.

Coronado Municipal Golf Course

Players may be distracted by the lovely views of Glorietta Bay Marina, Hotel del Coronado and the Coronado Bridge, but inexpensive greens fees mean you can always schedule another round at this 18-hole beauty. Dress code—collared shirt and no flip flops. Plan ahead because tee times are obtained by lottery or phone calls two days prior to day of play; advance reservations are US\$16.25. Greens fees US\$35 Monday-Friday; US\$40 Saturday, Sunday and holidays; additional US\$16 per rider for a motorized cart. 2000 Visalia Row, Coronado. Phone 619-435-3121. <http://www.golfcoronado.com>.

Omni La Costa Resort & Spa

This resort has enjoyed a reputation as a top-notch choice for championship golf for decades. Many of the game's greats have played there—from Nicklaus to Woods—so the courses have seen plenty of classic moments. Besides the two 18-hole tournament-caliber courses on the property, there are extensive practice facilities and an attractive clubhouse. Monday-Wednesday 8:30 am-7:30 pm, Thursday-Sunday 8:30 am-8:30 pm. Greens fees US\$135-\$230. 2100 Costa Del Mar Road, Carlsbad. Toll-free 800-854-5000. <http://www.lacosta.com/golf>.

Torrey Pines Golf Course

As the site of the PGA's annual Buick Invitational each February and host of the 2008 U.S. Open, this seaside course is world-renowned. Although it's a public course, its coveted tee times are difficult to obtain. Monday-Friday 9 am-3 pm. South Course: US\$183 Monday-Thursday; US\$229 Friday-Sunday and holidays, with lower twilight fees. North Course: US\$100 Monday-Thursday; US\$125 Friday-Sunday and holidays. Carts are an additional US\$40. Tee-time packages (including cart and PGA instruction for three holes) are available in advance for an additional charge. Reservations can be made by phone Monday-Friday 9 am-3 pm eight days to three months in advance for a US\$43 fee. 11480 N. Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla. Phone 858-581-7171, ext. 3. Toll-free 877-581-7171. <http://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/golf/torreypines/index.shtml>.

HIKING & WALKING

Cuyamacas

Hiking in the Cuyamacas east of San Diego (about a 45-minute drive) is a compelling option for those who enjoy the mountains. Get a map from the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Visitors Center off Highway 79, or download it from <http://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/667/files/CuyamacaWebLayout2010Rev.pdf>. Daily sunrise-sunset. 13652 Highway 79, Julian. Phone 760-765-0755. http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_ID=667.

Lake Poway Recreation Area

The most popular trail on this northeast San Diego County mountain is Mount Woodson, a 2-mi/3-km trail covered with hundreds of granite boulders. Hikers may park alongside the highway and take the short dirt trail that quickly turns to a paved path to the mountain's peak. The 360-degree view (including the ocean on clear days) is well worth the steep hike. Be aware that it can be uncomfortably hot in summer months. The approach is along Highway 67, about 3 mi/5 km north of Poway Road and about a 45-minute drive from downtown. You'll see the boulder-studded mountain on the left; the trail is in the vicinity of Mount Woodson Road—if you reach Archie Moore Road, you've gone too far. Daily 6 am-sunset. Parking US\$5. 14644 Lake Poway Road, Poway. Phone 858-668-4570. <http://www.poway.org>.

Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve

Situated between Interstates 5 and 15, approximately 12 mi/19 km from the city's center, Los Penasquitos Canyon covers 4,000 acres/1,619 hectares with its riparian habitat as the main draw. A waterfall cascading over rocks is the approximate center point. Tours are available for the historic Santa Maria de Los Penasquitos Adobe, dating from 1823 and located at the east end of the preserve on Canyonside Park Driveway (<http://earllysandiego.org/FT00sites.html#6ranchopena>). Daily 8 am till sunset. 12115 Black Mountain Road (at Mercy Road in Torrey Hills), San Diego. Phone 858-538-8082. <http://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/parks/osp/lospenasquitos/index.shtml>.

Mission Trails Regional Park

The most popular hike in this park, located in the suburban Del Cerro area east of San Diego State University, is the one up Cowles Mountain. This 1,591-ft/485-m peak has a rugged 3-mi/5-km (round-trip) trail, which offers a full 360-degree view of the city. Keep in mind that it can be extremely hot June-September, so pack plenty of water. Daily 9 am-5 pm. Admission is free. 1 Father Junipero Serra Trail (take Interstate 8 to Mission Gorge Road; travel 4.5 mi/7 km and take a right on Golfcrest, which takes you to the mountain), San Diego. Phone 619-668-3281. <http://www.mtrp.org>.

Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve

If you follow the walking trails, you'll see how an almost-extinct species of tree (the five-needle Torrey pine, which is only found in this area and on the island of Santa Rosa) has been preserved. Hikers get dramatic views of the cliffs and the ocean along more than 8 mi/13 km of trails along the Pacific Ocean, a chance to see the endangered pines up-close and magnificent ocean views. The Guy Fleming Trail (<http://www.torreypine.org/parks/guy-fleming.html>) is an easy 0.6-mi/1-km loop with diverse scenery—ocean vistas, sandstone formations and spring wildflowers. Picnicking is not permitted. Interpretive nature walks start at the visitors center at 10 am and 2 pm on weekends and holidays. Daily 7:15 am-dusk. Parking US\$4-\$15 per

vehicle; free to pedestrians and cyclists. Hourly rates available in North Beach lot only. 12600 N. Torrey Pines Road (about a 20-minute drive from downtown), La Jolla. Phone 858-755-2063. <http://www.torreypine.org>.

SCUBA & SNORKELING

La Jolla Cove at Ellen Browning Scripps Park

Snorkelers and scuba divers can view the undersea world at this protected reserve, which ensures that the fish and other wildlife won't be bothered. This is a delightful way to spend a day in the summer—munching on a picnic lunch and marveling at the brightly colored fish. Admission is free, but parking can be scarce during popular summer months. Coast Boulevard (at Girard Avenue), La Jolla. Phone 619-525-8213. <http://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/parks/regional/shoreline/ebscripps.shtml>.

Scuba San Diego

This company offers snorkel tours of the La Jolla Cove Underwater Park that include all the equipment and a sack lunch. It also has a range of scuba certifications, including group and private lessons. Basic certification starts at US\$425 and includes equipment, books, wetsuit, dive tables, dive log and a certificate. Snorkel tour US\$70. 1155 Coast Blvd. (in La Jolla Cove Suites hotel), San Diego. Phone 619-260-1880. <http://www.scubasandiego.com>.

Waterhorse Charters

Offers scuba diving boat trips to Wreck Alley, the thick kelp forests of Point Loma, the Coronado Islands (in Mexico) and local points in between. The hot soup and warm showers are welcome perks after a long dive. Dive trips range US\$80-\$120, which includes air tanks, soft weights and food. Scuba gear is available for rent, as well. The required Mexican tourist visa for a trip across the border can be issued during check-in. You will need a passport, driver's license, or any other government-issued photo ID. 1617 Quivira Road, Suite B (in Mission Bay Harbor), San Diego. Phone 619-224-6195. <http://www.waterhorsecharters.com>.

SURFING

San Diego County's 70 mi/113 km of sandy beaches offer surfing for all levels. Less-experienced surfers might want to stick to Mission Beach, Pacific Beach and La Jolla Shores for the gentler waves. Top-notch experts can join the regulars at Sunset Cliffs in Ocean Beach or La Jolla's Windansea (where strangers should be prepared to field some local turf attitude).

Cheap Rentals

Located in Mission Beach. Daily 9 am-7 pm. Board rentals start at US\$5 per hour (US\$15 for a day) for soft boards; epoxy or fiberglass boards start at US\$10 per hour (US\$20 for a day). It also rents bikes, skates, wetsuits and boogie boards. 3689 Mission Blvd., San Diego. Phone 858-488-9070. Toll-free 800-941-7761. <http://www.cheap-rentals.com>.

Pacific Beach Surf Shop

Also known as PB Surf Shop, this is San Diego's oldest surf shop. A PB institution, it has been offering surf gear since the early 1960s. Board rentals start at US\$9 per hour for foam surfboards, US\$20 per hour for fiberglass boards. Group lessons start at US\$75. 4150 Mission Blvd., Suite 161, San Diego. Phone 858-373-1138. <http://www.pacificbeachsurfshop.com>.

Surfari

Surfing lessons include all the equipment—surfboard, wetsuit, rash guard and leash. Surf lessons are offered daily at 9 and 11 am, and 1 and 3 pm. Shop open daily 9 am-5 pm. Instruction costs US\$55 for group lessons, US\$85 for private lessons. Each lesson lasts about an hour and half with the option to keep the board and practice an hour longer in front of a lifeguard. 3740 Mission Blvd., San Diego. Phone 858-337-3287. <http://www.surfarisurf.com>.

Surf Diva

Surf Diva began as a surf clinic for women and girls; because of popular demand, it now offers co-ed group lessons every day at La Jolla Shores. Daily 8:30 am-6:30 pm. Group surf lessons start at US\$60.50 per hour; private lessons start at US\$93.50 per hour. 2160 Ave. de la Playa, La Jolla. Phone 858-454-8273. <http://www.surfdiva.com>.

NIGHTLIFE

Jazz—and rhythms ranging from bebop to blues—is the specialty of the Gaslamp Quarter. Country music still retains a degree of popularity with dance establishments scattered about Mission Valley and northern communities. Irish crooners, lively piano bars, tapas bars and flamenco are all within walking distance of downtown's hotels and the convention center. Most bars close between 1 and 2 am.

BARS, TAVERNS & PUBS

Altitude Sky Lounge

Twenty-two stories above downtown in the San Diego Marriott Gaslamp Quarter, this rooftop bar offers bird's-eye views of the city, the bay and the playing field at PETCO Park. It's *the* place to be, especially on game nights. Blankets are provided for the night chill. Daily 5 pm-midnight. 660 K St. (downtown), San Diego. Phone 619-446-6086. <http://www.sandiegogaslamphotel.com/nightlife/altitude>.

Brass Rail

A gay-friendly neighborhood club features '80s-themed Manic Monday and Latin music on Saturday. Its saucy special events are legendary in the LGBT community. Monday and Thursday 9 pm-2 am, Friday-Sunday 2 pm-2 am. Cover varies. 3796 Fifth Ave. (Hillcrest), San Diego. Phone 619-298-2233. <http://www.thebrassrailsd.com>.

Float

This classy rooftop pool bar at the hip and happening Hard Rock Hotel overlooks the Gaslamp Quarter. Festooned with modern art, including black-and-white graffiti-style pieces, the inside also features large flat-screen TVs. On warm evenings (that means pretty much year-round), you'll want to laze on an opium bed or comfy sofa beside a fire pit. Pool parties on summer Sundays. Daily 11 am-2 am. Dress code. Cover charge usually US\$10-\$20 Friday-Sunday. 207 Fifth Ave., San Diego. Phone 619-702-3000. <http://www.hardrockhotelsd.com/san-diego-dining.htm>.

Jsix restaurant and LOUNGEsix

Located on the fourth-floor rooftop deck of the Hotel Solamar, the neon-lit lounge (and its sister restaurant Jsix) offers fire pits, giant screen movies (that no one watches), sofa-like lounge seating and gorgeous views of both downtown and the eye candy that comes out at night. Sunday-Thursday 5:30-10 pm, Friday and Saturday 5:30-11 pm. 616 J St., San Diego. Phone 619-531-8744. <http://www.jsixrestaurant.com>.

Karl Strauss

A trendy, chain microbrewery where lunchtimes are packed with thirsty financial-district professionals, and after-hours brings a more mixed crowd. Occasional live music reverberates through the brick walls. Monday-Thursday 11 am-10 pm, Friday 11 am-11 pm, Saturday 11:30 am-11 pm, Sunday 11:30 am-10 pm. 1157 Columbia St., San Diego. Phone 619-234-2739. <http://karlstrauss.com/breweryrestaurants/downtown.html>.

Shakespeare Pub & Grille

Consistently voted San Diego's best pub, this hangout is popular with British expats, who climb upstairs to quaff pints of Boddington's and eat bangers and mash. Breakfast on weekends. Spend a sunny afternoon lounging on the spacious deck. Monday-Thursday 10:30 am-midnight, Friday 10:30 am-1 am, Saturday 8 am-1 am, Sunday 8 am-midnight. 3701 India St., San Diego. Phone 619-299-0230. <http://www.shakespearepub.com>.

Urban Mo's Bar and Grill

Smack in the heart of Hillcrest, San Diego's LGBT community, this hetero-friendly joint is part bar, part restaurant and part dance club, depending on what time of day you visit. Sunday brunch finds the patio crowded with mimosa drinkers while the dance floor lights up after dark. Theme nights are also held regularly; call for a schedule. Daily 9 am-1:30 am. 308 University Ave., San Diego. Phone 619-491-0400. <http://urbanmos.com>.

COMEDY CLUBS

National Comedy Theatre

Entertaining improv performances provide good, clean laughs every weekend at a bargain price. Its "interactive" brand of comedy invites plenty of audience participation. Shows Thursday-Sunday; times vary. 3717 India St., San Diego. Phone 619-295-4999. <http://www.nationalcomedy.com>.

The Comedy Store

Although comedians come from all over the world, Los Angeles acts make their way down south to perform there most often. Patrons must be age 21 or older. Open daily except Monday. Show schedule varies; call ahead for upcoming shows. Sunday's 7 pm show is an open-mike amateur night. Call for reservations. Cover charge is US\$8 Tuesday-Thursday, US\$20 Friday and Saturday, no cover Sunday until 8 pm; two-drink minimum daily. 916 Pearl St., La Jolla. Phone 858-454-9176. <http://lajolla.thecomedy.com>.

DANCE & NIGHTCLUBS

Cafe Sevilla

In addition to its authentic Spanish cuisine and tapas bar, the restaurant and nightclub features nightly dancing and live music, from bossa nova to gypsy jazz and salsa. Be prepared to bump and grind on the tiny floor on dance nights. A three-course dinner and flamenco show package is available Saturday. Monday and Tuesday 5-11 pm; Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday noon-11 pm; Friday and Saturday noon-midnight. 353 Fifth Ave. (Gaslamp Quarter), San Diego. Phone 619-233-5979. <http://www.cafesevilla.com/san-diego>.

In Cahoots Dancehall & Saloon

This nightspot offers a full bar and food, as well as some of the city's top country-western entertainment and dancing. Free line-dance lessons Tuesday-Sunday at 6:30 pm. Tuesday-Friday 5 pm-2 am, Saturday and Sunday 6 pm-2 am. Dress code strictly enforced in keeping with the Western theme. Cover ranges free-US\$7, depending on arrival time and day. 5373 Mission Center Road (Mission Valley), San Diego. Phone 619-291-1184. <http://www.incahoots.com>.

The Rooftop at the W

Guests can party in one of five private cabanas or participate in the nightly Sunset Ritual by the signature bonfire. Full service and bottle service are available. WET, the heated outdoor pool, is just a few steps from the club for those who want to make a splash. Monday-Thursday 3 pm-1 am, Friday and Saturday 11 am-2 am, Sunday 11 am-1 am. 421 W. B St. (downtown), San Diego. Phone 619-398-3100. <http://www.thewsandiegohotel.com/rooftop-sandiego-bar>.

LIVE MUSIC

Croce's Park West

Run by Jim Croce's wife, Ingrid, this popular venue recently moved from the Gaslamp Quarter to Banker's Hill. Live music is performed Wednesday-Sunday starting at 7 pm in the Ex-Patriate Room. All this and a menu of excellent American contemporary cuisine at Croce's restaurant. Monday-Friday 11 am-midnight, Saturday and Sunday 10 am-midnight. Cover US\$5-\$10 (free with dinner purchase). 2760 Fifth Ave., Suite 100, San Diego. Phone 619-233-4355. <http://www.crocesparkwest.com>.

Humphrey's Backstage Live

The crowd is professional at this pretty place on the bay, which features jazz on Sunday, with a mixture of disco (with DJ) and acoustic guitar and piano music other evenings. Happy hour daily 5-7 pm. Humphrey's Restaurant open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Cover ranges free-US\$12 on some weeknights; US\$12-\$20 on weekends, depending on the show. 2241 Shelter Island Drive (Point Loma), San Diego. Phone 619-224-3577. <http://www.humphreysbackstagelive.com>.

La Sala Lobby Lounge

The "living room" (that's what *la sala* means in Spanish) is a cozy lounge, tucked into the La Valencia Hotel. Relax with smooth vocals, piano music and a picturesque view of La Jolla Cove. Happy hour Monday-Friday 4-6 pm. Daily 10 am-11 pm. 1132 Prospect St., La Jolla. Phone 858-454-0771. <http://www.lavalencia.com/sip-savor/la-sala-lounge.htm>.

The Onyx Room and THIN

Two lounges in one. A strictly enforced dress code (no sneakers, sandals or baseball caps) ensures a grown-up night out at this swanky underground location. Relax with house music in the Onyx downstairs, or dance to hip-hop, techno or electro upstairs at THIN. Drinks are usually cheaper downstairs. Tuesday 9 pm-2 am, Friday and Saturday 9 pm-4 am. Cover varies but is generally US\$10-\$20. 852 Fifth Ave., San Diego. Phone 619-235-6699. <http://www.onyxroom.com>.

PERFORMING ARTS

The city's theater offerings are outstanding—several Broadway shows born on San Diego stages have won Tony Awards and nominations. The San Diego Symphony offers a full concert season at Copley Symphony Hall, built in 1929. The California Center for the Arts draws big-name entertainment—from Hal Roach to the Vienna Boys Choir—that's worth the 45-minute drive north to Escondido. The Mandell Weiss Theater (one of several campus stages) is the main performing-arts venue for the University of California at San Diego and part of the La Jolla Playhouse three-theater complex. In Balboa Park, the Old Globe's trio of theaters is not to be missed.

San Diego Reader (<http://www.sandiegoreader.com>), a free paper, provides comprehensive listings of upcoming shows and is available at local coffee shops, restaurants, theaters and other locations.

DANCE

California Ballet Company

A full season of professional classical ballet runs October-May. Performances are at several venues, including the San Diego Civic Theatre downtown, the Coronado High Performing Arts Center and the Poway Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets US\$30-\$90. 4819 Ronson Court, San Diego. Phone 858-560-5676 for information. For tickets call 858-560-6741. <http://www.californiaballet.org>.

Malashock Dance

This company delights in artistic exploration, performing modern and contemporary works throughout the year at various sites. Tickets range US\$10-\$15 for Studio Series and US\$25-\$40 for theatrical performances. 2650 Truxton Road, Suite 202, Suite 202 (at NTC at Liberty Station), San Diego. Phone 619-260-1622. <http://www.malashockdance.org>.

MUSIC

Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay

This summertime series features pop stars, jazz greats, country-western stars, comedians and classic folk artists on an outdoor stage on Shelter Island. But consider yourself warned: The seats are small and narrow and tightly compacted next to each other. Tuesday-Saturday 11:30 am-6:30 pm. Tickets run US\$26-\$105. Dinner and hotel packages available. Parking US\$14. 2241 Shelter Island Drive (on the grounds of Humphrey's Half Moon Inn), San Diego. Toll-free 800-745-3000. <http://www.humphreysconcerts.com>.

La Jolla Music Society

This group brings world-renowned musicians and dancers to San Diego and to Summerfest, a three-week festival of chamber music held every August. Performances are held at a variety of venues, including the MCASD Sherwood Auditorium, Copley Symphony Hall, Spreckels Theatre and the Civic Center. Monday-Friday 9 am-5 pm. Tickets range US\$15-\$75. 7946 Ivanhoe Ave., Suite 116, La Jolla. Phone 858-459-3728 (box office). <http://www.ljms.org>.

Mainly Mozart

Mainly Mozart presents chamber music and jazz concerts year-round. The highlight of the year is the Mainly Mozart Festival (conducted by maestro David Atherton), which takes place April-June. The organization stages concerts in Baja California as well as throughout San Diego County, including the Balboa Theatre, the Auditorium at TSRI and the Crosby Estates in Rancho Santa Fe. Ticket prices range US\$20-\$85. 444 W. Beech St., Suite 200, San Diego. Phone 619-466-8742 for the box office. <http://www.mainlymozart.org>.

San Diego Symphony

From October to May, performances are held at Copley Symphony Hall. A few take place at the California Center for the Arts in Escondido. The outdoor Summer Pops series on San Diego's waterfront runs July-September and features everything from Motown to Mozart. The US\$10 lawn seating near the water's edge is the best and most-scenic bet (take your own chair or blanket).

The winter season runs January-May. Tickets run US\$5-\$96. 1245 Seventh Ave., 750 B St., San Diego. Phone 619-235-0800 for the box office. <http://www.sandiegosymphony.org>.

OPERA

San Diego Opera

The company presents a five-opera season, running January-April, with productions at San Diego Civic Theatre (located at 1100 Third Ave., downtown). English translations of the libretto are projected above the stage. Tickets run US\$45-\$290. 237 A St., Suite 500, San Diego. Phone 619-553-7000 for information and tickets. <http://www.sdopera.com>.

THEATER

Broadway San Diego

When the 3,000-seat Civic Theatre (Third Avenue at B Street) isn't being used by the San Diego Opera or other renters, Broadway San Diego imports touring Broadway shows (mostly musicals) year-round. Some shows are at the Balboa Theatre. Tickets US\$45-\$89.50. 3666 Fourth Ave., San Diego. Phone 619-564-3000. <http://www.broadwaysd.com>.

Cygnnet Theatre

This theater company puts on edgy, funny, avant-garde theater pieces that are a whole lot of fun in an intimate theater space right on the edge of Old Town. US\$34-\$59; student, senior and early-bird discounts available. Old Town Theatre, 4040 Twiggs St. (Old Town), San Diego. Phone 619-337-1525 or 619-337-1525 for tickets. <http://www.cygnnettheatre.com>.

La Jolla Playhouse

Major international talents appear in its acclaimed productions of comedy, classical, contemporary and musical theater during the spring and summer. Shares three stages with UCSD, and the intimate seating gives most seats good views of the stage. Monday noon-6 pm, Tuesday and Wednesday noon-7:30 pm, Thursday-Saturday noon-8 pm, Sunday noon-7 pm. Tickets run US\$15-\$80. Discounts available for students, seniors and military families; also those age 30 and younger can get US\$20 tickets for most performances. Box office at the Joan and Irwin Jacobs Center. Open noon-6 pm Monday-Saturday, with longer hours on performance days. 2910 La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla. Phone 858-550-1010 (box office). <http://www.lajollaplayhouse.org>.

Lamb's Players Theatre

Year-round repertory of revivals and new plays are performed at the Horton Grand Theatre (in the Gaslamp Quarter) and in the historic Spreckels Building (in Coronado). Tickets range US\$18-\$88. Child, senior and military discounts available. 1142 Orange Ave., Coronado. Phone 619-437-6050. <http://www.lambplayers.org>.

Old Globe Theatre

The Old Globe is one of the nation's leading regional theaters, with Tony Award-winner Jack O'Brien as its artistic director. Shakespearean and other classical works as well as modern plays are performed on three stages throughout the year; the outdoor Lowell Davies Festival Theatre operates June-October. Tickets range US\$31-\$99. 1363 Old Globe Way (in Balboa Park between the San Diego Museum of Art and the Museum of Man), San Diego. Phone 619-234-5623. <http://www.theoldglobe.org>.

San Diego Repertory Theatre

This group performs its eclectic mix of traditional and modern musicals, comedies and dramas at Horton Plaza's Lyceum Theatre. Tickets cost US\$31-\$58; discounts available for seniors, students and active military. Box office open daily except Monday noon-6 pm and before shows on performance days. 79 Horton Plaza, San Diego. Phone 619-544-1000 (box office). <http://www.sdrep.org>.

TICKET BROKERS

Arts Tix

A broker for full-price and same-day half-price tickets to theater, opera, dance and music performances, as well as limited sports events. Tickets sold by phone, online or in person at the ticket office downtown at the Lyceum Theatre in Westfield Horton Plaza. Tickets can be picked up a half hour before show time. Tuesday-Thursday 10 am-4 pm, Friday and Saturday 10 am-6 pm, Sunday 10 am-2 pm. 28 Horton Plaza, San Diego. Phone 858-381-5595. <http://www.sdartstix.com>.

VENUES

Spreckles Organ Pavilion

Free Sunday concerts by the city's civic organist or guests on the 4,518-pipe organ at 2 pm year-round. 1549 El Prado, Suite 10 (in Balboa Park), San Diego. Phone 619-702-8138. <http://spreckelsorgan.org>.

Welk Theater San Diego

This small theater presents singers and musicals in its tidy 339-seat venue and showcases one of the world's largest champagne glasses. An optional meal in the restaurant precedes each show at additional cost, with a special buffet brunch on Sunday. Box office open Sunday, Tuesday and Friday 10 am-3:30 pm; Wednesday 10 am-6:30 pm; Thursday and Saturday 10 am-7:30 pm. Tickets range US\$38-\$54. 8860 Lawrence Welk Drive (about a 45-minute drive north of downtown, off Highway 15), Escondido. Phone 760-749-3000. Toll-free 888-802-7469. <http://welkresorts.com/san-diego-theatre>.

SPECTATOR SPORTS

The NFL's San Diego Chargers play at Qualcomm Stadium, and the city's baseball team, the San Diego Padres, plays at PETCO Park. In addition, the famed Del Mar Thoroughbred Club has horse races from mid-July to early September at the Del Mar Racetrack.

BASEBALL

San Diego Padres

Home plate for the National League's San Diego Padres is PETCO Park near the Gaslamp Quarter in downtown San Diego. The best bargain is the Park at the Park ticket; US\$11-\$19 gives access to a variety of standing-room areas and lawn seating in a grassy area within the stadium grounds. Otherwise, tickets cost US\$12.75-\$119. 100 Park Blvd., San Diego. Toll-free 877-374-2784. <http://www.padres.com>.

FOOTBALL

San Diego Chargers

This NFL team plays August-January at Qualcomm Stadium. Order tickets by phone or online. Tickets US\$52-\$315. 9449 Friars Road, San Diego. Phone 619-280-2121. Toll-free 877-242-7437. <http://www.chargers.com>.

HOCKEY

San Diego State University Aztecs

SDSU's collegiate ice hockey team plays home games September-February at the Kroc Center. 6737 University Ave., San Diego. <http://www.sdsuhockey.com>.

HORSE RACING

Del Mar Racetrack

Where the turf meets the surf. Thoroughbred racing late July-early September in one of the most beautiful settings in the country. The races culminate with the US\$1 million Pacific Classic in late August. First post 2 pm daily, 4 pm also on Friday. 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd. (take Interstate 5 to the Via de la Valle exit, head west and turn south at Jimmy Durante Boulevard), Del Mar. Phone 858-755-1141. <http://www.dmtc.com>.

OTHER OPTIONS

PETCO Surf Dog Competition

This annual Surf Dog competition in July is no joke. It really is a competition for canines who ride the waves. Proceeds benefit the San Diego Humane Society and SPCA. 2 Elder Ave. (Dunes Beach), Imperial Beach. Phone 619-424-4416. <http://www.sandiego.org/events/sports/unleashed-by-petco-surf-dog-competition.aspx>.

SHOPPING

Shopping in San Diego is an adventure in itself: Visitors can find everything from funky clothes for the hip to bijouterie for the Rolls-Royce set. Downtown, Horton Plaza is a brightly colored chockablock mall with shops such as Nordstrom and BCBG.

The Bazaar del Mundo Shops in Old Town, on the corner of Taylor and Juan streets, is a good place to look for crafts and souvenirs. Seaport Village has the pleasant air of an old-time fishing village—but with specialty shops and restaurants.

The rich and famous (and those who like to pretend they are) head straight for the exclusive boutiques on La Jolla's Prospect Street and Girard Avenue—some to buy, some to have fun just looking.

Also try Kobey's Swap Meet at the Sports Arena, a weekend flea market with merchandise ranging from exotic imports to garage sale offerings.

Shopping Hours: Monday-Saturday 10 am-5 or 6 pm, Sunday 11 am-5 or 6 pm. Larger malls and shopping centers are usually open until 8 or 9 pm Monday-Saturday.

ANTIQUÉ STORES

Adams Avenue Antique Row

Several blocks of Adams Avenue—generally between Park Boulevard east to 35th street (with a few shops going as far east as Van Dyke Avenue)—have a local reputation for deals in old and antique furniture. Be prepared to rummage through a lot of dusty throwaways to find a treasure. Adams Avenue (in the Normal Heights neighborhood, about 15 minutes northeast of downtown off the 805 or 15), San Diego. <http://www.adamsaveonline.com>.

Antiques on Kettner

With the closing of the Old Cracker Factory, many antiques dealers just packed up and left town, but others relocated to Kettner for its arts, food and atmosphere. At this 9,000-sq-ft/836-sq-m mall, you'll find art, jewelry, pottery, metal, glass and more. The fact that this shop is on the airport descent route adds some excitement to shopping. Daily 10 am-6 pm. 2400 Kettner St., Suite 106 (Little Italy), San Diego. Phone 619-234-3332. <http://www.antiquesonkettner.com>.

Escondido Antique Mall

This is one of many antiques venues on Grand Avenue, known for its wide selection and reasonable prices. Be prepared to dig through the individual shops jam packed inside this mall collective. Open daily 10 am-5:30 pm, until 9 pm on Friday. 135 W. Grand Ave. (40 minutes north of downtown), Escondido. Phone 760-743-3210.

Ocean Beach Antique Mall

More than 100 dealers are part of this large cooperative on Newport Avenue in Ocean Beach. The 4800-4900 blocks of Newport Avenue are filled with more shops that specialize in American antiques, glassware, jewelry and collectibles. Daily 10 am-6 pm. Parking is free but hard to find because the beach is just a few blocks away. 4926 Newport Ave., San Diego. Phone 619-223-6170. <http://www.antiquesinsandiego.com>.

BOOKSTORES

Adams Avenue Book Row

Along this thoroughfare (between 32nd and 35th streets), you'll find several stores selling used, rare and out-of-print books. Although there are fewer bookstores these days, there are still plenty of old and new tomes to browse through. Drop by the Adams Avenue Bookstore to pet the cats and get recommendations from the friendly staff. Normal Heights (about 15 minutes north of downtown), San Diego.
<http://www.adamsavebooks.com>.

Bay Books

Grab an espresso from the coffee cart and browse through the impressive selection of magazines and books as well as some international newspapers. Writers frequently stop by for book signings. Monday-Saturday 9 am-7 pm, Sunday 9 am-6 pm. 1029 Orange Ave., Coronado. Phone 619-435-0070.
<http://www.baybookscoronado.com>.

Upstart Crow Bookstore & Coffeehouse

There are plenty of cozy nooks in this funky bookstore. Titles range from best-sellers and coffee-table tomes to self-help books. Readers savor their purchases with a cup of joe and a slice of carrot cake. Free live music by local acts on select Saturdays 7-9 pm (no cover). Daily 9 am-9 pm. 835 W. Harbor Drive (in Seaport Village), San Diego. Phone 619-232-4855. <http://www.upstartcrowtrading.com>.

Warwick's

One of San Diego's oldest stationers offers a great selection of new titles and paper goods. It's also a popular stop for top-name author appearances. If you have questions, the knowledgeable staff is happy to help and will even gift wrap your purchase for free. It's also the perfect place to pick up an unusual gift for friends back home. Free parking available behind the store. Monday-Saturday 9 am-6 pm, Sunday 10 am-5:30 pm. 7812 Girard Ave., La Jolla. Phone 858-454-0347. <http://www.warwicks.com>.

GALLERIES

Gaslamp Quarter

A variety of galleries that exhibit everything from fine crafts and jewelry to contemporary and avant-garde painting and sculpture dot this area in historic downtown San Diego. Between Broadway (to the north), Harbor Drive (to the south), and Fourth and Sixth avenues.

San Diego Art Institute/Museum of the Living Artist

This institution is the closest thing to a municipal gallery, exhibiting and selling the works of both established and emerging local artists through 30 juried shows a year. Open Tuesday-Saturday 10 am-4 pm, Sunday noon-4 pm. US\$3 adults; US\$2 seniors, military and students; free for children age 12 and younger. 1439 El Prado (in the House of Charm at Balboa Park, next to the Mingei International Museum), San Diego. Phone 619-236-0011.
<http://www.sandiego-art.org>.

Spanish Village Art Center

Located in Balboa Park, this complex is a collection of 41 working artists' studios housed in reproductions of Spanish buildings. The emphasis is on demonstrations—quite a jewel in the city's art world. You'll find painters as well as potters, glassmakers, woodworkers and other artists selling their wares. A separate informal museum and gift shop maintained by the San Diego Mineral and Gem Society. Daily 11 am-4 pm. 1770 Village Place (in Balboa Park), San Diego. Phone 619-233-9050. <http://www.spanishvillageart.com>.

MARKETS

San Diego's balmy climate produces fruits, vegetables and flowers all year. There are more than a dozen weekly markets at locations around the county.

Hillcrest Farmers Market

One of the best open markets is in the Hillcrest neighborhood, about a 10-minute drive from downtown. Sunday 9 am-2 pm. 3960 Normal St. (in the DMV parking lot at Lincoln Street between Normal and Cleveland streets), San Diego. Phone 619-299-3330. <http://www.hillcrestfarmersmarket.com>.

Kobey's Swap Meet

A large open-air flea market in the San Diego Sports Arena parking lot that has merchandise ranging from Asian imports and printed T-shirts to garage-sale-style trash and treasures. Friday-Sunday 7 am-3 pm. US\$1 Friday, US\$2 Saturday and Sunday. Free for children age 11 and younger. 3740 Sports Arena Blvd., Suite 3, San Diego. Phone 619-226-0650 (24-hour info line). <http://www.kobeyswap.com>.

Third Avenue Certified Farmers' Market and Asian Bazaar

Not worth a special trip, but if you happen to be downtown anyway, stop in for a breakfast burrito or some kettle corn. Sunday 9 am-1 pm. On the 400 block of Third Avenue (between Island Avenue and J Street), San Diego. Phone 619-279-0032. <http://www.sdfarmbureau.org/BuyLocal/Farmers-Markets.php#gaslamp>.

SHOPPING AREAS

Bazaar del Mundo Shops

An international marketplace with a colorful concentration of Mexican and Guatemalan handicrafts. Its jewelry, crafts and wearable art are from all over the globe. Sunday and Monday 10 am-5:30 pm, Tuesday-Saturday 10 am-9 pm. 4133 Taylor St. (between Juan and Sunset streets in Old Town), San Diego. Phone 619-296-3161. <http://www.bazaardelmundo.com/bazaar-del-mundo-shops.html>.

Carlsbad Premium Outlets

Within view of the Carlsbad flower fields, this collection of 90 outlet stores includes Adidas, Bebe and Banana Republic. Monday-Saturday 10 am-9 pm, Sunday 10 am-7 pm. 5620 Paseo del Norte, Carlsbad. Phone 760-804-9000. <http://www.premiumoutlets.com/carlsbad>.

Del Mar Plaza

This shopping center with a terrific ocean view continues the Del Mar tradition of fashion finery without snobbery. Monday-Saturday 10 am-9 pm, Sunday 11 am-6 pm. Two hours of free underground parking with purchase. 1555 Camino del Mar (about 25 minutes from downtown), Del Mar. Phone 858-792-1555. <http://www.delmarplaza.com>.

Girard Avenue and Prospect Street

High-end boutiques, from the likes of Ralph Lauren and A/X Armani Exchange have shops on La Jolla's main drags. Small boutiques and galleries offer their own treasures for browsers and dedicated shoppers alike. 7505 Girard Ave., La Jolla. <http://www.lajollabythesea.com/shopping>.

Las Americas Premium Outlets

Approximately 125 factory-outlet stores and restaurants are in this outlet complex, which literally straddles the U.S.-Mexico border on the San Diego (San Ysidro) side. Stores include Last Call by Neiman Marcus, Coach, Kenneth Cole and Banana Republic. Most stores open Monday-Saturday 10 am-9 pm, Sunday 10 am-7 pm with extended holiday sale hours. 4211 Camino de la Plaza (about 20 minutes south of downtown; take the San Diego trolley to the last exit, San Ysidro.), San Diego. Phone 619-934-8400. <http://www.premiumoutlets.com/outlets/outlet.asp?id=76>.

Seaport Village

Waterfront shopping on San Diego Bay is a haven for visitors and locals alike. With more than a dozen sidewalk eateries and more than 50 distinctive shops, this seaside mall mimics the ambience of Old Monterey and Victorian San Francisco. A monthly calendar of live music and performances keeps visitors entertained, including daily performances noon-4 pm in the food court. A boardwalk along the bay leads to a park. Daily 10 am-10 pm. Validated parking. 849 W. Harbor Drive, San Diego. Phone 619-235-4014. <http://www.seaportvillage.com>.

Viejas Outlet Center

Shoppers stroll on wandering walkways in this outlet mall with a Native American theme. Water elements add a touch of serenity opposite the Viejas Casino. Name-brand fare includes Polo Ralph Lauren, Guess and Nike. An arcade and bowling alley keep the kids entertained. Monday-Saturday 10 am-9 pm, Sunday 11 am-8 pm. 5005 Willows Road (about 40 minutes east of downtown off the 8), Alpine. Phone 619-659-2070.

<http://www.shopviejas.com>.

Westfield Horton Plaza

The centerpiece of downtown's redevelopment is an architectural experience—an indoor-outdoor multilevel mall with connecting arches, bridges and walkways that epitomizes the best and worst of post-modern architecture. It is a shopping and entertainment mecca. Mostly chain stores with food options available on the third tier.

Monday-Friday 10 am-9 pm, Saturday 10 am-8 pm, Sunday 11 am-6 pm. 324 Horton Plaza (downtown), San Diego. Phone 619-239-8180. <http://westfield.com/hortonplaza>.

SPECIALTY STORES

Ariana

Known for its colorful ethnic fashions and accessories, it also has a large selection of leather goods. Sunday and Monday 10 am-5:30 pm, Tuesday-Saturday 10 am-9 pm. 4133 Taylor St. (inside the Bazaar del Mundo in Old Town), San Diego. Phone 619-296-3161. <http://www.bazaardelmundo.com/bazaardelmundo-ariana-shop.html>.

FeeLIT

A tiny boutique in the East village, this shop specializes in music, carrying CDs and vinyl records in addition to clothing, paintings, jewelry and other works by independent musicians and artists. Monday-Saturday noon-7 pm, Sunday 1-5 pm. 909 E St. (between ninth and 10th avenues), San Diego. Phone 707-733-3548.

<http://www.feelitsandiego.com>.

Frock You Vintage Boutique

Not your grandma's thrift store, this vintage clothier sells high-quality gems of both men's and women's clothes, neatly arranged by type and by date and affordably priced. Don't miss the accessories and purses in the back room. Wednesday-Sunday noon-6 pm. 4121 Park Blvd. (North Park), San Diego. Phone 619-220-0630.

<http://www.frockyouvintage.com>.

Southern California Comics

Hidden in a warehouse space in an industrial office complex, this shop sells everything from golden-age comics to the latest superhero favorites. Ask first before wandering into the collectibles section lest you suffer the wrath of the shop clerks. Monday-Friday 10 am-6 pm, Wednesday 10 am-7 pm, Saturday 10 am-5 pm, Sunday noon-5 pm. 8280 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., No. 124 (Kearny Mesa), San Diego. Phone 858-715-8669.

<http://www.socalcomics.com>.

The Tile Shop

Noted for its tiles imported from Mexico and Holland, this shop carries a variety of styles from home address numbers to decorative tiles. It can arrange for shipping if you don't want to carry your heavy wares home. There's also a sister shop in Old Town (2754 Calhoun St. in Fiesta de Reyes) that has a more south-of-the-border flair. Daily 10 am-9 pm. 849 W. Harbor Drive, Suite C (Seaport Village), San Diego. Phone 619-233-3829.

<http://seaporttileshop.com>.

Village Hat Shop

For more than 30 years, this shop has provided chapeaus for all occasions and personalities. There is also an outlet at Hillcrest Mall (3821 Fourth Ave.; phone 619-683-5533). Daily 10 am-9 pm; open till 10 pm in summer. 853 W. Harbor Drive (Seaport Village), San Diego. Phone 619-233-7236. Toll-free 888-847-4287.

<http://www.villagehatshop.com>.

DINING OVERVIEW

San Diego has plenty of sophisticated, creative restaurants emphasizing fresh fish and other seafood from the Pacific, abundant produce from the farmlands of Southern California and good regional wines from Temecula. You'll also find Mexican, Continental and nouvelle American restaurants. Steak houses are also popular.

The historic Gaslamp Quarter has dozens of small restaurants (many on Fourth and Fifth avenues) that range from sophisticated to funky. Waterfront locations, including Embarcadero, Coronado and La Jolla, are appropriate settings for several blue-ribbon seafood restaurants and California fusion dining. La Jolla is also *the* place for elegant dining with a view. If you crave Mexican food, follow the crowds to Old Town.

Expect to pay within these general guidelines for a dinner for one, not including drinks, tax or tip: \$ = less than US\$15; \$\$ = US\$15-\$30; \$\$\$ = US\$31-\$50; and \$\$\$\$ = more than US\$50.

LOCAL & REGIONAL

A.R. Valentien

The signature restaurant of the five-star Lodge at Torrey Pines bears the name of the artist whose original artwork graces its walls. This eatery has soared to fame in San Diego's restaurant world and has earned a number of awards. The dark-wood-paneled, leather-boothed eatery overlooks the 18th hole of the legendary Torrey Pines Golf Course. Items offered on the ever-changing menu depend on the fresh, seasonal ingredients acquired by chef Jeff Jackson from local farmers, ranchers and fishermen. We highly recommend any dish with seafood or veal cheeks. Breakfast

Monday-Friday 7-11 am, 11:30 am-2:30 pm and 5:30-10 pm; Saturday and Sunday 7-11:30 am, noon-2:30 pm and 5:30-10 pm. Reservations recommended for dinner. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. 11480 N. Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla. Phone 858-453-4420. .

Address

11480 N. Torrey Pines Road
La Jolla, California

Phone

858-453-4420

Chicken Pie Shop

Founded in 1938, this local institution especially appeals to senior citizens, many of whom have patronized it since it opened. Chicken decorations are found throughout the dining room and include a fabulous collection of 1950s-style ceramic birds. The celebrated item here is the bargain-priced, fresh-from-the-oven chicken potpie, made with shredded chicken and turkey. The potpie dinner, complete with sides and dessert, is still a bargain. More menu items include baked ham, roast sirloin, chicken-fried steak, fried chicken, hamburgers and steaks. It's crowded for lunch, and parking is limited, so get there early. Open daily 8 am-8 pm. \$. Cash only. 2633 El Cajon Blvd. (North Park), San Diego. Phone 619-295-0156.

Address

2633 El Cajon Blvd.
San Diego, California

Phone

619-295-0156

PERSONAL SAFETY

Exercise the usual precautions necessary in any big city. Don't carry all your money with you, and don't wear conspicuous, expensive-looking jewelry. Auto theft is common, so keep all car doors and windows locked and park in well-lit lots or on busy streets. Keep valuable items and travel materials out of sight, either in the car trunk, the glove compartment or under the seats; don't tempt a potential thief or advertise that you're a tourist. If walking from a convention, remove all name badges.

Certain areas of San Diego, including areas downtown, have a larger concentration of homeless people. Most homeless people are harmless, but some will violate personal space and exhibit aggressive behavior. Use caution and respect, and refrain from giving panhandlers money.

Dangerous neighborhoods are concentrated in the southeastern part of town, where gangs tend to feud and innocent people sometimes get unintentionally involved. If you're pursuing sublime Mexican food in Barrio Logan near downtown, do your exploration during the day. Visitor and downtown areas are well policed and generally safe, but consult your hotel concierge or front-desk staff for safety advice about places you may wish to visit.

Use extra precautions if planning to cross the border for sightseeing and shopping in Tijuana, which has been experiencing a wave of extremely violent, drug-related crime that includes shoot-outs between rival gangs. Although tourists have not been targeted, there is an elevated risk of finding yourself at the wrong place at the wrong time.

HEALTH

The temperate weather in San Diego makes it an ideal place to visit but may mask the main health hazard—overexposure to the sun. Travelers should always wear and reapply sunscreen throughout the day, even if it's cloudy and temperatures are moderate. Many beachgoers go home badly burned when the early-morning gloom makes it appear as if they are not getting exposure to the sun, when, in fact, they are. Check with lifeguards about beach and water conditions, safe swimming areas and areas with undercurrents.

San Diego has very few pests. Backcountry hikers should be aware of poison oak, ticks and mosquitoes (especially at dusk). Well-camouflaged rattlesnakes and scorpions may be found basking in the sun or tucked into shady crevices, and mountain lions still roam the hills. There are great white sharks in local waters, though they usually stay away from shores. Most people consider it a privilege to catch sight of any of these creatures. Still, use caution when in the ocean away from shore.

San Diego has an abundance of hospitals and other medical facilities. Local hospitals include Scripps Coastal Medical Center, which has eight locations (phone 619-278-3300; toll-free 800-727-4777; <http://www.scripps.org/locations/scripps-coastal-medical-center>), UC San Diego Health System (phone 858-657-7000; toll-free 800-926-8273; <http://health.ucsd.edu>), Naval Medical Center San Diego (phone 619-532-6400; <http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nmcscd/Pages/default.aspx>) and the UCSD Medical Center in Hillcrest (phone 619-543-6222; <http://health.ucsd.edu/locations/hillcrest.asp>).

In an emergency, dial 911.

DISABLED ADVISORY

Public buses and trolleys are equipped for wheelchairs. All street corners and crosswalks, plus hotels and most modern buildings are required to provide wheelchair access. Cloud 9 Super Shuttles provide wheelchair-accessible van transport to and from the airport. Phone 619-564-7900. Toll-free 800-974-8885. <http://www.cloud9shuttle.com>.

The San Diego International Airport has accessibility services, including TDD telephones and courtesy carts, that are operated by the Volunteer Airport Ambassadors throughout the airport. If you can't find one, pick up any courtesy phone and tell the operator that you need accessibility services; someone will be dispatched to your

location. http://www.san.org/sdia/passenger_services/accessibility.aspx.

Manual and power beach chairs for wheeling around on the sand are available free at Coronado Beach, Imperial Beach, Silver Strand Beach, Oceanside Harbor Beach and Mission Beach.

<http://www.sandiego.org/articles/accessible/beach-wheelchairs-san-diego-beaches.aspx>.

Mobility Source rents electric scooters and both manual and electric wheelchairs (phone 619-234-9505; <http://www.mobility-source.com>). Alternative Mobility also rents scooters and wheelchairs to both locals and visitors. Phone 619-427-2525. <http://www.alternativemobility.net>.

Deaf Community Services of San Diego can provide interpreters and other services. Phone 619-398-2441.

<http://www.deafcommunityservices.org>.

The San Diego Center for the Blind can also provide assistance for the visually impaired. Phone 619-583-1542.

<http://www.sdcdb.org>.

The Convention and Visitors Bureau offers information on accessibility for visitors with disabilities.

<http://www.sandiego.org/nav/Visitors/VisitorInformation/AccessibleTravel>.

DOS & DON'TS

Do head for Cabrillo National Monument on Point Loma if you want to see astounding views of the Pacific and gray whales on their annual migration to Mexico. The whales pass San Diego mid-December to mid-March—the absolute best time for whale spotting is usually mid-January. Don't forget the binoculars.

Don't overlook sunglasses, a hat and sunblock in preparation for a day at the beach. The sun's rays can get through even on cloudy days.

Do be ready for the foggy, cool, gray June weather referred to locally as "June gloom."

Do be prepared for overly aggressive street vendors if you visit Tijuana. It's best to respond with a firm but polite "no, *gracias*" and a smile. Street vendors also are common outside some of San Diego's attractions, especially the zoo and in the Embarcadero harbor area. Most vendors speak at least some English, but it helps to know some basic Spanish.

Don't forget that most downtown parking meters are good for a maximum of two hours (there's no parking fee on Sunday and on most major holidays). Your tires will be marked with chalk and you will get a ticket after two hours, even if you feed more coins into the meter. Your best bet downtown is to park at Horton Plaza, which offers three hours' free validation with purchase 9:30 am-9 pm.

Do pack a light jacket or sweater for the cooler evenings, even in the summer, and especially if you plan to be near the ocean.

Do plan to swim, surf and sunbathe along San Diego's 70 mi/113 km of beaches during late summer (August-early September), when water temperatures are at their warmest.

Do know the proper pronunciation of three of San Diego's surrounding communities: La Jolla (pronounced *La Hoya*), El Cajon (pronounced *El Ka-hone*) and Jamul (pronounced *Ha-Mul*).

Geostats

Passport/Visa Requirements: All U.S. citizens must have a passport when traveling by air to or from Bermuda, Canada, the Caribbean, Central and South America and Mexico. Citizens of Canada, Mexico and the British Overseas Territory of Bermuda also must have a passport or other designated secure document to enter the U.S. Passports are required for land crossings at the Canadian and Mexican borders with the U.S. and for cruise passengers returning to the U.S. from Mexico, the Caribbean, Canada or Bermuda. Reconfirm travel-document requirements with your carrier prior to departure.

Population: 1,327,071.

Languages: English, Spanish.

Predominant Religions: Christian (Roman Catholic, Protestant) and Jewish, but most major religions are represented.

Time Zone: 8 hours behind Greenwich Mean Time (-8 GMT). Daylight Saving Time is observed from the second Sunday in March to the first Sunday in November.

Voltage Requirements: 110 volts.

Telephone Codes: 619, area code for San Diego; 858, northern communities; 760, outlying San Diego County;

Currency Exchange

There are 24-hour Bank of America ATMs inside Terminal 1, Terminal 2 and the Commuter Terminal at Lindbergh Field (<http://airport-san-diego.com/concessions.cfm>). Major downtown banks include Bank of America at 450 B St., Wells Fargo at 401 B St. and Union Bank of California at 1201 Fifth Ave. These banks have ATMs on the premises. There is a Travelex Currency Exchange at Horton Plaza Shopping Center in the heart of downtown, and most major shopping complexes have ATMs.

Although many ATMs are available around the clock, most banks are open Monday-Friday 9 am-5 pm if you need to talk to a person. A few banks have Saturday hours 9 am-1 or 2 pm.

Various exchange offices near the U.S.-Mexico border in the town of San Ysidro cater primarily to visitors crossing to and from Mexico. However, U.S. dollars are universally accepted in Tijuana and other border towns of Mexico. Be sure to find out in advance the day's pesos/dollar exchange rate, because it changes almost every day.

Taxes

State and city sales tax on most purchases is 8%. Hotel occupancy tax is 10.5%.

Tipping

A 15%-20% tip is customary in restaurants. Taxi drivers should receive about a 10%-15% tip. Masseuses and other people who provide spa services usually receive about 15% of the cost of your service. Bellhops earn US\$1-\$2 per bag. Valets are usually tipped US\$1-\$2 when they retrieve your car. Housekeepers are usually tipped US\$1-\$2 per person per day.

Weather

There is abundant sunshine much of the year, with mild summers and somewhat cooler springs. Occasional winds from the desert can heat things up, especially in early fall. The climate is generally mild along the coast (with occasional heavy fog, especially on winter nights and June mornings, hence the term "June gloom"), but can get chilly in the evenings. Inland temperatures can get uncomfortably warm in summer, but provide near-perfect warm, clear weather in winter. The temperatures in January range from 47 F/8 C at night to 63 F/17 C during the day. The warmest month is August, when the high temperatures average 74 F/21 C. Annual rainfall is about 10 in/25 cm.

What to Wear

San Diegans dress casually except for the most formal events: Shorts and T-shirts are the local uniform. Evening attire is casual as well, and jackets and ties are required in only the most formal restaurants; even opera-goers are often tie-free. A Windbreaker, sweatshirt or sweater helps cut the damp nighttime chill near the ocean as well as inland; expect the temperature to cool off in the evening year-round.

If you are in the city on business, be aware that the downtown business community has relaxed its traditional dress code somewhat. Business casual is the order of the day for some companies, as well as in many restaurants, bars and hotels in the city center. A Hawaiian shirt is acceptable for business casual.

Telephone

As in most big cities, pay phones in San Diego are not so easy to find. These days, phone companies don't want to spend money keeping pay phones in repair, and most people now have cell phones. Pay phones are still available at the airport, some hotel lobbies, on college campuses, at major attractions and a few other areas. All of them take coins, and the average cost for a local call is US\$0.50. Be sure to check the area code to see if you need to dial it: 619 is the area code for San Diego, 858 for northern communities, 760 for outlying San Diego County. For dialing out of state or internationally, it is advisable to purchase a phone card, since using a credit card to make a call can incur exorbitant hidden charges. International phone cards can be purchased at the International Visitor Information Center.

Cell phone coverage in San Diego County is pretty good, depending on your carrier. You may lose some signals in certain canyon, beach and mountain areas. Remember that California law prohibits the use of handheld phones while driving, so it's best to pull over if you need to talk on the phone.

Internet Access

Many local and chain cafes in the city provide free Wi-Fi, and it's getting easier to find Wi-Fi hot spots all the time. Little Italy, for instance, has a Wi-Fi router at the corner of India and Date, providing free access from Cedar to Fir. The Amtrak station downtown and the San Diego International Airport also have free Wi-Fi. Those visiting Balboa Park will be happy to rest and possibly check their Facebook page from the Ruben H. Fleet Science Center's cafe, and the signal goes all the way out to the fountain. There are a handful of other Wi-Fi hotspots around the park, as well as at Gelato Vero Caffè. Although the full list of Wi-Fi locales is too long, we've included a couple of our favorites. <http://www.sandiego.org/articles/travel-guides/san-diego-wi-fi-locations.aspx>.

San Diego Public Libraries

The Central Library (downtown) and all branch libraries have Internet access available. Note that the downtown branch deals with a high number of homeless visitors daily. 330 Park Blvd., San Diego. Phone 619-236-5800. <http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library>.

Address

330 Park Blvd.
San Diego, California 92101

Phone

619-236-5800

The Living Room

For those needing their fill of delicious pastries or gourmet food while surfing the Web, this is the place to relax and take advantage of free Wi-Fi. There are two locations in the city—La Jolla and San Diego State University. Daily 6 am-1 am. 1010 Prospect St., La Jolla, San Diego. Phone 858-459-1187. <http://livingroomusa.com/lrsdsu.html>.

Address

1010 Prospect St., La Jolla
San Diego, California 92037

Phone

858-459-1187

Mail & Package Services

A variety of shipping services are available throughout the San Diego area, including DHL, FedEx, UPS and the good ol' USPS.

DHL

The global shipping company has a location in the Golden Triangle area. Open Monday-Friday 8 am-5:30 pm. 7345 Mission Gorge Road, Suite G, San Diego. Phone 858-578-9602. http://www.dhl-dgf.com/offices/office_detail.cgi?office_id=63.

Address

7345 Mission Gorge Road, Suite
G
San Diego, California

Phone

858-578-9602

FedEx Office

The usual shipping services, supplies and free Wi-Fi. There are several locations throughout the city, including one on C Street and a kiosk inside the convention center. The location in Mission Valley is the only one in town that's open 24/7. Last express drop-off 6 pm. 7510 Hazard Center Drive, San Diego. Phone 619-294-3877. Toll-free 800-463-3339. <http://local.fedex.com/ca/san-diego>.

Address

7510 Hazard Center Drive
San Diego, California 92108

Phone

619-294-3877

United States Post Office

The new Midway branch (2701 Midway Drive) near Point Loma and the airport is, for most people, easily accessible and has window service (Monday-Saturday 9 am-4 pm; phone 619-758-9287). In downtown San Diego, there is a post office at Eighth Avenue and E Street across from the central library. Monday-Friday 9 am-5 pm. Phone 619-232-8612. Toll-free 800-275-8777. <http://www.usps.gov>.

Address

San Diego, California

Phone

619-232-8612

UPS Store

There are dozens of UPS Stores dotting the San Diego area, five in the downtown area alone. This particular location is open seven days a week. Monday-Friday 8 am-6 pm, Saturday 9 am-5 pm, Sunday 10 am-2 pm. 1041 Market St., San Diego. Phone 619-531-8880. Toll-free 800-742-5877. <http://www.theupsstorelocal.com/6012>.

Address

1041 Market St.
San Diego, California 92101

Phone

619-531-8880

Newspapers & Magazines

The San Diego Union-Tribune is the major daily paper for the city. It comes out every morning and is available everywhere (<http://www.utsandiego.com>). The Thursday edition contains a special weekly entertainment section called "Night & Day," which provides entertainment and other calendar listings for the week. It is also available as a standalone magazine you can find for free at sidewalk news boxes around the city. <http://www.utsandiego.com/news/night-and-day>.

The *San Diego Reader*, a free weekly publication, comes out on Thursday and contains a comprehensive listing of restaurants, entertainment, clubs and events. It's available at many locations around San Diego. <http://www.sandiegoreader.com>.

The Coast News is a local weekly newspaper that covers North County coastal cities such as Oceanside, Carlsbad, Del Mar and Solana Beach. <http://thecoastnews.com>.

San Diego magazine is the city's glossy periodical. Published monthly, it's a good source for information on outdoor activities, little-known locales and the best dining options in the city (<http://www.sandiegomagazine.com>). *San Diego Family* magazine is great for those traveling with children. <http://www.sandiegofamily.com>.

The Daily Transcript, published Monday-Friday, is a full-sized newspaper serving the business, financial and legal communities. It's found in curbside vending machines and at newsstands in the downtown area. <http://www.sddt.com>.

Where San Diego is a free quarterly magazine covering attractions, dining and entertainment. <http://wherela.com/sd>.

Transportation

Most visitors will want their own wheels in San Diego, although you don't really need a car if you plan on staying only downtown. Many major city attractions are within walking distance of downtown hotels; others are just a short bus, taxi or trolley ride away.

The trolley's familiar red cars come and go through downtown along the South Bay waterfront and all the way to the border with Mexico, as well as to Little Italy, Old Town, Fashion Valley, Mission Valley, Mission San Diego and Qualcomm Stadium.

Air

San Diego International Airport (also known as Lindbergh Field) is 3 mi/5 km northwest of the city center, about 10 minutes by car under normal traffic conditions. Although most of the airport is older, with one terminal wing added in the late 1990s, it continues to serve the area well. Currently it is undergoing major expansion. Gates are clearly marked and easy to find, and pick-up and drop-off points are well-arranged. You may find arriving by air into the city a bit harrowing—but pilots are accustomed to dropping into the airport over the cityscape. Relax and enjoy the bird's-eye view of downtown and the harbor.

Once you've arrived, Volunteer Airport Ambassadors will help you with directions or if you need information. They're easy to find—just look for people wearing green polo shirts with "Airport Information" printed on the back. Phone 619-400-2404. <http://www.san.org>.

Connecting Transportation

Best way

A cab is the easiest—and a relatively inexpensive—way into the city. Stands are across the street from both terminal buildings and the commuter terminal. Don't just hop in the nearest cab: Passengers must tell the taxi supervisor their destination, and a cab will be assigned. Fare from the airport to downtown is about US\$15. As in many cities, cab fares may increase as the price of gasoline increases. <http://www.san.org/sdia/transportation/cabs.aspx>.

Other options

Hotel courtesy vans can be called from the courtesy phones near the baggage claim at each airport terminal or by placing requests through the uniformed officers outside at the curb. Commercial shuttles include Cloud 9 Shuttle (phone 800-974-8885; <http://www.cloud9shuttle.com>) and SuperShuttle (phone 619-564-7900 or toll-free 800-258-3826; <http://www.supershuttle.com/Locations/SANAirportShuttleSanDiego.aspx>). Fares to downtown are approximately US\$13 per person.

San Diego's Metro Transit System buses are available outside of all terminals. The "Airport Flyer" bus on route 992 runs 5 am-11:30 pm every 15 minutes Monday-Friday, and every 30 minutes on weekends and holidays. This bus connects you to downtown, the trolley and Union Station/Amtrak. It takes about 10-15 minutes to reach downtown and costs US\$2.25 for adults. Exact change is required. Phone 619-233-3004 or 619-557-4555. <http://www.sdmts.com/RouteFiles/routes/pdf/992.pdf>.

Major car rental companies have branches at the airport.

Bus

Greyhound Bus Terminal

The Greyhound bus station is located just southeast of Petco Park. There are taxis, bus stops and a convenient trolley stop nearby, but it's a bare-bones station with just a roof, no walls, and no food options nearby. 1313 National Ave., San Diego. Phone 619-515-1100. Toll-free 800-231-2222. <http://www.greyhound.com>.

Address

1313 National Ave.
San Diego, California 92101

Phone

619-515-1100

Car

Most major car rental companies have offices in San Diego. Some of them will even let you take the rental south of the border. However, you'll have to pay for Mexican auto insurance.

The legal driving age in San Diego (and all of California is 16) with a driver's license. However, rental car companies won't rent a vehicle to you unless you're over the age of 21. Those younger than 25 will be charged an underage surcharge, usually about US\$20 per day extra.

San Diego's many canyons result in unexpected dead ends, and the downtown area's one-way streets can make navigating this city by car rather frustrating.

The freeway system is intricate, though not overpowering, but rush-hour traffic can be a challenge, especially to and from the northern communities of Del Mar, Solana Beach, Encinitas, Carlsbad, the north inland communities of Poway and Escondido and east on Interstate 8. Highway construction on Interstates 5 and 15 can cause

greater delays.

The San Diego Tourism Authority provides a free map.

Street parking downtown is difficult, and meters typically have a two-hour time limit during the day. There are many pay lots close to the financial district, City Hall, the convention center and the midcity performing-arts attractions. You can usually find a spot in one of the lots in Balboa Park.

There is no charge for street parking after 6 pm or on Sunday and most major holidays (except in the village of Del Mar).

Ferry

Coronado Ferry

Operates passenger service daily from downtown's Broadway Pier and the Convention Center to the Coronado Ferry Landing and back. The ride takes 15 minutes. Call or check online for current schedule. Ferry runs 9 am-10:25 pm, with earlier commuter hours starting at 5:40 am. Fares are US\$4.25, free for children younger than 4. 990 N. Harbor Drive, San Diego. Phone 619-234-4111. Toll-free 800-442-7847. <http://www.flagshipsd.com/coronado-ferry>.

Address

990 N. Harbor Drive
San Diego, California 92101

Phone

619-234-4111

Public Transportation

Metropolitan Transit System (MTS)

Visitors can travel by bus to nearly every major hotel and attraction, including Balboa Park and the San Diego Zoo, all beaches, regional shopping centers, SeaWorld and Old Town. Buses run every 15-20 minutes on average. Fares for local and urban routes are US\$2.25, express routes US\$2.50, premium express and rural routes US\$5 and vary according to distance. Exact change is required, but US\$1 bills are accepted. Regional Day passes (for bus and trolley) are available for one day (US\$5), two days (US\$9), three days (US\$12) and four days (US\$15). One-day RegionalPlus Day Passes that include the COASTER (that goes all the way north to Oceanside) are available for US\$12. Senior, disabled passenger and student passes offer discounts. Children younger than 5 ride free, and those younger than 13 ride free on weekends. Phone 619-233-3004. <http://www.sdmts.com>.

Address

San Diego, California

Phone

610-233-3004

MTS Trolley

San Diego's red trolleys serve the downtown area, including the San Diego Convention Center, Old Town, Mission Valley and Qualcomm Stadium, South Bay and eastern destinations as well as the international border with Mexico at San Ysidro (where you can walk into Tijuana). You must purchase a ticket at the trolley vending machine (located at each stop or from the Transit Store) before boarding. Monday-Friday 5:30 am-8:30 pm, Sunday 7 am-7 pm. One-way fares are US\$2.50 (good for two hours). The MTS doesn't provide transfers, so if you plan on taking both a trolley and bus, it's best to buy a day pass. Phone 619-233-3004. <http://www.sdmts.com/trolley/trolley.asp>.

Address

San Diego, California

Phone

619-233-3004

North County Transit District (NCTD)

The NCTD provides buses and rail service in Northern San Diego County, which extends from Del Mar to Escondido and from the west Orange County line to Riverside County in the east. It includes Camp Pendleton, Solana Beach, Encinitas, Carlsbad, Oceanside and San Marcos. Buses are called BREEZE and cost US\$1.75 one-way. The SPRINTER train provides

Address

San Diego, California 92054

Phone

760-966-6500

service from Oceanside to Escondido (and back) for US\$2 one-way (with bus service part of the way until repairs are finished). The COASTER train provides daily rail service from the downtown train station to Oceanside, with several stops along the way. Fares on the commuter train range US\$4-\$5.50, depending on distance. A regional day pass good for the SPRINTER, BREEZE, Trolley and MTS regular buses costs US\$5 per adult. Phone 760-966-6500 or 511 from within San Diego County. <http://www.gonctd.com>.

The Transit Store

A one-stop shop for buying bus, trolley and ferry tickets; tokens; special passes; maps; and ID cards. Monday-Friday 9 am-5 pm. 102 Broadway (at the corner of First Avenue), San Diego. Phone 619-234-1060. <http://www.sdmts.com/Marketing/eStore.asp>.

Address

102 Broadway
San Diego, California 92101

Phone

619-234-1060

Ship

San Diego Cruise Port

The Cruise Ship Terminal (also known as the B Street Pier) is in the center of downtown's waterfront and within walking distance of many attractions. There is also an auxiliary cruise ship terminal on Broadway Pier (adjacent to the B Street Pier). 1140 N. Harbor Drive, San Diego. Phone 619-683-8966. Toll-free 800-854-2757. <http://www.portofsandiego.org/recreation/cruise.html>.

Address

1140 N. Harbor Drive
San Diego, California 92101

Phone

619-683-8966

Taxi

Taxis are generally not hailed on the streets in San Diego, except in the Gaslamp district; phoning for pickup is best. There are cab stands at the airport, most large hotels, attractions and shopping centers. Up to four passengers may ride for posted fares. Larger groups may arrange for station wagons or vans.

Taxi service is available 24 hours from Orange Cab (phone 619-223-5555 or 19-or 291-3333; <http://www.orangecabsandiego.com>), San Diego Taxi (phone 619-226-8294) or Yellow Cab (phone 619-444-4444; <http://www.driveu.com>).

Train

Trains still use the historic Santa Fe Station, downtown at Kettner Boulevard and West Broadway. A commuter rail service, the COASTER, run by the NCTD, provides service Monday-Saturday between the Santa Fe Station, Old Town, Sorrento Valley, Solana Beach, Encinitas, Carlsbad and Oceanside.

Amtrak service makes for easy excursions to such northern beaches as Solana Beach, Encinitas, Carlsbad and Oceanside, as well as Los Angeles. Its Pacific Surfliner runs daily between San Diego and Los Angeles, with additional runs to and from Santa Barbara. Anaheim (home of Disneyland and the Los Angeles Angels baseball team) and Mission San Juan Capistrano are also on this route. Toll-free 800-872-7245. <http://www.amtrak.com>.

Metrolink commuter train service is available at Oceanside and heads north. Tickets can be purchased at self-serve machines located at every station. Fares vary by distance. Toll-free 800-371-5465. Phone 213-347-2800. <http://www.metrolinktrains.com>.

Convention & Visitors Bureau

California Welcome Center—Oceanside

Daily 9 am-5 pm. 928 N. Coast Highway (about 40 mi/64 km north of downtown San Diego), Oceanside. Phone 760-721-1101. Toll-free 800-350-7873.

<http://www.visitcalifornia.com/California-Welcome-Centers/Oceanside>.

Address

928 N. Coast Highway
Oceanside, California 92054-2136

Phone

760-721-1101

Coronado Visitor Center

Located in downtown Coronado, the visitor center is inside the lobby of the Coronado Historical Association. Monday-Friday 9 am-5 pm, Saturday and Sunday 10 am-5 pm. 1100 Orange Ave., Coronado. Phone 619-437-8788.

Toll-free 866-599-7242. <http://www.coronadovisitorcenter.com>.

Address

1100 Orange Ave.
Coronado, California

Phone

619-437-8788

La Jolla Visitor Information Center

You can get maps and other information from this small kiosk on Prospect Street. Daily 10 am-7 pm. 1162 Prospect St., La Jolla. Phone 858-454-5718. <http://www.lajollabythesea.com>.

Address

1162 Prospect St.
La Jolla, California 92037

Phone

858-454-5718

Tourist Offices

International Visitor Information Center

Operated by the San Diego Tourism Authority, the center provides maps, assists in booking tours and can offer suggestions and travel advice. In addition, some staff members speak French, Italian, Spanish or German. Open daily October-May 9 am-4 pm; June-September 9 am-5 pm. 1140 N. Harbor Drive (in front of the downtown B Street Cruise Ship Terminal), San Diego. Phone 619-236-1212. <http://www.sandiego.org>.

Address

1140 N. Harbor Drive
San Diego, California 92101

Phone

619-236-1212

Calendar

Visitors to San Diego have a wealth of entertainment choices, many of them free and many of them outdoors. The city's magnificent Balboa Park hosts exhibits, frequent concerts and theatrical performances. At almost any time, San Diego's agreeable weather draws visitors inland to its festivals and out to its beautiful beaches.

For detailed information about upcoming events in the San Diego area, contact the International Visitor Information Center. Phone 619-236-1212. <http://www.sandiego.org>.

To call any of the phone numbers listed in this calendar from outside the U.S. or Canada, you must first dial your country's international access code, followed by the U.S. country code, 1.

Information in this calendar is subject to change and should be confirmed.

October

Early October—La Mesa Oktoberfest More than 200,000 visitors enjoy oompah bands, folk and polka dancing, a beer garden, German food, and arts and crafts from more than 400 booths along La Mesa Boulevard, Pine Street, and Allison and Palm avenues in downtown La Mesa (10 mi/16 km east of San Diego). <http://www.lamesachamber.net/oktoberfest.php>.

Early-Late October—Theater The Old Globe Theatre is home to many classic and contemporary theatrical productions. Balboa Park, 1363 Old Globe Way. For information and tickets, call 619-234-5623. <http://www.theoldglobe.org>. Continues through late August 2016

Early-Late October—Concert The San Diego Symphony performs frequently at Copley Symphony Hall, 750 B St. For information and tickets, call 619-235-0800. <http://www.sandiegosymphony.org>. Continues through late May 2016

Early-Late October—Dance The California Ballet Company performs regularly at the Civic Theatre, Third Avenue and B Street, and Poway Center for the Arts, 15498 Espola Road, Poway (25 mi/40 km north of San Diego). For information and tickets, call 858-560-5676. <http://www.californiaballet.org>. Continues through early May 2016

1-4 Oct—Fleet Week Celebrates the U.S. Armed Forces with an air show, ship parades, golf tournaments, concerts, car racing, fireworks and more at the Port of San Diego and other venues throughout the city. For information, call 619-858-1545. <http://www.fleetweeksandiego.org>. Concludes 4 Oct

1-4 Oct—San Diego Film Festival Screenings of feature-length, short and animated films from around the world. Pacific Gaslamp 15 Theatres, 701 Fifth Ave., Gaslamp Quarter. For information, call 619-818-2221. <http://sdfilmfest.com>. Concludes 4 Oct

7-18 Oct—Del Mar Horse Show Top international equestrians compete in one of Southern California's premier show-jumping events, including a US\$50,000 World Cup. Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd., Del Mar (20 mi/32 km north of San Diego). For information, call 818-987-3336. <http://www.jumpdelmar.com>.

12 Oct—Columbus Day Public holiday.

Throughout October—NFL Football The San Diego Chargers play regular-season home games at Qualcomm Stadium, 9449 Friars Road, Mission Valley. For information, call 858-874-4500. For tickets, call Ticketmaster toll-free 800-745-3000. <http://www.chargers.com>. Season continues through late December

Throughout October—Performance The California Center for the Arts hosts numerous dance, music and theatrical performances. 340 N. Escondido Blvd., Escondido. For information, call 760-839-4138. For tickets, call toll-free 800-988-4253. <http://www.artcenter.org>. Continues through mid June 2016

Throughout October—Theater The San Diego Repertory Theatre performs frequently at the Lyceum Stage Theatre, 79 Horton Plaza. For information and tickets, call 619-544-1000. <http://www.sdrep.org>. Continues

through late May 2016

November

Early-Mid November—San Diego Asian Film Festival Screenings of more than 50 works by Asian and Asian-American filmmakers that depict Asian culture and issues. Various cinemas throughout San Diego. For information, call 619-400-5911. <http://pac-arts.org>.

Early-Late November—Concert The La Jolla Symphony Orchestra and Chorus presents groundbreaking works and traditional classical favorites. Mandeville Auditorium, UCSD campus, La Jolla, and other venues. For information and tickets, call 858-534-4637. <http://www.lajollasympphony.com>. Continues through early June 2016

11 Nov—Veterans Day Public holiday.

15-22 Nov—Wine and Food Festival The San Diego Bay Wine and Food Festival includes wine tasting seminars, culinary displays and classes, and opportunities to meet with cookbook authors. Various venues, though the largest gathering is held Embarcadero Park North. For information, call 619-312-1212. <http://www.worldofwineevents.com>.

22 Nov—Mother Goose Parade One of the biggest events of the year, the annual Mother Goose Parade takes off from El Cajon in San Diego County the Sunday before Thanksgiving. For information, call 619-444-8712. <http://www.mothersgooseparade.org>.

25-29 Nov—San Diego Jazz Festival Nicknamed "the crown jewel of jazz festivals," this annual event presents performances by more than 25 traditional jazz bands from the U.S. and Canada. Town and Country Resort and Convention Center, 500 Hotel Circle N. For tickets, call 619-297-5277. <http://www.dixielandjazzfestival.org>.

26 Nov—Thanksgiving Day Public holiday.

30 Nov—Tennis Week-long tournament features men's and women's singles, doubles and mixed doubles events. La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club, 2000 Spindrift Drive, La Jolla. Phone 888-828-0948. <http://www.ljbtc.com>. Continues through 6 Dec

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December

Early December—December Nights The largest free community festival in San Diego, this event features carolers, international music, food and holiday traditions. Free admission to Balboa Park's more than 80 museums, zoo and other cultural attractions. 1549 El Prado. For information, call 619-239-0512. <http://www.balboapark.org/decemberevents>.

Mid December—Las Posadas & Luminaria This San Diego tradition re-creates Mary and Joseph's journey and search for shelter. Free. The procession begins in Heritage Park, Old Town, at 7 pm. For information, call 619-291-4903.

Mid December—Mission Bay Christmas Boat Parade of Lights More than 100 decorated and lighted boats, ranging from kayaks to luxury yachts, parade through San Diego Bay in the early evening, accompanied by a fireworks display. For information, call 619-224-2240. <http://www.sdparadeoflights.org>.

Mid-Late December—Jungle Bells San Diego Zoo's Wild Animal Park gets decorated with nutcrackers, teddy bears and other holiday ornamentation, all covered in lights. Visitors have the opportunity to see the lights from above in a tethered balloon. Also sledding, nighttime safaris and children's activities. 15500 San Pasqual Valley Road, Escondido. For information, call 619-231-1515. <http://zoo.sandiegozoo.org/junglebells>. Continues through early January 2016

Mid-Late December—Whale-Watching Witness this remarkable annual migration of California gray whales through the Pacific Ocean to their breeding grounds off Baja California. The whales can be viewed from Cabrillo National Monument or on special cruises. For information, call Cabrillo National Monument at 619-557-5450, or the San Diego Convention & Visitor Center at 619-236-1212. Continues through mid March 2016

1-6 Dec—Tennis Week-long tournament features men's and women's singles, doubles and mixed doubles events. La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club, 2000 Spindrift Drive, La Jolla. Phone 888-828-0948. <http://www.ljbtc.com>. Concludes 6 Dec

25 Dec—Christmas Public holiday.

Late December—Holiday Bowl This showcase game for college football pits the Pac-10 conference runner-up against a top team from the Big 12 Conference. Qualcomm Stadium, 9449 Friars Road, Mission Valley. Phone 619-283-5808. <http://www.holidaybowl.com>.

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January

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Mid January—Restaurant Week Twice a year, many of San Diego's top restaurants offer a three-course, prix-fixe dinner menu at a discounted rate to celebrate the city's varied dining options. See the Web site for a list of participating restaurants. <http://www.sandiegorestaurantweek.com>.

1 Jan—New Year's Day Public holiday.

1 Jan—New Year's Day Race This low-key annual regatta opens the year with a sailing jaunt from the east end of Harbor Island to the south end of Shelter Island. For information, call 619-221-8400. <http://www.sdyc.org>.

17 Jan—Carlsbad Marathon The route of the former San Diego Marathon follows the area's scenic coastline. Also a half-marathon, 5K run/walk, children's 1-mi/1.6-km run and a health-and-fitness expo. Plaza Camino Real, Carlsbad. For information, call 760-692-2900. <http://www.carlsbadmarathon.com>.

18 Jan—Martin Luther King Jr. Day Public holiday. A parade takes place downtown at 10 am.

28-31 Jan—Golf Top national PGA Tour golfers compete in the Buick Invitational for a share of nearly US\$5 million in prize money. Torrey Pines Golf Course, La Jolla. For information, call 858-886-4653. <http://www.farmersinsuranceopen.com>.

Late January—Opera The San Diego Opera performs regularly at the Civic Theatre, Third Avenue and B Street. For information, call 619-232-7636. For tickets, call 619-533-7000. <http://www.sdopera.com>. Continues through mid May

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February

9 Feb—Mardi Gras Mardi Gras is celebrated with a parade, a block party and many music stages. Many area restaurants offer Mardi Gras specials during the event. Gaslamp Quarter, downtown San Diego. For information and tickets, call 619-233-5227. <http://www.sdmardigras.com>.

15 Feb—Presidents Day Public holiday.

Late February—Wildflower Viewing A brief winter rainy season sparks the blooming of desert wildflowers throughout Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Call the Park's Visitors Center at 760-767-4205 before making the trip, as the blooming dates vary each year. <http://www.abdsp.org> or http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=638. Continues through early April

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March

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July

4 Jul—Coronado Independence Day Celebration Coronado celebrates the holiday with a 15K run, parade,

Navy SEALs demonstrations and fireworks over Glorietta Bay. For information, call 619-437-8788.

Throughout July—Theater The Old Globe Theatre is home to many classic and contemporary theatrical productions. Balboa Park, 1363 Old Globe Way. For information and tickets, call 619-234-5623. <http://www.theoldglobe.org>. Continues through late August

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September

5 Sep—Labor Day Public holiday.