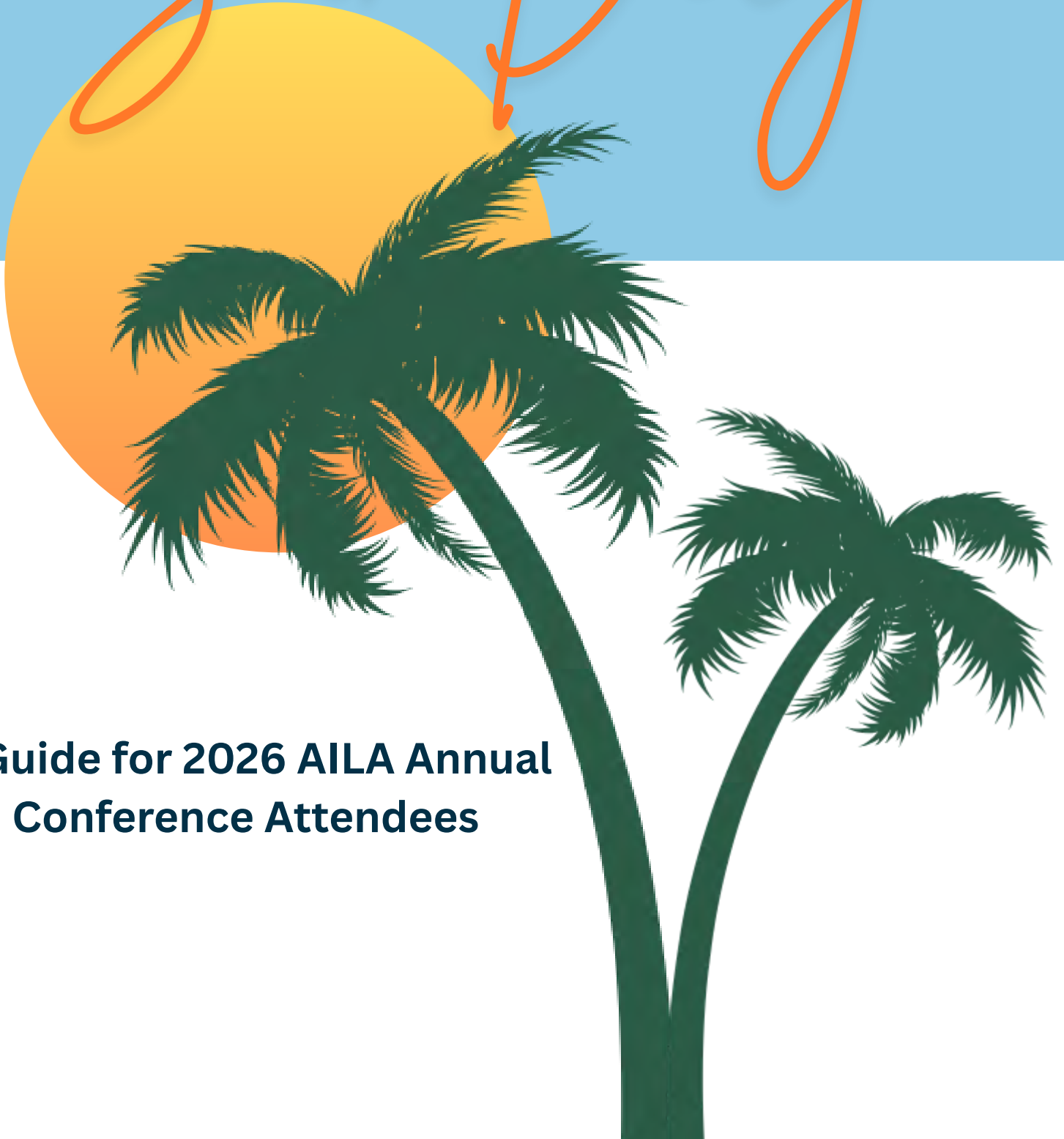


San Diego



**A Guide for 2026 AILA Annual
Conference Attendees**

BIENVENIDOS

Welcome to San Diego for the 2026 American Immigration Lawyers Association Annual Conference. Whether this is your first visit to America's Finest City or a return trip, we hope you'll experience the laid-back charm, vibrant neighborhoods, and beautiful coastal setting that make San Diego so special.

Shaped by sunshine, the Pacific Ocean, and a rich blend of cultures from around the world, San Diego offers something for everyone. This guide highlights local favorites—from dining and cultural attractions to outdoor adventures, family-friendly activities, and events—to help you make the most of your time here.

On behalf of the conference planning committee, we invite you to relax, explore, and discover all that our beautiful city has to offer. We wish you a wonderful conference and a memorable stay in San Diego.



SAN DIEGO



VISITING SAN DIEGO IN JUNE



June is a beautiful time to visit San Diego. Unlike many parts of the country that are already in full summer heat, coastal San Diego often experiences “June Gloom.” A cool marine layer forms overnight and can linger into the morning hours.

What to pack:

- A light jacket or sweater for mornings and evenings
- Sunglasses and sunscreen
- A swimsuit for the beach or pool

What to expect:

- Gray or overcast skies in the morning
- Clearing between late morning and early afternoon
- Sunny, mild afternoons
- Cooler evenings near the coast

The conference is located in the Seaport Village area of downtown San Diego. The surrounding waterfront and many downtown attractions are easily walkable, or you can take the [San Diego Trolley](#) to explore other parts of the city. Popular uptown neighborhoods and nearby beaches are just a short drive away.

The San Diego Trolley has several lines serving downtown:

- **Blue Line** – Connects downtown with San Ysidro and La Jolla / UC San Diego.
- **Orange Line** – Runs from downtown east to El Cajon.
- **Green Line** – Connects downtown to Mission Valley and Santee.
- **Silver Line** – A historic streetcar loop around downtown areas like the Gaslamp Quarter.

EXPLORE DOWNTOWN'S UNIQUE NEIGHBORHOODS

Want to make the most of your time in Downtown San Diego? We have seven unique neighborhoods to explore, each offering a different vibe and experience. Check out the map on the reverse side to find these must-see spots!

For even more fun things to do in San Diego, visit sandiego.org



Craft Beer and Cocktails

The San Diego craft beer scene is legendary, but did you know our cocktail culture is just as rich? What your appetite at one of the many critically acclaimed breweries or cocktail bars and try some of the best drinks the city has to offer. bit.ly/findsdbreweries

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

With a prime location along Downtown's waterfront, the Columbia District is home to the area's finest art, historic architecture and urban transportation—a place where you can fully experience the Downtown San Diego lifestyle.



Shopping and Dining

Looking to buy a gift for a friend or grab a bite to eat? Check out the map on the reverse side and look for streets highlighted as "Shopping & Dining."



EAST VILLAGE

East Village has been hand-crafted by entrepreneurs, makers, and artists who are transforming this area into an urban playground of hip bars, boutique galleries and trendy restaurants.

EastVillageSanDiego.com



LITTLE ITALY

Once home to a thriving fishing industry, Little Italy is now a cultural gem, offering a vibrant array of divine restaurants, sprawling markets and people watching spots. The charm of Little Italy is characterized by its welcoming feel.

LittleItalySD.com



CITY CENTER

A hub of business activity, civic pride and neighborhood life, City Center is the heart of Downtown. It's also the home to many of Downtown's most well-known theaters including Civic Theater, Symphony Hall and Balboa Theater.

CityCenterSD.org



Live Music

Whether you're in the mood for classical music or hip-hop, Downtown is the perfect place for you to experience live performances.

bit.ly/downtownsdcalendar



CORTEZ

Stroll along jacaranda-lined streets in the serenity of Downtown's "suburb on a hill." Named after the famous El Cortez Hotel, this is one of Downtown's oldest residential neighborhoods, it boasts beautiful views of the San Diego Bay and is a short walk to Balboa Park.



GASLAMP QUARTER

Immerse yourself in San Diego's most popular dining and entertainment district. Admire the Victorian architecture, dine at restaurants that boast world renowned chefs, shop at unique boutiques, and dance the night away at trendy hot spots.

Gaslamp.org



Street Art

Explore the artistic side of our urban neighborhoods through one-of-a-kind street art.

To explore dozens of murals throughout Downtown, visit bit.ly/downtownsdartmap



MARINA

Marina is full of culture, family-friendly spaces, tree-lined streets and public art. It is also the home to the Asian Pacific Thematic Historic District along Third Avenue, The New Children's Museum and Martin Luther King Jr Promenade.

TOUR LIKE A LOCAL!

Whether you're a first timer or a local, there's always something new to discover Downtown!



Post your favorites and tag @DowntownSanDiego

ATTRACTIONS & MUSEUMS

- 01 Broadway Pier/ Port Pavilion
- 02 Gaslamp Landmark Sign
- 03 Little Italy Landmark Sign
- 04 Piazza della Famiglia
- 05 Seaport Village
- 06 Star of India
- 07 The New Children's Museum
- 08 Chinese Historical Museum
- 09 Davis-Horton House/ Gaslamp Museum
- 10 Firehouse Museum



Piazza della Famiglia
Stroll through this European-style piazza in the heart of Little Italy surrounded by cafes, restaurants, shopping and more.



The New Children's Museum
A perfect family-friendly option offering one-of-a-kind room-sized installations that will help kiddos learn and experience the world through the lens of contemporary art.

ThinkPlayCreate.org



Seaport Village
This 14-acre waterfront space is a shopping, dining, and entertainment mecca with unbeatable views of San Diego Bay. Locals and visitors alike will find plenty of activities to keep them busy all day long.

SeaportVillage.com



Waterfront

There's always more to discover along Downtown's waterfront. Exploration and experiences await you!

PortOfSanDiego.org/Wonderfront

- 11 Maritime Museum
- 12 Museum of Contemporary Art
- 13 USS Midway Museum
- 14 San Diego Central Library
- 15 Coronado Ferry Terminal



USS Midway

It's not everyday you get to see the inner workings of an aircraft carrier. Explore every facet of the ship and experience what life looks like at sea.

Midway.org



San Diego Central Library

The library isn't just a place to borrow books. The top floor hosts an event space, a museum showcasing local artists, and spectacular city views. Check out the library's rare-book room to view pages from the first book ever printed!



Davis-Horton House

Built in 1850, this house is the oldest standing structure in Downtown San Diego. It is also home to the Gaslamp Museum at the Davis-Horton House and was the home of The Father of San Diego—Alonzo Horton.

GaslampFoundation.org



San Diego Maritime Museum

History and the sea collide at this museum featuring one of the world's finest collections of historic ships, including the world's oldest active ship—the Star of India.

SDMaritime.org



Barrio Logan

Just south of Downtown, this port-side community is one of San Diego's best kept secrets. An epicenter of the city's Mexican-American culture, experience cutting-edge art, delicious local eats and much more.

BarrioLoganAssociation.org

THEATERS

- 16 Civic Theatre
- 17 Horton Grand Theatre
- 18 Lyceum Theater
- 19 Spreckels Theatre
- 20 Symphony Hall
- 21 Balboa Theatre
- 22 Rady Shell at Jacobs Park



Civic Theatre

San Diego Civic Theatre is the home of the San Diego Opera and the California Ballet. Check out their amazing lineup of concerts, dance performances, opera, comedy shows, Broadway productions and more.

SanDiegoTheatres.org



San Diego Symphony

Music comes to life at the Historic Copley Symphony Hall, home of the San Diego Symphony. With over 100 performances a year, there's a show for every kind of music lover. And an outdoor concert at the Rady Shell is a can't-miss experience.

SanDiegoSymphony.org

PARKS

- 23 Amici Park/ Dog Park
- 24 Embarcadero Marina Park North
- 25 Children's Park (Coming 2023)
- 26 Waterfront Park
- 27 Embarcadero Marina Park South
- 28 Fault Line Park
- 29 Gaslamp Square



Balboa Park

San Diego's crown jewel, the sprawling 1,200-acre park is an arts and cultural hub filled with museums, theaters, gardens and more.

BalboaPark.org

- 30 Horton Plaza Park
- 31 Martin Luther King Jr. Promenade
- 32 Gallagher Square/ Park at the Park
- 33 Pantoja Park
- 34 Ruocco Park
- 35 Tuna Harbor Park
- 36 Tweet Street Park



Waterfront Park

Take a break in between sightseeing in Little Italy and the Embarcadero at this popular destination for kids and adults including a splash fountain, ocean views, play zone, picnic areas and more.



Tuna Harbor Park

Originally named for its connection to the fishing industry as a tuna port, this park includes shaded areas to relax, a scenic promenade, bike routes and a perfect vantage point for watching boats in San Diego Bay.



Rady Shell at Jacobs Park

An architectural wonder, the Rady Shell is equal parts state-of-the-art concert venue and public open space for all to enjoy. Experience musical concerts, symphony performances, private events, and a public promenade.



Tweet Street Park

Located in Cortez, Tweet Street Park is a sweet retreat in this residential neighborhood. Its name was inspired by birdhouses created as part of a public art competition to attract native birds back to the neighborhood.



MLK, Jr. Promenade

Martin Luther King, Jr. Promenade is a twelve-acre park designed for people of all ages to enjoy. The 0.6-mile-long linear park begins in the Gaslamp Quarter and features public art and plaques highlighting some of Dr. King's powerful words.

GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Downtown San Diego is divided into 7 neighborhoods. Together they make the diverse tapestry of culture, food and activities that is San Diego.

 DID YOU KNOW IT ONLY TAKES ABOUT 20 MINUTES TO CROSS DOWNTOWN BY FOOT?

LITTLE ITALY

CORTEZ

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

CITY CENTER








EAST VILLAGE

MARINA

GASLAMP

 **Art Appreciation**
Check out over two dozen publicly accessible works of art in Downtown.
SDCivicArtCollection.com



-  Shared Walking & Biking Path
-  Bike Lane/Path
-  Martin Luther King, Jr. Promenade
-  Artwork
-  Trolley Line
-  Trolley Station
-  Shopping & Dining



MARINA & COLUMBIA DISTRICT

Restaurants

Malibu Farm - \$\$

Farm-to-table waterfront restaurant with SoCal-style fresh dishes and scenic views.

Mike Hess Brewing - Seaport Village - \$\$

Brewery with local craft beers and tacos from Quiero Taco.

Brigantine Seafood & Oyster Bar - \$\$

Classic San Diego seafood on the boardwalk (near Portside Pier).

Tom Ham's Lighthouse - \$\$\$

@tomhamslighthouse
Historic waterfront restaurant on Shelter Island.

Eddie V's Prime Seafood - \$\$\$\$

Upscale seafood & steakhouse near the marina.

Coasterra — \$\$\$

Modern Mexican cuisine with sweeping bay views.

@coasterrasd

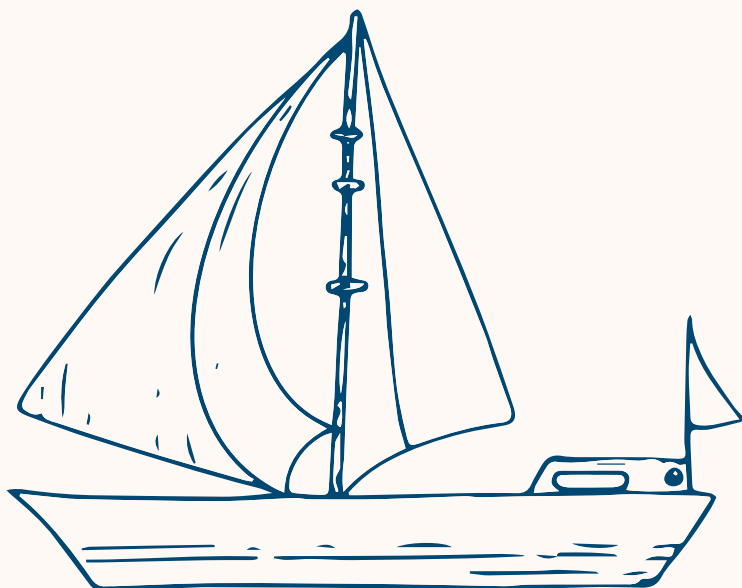
Bali Hai Restaurant — \$\$\$

Classic tiki restaurant famous for sunset cocktails.

@balihairestaurant

ANIMAE — \$\$\$\$

Upscale Asian-fusion steakhouse (not seafood) featuring wagyu and inventive dishes — great for a special night out.



GASLAMP & EAST VILLAGE

Coffee Shop & Bakeries

Asa Bakery & Cafe – \$\$

Japanese-style baked goods, milk bread, pastries & coffee in a casual space.

@asa.bakerycafe

F Street Cafe – \$

Small cozy café serving espresso drinks, Vietnamese coffee, boba drinks, pastries, and breakfast bites in the heart of Gaslamp.

Chiefy Cafe – \$\$

Cozy independent coffeehouse serving specialty espresso drinks, açai bowls, waffles, and breakfast plates in the Gaslamp Quarter.

Donut Bar – \$\$

Over-the-top gourmet donuts, rotating specialty flavors & breakfast sandwiches in a casual spot. @donutbar

Relic Bakery & Kitchen – \$\$

Artisan pastries & breads with creative seasonal twists.

@relicbakery

Spill the Beans Coffee & Bagels – \$\$

Popular downtown coffee stop known for specialty coffee drinks paired with housemade bagels and breakfast sandwiches. @spillthebeanssd

IZOLA – \$\$\$

Artisan croissants, wild sourdough & pastries with a cult following.

@izolabakery

Brunch

Werewolf American Pub – \$\$

Lively Gaslamp brunch spot with American classics and cocktails.

@werewolfpub

The Broken Yolk Cafe – \$\$

Classic breakfast spot known for hearty plates and pancakes.

@thebrokenyolk

Swami's Cafe – \$\$

Casual brunch with healthy bowls, avocado toast, and coffee.

@swamiscave

The Mission – \$\$

East Village brunch favorite with Latin-inspired breakfast dishes.

@themissionsd

GASLAMP & EAST VILLAGE

Restaurants

C Level - \$\$

Upscale-casual seafood & New American with bay views.

@clevelsd

The Blind Burro - \$\$

Mexican food & margaritas in a lively setting.

@theblindburrodowntown

Bub's at the Ballpark - \$\$

Classic American bar fare & drinks in a lively sports bar setting. @bubssandiego



STK Steakhouse - \$\$\$\$

High-energy steakhouse known for DJs, cocktails, and modern steakhouse fare. @stksteakhouse

Cowboy Star Restaurant & Butcher Shop - \$\$\$\$

Top San Diego steakhouse known for impeccable service.

@cowboystarsd

Osteria Panevino - \$\$\$

Classic Italian cuisine in the Gaslamp Quarter.

@osteriapanevino

Nobu San Diego - \$\$\$\$

Upscale Japanese-Peruvian cuisine & craft cocktails in a sleek, modern setting.

@noburestaurants



GASLAMP

Nightlife

ALTITUDE Sky Lounge

Rooftop bar with panoramic downtown views.

Bloom Nightclub

A modern electronic-music club featuring immersive visuals, DJs, and a lively dance floor popular with EDM fans.

Double Deuce

A lively country-style bar and nightclub featuring a mechanical bull, a dance floor, and high-energy weekend parties.

Nova SD

A two-story EDM nightclub featuring major DJs, immersive lighting, and indoor/outdoor dance spaces.

Onyx Room

A long-running Gaslamp nightclub with multiple music rooms featuring hip-hop, reggaeton, Latin, and Top-40 dance music.

Oxford Social Club

A luxury nightclub inside the Pendry Hotel featuring high-end cocktails, and curated DJ sets.

Parq Nightclub

One of the largest clubs in San Diego with a Las Vegas-style experience, celebrity DJs, and large LED screens.

Prohibition Lounge

San Diego's original speakeasy. 1920s-themed cocktail bar with live music.

Side Bar Nightclub

A stylish boutique club known for themed events, DJs, and upscale nightlife vibes

Balboa Theatre

A beautifully restored 1920s theater hosting concerts, comedy shows, and touring Broadway-style performances.

Theatre Box

A modern dining and cinema experience featuring luxury movie theaters, bowling, karaoke rooms, and a rooftop bar.

Mad House Comedy Club

One of San Diego's most popular comedy venues, hosting multiple stand-up shows and open-mic nights throughout the week in the Gaslamp Quarter.

Laugh Factory San Diego

A well-known stand-up comedy club in the Gaslamp Quarter that hosts touring headliners, local comedians, and weekly open-mic nights.

GASLAMP *Taco Crawl*

Tacos El Gordo – \$\$

Legendary Tijuana-style taquería known for its adobada shaved from the trompo, carne asada, and classic street tacos served fast and late into the night. A must-stop for authentic border-style tacos during a Gaslamp crawl.

@tacoselgordobc

Tacos El Franc – \$\$

Michelin-recognized Tijuana taquería famous for charcoal-grilled carne asada and adobada tacos with bold Baja flavor. A newer Gaslamp arrival bringing authentic TJ street taco energy to downtown. @tacoselfranc

Taco Centro – \$\$

Modern taquería inspired by traditional Mexican street-market stalls, serving classic tacos with premium meats and a lively downtown vibe. Great quick stop between bars in Gaslamp. @tacocentro

La Puerta – \$\$

Popular Mexican bar-restaurant known for street tacos, strong margaritas, and a lively rock-and-roll atmosphere that keeps the crowd going late into the night. @lapuertasd

The Waves Taco Club – \$\$\$

Baja-inspired taco spot known for seafood tacos, creative flavors, and a more elevated taco experience compared with classic street taquerías in the area. @thewavestacoclub

LITTLE ITALY

Coffee Shops

James Coffee Co. - \$\$

Industrial-chic coffee shop in a warehouse-style space serving specialty coffee and pastries.

@jamescoffeeco

Lofty Coffee Little Italy - \$\$

Popular specialty coffee café known for house-roasted beans and excellent breakfast pastries. @loftycoffee

Parakeet Cafe - \$\$

Health-focused café known for colorful lattes, organic ingredients, and bright modern interiors. @parakeetcafe

Brunch

Morning Glory - \$\$

Iconic brunch destination famous for soufflé pancakes, breakfast ramen, and a glamorous pink dining room. @morningglorysd

Queenstown Public House - \$\$

New Zealand-inspired café known for creative brunch plates and a charming cottage-style interior. @queenstownpublichouse

Gelato

Bobboi Natural Gelato

Authentic Italian gelato made fresh daily with organic, seasonal ingredients sourced from California.

Pappalecco

Authentic Italian café known for house-made gelato and espresso.

Little Italy Mercato Farmer's Market

SAT. 8:00AM - 2:00PM

San Diego County's largest farmer's market, filling six city blocks on West Date Street from west of Kettner Blvd to Front Street. Find farm fresh fruits and vegetables, eggs, packaged groceries, street food, local crafts and more.



LITTLE ITALY

Restaurants

The Crack Shack - \$

Chef-driven fried chicken sandwiches and casual outdoor dining. @getcrackshacked

Mona Lisa Italian Foods - \$\$

Classic Italian deli + restaurant known for subs, pasta, and pizza. @monalisalittleitaly

Davanti Enoteca - \$\$

Italian small plates and pasta with a lively patio and great happy hour. @davanti_enoteca

Vino Carta - \$\$

Natural wine bar and shop focused on small family-run producers. @vinocarta

Ironside Fish & Oyster - \$\$\$

Trendy seafood and oyster bar with nautical décor. @ironsideoyster

Kettner Exchange - \$\$\$

Modern coastal cuisine with a popular rooftop lounge. @kettnerexchange

Bencotto - \$\$\$

Classic Little Italy restaurant known for handmade pasta. @bencotto

Born & Raised - \$\$\$\$

Elegant steakhouse with rooftop dining and tableside service. @bornandraisedsteak

Craft & Commerce - \$\$\$

Eclectic gastropub with creative cocktails and a lively atmosphere. @craftandcommerce

Herb & Wood - \$\$\$\$

Stylish California-Mediterranean restaurant with wood-fired cooking. @herbandwood

Juniper & Ivy - \$\$\$\$

Chef-driven New American cuisine featuring inventive seasonal dishes. @juniperandivy



OLD TOWN

Casa de Reyes - \$

Classic Mexican dishes, margaritas & live mariachi in a colorful courtyard. @casadereyesrestaurant

Casa Guadalajara - \$\$

Festive Mexican restaurant known for its beautiful courtyard, mariachi music & traditional plates. @casaguadalajarasd

Bhojan Griha - \$\$

Nepalese & Indian restaurant known for momo dumplings, curries & Himalayan comfort dishes. @bhojagriha.sd

Harney Sushi - \$\$

Creative sushi rolls, Japanese small plates & craft cocktails. @harneysushi

Encuentro Cafe - \$\$

Venezuelan-inspired café known for arepas, brunch plates, specialty coffee. @encuentrocafe

Old Town Tequila Factory - \$\$

Rooftop views, margaritas & tequila flights overlooking Old Town. @oldtowntequilafactory

Tahona - \$\$\$

Oaxacan-inspired restaurant & mezcal bar with one of the best mezcal lists in San Diego. @tahona_sd

Sushi Tadokoro - \$\$\$

Michelin-recognized Edomae-style sushi with premium imported fish. @sushi_tadokoro



Old Town San Diego State Historic Park is known as the birthplace of California, featuring historic buildings, museums, shops, and lively Mexican restaurants.

CORONADO

Coronado is a charming coastal resort city known for wide sandy beaches, historic architecture, and a relaxed seaside vibe. Located across San Diego Bay, it blends small-town charm with upscale resort living and is easy to explore on foot or by bike.

Ways to Explore



Unwind at Coronado Beach

One of the top beaches in the U.S., Coronado Beach features sparkling sand, gentle waves, and beautiful sunsets—perfect for a stroll or a quick seaside break.

Visit the Historic Hotel del Coronado

Opened in 1888, the iconic “Del” is a National Historic Landmark known for its Victorian architecture, oceanfront dining, and boutique shops.

Bike the Silver Strand

Ride along this scenic coastal stretch between Coronado and Imperial Beach with ocean breezes and views of both the Pacific and San Diego Bay.

Stroll Orange Avenue

Coronado’s main street is lined with cafés, boutiques, galleries, and casual dining—perfect for coffee, lunch, or souvenir shopping.

Ride the Ferry



Ferry service runs between the Coronado Ferry Landing and Broadway Pier in downtown San Diego, with another route from the San Diego Convention Center. Ferries depart hourly, taking about 15 minutes. Advance purchase online or at the ticket booth is recommended. Free for children under 4.

- [Broadway Pier & Coronado Ferry Landing](#)
- [Convention Center & Coronado Ferry Landing](#)

CORONADO



Restaurants

Garage Buona Forchetta – \$\$

Rustic Italian restaurant serving pizzas, house-made pastas, and Neapolitan-style pies..
@buonaforchettasd

Il Fornaio — \$\$\$

Italian dining with harbor and skyline views. @ilfornaio

Brigantine — \$\$\$

Dependable seafood restaurant with harbor views.
@brigantinerestaurants

Peohe's — \$\$\$

Waterfront dining with views of the San Diego skyline. @peohes

Little Frenchie – \$\$\$

Michelin-recognized French bistro serving escargots, moules frites, and classic Parisian dishes in an intimate setting. @littlefrenchiesd

Coffee Shops & Brunch

Trident Coffee – \$

Veteran-owned specialty coffee roaster known for nitro cold brew, and a nautical-inspired taproom with a gluten-free bakery. @tridentcoffee

Heave Ho Coffee Co – \$

Small neighborhood coffee shop serving quality espresso drinks and simple breakfast bites.
@heavehocoffeeco

Clayton's Coffee Shop – \$

Classic diner-style coffee spot famous for retro décor, milkshakes, and all-day breakfast. @claytonscoffee

Breweries

Coronado Brewing Company – \$\$

Iconic local brewpub founded in 1996 serving award-winning craft beers, fish tacos, and pizzas in a lively pub atmosphere.
@coronadobrewing

Bottlecraft Coronado – \$\$

Craft beer bar featuring rotating taps, rare bottles, and a relaxed tasting-room vibe. @bottlecraftbeer

Emerald C Gallery & Wine Bar – \$\$

Cozy wine bar serving global wines, small plates, and live music inside an art gallery setting.
@emeraldccoronado

LIBERTY STATION

Ways to Explore

Liberty Public Market – A lively indoor food hall featuring dozens of local eateries, craft beverages, and artisan vendors.

Explore the Arts District – Browse galleries and working artist studios showcasing local painters, photographers, and makers.

Dine & Sip Craft Beer – Liberty Station offers a wide range of casual eateries, breweries, and outdoor patios perfect for socializing after conference sessions.

Bike or walk the waterfront paths – Take in scenic views along the harbor and surrounding green spaces.

Relax at NTC Park – Enjoy walking paths, open green spaces, and waterfront views along San Diego Bay.

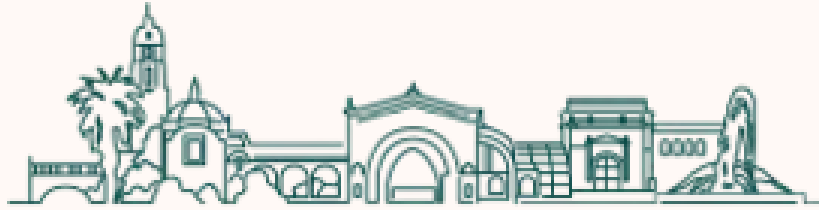
Liberty Station is a vibrant waterfront district built on the former Naval Training Center campus. Today, the historic Spanish-Colonial buildings house restaurants, art studios, shops, parks, and entertainment venues —making it a popular spot for dining, strolling, and enjoying the bay.

See a show at Joan & Irwin Jacobs Performing Arts Theater – Home to live theater productions and performances by Cygnet Theatre.

Play mini golf at The Loma Club – A fun 9-hole putting course perfect for a quick, casual game with friends or colleagues.



BALBOA PARK



Located just minutes from downtown San Diego, Balboa Park is a 1,200-acre cultural park filled with museums, gardens, historic Spanish-Colonial architecture, and performing arts venues. Originally developed for the Panama–California Exposition, the park is now one of Southern California’s premier cultural destinations and home to more than a dozen museums, lush botanical gardens, and the famous San Diego Zoo.



Old Town Trolley Tours in San Diego offers a convenient hop-on, hop-off, 1-hour-and-45-minute narrated tour with a dedicated stop at Balboa Park/San Diego Zoo

Ways to Explore

Wander through the Botanical Building - A historic conservatory filled with orchids, palms, and tropical plants.

Walk through the Alcazar Garden - A Moorish-inspired garden known for its colorful tile fountains and patterned flower beds.

Relax in the Japanese Friendship Garden - A peaceful multi-level garden with koi ponds, bonsai displays, and scenic pathways.

Visit the San Diego Zoo - One of the world’s most renowned zoos, featuring thousands of animals and immersive habitats.



BALBOA PARK

Stroll El Prado and dine at The Prado at Balboa Park - Walk the park's main promenade lined with museums and historic buildings, then enjoy Spanish-inspired California cuisine at this popular terrace restaurant.

Explore the San Diego Museum of Art - A major art museum featuring works from European masters to modern art.

See the California Tower - One of San Diego's most iconic landmarks with guided tours and sweeping views.

Discover hands-on exhibits at the Fleet Science Center - Interactive science exhibits and a giant IMAX theater

Visit the Spanish Village Art Center - A colorful courtyard of working artist studios and galleries where you can watch artists create pottery, jewelry, paintings, and more.

Explore the House of Pacific Relations International Cottages - A collection of cultural cottages representing countries from around the world, often hosting cultural events, food tastings, and performances.





HILLCREST

Hillcrest stands out as one of San Diego's most lively and pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods, serving as the heart of the city's LGBTQ+ community. Renowned for its energetic nightlife, diverse dining options, and vibrant street atmosphere. Here are some fantastic ways to discover the area.

See the Hillcrest Pride Flag

Iconic LGBTQ+ landmark.

Shop the Hillcrest Farmers Market on

Sundays @hillcrestfarmersmarket

Catch a Show at Diversionsary Theatre

Celebrated LGBTQ storytelling on stage.

@diversionarytheatre

Grab Drinks at Urban MO's Bar & Grill

Festive patio and cocktails. @urbanmos

Sip cocktails at InsideOUT

Stylish lounge with a popular outdoor patio.

Browse Books at Bluestocking Books

Cozy independent bookshop.

Walk University Avenue

The neighborhood's main strip with cafés, shops, and nightlife.

NORTH PARK

Coffee Shops & Brunch

Nomad Donuts – \$

Creative donut shop serving rotating specialty donuts, Montreal-style bagels, and breakfast burritos. @nomaddonuts

Communal Coffee – \$\$

Stylish café serving craft coffee and brunch plates. @communalcoffee

Breakfast Republic – \$\$

Playful brunch favorite known for inventive pancakes, breakfast flights, and colorful décor. @breakfastrepublic

The Mission North Park – \$\$

Popular brunch spot known for chilaquiles and Latin-inspired breakfast. @themissionsd

Caffè Calabria – \$\$

Italian café serving espresso, brunch, and wood-fired pizza. @caffecalabria

Restaurants

City Tacos – \$

Casual taqueria known for creative tacos and salsas. @citytacossd

Gelati & Peccati – \$

Walk-up eatery specializing in authentic Italian gelato and pizza. @gelatipeccati

Tribute Pizza – \$\$

Local favorite serving creative sourdough pizzas. @tributepizza

Siamo Napoli – \$\$

Authentic Italian restaurant serving Neapolitan pizza and pasta. @siamonapolisd

Pecari – \$\$

Argentine steakhouse known for wood-fired meats and empanadas. @pecarinorthpark

Leila North Park – \$\$

Middle Eastern restaurant serving mezze, kebabs, and cocktails. @leilnorthpark

Black Radish – \$\$

Seasonal restaurant known for vegetable-forward dishes and natural wine. @blackradishsd



NORTH PARK

Breweries & Bars

North Park Beer Company – \$\$

Award-winning brewery known for West Coast IPAs. @northparkbeerco

Pure Project North Park – \$\$

Craft brewery with rotating taps and a modern tasting room.

Belching Beaver Brewery – \$\$

Craft brewery famous for Peanut Butter Milk Stout. @belchingbeaver

Fall Brewing Company – \$\$

Neighborhood brewery serving lagers and IPAs.

Thorn Street Brewery – \$\$

Local brewery known for classic beer styles.

Original 40 Brewing Company – \$\$

Popular brewpub serving craft beer and food, @original40brewing

The Office Bar – \$

Classic dive bar serving cocktails and beers. @theofficebarsd

Coin-Op Game Room – \$\$

Arcade bar with craft cocktails and vintage games. @coinopsd

Part Time Lover – \$\$

Vinyl listening bar with cocktails and natural wine. @parttimeloversd

Seven Grand – \$\$

Whiskey bar with pool table and live music. @sevengrand

Pretzels & Pints – \$\$

Casual beer bar serving craft brews and soft Bavarian pretzels. @pretzelsandpints



SOUTH PARK

Coffee Shops & Brunch

Dark Horse Coffee Roasters – \$\$

Minimalist specialty coffee shop known for excellent espresso and single-origin brews.

@darkhorsecoffee

Café Madeleine South Park – \$\$

French café known for crêpes, pastries, and relaxed sidewalk brunch. @cafemadeleinesd

Communal Coffee – \$\$

Trendy café with floral décor, creative lattes, and light breakfast bites.

@communalcoffee

Secret Sister – \$\$

Artisan bakery famous for sourdough bread and seasonal pastries.

@secretsisterbread

Seven Seas Roasting Co. – \$\$

Cozy café serving house-roasted coffee, pour-overs, and espresso drinks. @sevensseasroasting



Restaurants

Buona Forchetta - \$\$

Beloved Italian restaurant serving authentic Neapolitan pizza and handmade pasta.

Kindred - \$\$

Plant-based restaurant and cocktail bar known for bold vegan comfort food and craft drinks. @kindredsd

Station Tavern - \$\$

Casual burger and beer spot with a large outdoor patio and neighborhood vibe. @stationtavern

Carbón - \$\$\$

Wood-fired grill featuring charcoal-roasted meats and seafood.

@carbonsd

Breweries & Bars

Fall Brewing – Golden Rhino Room – \$\$

Punk-inspired tasting room with 18+ craft beers on draft and a gold rhino centerpiece. @goldenrhinoroom

Harland Brewing Co. South Park – \$\$

Modern brewery serving craft beer and coffee in a spacious taproom. @harlandbeer

Mothership – \$\$\$

Immersive sci-fi tiki bar known for elaborate tropical cocktails. @mothership.sandiego

PACIFIC BEACH

Pacific Beach Boardwalk

The oceanfront boardwalk runs along the shoreline and is ideal for biking, skating, or strolling while enjoying beach views and people-watching.

Visit Crystal Pier

A historic wooden pier built in 1927 and a popular spot for fishing, watching surfers, and sunset views over the Pacific.

Explore Garnet Avenue

The main commercial street of PB features surf shops, casual eateries, bars, and boutiques just blocks from the ocean.

Relax on Pacific Beach

The broad sandy shoreline offers swimming, volleyball courts, and lifeguard-patrolled areas popular with both locals and visitors. Great place to watch the sunset.

Visit Kate Sessions Memorial Park

Offering panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean, Mission Bay, and downtown San Diego from a scenic hilltop setting.

Pacific Beach, locally known as “PB,” is a lively San Diego beach neighborhood known for its sandy shoreline, surf culture, and casual restaurants and nightlife. Visitors come for oceanfront walks, sunsets, and the classic Southern California beach atmosphere.

Restaurants

PB Fish Shop — \$\$

Casual seafood spot famous for fish tacos and sandwiches.
@thefishshop

Oscar’s Mexican Seafood - \$\$

Casual Baja-style seafood restaurant known for smoked fish tacos and ceviche. @oscarsmexicanseafood

Costa Brava - \$\$

Classic Spanish tapas restaurant serving paella, sangria, and traditional small plates.
@costabravasd Website:

The Fishery — \$\$\$

High-quality seafood market and restaurant. @thefisherysd

JRDN Restaurant - \$\$\$

Oceanfront restaurant known for seafood, craft cocktails, and sunset dining views. @jrdnrestaurant

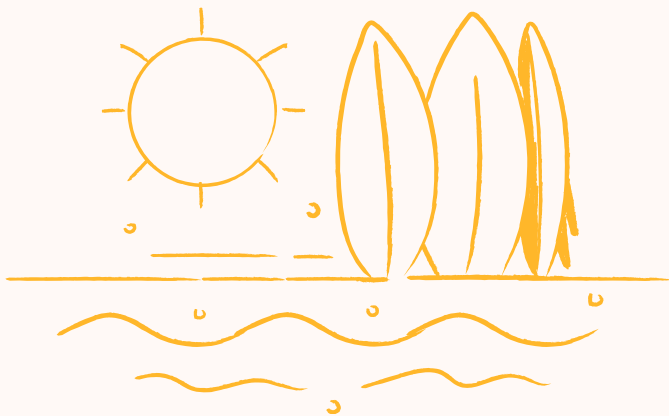


MISSION BEACH

Mission Beach is one of San Diego's most lively beachfront neighborhoods, known for its classic Southern California boardwalk culture, ocean views, and relaxed surf-town vibe. Located on a narrow strip of land between the Pacific Ocean and Mission Bay, the area offers miles of sandy beaches, bike paths, watersports, and casual dining.

Ride the Historic Giant Dipper Roller Coaster

Located at [Belmont Park](#), the historic Giant Dipper wooden roller coaster has been thrilling visitors since 1925. The beachfront amusement park also includes arcade games, mini golf, and casual eateries.



Walk or Bike the Ocean Front Walk

The [Mission Beach Boardwalk](#) runs roughly 2 miles along the beach and is perfect for biking, jogging, or strolling. Street performers, surf shops, beach volleyball courts, and ocean views make it one of San Diego's most iconic seaside experiences.

Explore [Mission Bay](#) by Paddleboard or Kayak

Just across the neighborhood lies Mission Bay, the largest man-made aquatic park in the U.S. Calm waters make it ideal for paddleboarding, kayaking, jet skiing, or simply relaxing along scenic bayside paths.

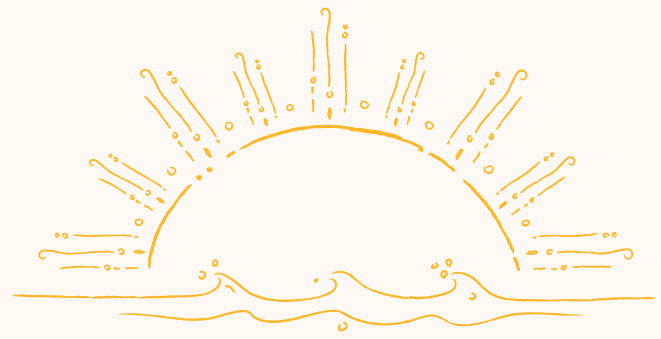
Catch the Sunset at [South Mission Beach](#)

Head toward the quieter southern end of the neighborhood for wide beaches and spectacular Pacific sunsets. The South Mission Jetty is a popular spot for photography, surfing, and evening walks.

Play Beach Volleyball or Join the Surf Scene

Mission Beach is a hotspot for casual sports. Visitors can join pickup volleyball games on the sand or take beginner surf lessons from local surf schools along the beachfront.

OCEAN BEACH



Known locally as “OB”. Located just northwest of downtown, it’s famous for its laid-back surf culture, colorful local businesses, and independent spirit.

Watch Sunset at Sunset Cliffs Natural Park

Just south of Ocean Beach, these dramatic coastal cliffs provide some of the most spectacular sunset views in Southern California.

Bring Your Dog to Ocean Beach Dog Beach

One of the first leash-free beaches in the U.S., this popular spot lets dogs run freely along the sand and splash in the surf.

Enjoy a Drink at OB Surf Lodge

Located steps from the beach, this popular spot offers ocean views, craft cocktails, and a relaxed coastal atmosphere perfect for unwinding after a day of exploring.

Catch Live Music at Winston's Beach Club

A longtime local venue known for reggae, rock, and touring bands, Winston’s is a staple of OB’s nightlife scene.

Explore Newport Avenue

Ocean Beach’s main street is filled with surf shops, independent boutiques, vintage clothing stores, and relaxed cafés—all reflecting OB’s unique local personality.

Grab a Burger at Hodad's

A legendary burger spot founded in 1969, Hodad’s is famous for its massive burgers, onion rings, and colorful surf-themed décor. It’s widely considered a San Diego institution. @hodads1502

Grab a Slice at Pizzeria Luigi's

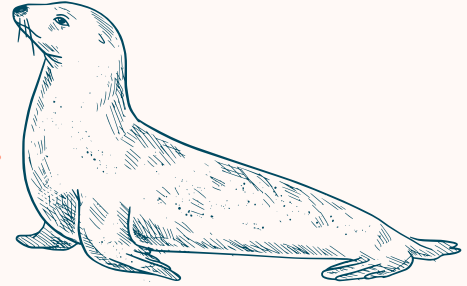
A beloved local pizzeria known for its authentic New York–style slices, crisp thin crust, and creative topping combinations.. @pizzerialuigisd

Eat at OB Noodle House Bar 1502

A local favorite for bold Vietnamese flavors, famous garlic wings, and a lively atmosphere that attracts both locals and visitors.

LA JOLLA

La Jolla, known as the “Jewel of San Diego,” is a picturesque coastal community featuring dramatic cliffs, clear waters, upscale dining, and charming village streets.



Ways to Explore

Kayak the La Jolla Sea Caves. Take a guided kayak tour to explore sea caves and marine life along the cliffs.

Stroll Prospect Street. La Jolla’s main village street featuring boutique shops, art galleries, cafés, and ocean-view restaurants.

Visit Birch Aquarium. A family-friendly aquarium overlooking the Pacific Ocean with exhibits on ocean science and marine ecosystems.

Watch the Sunset at Windansea Beach. A favorite among photographers and surfers thanks to its iconic palm-covered surf shack and colorful sunsets.

Discover Contemporary Art at MCASD. Explore modern and contemporary art exhibitions with ocean views from the museum terrace.

Visit La Jolla Cove. One of Southern California’s most photographed coastal spots, known for snorkeling and crystal-clear water.

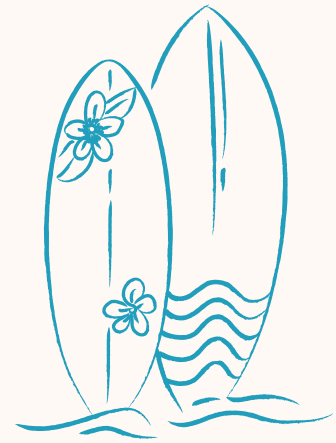
See the Seals at Children’s Pool Beach. Watch harbor seals lounging on the sand at this famous protected beach.

Walk Through Ellen Browning Scripps Park. A beautiful oceanfront park overlooking the cove—perfect for photos, picnics, and sunset views.

Hike Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve. One of California’s most scenic coastal hiking areas with cliffs, ocean views, and rare Torrey pine trees.

Explore La Jolla Shores Beach. A wide sandy beach ideal for swimming, kayaking, and beginner surfing.

SURF SCHOOLS



Surf School	Cost	Beach Location	Instagram
<u>Mission Beach Surfing School</u>	\$\$	Mission Beach	@missionbeachsurfing
<u>Pacific Surf School</u>	\$\$	Pacific Beach	@pacificsurfschool
<u>PB Surf School</u>	\$\$	Pacific Beach	@pbsurfschool
<u>San Diego Surf School</u>	\$\$	Pacific Beach, Mission Beach	@sandiegosurfingschool
<u>Aloha Surfer Girls</u>	\$\$	Pacific Beach, Ocean Beach, La Jolla	@alohasurfergirls
<u>San Diego Surfing Academy</u>	\$\$-\$\$\$	La Jolla / Pacific Beach	@sdsurfingacademy
<u>Surf Diva</u>	\$\$-\$\$\$	La Jolla Shores	@sdsurfingacademy

HIKING



Hike	Location	Length	Difficulty	Notes
<u>Guy Fleming Trail</u>	La Jolla / Del Mar	~0.7 mi loop	Easy	Short scenic loop with ocean overlooks
<u>Sunset Cliffs Coastal Trail</u>	Ocean Beach / Point Loma	~2 mi	Easy	Coastal walk with dramatic cliffs
<u>Razor Point Trail</u>	La Jolla / Del Mar	~1.3 mi	Easy–Moderate	Ocean views and sandstone formations
<u>Los Peñasquitos Canyon Trail</u>	Rancho Peñasquitos	~6.9 mi	Easy–Moderate	Mostly flat trail with waterfall
<u>Torrey Pines Beach Trail</u>	La Jolla / Del Mar	~3 mi	Moderate	Cliffs → beach access
<u>Cowles Mountain</u>	San Carlos / La Mesa	~3 mi	Moderate	Highest peak in San Diego city
<u>Iron Mountain Trail</u>	Poway	~5.5–6 mi	Moderate	Long gradual climb with summit views
<u>Cedar Creek Falls</u>	Ramona	~6 mi	Hard	Hot exposed trail to waterfall
<u>Mount Woodson via Lake Poway (Potato Chip Rock)</u>	Poway	~7–7.5 mi	Hard	Steep switchbacks to famous rock
<u>Pyles Peak</u>	East County	~6 mi	Hard	Extension past Cowles Mountain
<u>El Cajon Mountain</u>	Alpine	~12 mi	Very Hard	One of the toughest hikes in SD

AMUSEMENT & THEME PARKS



Historic beachfront amusement park featuring rides, arcades, and dining. Home to the famous wooden roller coaster Giant Dipper, operating since 1925.

Location: Mission Beach boardwalk.
Distance from Downtown: ~15 minutes.



A marine-themed park in Mission Bay featuring roller coasters, animal exhibits, and live shows, along with aquariums and ocean conservation programs.

Location: Mission Bay. Distance from Downtown: ~15 minutes.



Children's theme park themed around Sesame Street characters. Featuring rides, water attractions, shows, and character parades. Certified Autism Center with inclusive experiences.

Location: Chula Vista. Distance from Downtown: ~20 minutes



Family-focused theme park built around LEGO worlds. Featuring 60+ rides, shows, themed lands, a water park, and SEA LIFE Aquarium.

Location: Carlsbad (North San Diego County). Distance from Downtown: ~40 minutes



San Diego Zoo

San Diego Zoo

Renowned as one of the world's most famous zoos, the San Diego Zoo is home to over 12,000 animals representing more than 650 species. Location: Balboa Park. Distance from Downtown: ~10 minutes

San Diego Zoo Safari Park

An open-range wildlife park that provides safari-style animal viewing experiences. Featuring safari truck tours, zipline adventure, and large savanna habitats with elephants, giraffes, rhinos, and cheetahs. Operated by San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance. Location: Escondido (North San Diego County). Distance from Downtown: ~45 minutes

MUSIC VENUES

Mid-Size Venues & Clubs

Belly Up Tavern - tribute bands, rock/indie shows, blues, soul, and themed nights.

Brick By Brick – Well-known venue for rock, punk, and indie shows.

House of Blues - hosting national touring artists and local acts

Music Box – Popular live music club with a strong local and touring lineup.

Soda Bar – Intimate music venue in Normal Heights featuring up-and-coming artists.

SOMA SAN DIEGO – Concert hall for regional and touring rock/indie acts.

The Casbah – Iconic independent music venue with regular shows.

The Jazz Lounge – Intimate venue focused on jazz and blues.

The Observatory North Park – Historic theater turned music venue hosting touring artists.

Arenas & Amphitheaters

Pechanga Arena – Major arena hosting big touring acts and events.

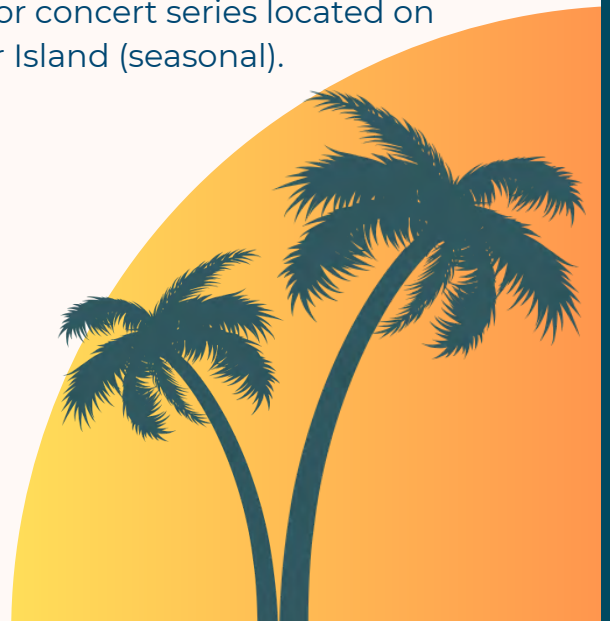
North Island Credit Union Amphitheatre
Large outdoor concert space in Chula Vista.

Viejas Arena
Large multi-event arena at San Diego State University.

Outdoor Concerts

The Rady Shell at Jacobs Park Outdoor waterfront concert shell with big names and symphony performances.

Humphreys by the Bay
Outdoor concert series located on Shelter Island (seasonal).



SPORTING EVENTS

Scheduled events in June

NASCAR San Diego Weekend

(June 19–21, 2026): Held at Naval Base Coronado, this historic event includes the NASCAR Cup Series, Xfinity Series, and Craftsman Truck Series to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Navy.

United States Police & Fire Championships (June 13–20, 2026):

An Olympic-style competition for first responders with 40+ events across 33+ venues in San Diego County.

USA Surfing Junior Championships (June 16, 2026): Held in Oceanside.



San Diego FC (MLS) and San Diego Wave (NWSL) will pause its 2026 season from June 1 to June 28 to accommodate the FIFA Men's World Cup.

World Cup Watch Parties

San Diego FC will host a Soccer Celebration Watch Party Series for all tournament matches from June 11 – July 19, 2026.



San Diego Padres (MLB).

While there are no home games taking place during the week of the conference, if you intend to extend your trip, a visit to Petco Park is certainly worth your time.
@padres

JUNE						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		PHI 3:40PM	PHI 3:40PM	PHI 10:05AM	NY 6:40PM	NY 7:10PM
NY 1:10PM	C 6:40PM	C 6:40PM	C 1:10PM		BAL 4:05PM	BAL 1:05PM
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
BAL 10:35AM	STL 4:45PM	STL 4:45PM	STL 11:15AM		TEX 5:05PM	TEX 1:05PM
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
TEX 11:35AM	A 7:10PM	A 6:40PM	A 5:40PM		LA 6:45PM	LA 5:40PM
28	29	30				
LA 1:10PM	CHC 5:05PM	CHC 5:05PM				

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS



We couldn't capture all that San Diego has in this guide. Here are some helpful links to assist you in planning your trip.

Eater San Diego – One of the most popular restaurant news sites; covers openings, dining guides, and best-of lists.

Thrillist (San Diego section) – Popular lists and guides to food and nightlife.

San Diego Reader – Long-running alternative weekly covering culture, music, food, and events.

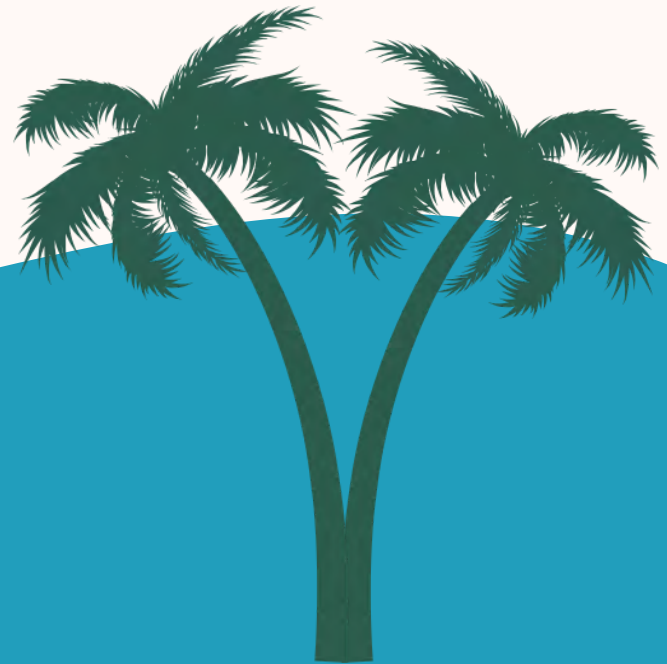
San Diego Tourism Authority

– Official tourism site with attractions, itineraries, and visitor info.

San Diego Magazine

– Local lifestyle magazine covering restaurants, neighborhoods, events, and “things to do this weekend.”

DoSD – Event-focused site with concerts, festivals, nightlife, and daily activity listings, including free events.





Thank You

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

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Conference Planning Committee Chair

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