



# What to See and Do in San Diego

## Main Attractions:

- Neighborhoods of Downtown San Diego ([www.sandiegodowntown.org](http://www.sandiegodowntown.org)) - The historic Gaslamp Quarter is known for dining and nightlife; the Embarcadero District/Marina, close to the Convention Center, has the Maritime and USS Midway Museums - you can also catch a San Diego Harbor Cruise or ferry to Coronado Island; East Village has trendy restaurants and Petco Park, home of the San Diego Padres; Little Italy has recently undergone a revitalization where you can find bakeries, restaurants, fountains, and colorful piazzas.
- Balboa Park ([www.balboapark.org](http://www.balboapark.org) / 619-239-0512) - The nation's largest urban cultural park (NOTE: many museums are closed on Mondays). If you plan to visit several of the museums and the San Diego Zoo go to [www.balboapark.org/info/passport.php](http://www.balboapark.org/info/passport.php) for discount tickets.
- San Diego Zoo / San Diego Wild Animal Park ([www.sandiegozoo.org](http://www.sandiegozoo.org) / 619-231-1515 / 760-747-7802) - Admission is FREE for kids ages 3-11 during October! Adult admission is \$35. Visit the Elephant Odyssey at the zoo (opened Summer 2009) and check out the Rolling Safari tour on Segway X2 transporters at the Wildlife Park.
- SeaWorld San Diego ([www.seaworld.com/sandiego](http://www.seaworld.com/sandiego) / 619-226-3900 or 800-25-SHAMU)
- Scripps Birch Aquarium ([www.aquarium.ucsd.edu](http://www.aquarium.ucsd.edu)) / 858-534-FISH) - Walkable from the La Jolla Shores Beach
- Old Town ([www.oldtownsandiegoguide.com](http://www.oldtownsandiegoguide.com) / 619-220-5422) - Many tour options listed but there is a free tour provided by the State of California. Call to make reservations.
- LEGOLand California ([www.legoland.com](http://www.legoland.com)) - New interactive aquarium (NOTE: closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays)
- La Jolla ([www.lajollabythesea.com/home.php](http://www.lajollabythesea.com/home.php)) - "The jewel of San Diego", about a 25-minute drive from downtown. A popular vacation destination with a Mediterranean feel. Fine dining, shopping and beautiful beaches.
- Coronado Island ([www.coronadovisitorcenter.com/CVC/index.html](http://www.coronadovisitorcenter.com/CVC/index.html)) - World class resort destination, about a 2-mile drive from downtown over the San Diego Bay Bridge or a 20-minute ferry ride from downtown (Broadway Pier). Visit the famous Hotel del Coronado and the Ferry Landing for shopping, there is a concert on Sunday afternoons, and a farmer's market on Tuesdays.

## Discounts/Coupons:

- [www.sandiego.org](http://www.sandiego.org) - Click on Resources and then Coupons to find deals for dining and attractions in downtown and around the city.
- [www.GoSanDiegoCard.com](http://www.GoSanDiegoCard.com) - For all-inclusive tickets to main attractions
- [www.balboapark.org/info/passport.php](http://www.balboapark.org/info/passport.php) - For discount tickets to museums and the zoo

## Beaches: For more information and insider tips, go to [www.a-zsandiegobeaches.com](http://www.a-zsandiegobeaches.com).

- Mission Beach - A very happening place on the weekends, great for people watching. Has a beachfront rollercoaster called the Big Dipper at Belmont Park, an indoor Olympic size swimming pool called "The Plunge", and The Wave House with artificial wave machine to test your surfing skills.
- Mission Bay - A great place for families and picnicking; activities include swimming, biking, jogging, and sailing. There are water sport rentals, playgrounds on grass and sand dunes, and home of SeaWorld.
- Pacific Beach - A true California beach, good for families, nearby eclectic shops along Grand and Garnet Avenues.
- La Jolla Beaches - Also a great place for families, especially at La Jolla Shores. La Jolla Cove is a favorite for snorkeling and sea lions hang out at the Children's Pool. Take a kayak tour to explore the many caves at La Jolla. Scripps Birch Aquarium and Torrey Pines State Beach are nearby.
- Coronado Municipal Beaches - One of America's finest beaches. Go to North Beach for surfing, to Central Beach which backs the famous Hotel del Coronado, or the Silver Strand/The Shores for body-boarding.

- Ocean Beach & Sunset Cliffs - With a quiet small-town feel, Ocean Beach Pier is one of the few places one can fish without a valid California fishing license. Dogs are allowed on part of this beach and south of the beach is Sunset Cliffs Park with panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean (not recommended for kids).

### **Art and Culture:**

- The New Children's Museum ([www.thinkplaycreate.org](http://www.thinkplaycreate.org) / 619-233-8792) - Downtown, eco-friendly museum. Closed Wednesdays.
- Maritime Museum ([www.sdmaritime.com](http://www.sdmaritime.com) / 619-234-9153) - Downtown; fine collection of historic ships and the oldest active ship, Star of India.
- Air and Space Museum ([www.aerospacemuseum.org](http://www.aerospacemuseum.org) / 619-234-8291) - Special exhibit, The Da Vinci Experience. FREE admission on Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Museum of Contemporary Art ([www.mcasd.org](http://www.mcasd.org) / 858-454-3541) - Downtown and La Jolla; FREE tours on weekends at 2pm. Closed on Wednesdays.
- San Diego Natural History Museum - Balboa Park ([www.sdnhm.org](http://www.sdnhm.org) / 619-232-3821)
- San Diego Model Railroad Museum - Balboa Park ([www.sdmrm.org](http://www.sdmrm.org) / 619- 696-0199) - Closed Mondays
- Timken Museum of Art - Balboa Park ([www.timkenmuseum.org](http://www.timkenmuseum.org) / 619- 239-5548) - FREE admission. Closed on Mondays.
- Museum of Photographic Art - Balboa Park ([www.mopa.org](http://www.mopa.org) / 619-238-7559) - Closed Mondays
- Rueben H. Fleet Science Center - Balboa Park ([www.rhfleet.org](http://www.rhfleet.org) / 619-238-1233) - Hands-on exhibit, Motion Mania
- Broadway San Diego - ([www.broadwaysd.com](http://www.broadwaysd.com) / 619-564-3000) - Presenting Disney's The Lion King at the Civic Center downtown and at Balboa Theater.
- The Old Globe Theater - Balboa Park ([www.oldglobe.org](http://www.oldglobe.org) / 619-23-GLOBE) - Tony Award-winning, oldest California professional theater.
- Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcalá ([www.missionsandiego.com](http://www.missionsandiego.com))

### **Shopping:**

- Seaport Village ([www.seaportvillage.com](http://www.seaportvillage.com) / 619-235-4014) - Downtown; ¼ mile boardwalk connects Convention Center and Seaport Village.
- Westfield Shoppingtown Horton Plaza - ([www.westfield.com/hortonplaza/](http://www.westfield.com/hortonplaza/) 619-239-8180) - Downtown; well-known department stores, boutiques, movie theater, and dining.
- Fashion Valley - Mission Valley ([www.simon.com/MALL/default.aspx?ID=765](http://www.simon.com/MALL/default.aspx?ID=765) / 619-688-9113) - Outdoor shopping mall with 6 department stores.
- Shopping at the Del - Hotel del Coronado ([www.hoteldel.com](http://www.hoteldel.com) / 800-HOTEL-DEL)
- Las Americas Premium Outlets ([www.premiumoutlets.com/outlets/outlet.asp?id=76](http://www.premiumoutlets.com/outlets/outlet.asp?id=76) / 619-934-8400 - 20 minutes south of downtown, reachable by bus or Trolley.
- Markets - Little Italy Mercato, Saturdays 9:00 am-1:30 pm; Downtown Certified Market & International Bazaar, Sunday 9:00 am-1:00 pm at Third Avenue (400 block) and J Street; Balboa Park Art Mart, Saturday & Sunday.

### **Sports and Recreation:**

- Fishing - San Diego is known as the No. 1 sport-fishing city in America.
- Boating/Cruising - San Diego Harbor Cruise; paddle boats in Mission Bay; kayaking along La Jolla Beach exploring caves
- Hiking - Sunset Cliffs in Ocean Beach; Torrey Pines State Reserve; Cabrillo National Monument; Mission Park Trails; Chula Vista Nature Center

### **Further Away:**

- Tijuana/Mexico - Take the San Diego Trolley and walk across to Mexico.
- Anza-Borrego Park - 2-hour drive, east of downtown, to California's desert park

- Temecula/Wine country - About an hour NE of downtown. If you don't want to drive but do want to sample some local wines, visit the San Diego Wine and Culinary Center within walking distance from the Convention Center.

**Downtown Dining:** For more dining options, visit [www.sandiegodowntown.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/life.dining](http://www.sandiegodowntown.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/life.dining).

- Acqua AI2 - Authentic Italian, [www.acquaal2.com](http://www.acquaal2.com)
- Athen's Market Taverna - Best Greek, [www.athensmarkettaverna.com](http://www.athensmarkettaverna.com)
- Basic Urban Kitchen + Bar - Voted best pizza, [www.barbasic.com](http://www.barbasic.com)
- Bertrand @ Mr. A's - Great views, outstanding dining experience, [www.bertrandatmisteras.com](http://www.bertrandatmisteras.com)
- Buon Appetito - Little Italy, [www.buonappetito.signonsandiego.com](http://www.buonappetito.signonsandiego.com)
- Croce's Restaurant and Bar - "Must see" landmark, nightly jazz, [www.croces.com](http://www.croces.com)
- Café Sevilla - Romantic Spanish restaurant with a tapas bar, [www.cafesevilla.com](http://www.cafesevilla.com)
- Dakota Grill - aute cuisine and American comfort food, [www.cohnrestaurants.com/restaurants](http://www.cohnrestaurants.com/restaurants)
- Dobson's - Contemporary American cuisine, good for lunch, [www.dobsonsrestaurant.com](http://www.dobsonsrestaurant.com)
- Donovan's Steakhouse - [www.donovanssteakhouse.com/locations.html](http://www.donovanssteakhouse.com/locations.html)
- The Grant Grill - In the legendary US Grant Hotel, [www.grantgrill.com](http://www.grantgrill.com)
- The Glass Door - New American cuisine, [www.glassdoorsd.com](http://www.glassdoorsd.com)
- Hash House a Go Go - "Twisted farm food", breakfast, lunch and dinner, [www.hashhouseagogo.com](http://www.hashhouseagogo.com)
- Harbor House - Near Seaport Village, seafood, [www.harborhousesd.com](http://www.harborhousesd.com)
- Island Prime/C Level - Best outdoor dining, [www.cohnrestaurants.com/restaurants/islandprime](http://www.cohnrestaurants.com/restaurants/islandprime)
- Jsix - Everything made from scratch, Meatball Mondays, [www.jsixrestaurant.com](http://www.jsixrestaurant.com)
- Le Fountainbleu Westgate Hotel - Best Sunday brunch, [www.westgatehotel.com](http://www.westgatehotel.com)
- Lotus Thai - [www.lotusthaisd.com](http://www.lotusthaisd.com)
- Masala - Indian, [www.masalarestaurant.com](http://www.masalarestaurant.com)
- Marble Room - [www.marbleroom.com](http://www.marbleroom.com)
- MerK Bistro Italiano - Affordable rustic Italian with California twist, [www.themerck.com](http://www.themerck.com)
- Monsoon - Indian, [www.monsoonrestaurant.com](http://www.monsoonrestaurant.com)
- Morton's Steakhouse - [www.mortons.com](http://www.mortons.com)
- Nobu San Diego - New style Japanese cuisine, [www.noburestaurants.com](http://www.noburestaurants.com)
- Old Spaghetti Factory - Reopened February 2009, [www.osf.com](http://www.osf.com)
- Osetra Watergrill - Fresh seafood, prix-fixe \$35, [www.osetrafishhouse.com](http://www.osetrafishhouse.com)
- Quarter Kitchen - Great for breakfast, lunch or dinner, in the Ivy Hotel, [www.quarterkitchen.com](http://www.quarterkitchen.com)
- Suite & Tender - Steakhouse, James Beard Award-winning chef, [www.suiteandtender.com](http://www.suiteandtender.com)
- Taka - Sushi/sashimi, [www.takasushi.com](http://www.takasushi.com)

### Transportation:

The San Diego Metropolitan Transit System is a great way to get around if you don't have a car. There are buses and trolleys to many places of interest, for example, you can get to the San Diego Zoo by catching the Route 7 bus which takes about 35 minutes. The best value ticket is the Day Tripper which allows you to have unlimited rides and transfers on bus and trolley - purchase at the Transit Store (Broadway @ 1st) or at the trolley station across the street from the Manchester Hyatt; use the Trip Planner ([www.sdmts.com/Tripplanner.asp](http://www.sdmts.com/Tripplanner.asp)) to help you find the route to your destination; visit [www.sandiego.org/article\\_set/Visitors/11/832](http://www.sandiego.org/article_set/Visitors/11/832) for more tips on using the transit system.

### San Diego Metropolitan Transit System:

#### Websites

[www.sdcommute.com](http://www.sdcommute.com) / [www.sdmts.com](http://www.sdmts.com)

#### Phone Numbers

Customer Service Bus: 619-238-0100

Trolley: 619-595-4949

Regional Transit Information Office (personalized Trip Planning): Dial 511 (say Public Transportation or select option 3) or call 619-233-3004.

InfoExpress (automated schedule information): Dial 511 (say Public Transportation) or call 619-685-4900.

TTY-TDD (for persons with hearing impairments only): 1-888-722-4889 or 619-234-5005.

Transit Store (102 Broadway at First Avenue): 619-234-1060

### **Trolley System:**

A trolley stop can be found just across the street from the Manchester Grand Hyatt. The trolley runs from early morning to midnight on weekdays and until 2:00 am on Saturdays, with service every 7.5 to 30 minutes, depending on route and time of day. For maps, schedules, and fare information, see <http://www.sdmts.com/Trolley/Trolley.asp>. You must purchase a ticket at a trolley station automated ticket vending machine before boarding the train. Most ticket machines take \$1.00 or \$5.00 bills and dollar coins (no credit). Fares are around \$2.50 each direction, with discounts for seniors and disabled individuals. The San Diego trolley is accessible, with wheelchair lifts on older cars and ground level ramps on some newer trains. The trolley can be used to access many locations in the downtown and East County San Diego areas, including:

- Border Crossing to Tijuana, Mexico
- Fashion Valley and Mission Valley shopping centers
- Old Town
- Qualcomm Stadium
- San Diego State University

NOTE: The trolley does NOT serve Balboa Park, the San Diego Zoo, Wild Animal Park, Airport, or the North County areas.

### **Bus System:**

The bus system serves most of San Diego County, with stops at most major attractions and hotels. The regular fare for most routes is \$4.50. Passengers pay when boarding, and exact change (\$1 bills or quarters, dimes and nickels) is required. Discounts are offered to the elderly and disabled. Nearly all buses have wheelchair lifts.

NOTE: If you will be using local public transportation frequently during your stay, consider purchasing a “Day Tripper” pass. This pass allows unlimited rides on all bus and trolley routes, and is good for 1-4 consecutive days, with a cost of \$5-\$15. Day Tripper passes can be purchased at the Transit Store (102 Broadway at First Avenue, 619-234-1060), at all trolley station automated ticket vending machines, or online at least 7 days in advance at <http://www.sdcommute.com/eStore/DT/Default.aspx>.

### **Pedi-Cabs:**

For short trips within the downtown and Gaslamp area, Pedi-Cabs (bicycle-powered rickshaws) are an option. You will find these on almost any street corner downtown. For more information, visit [www.vippedicab.com](http://www.vippedicab.com) or call 619-228-3632.

### **Ferry System and Water Taxis:**

Pedestrian ferry service is available between San Diego and Coronado Island (landing also available at Convention Center), departing from the Broadway Pier (Harbor and Broadway), Sunday through Thursday on the hour from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm, and Friday and Saturday until 10:00 pm. Return ferries depart from the Ferry Landing in Coronado, Sunday through Thursday every hour on the half-hour from 9:30 am to 9:30 pm, and Friday and Saturday until 10:30 pm. The fare is \$3.25 each way and tickets can be purchased at the Harbor Excursion kiosk on Broadway Pier. This is not only a great way to visit Coronado, but a fun and inexpensive way to view the San Diego harbor and skyline. The trip takes approximately 15 minutes in each direction. Pedi-cabs and bike rentals are available at the Ferry Landing to tour the rest of the island. For additional information, see <http://www.sdhe.com/san-diego-bay-ferry.html>.

Water taxis will stop at any dock in San Diego Bay, Monday through Thursday 9:30 am to 8:00 pm, and Friday through Sunday 9:30 am to 10:00 pm. Reservations are advised - visit [www.sdhe.com](http://www.sdhe.com) or call 619-235-8294. The fare is reasonable to most locations served.

### **Beyond San Diego:**

San Diego's commuter train, the Coaster, provides an option for traveling from the Santa Fe Depot in downtown San Diego to the North County, with stops at Old Town, Sorrento Valley, Solana Beach (great shopping, galleries, and beautiful beaches), Encinitas (classic surf town with excellent beaches), Carlsbad (historical San Diego area town and home to Legoland), and Oceanside. The train takes approximately 1 hour each way, and fares are about \$10-\$14 round trip. Tickets can be purchased by credit card or cash at vending machines located at all stations. The train runs along the coast and offers very scenic views of the ocean and shoreline. Coaster service is available Monday through Friday from 6:30 am to 7 pm, with four trains on Saturday. For schedule and additional information, call 800-262-7837, or visit the [www.sdcommute.com](http://www.sdcommute.com) website.

**Enjoy your time in America's finest city!**