



**nileGUIDE**

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



Michael in Flagstaff, Arizona

# Family fun in Sunny San Diego

## **Escondido, San Diego, 5 Days**

### Table of contents:

Guide Description	2
Itinerary Overview	3
Daily Itineraries	5
San Diego Snapshot	13

# Guide Description



**AUTHOR NOTE:** San Diego, is know for is posh culture, and beautiful weather, and the family can come too. Stay in The Grand Pacific Palisades, and dine at great family restaurants. When you are ready to have some fun venture to Legoland, Sea World, the San Diego Zoo, and the Wild Animal Park, just to name a few.

# Itinerary Overview

things to do  
restaurants  
hotels  
nightlife

## Day 1

**DAY NOTE:** San Diego has so much to offer, and there is no better place to stay than the Grand Pacific Palisades Resort and Hotel, with its great location and family oriented layout complete with separate childrens and adults pools, perfect to enjoy the beautiful weather in San Diego. The Palisades is located right next to the amazing Legoland, so after a great breakfast at The Grand Deli, know to be one of the best places in town, head over to 128 acres of fun. This breath taking establishment boasts over 40 rides as well as many other attractions, as well as educational educational and fun hands on activities. This place will be sure to interest the whole family from three to ninety-three. After your day at Legoland I am sure you will have worked up quite an appetite, which is perfect because Bistro West will be sure to fill you up with their contemporary take on traditional hanburgers, sandwiches as well as fresh fish.

## Day 2 - San Diego

**DAY NOTE:** While you are in town be sure to enjoy some of the cultural gems of San Diego. The Muesum of Making Music showcases 100 years of music history, and get this at the end of the museum there is an array of instruments you can play until your heart is content. For lunch head to Fidel's where you will enjoy a wide array of Mexican inspired entrees, as well as a full bar. San Diego and its average 70 degree weather is a great reason to venture outside to the Carlsbad Flower Fields and take in astounding views of San Diego. The best time to visit is April so keep that in mind, and you will be able to remember the visit forever after you visit their gift shop. Boomers is a great visit for the whole family, they offer a wide array of activities such as mini golf, laser tag, arcade and many more. The restaurant on premises is Bullwinkle's which is a nice casual dining experience for your night of family fun.



**Boomers!**  
For kids of all ages

## Day 3 - San Diego

**DAY NOTE:** The next three days will be extremely memorable, not just for you visit but also for the cash you will save. Be sure to take advantage of the San Diego 3-for-1 Pass, it is \$115 for adults and \$92 for children. What this entail you to is a whirl wind tour of the three major attractions in San Diego, the first being the San Diego Zoo. This world famous zoo boasts over 4,000 species of animals. You can either walk around this sprawling zoo if head out on foot, for an up close and personal look at the many

wonders of the world. After a hard day of fun in the sun, bring the whole family to the Cheesecake Factory, which is known for its over 50 kinds of cheesecake. Have no fear though the menu features over 200 items, of all types of cusine, there is something for everyone, especially dessert.



### San Diego Zoo

Internationally recognized zoo



### Cheesecake Factory

More than cheesecake

## Day 4 - San Diego

**DAY NOTE:** First by land and now by sea, the second stop of your San Diego 3-for-1 pass will bring you to Sea World, where you will be transported to the Arctic, and even mythical Atlantics. But before you embark on your voyage, be sure to stop for a hearty breakfast at Honey's Bistro and Bakery, where they serve breakfast all day as well as a wide varriety of sandwiches. After this head for a truly Sea World that will immerse your family in all the wonders of the sea, watch dolphins soar in the skys as well as sharks prowl the ocean floors. After you long voyage to the Arctic, im sure you have worked up quite the appetite, so if that is the case then maybe you should order the 1 pound porterhouse and Moose McGillycuddy's. If you are not that hungry they will surely have something you want.



### SeaWorld San Diego

Marine animals galore



### Moose McGillycuddy's

Downtown fun

## Day 5 - Escondido, San Diego

**DAY NOTE:** There is nothing to start off your day better than a great breakfast and if it is good for you too even better. The Potato Shack Cafe is a great establishment that serves food for the health conscious, just so you know they do only accept cash. From here, the third stop of you San Diego Pass, the Wild Animal Park, during the course of your visit you will visit Africa, Asia, and Australia just to name a few. This park boasts 3,500 animals of 260 different species. There are many gift shops and photo opportunities to forever remember this visit. If you have worked up as voracious an appetite as the African lions or as small of one as a leaf cutter ant, Pat and Oscar's can fill you up. They have a great causal restaurant that serves great portions.

# Itinerary Overview

things to do  
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If you have any room left after dinner, which I suggest you make, head to Moontime Creamery, and enjoy the great selection of ice creams and mix-in's. Be warned, the line outside should serve as testament to how good it is.



**San Diego Wild Animal Park**  
San Diego safari

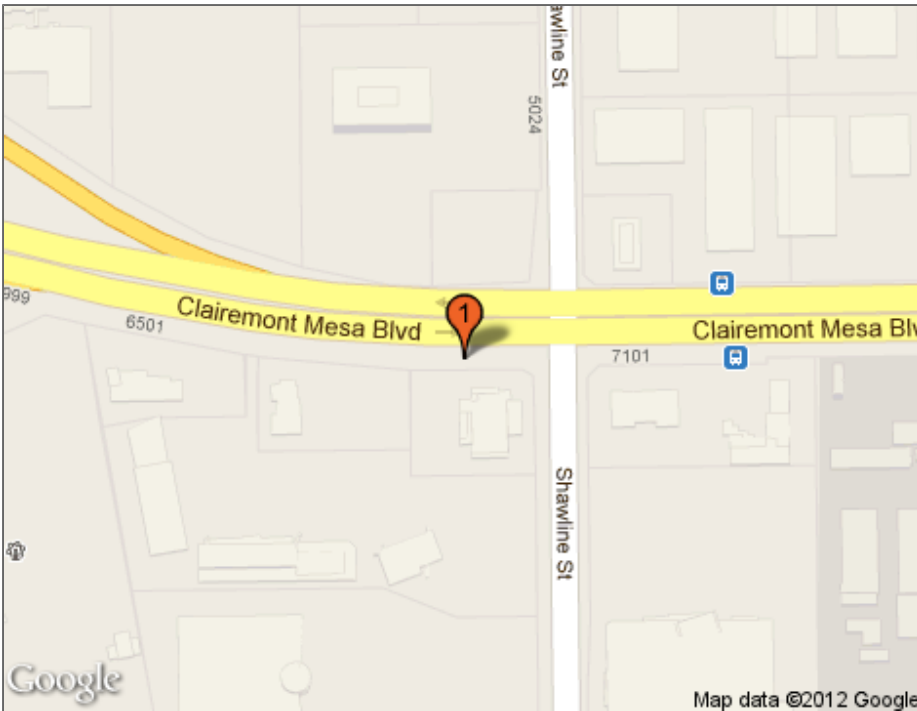


**Pat & Oscar's**  
A fun family restaurant

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# Day 2 - San Diego



## QUICK NOTE

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### contact:

tel: 1 858 56 4212

<http://www.boomersparks.com/parks/sandiego/>

### location:

6999 Clairemont Mesa Blvd  
San Diego CA 92111

### hours:

11a-1p daily

## 1 Boomers!

### OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

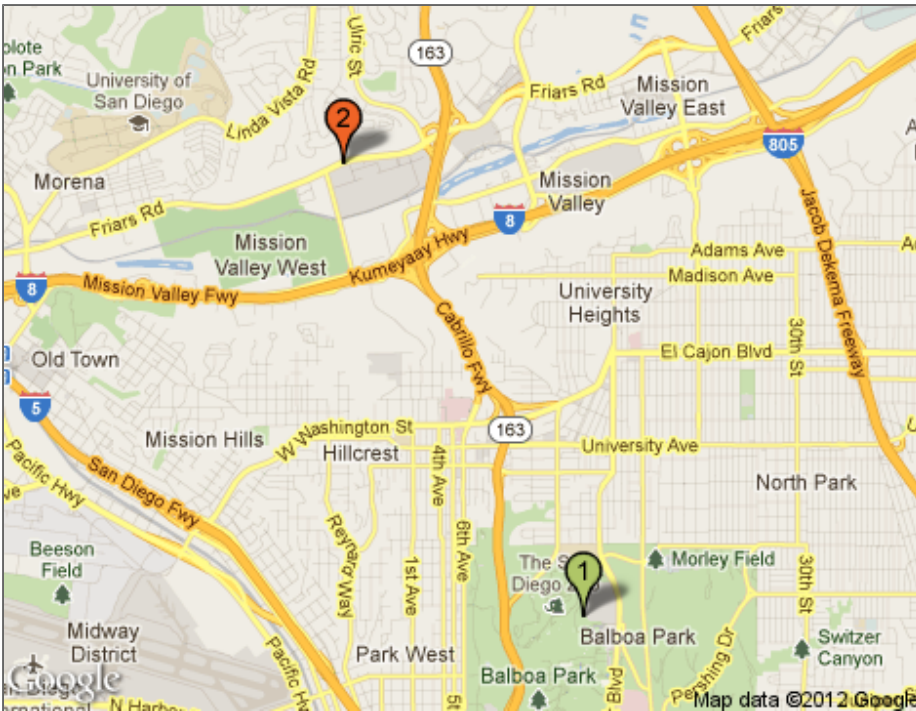
This place is like an easy accessible amusement park - so if you're forced to vacation at home, treat the young (or young at heart) to the batting cages, video games and pizza

**DESCRIPTION:** This attraction is perfect to help kids of all ages work off some of that extra energy. Here families can find something for everyone to enjoy: miniature golf, laser tag, bumper boats, batting cages, Kiddieland and go-carts. After a wholesome workout, the family may want to stop by the casual restaurant, Bullwinkle's, for a quick bite. Call ahead, hours can vary, but the fun never stops! All attractions have different rates, although all-day passes are available. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Boomers!

# Day 3 - San Diego



## QUICK NOTE

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### contact:

tel: +1 619 231 1515

fax: +1 619 231 0249

<http://www.sandiegozoo.org>

### location:

2920 Zoo Dr  
San Diego CA 92103

### hours:

Sept to mid-June daily  
9am-4pm (grounds close at  
5 or 6pm); mid-June to Aug  
daily 9am-8pm (grounds close  
at 9pm)

## 1 San Diego Zoo

### OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Be prepared to walk - a lot!

**DESCRIPTION:** This world-famous establishment is clearly no ordinary zoo. Walk or ride a double-decker bus throughout this expansive park, home to over 4,000 rare and exotic animals exhibited in beautiful garden habitats. More than a park, this zoo is a major research facility although it is cleverly disguised with entertaining shows and inspiring exhibits like Polar Bear Plunge and Hippo Beach. General Admission required. © wcities.com



San Diego Zoo

**contact:**

tel: 1 619 683 2800  
www.thecheesecakefactory.com/

**location:**

7067 Friars Road  
San Diego CA 92108

**hours:**

Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs: 11a - 11p;  
Fri/Sat: 11a - 12a; Sun: 10a - 11p;

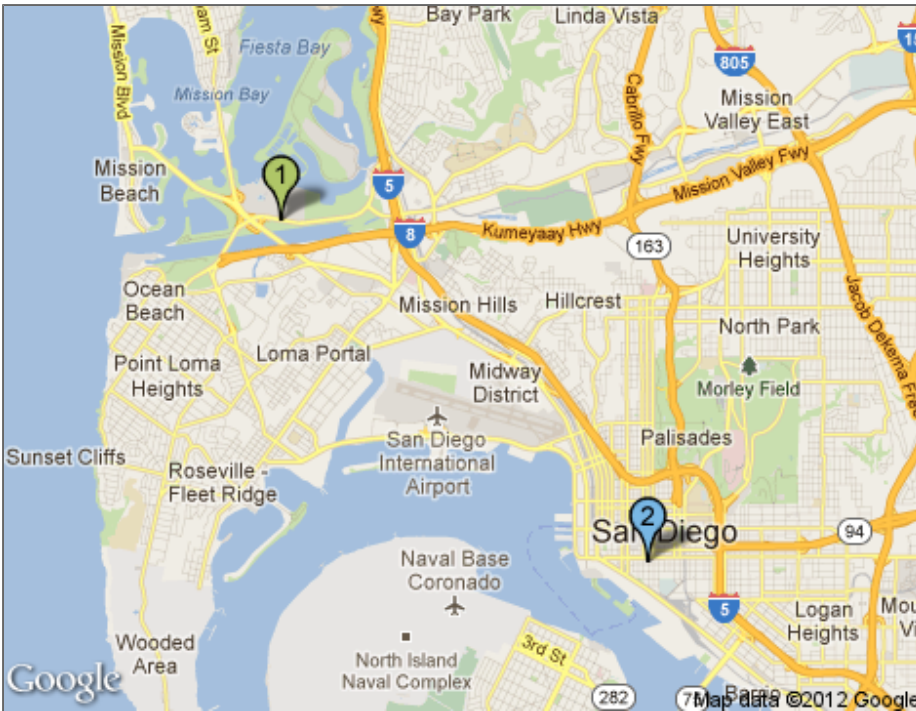
**2 Cheesecake Factory**

**DESCRIPTION:** The Cheesecake Factory is surely the place to go when craving a rich and delectable slice of the mouth-watering dessert, but this restaurant offers much more. Serving appetizers, lunch, dinner, late night dining, Sunday Brunch, and a full bar, the Factory is a great choice for a casual dining experience. Everyone will find something to their liking with over 200 menu selections of pizza, pasta, seafood, steaks, salads, sandwiches, burgers, and more. Be sure to save room for one of the 50 delicious cheesecakes and desserts. © wcities.com



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# Day 4 - San Diego



## QUICK NOTE

**DAY NOTE:** First by land and now by sea, the second stop of your San Diego 3-for-1 pass will bring you to Sea World, where you will be transported to the Arctic, and even mythical Atlantics. But before you embark on your voyage, be sure to stop for a hearty breakfast at Honey's Bistro and Bakery, where they serve breakfast all day as well as a wide variety of sandwiches. After this head for a truly Sea World that will immerse your family in all the wonders of the sea, watch dolphins soar in the skies as well as sharks prowl the ocean floors. After your long voyage to the Arctic, I'm sure you have worked up quite the appetite, so if that is the case then maybe you should order the 1 pound porterhouse and Moose McGillycuddy's. If you are not that hungry they will surely have something you want.

### contact:

tel: +1 800 257 4268  
<http://www.seaworldsandiego.com/>

### location:

500 SeaWorld Dr  
San Diego CA 92107

### hours:

Hours vary by day, call or check website

## 1 SeaWorld San Diego

**DESCRIPTION:** Venture beyond the ocean's door at SeaWorld® San Diego. Get close enough to touch a dolphin's fin, stare down a shark and connect with all the sea's creatures. Experience Believe — the visually stunning Shamu® show. And, encounter polar bears at Wild Arctic® and brave the daring drop on the Journey To Atlantis® water coaster. The energy and wonder of the sea surround you in the sights and sounds of SeaWorld. Just dive in. © wcities.com



**contact:**

tel: 619 702 5595

<http://www.moosemcgillycuddy.com>

**location:**

535 5th Ave  
San Diego CA 92101

**hours:**

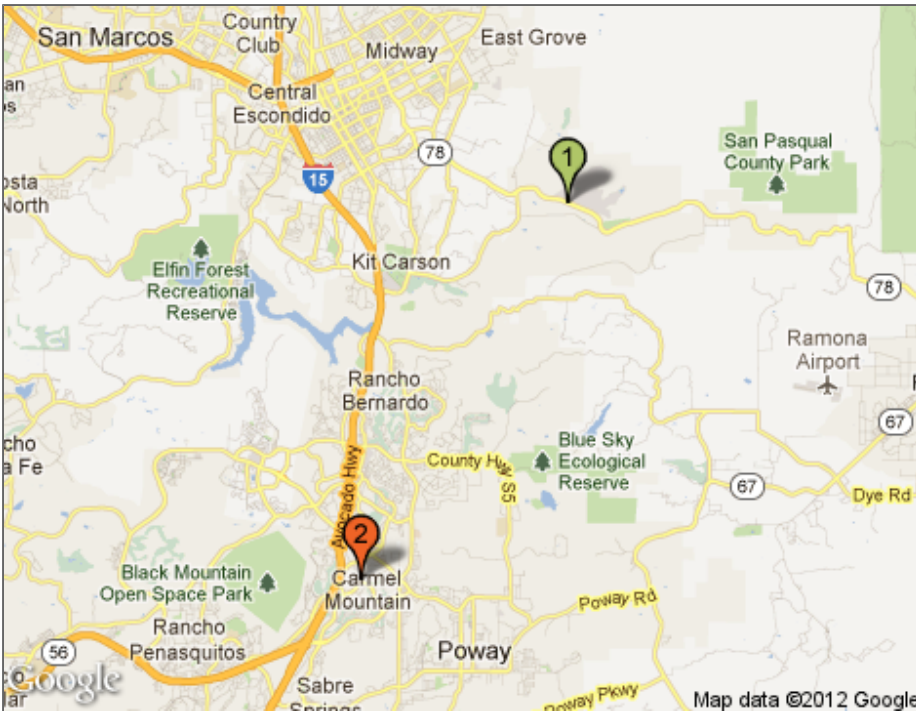
Daily 11:30a-1:30a

**2 Moose McGillycuddy's**

**DESCRIPTION:** This spot is an extremely fun place for the whole family to dine downtown. Children adore the mascot cartoons that festoon the dining area; adults love the abundant, good quality food and spirits. Dining is available both indoors and outside on the sidewalk patio. There is a full bar with beer and wine; house wines start at \$15 per bottle. Lunch options include soups, salads and sandwiches. Children's menus are available. At dinnertime, "Every Night is Steak Night," featuring a one-pound Porterhouse with all the trimmings. © wcities.com



# Day 5 - Escondido, San Diego



## QUICK NOTE

**DAY NOTE:** There is nothing to start off your day better than a great breakfast and if it is good for you too even better. The Potato Shack Cafe is a great establishment that serves food for the health conscious, just so you know they do only accept cash. From here, the third stop of you San Diego Pass, the Wild Animal Park, during the course of your visit you will visit Africa, Asia, and Australia just to name a few. This park boasts 3,500 animals of 260 different species. There are many gift shops and photo opportunities to forever remember this visit. If you have worked up as voracious an appetite as the African lions or as small of one as a leaf cutter ant, Pat and Oscar's can fill you up. They have a great causal restaurant that serves great portions. If you have any room left after dinner, which I suggest you make, head to Moontime Creamery, and enjoy the great selection of ice creams and mix-in's. Be warned, the line outside should serve as testament to how good it is.

**contact:**  
tel: +1 619 231 1515  
fax: +1 760 738 5023  
<http://www.sandiegozoo.org>

**location:**  
15500 San Pasqual Valley Rd  
Escondido CA 92027

**hours:**  
Daily 9a-4p

## 1 San Diego Wild Animal Park

**DESCRIPTION:** Animal lovers of all kinds will want to make the trek to this beautifully designed park and refuge for endangered species, including a renowned display of extremely rare California Condors. Thirty two miles north of downtown San Diego, you'll be transported to the wilds of Africa, Asia and Australia. Here at the park, more than 3,500 animals representing 260 species roam in habitats designed to simulate their natural environs. Ride the Wgasa Bush Line Railway for a five-mile, 55-minute guided tour or walk the trails that weave through the 1,800 acre park. Exceptional Botanic Gardens, gift shops, research information and restaurants can all be found here. Check out some gear for you or your own companion animals in the gift shop. Admission required. © wcities.com



**contact:**

tel: 1 858 592 0222  
fax: 1 858 592 0223  
<http://www.patandoscars.com>

**location:**

12045 Carmel Mountain Rd  
San Diego CA 92128

**hours:**

Su-Th 10:30a-9p, F-Sa  
10:30a-10p

**2 Pat & Oscar's**

**DESCRIPTION:** This is a friendly, casual restaurant where you order at the register and seat yourself. The owners pride themselves on the speed of service, delivering food in about 10 minutes. Menu items (all of which are served in heaping portions) include the famous hand-rolled garlic breadsticks, baby back ribs, barbecue chicken, award-winning pizzas, salads and oven-baked potatoes. The chefs make their own salad dressings and tomato sauces. It also offers catering services, including set packages and custom menus. © [wcities.com](http://wcities.com)



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# San Diego Snapshot

## Local Info

Semi-tropical San Diego, with its mean temperature of 70 degrees, Mediterranean-like white-washed stucco buildings and strong cultural influences from southern neighbor Mexico, is as close to visiting a foreign country as visitors could get and yet, is as American as apple pie.

The heart of this bustling city lies at the foot of the harbor just minutes by car from Lindbergh Field, where most travelers disembark. Spanning from the North County beach areas to the South Bay cities along the Mexican border, San Diego is one of the top ten largest cities in the United States, and while all of these areas fall under the San Diego umbrella, each individual community maintains its own personality, geography and identity. In San Diego's case, the whole is truly greater than the sum of its parts.

## Downtown

Less than three miles from the airport is downtown proper. This thriving commercial area with its active waterfront is a bustling, colorful combination of major hotels, convention facilities, restaurants, nightclubs and shopping venues. Its focal point is Horton Plaza, an architectural masterpiece that holds trendy shops, lively restaurants, a movie theatre and even an ice rink during the holiday season. Horton is ideal for parking and within walking distance to any of the restaurants, shops or clubs just outside its walls.

Just east of Horton Plaza is the Gaslamp District, a 16-block source of civic pride. Once slated for destruction, this area has been reclaimed by the people of San Diego thanks to the 1970s Redevelopment Plan. Where once dilapidated warehouses and run-down Victorian houses stood, and where no one dared to enter after dark, the Gaslamp District has now become the pulse of the city. The area even includes Balboa Theater, a historic venue that until recently was closed for reconstruction and now opens its doors for local plays, ballets and more.

Due west of downtown is the Embarcadero, a fun daytime location where visitors can take in leisurely views of the bay, hop aboard a harbor cruise (including the infamous "booze cruise" of the Bay, better known as the Bahia Belle) and enjoy

seafood at its finest. For shopping, visit Seaport Village, a 14-acre shopping and dining complex designed to emulate early California-style architecture.

## Balboa Park

No visit to San Diego would be complete without a trip to Balboa Park. Home to the world-famous San Diego Zoo, the park is much more than a beautiful place to see exotic animals. Gardens and grounds in Balboa Park were established as a city park for the people in 1868. In preparation for hosting the Panama-California Exposition of 1915, a celebration of the opening of the Panama Canal, founding fathers, architects and master gardeners collaborated to create the fine Spanish Colonial Revival-style buildings and gardens that still grace the grounds today. Additional buildings were raised on the site in the early 1930s, this time incorporating the look and feel of the Mayan civilization and California's early indigenous peoples. Within the confines of the park, visitors can enjoy scores of museums and art galleries including the Museum of Man, San Diego Museum of Art, Timken Museum of Art and Spreckel's Organ Pavilion (for a dollar saving Balboa Park experience, visit the park on the first Tuesday of any month, where admission to the museums are free).

## Old Town

For a taste of what San Diego was like in its earliest years, take in the sights and sounds of this colorful settlement now preserved as a state historic park. Famous as the first European settlement in California, this area is also well known for its glorious year-round gardens, mouth-watering Mexican dishes, lilting Mariachi music and free-flowing margarita; though typically touristy, there are some true tortilla souls that can be found amongst all the trendy trinkets. Be sure to spend a little time browsing through Bazaar del Mundo, truly a marketplace of the world. While it might be typical to dine on Mexican cuisine inspired by the San Diego history, for an extravagant just a block from all the "fiesta" rush, Harney Sushi is a local favorite that flavors fish in unheard of ways.

Within easy walking distance from the center of Old Town is the Presidio, a must-see while in San Diego. This structure, now a historic landmark, is where Junipero

Serra established the first of the Spanish missions in California.

## La Jolla

A short drive up the coast takes visitors to La Jolla, "the jewel" in Spanish. Despite its dense population, the people of this affluent city have somehow managed to maintain its natural beauty. Cliffs along the main streets overlook the beaches and coves along the Pacific Ocean; tropical vegetation creeps and climbs across red-tiled roofs and verandas; and sunsets at La Jolla Shores are simply spectacular. Enjoy the village's serene center, where fish restaurants, chic boutiques and La Jolla locals are in abundance, like George's at the Cove- famous for their modern, American ambiance and cuisine- as well as Warwick's Books, ideal for every school/project need.

Beyond breathtaking oceanfront scenery, which can be enjoyed on bike, by walking or just by driving along La Jolla Boulevard, this seaside community is also home to the Birch Aquarium, which features the largest oceanographic display in the United States. Just up the hill from the town center, the Aquarium is located just across the street from the University of California, San Diego, whose 25,000 university students make up the majority of the area.

## North County

Travel a few miles further north along the coastal drive to reach Del Mar, a smaller beach community that supports itself with farmer's markets, surfers and restaurants. Famous for its racetrack founded by Bing Crosby and fellow Hollywood cronies during the 1940s, this seaside town offers as much to families as it does to racing aficionados. Beaches here are clean and family friendly; boutiques and open-air restaurants line the main street, giving it a Riviera-like quality. The city even boasts the new L'Auberge, which took over the Hollywood favorite resort Stratford Inn and remains a residence for socialites and affluent guests year round in Del Mar's average 70 degree temperature.

Moving inland, the city of Escondido is a quieter, more rural version of San Diego, replete with avocado and livestock ranches, vineyards and granite-strewn hillsides. The community hosts the San Diego Zoo's 2,200-acre Wild Animal Park, an extension of the city's world-famous zoo providing

## San Diego Snapshot continued

visitors a look at animals in the wild. Bates Nut Farm is another rare feature for the area, where visitors from around the county enjoy the biggest pumpkin patch as well as hundreds of vast acres open to the public to enjoy while snacking on delicious nuts.

Just north of this city, visitors can find the renowned Carlsbad Flower Fields and LEGOLAND California, great for those with young children in tow. Carlsbad's beaches also offers big time surfers some of the best waves in the area, where locals are always welcome.

### South Bay

Visitors would be remiss if they never traveled south from the city proper into

the area referred to as the South Bay. The main city in this area is Chula Vista, home to one of San Diego's greatest music and entertainment venues, the Coors Amphitheatre. This entertainment complex provides state-of-the-art acoustics, VIP tables complete with cocktail table service, stadium seating and picnic seating on grassy knolls. Adjacent to the amphitheater, visitors (and especially their children) can cool off in the watery fun at Knott's Soak City U.S.A.

The most renaissance of the south bay cities has become North Park, a relatively untapped area that is now home to some of the area's most unique restaurants,

live music venues, bars/ nightclubs and more. Just a shuffle inland and you'll find a hubbub of activity on 30th Avenue that houses local bars- like the Bar Pink Cocktail Lounge- and the hidden Italian adventure Alexander's on 30th.

While each district of San Diego has an original flair, the various sections blend seamlessly into a thriving, cosmopolitan city. From the North County beaches to the downtown shopping districts, San Diego's first-class attractions consistently please tourists and locals alike.

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