



nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



Michael in Flagstaff, Arizona

San Diego for lovers

San Diego, 3 Days

Table of contents:

- Guide Description 2
- Itinerary Overview 3
- Daily Itineraries 4
- San Diego Snapshot 9

Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: As February's biggest holiday is fast approaching, there is no better way to celebrate your love for your partner, your friends, your family or even yourself than with a quick, weekend trip to San Diego's coast. Apart from being one of the busiest restaurant days of the year, this season is filled with lots of special deals, prefix menus and lover paradise retreats to tickle everyone's fancy.

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - San Diego

DAY NOTE: Wherever you're coming from, Friday night you will most likely be arriving after a full work day and will just have enough energy to catch a quick dinner. As you head into the city, grab a glass of wine and piece of pie at Cardiff by the Sea's Wine Steals - where their cheese plates, meat plates, wine specialties and pizzas are perfect to hold you over for the final minutes of your drive in.



Wine Steals
Wine and Dine

time for your drive back home. Stop in Rancho Bernardo if you're headed north east from Coronado for a last sip of Paradise at Bernardo. If you're heading through the Temecula Valley, enjoy a round (of wine samplers) at Callaway Vineyard and Winery.



Spa at the Del

Health is wealth indeed



Bernardo Winery

One of the oldest California wineries

Day 2 - San Diego

DAY NOTE: As the second day of your romantic getaway, enjoy the relaxing motion of the sea as you sleep in and awake to beachside coffee and a stroll down Coronado's white beaches. There are many things to catch while on the island (besides the hotel), so enjoy shopping and some house hunting while you're there.

Later, reserve a spot at North Park's coveted Urban Solace, where New Orleans is just minutes away in your entrees and desserts. After a early meal, stroll through the Balboa Park, which is just up the street from the restaurant, and live the sights and sounds of some of San Diego locals. Try and catch an impromptu show at Spreckles Organ Pavilion or reserve something at the Old Globe Theater.



Balboa Park

The center of the city



Urban Solace

An urban haven in North Park



Spreckels Organ Pavilion

4,445 pipes



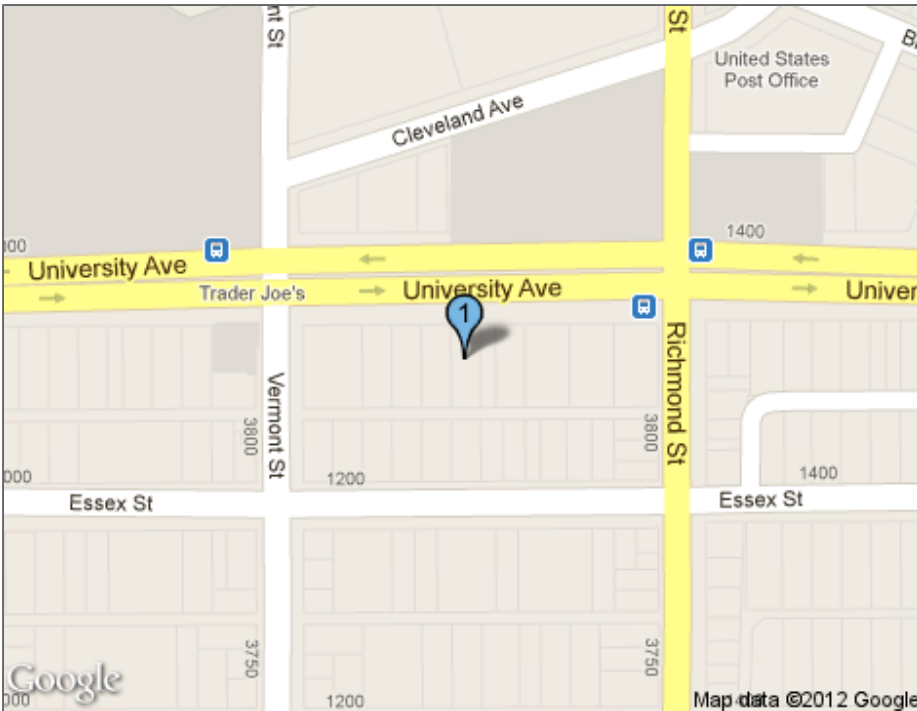
Old Globe Theatre

Theater at it's best - in Balboa Park

Day 3 - San Diego

DAY NOTE: As your final day together, relax at your hotel at the infamous Spa at the Del. Choose between a couples massage, facials, manicures and more and you'll be a world away...just in

Day 1 - San Diego



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contact:

tel: +1 619 295 1188
fax: +1 619 295 1199
<http://www.winestealssd.com/>

location:

1243 University Avenue
San Diego CA 92103

hours:

Mo from 04:00 PM to 11:00 PM, Tu to We from 11:00 AM to 11:00 PM, Th to Sa from 11:00 AM to 12:00 AM, Su from 11:00 AM to 11:00 PM

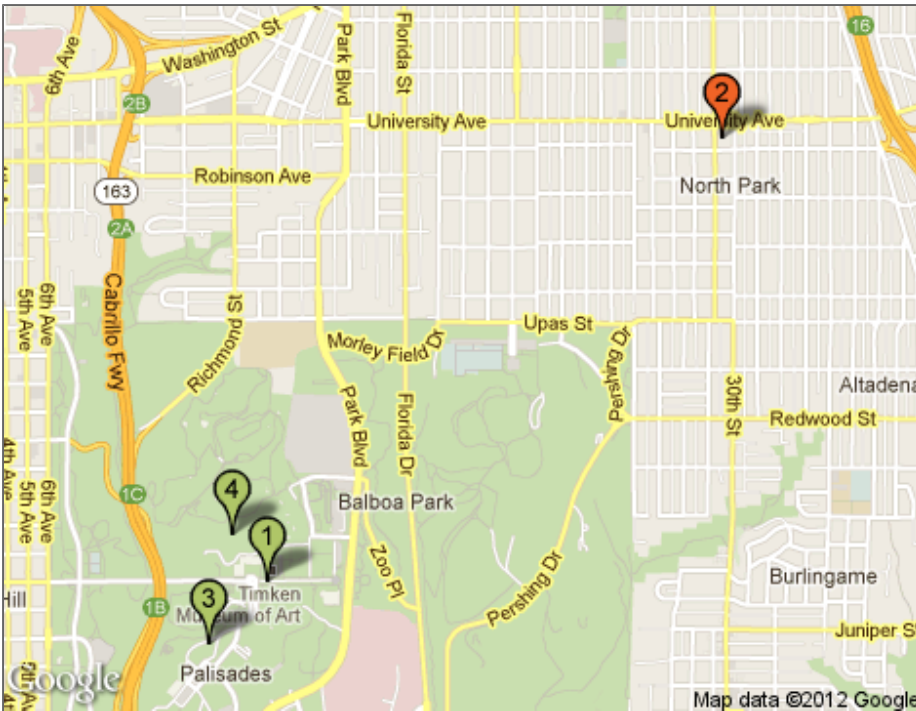
1 Wine Steals

DESCRIPTION: Customize your glass of wine with the right cheese or pick up the bottle of your choice (even if it is a hard-to-find choice)—only at the Wine Steals. They have created the perfect backdrop for wine tasting that will take you to a European winery with the most knowledgeable of staff. Whether you are a well-seasoned drinker or a newcomer in the world of wines—there's something for each one of you at the Wine Steals. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Wine Steals

Day 2 - San Diego



QUICK NOTE

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contact:

tel: +1 619 239 0512
<http://www.balboapark.org>

location:

1549 El Prado
San Diego CA 92101

1 Balboa Park

DESCRIPTION: The world-renowned San Diego Zoo is only one part of this magnificent 1,200-acre city park that was built for the 1915-1916 Panama-California Expo. California's Hispanic roots were celebrated as the city erected breathtakingly ornate Spanish-style buildings, which were eventually permanently restored. So much more than just an urban park, it is home to the zoo, 14 museums, a pipe organ pavilion, botanical gardens, international cultural centers, theaters and performance venues, an antique carousel, off leash dog parks, sports fields, hiking trails, a tennis center, municipal pool, and a miniature-scale train. The December Nights Celebration is held the first weekend of December annually and this popular event is an opportunity for the whole family to enjoy pageants, plays, food and music all in the tradition of the Christmas holidays. © wcities.com



contact:
tel: 6192956464
fax: +1 619 295 6465
<http://www.urbansolace.net/>

location:
3823 30th Street
San Diego CA 92104

hours:
Lunch: Monday - Friday:
11:30am - 5:00pm, Saturday:
10:30am - 4:00pm. Dinner:
Monday - Thursday: 5:00pm
- 10:00pm, Friday - Saturday:
5:00pm - 11:00pm, Sunday:
5:00pm - 9:00pm; Sunday
Brunch: 10:00am - 2:30pm

2 Urban Solace

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Reservations are hard to come by at this urban favorite, so make a call early - especially for holidays and special events!

DESCRIPTION: If you can't get to New Orleans this year, just try North Park's Urban Solace, where modern home style cooking meeting modern fusion. The venue is a large, refurbished home with a sizable patio and full bar that offers some of the most exquisite macaroni and cheese, chicken and dumplings and pot pie you've ever had. Think upscale with moderate pricing, that brings up back up again with ambiance inspired by the French Quarter in New Orleans (yellow house with wrought iron staircase). The venue is an inspiration of its own in North Park's vastly improved district, but it is worth the trip no matter where you're coming from or heading toward. © NileGuide



citysearch

contact:
tel: 619 702 8138
fax: +1 619 702 8128
<http://www.serve.com/sosorgan/>

location:
2211 Pan american Rd E
San Diego CA 92101

hours:
Concerts: 2p onwards Su

3 Spreckels Organ Pavilion

DESCRIPTION: Presented to the citizens of San Diego in 1914 by brothers John D. and Adolph Spreckels, the ornate, curved pavilion houses a magnificent organ with 4,530 individual pipes. They range in length from the size of a pencil to 32 feet, making it one of the largest outdoor organs in the world. With only brief interruptions, the organ has been in continuous use. Today visitors can enjoy free hour-long concerts on Sundays at 2pm, given by civic organist Carol Williams; free concerts are also held in the evening during the summer months. There's seating for 2,400 but little shade, so bring some sunscreen. © Frommer's



contact:
tel: 619 234 5623
fax: 619 231 6752
<http://www.oldglobe.org>

location:
1363 Old Globe Way
San Diego CA 92101

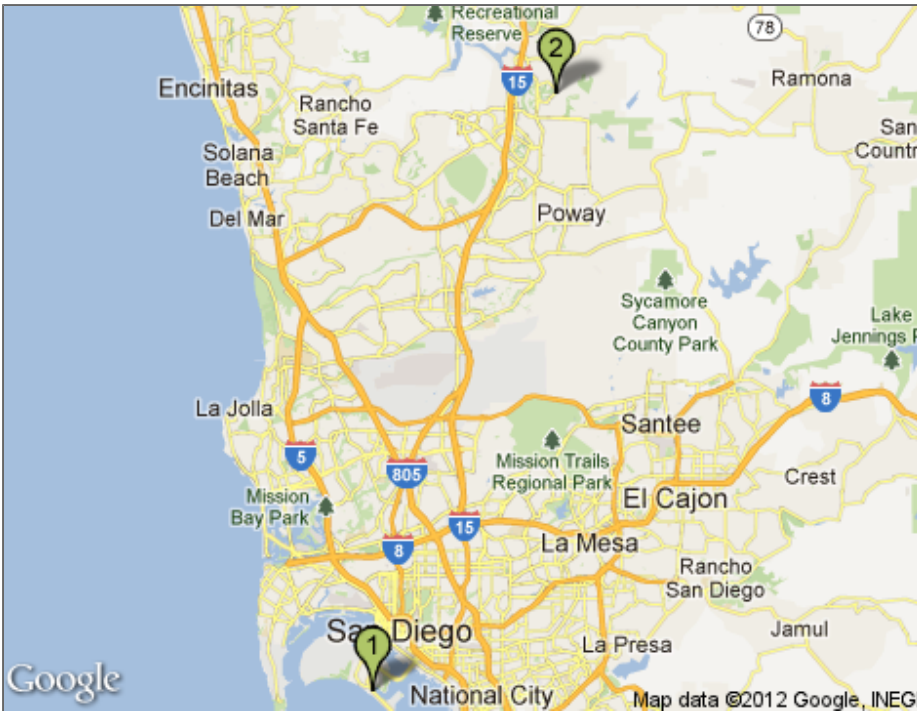
hours:
Box office: Daily noon-6p

4 Old Globe Theatre

DESCRIPTION: Modeled after Shakespeare's own theaters, this San Diego establishment is actually part of a complex of three theaters also including the Cassius Carter Centre Stage and the outdoor Lowell Davies Festival Theatre. Sadly, the 1935 original Globe has been replaced since it was destroyed by fire, though it appears that the renovation is a success. In 1984, the 581-seat replica won a Tony award for best regional theater. Predictably, the theater is home to an annual Shakespeare festival, but it is open year round. It also hosts much more than the classics. Its focus is actually the opposite - opening new plays. © wcities.com



Day 3 - San Diego



QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: As your final day together, relax at your hotel at the infamous Spa at the Del. Choose between a couples massage, facials, manicures and more and you'll be a world away...just in time for your drive back home. Stop in Rancho Bernardo if you're headed north east from Coronado for a last sip of Paradise at Bernardo. If you're heading through the Temecula Valley, enjoy a round (of wine samplers) at Callaway Vineyard and Winery.

contact:

tel: +1 619 522 8100
fax: +1 619 522 8238 (Hotel)
<http://www.hoteldel.com/spa/>

location:

1500 Orange Avenue
San Diego CA 92118

hours:

Daily 8a-8p

1 Spa at the Del

DESCRIPTION: Featuring 21 rooms with state-of-the-art facilities for every imaginable body treatment, the Spa at the Del is one place that shouldn't be ignored by anybody. A popular haunt amongst all fitness freaks in the area, it has several therapeutic packages on offer. The location has a great view of the Pacific ocean as well; there's an inviting lawn where you can just soak up the sun. Do check out the signature Del special treatments the Spa has for its patrons. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Spa at the Del

contact:

tel: +1 858 487 1866
<http://www.bernardowinery.com/>

location:

13330 Paseo del Verano
Norte
San Diego CA 92128

2 Bernardo Winery

DESCRIPTION: One of the oldest in California, this winery is located in the northern part of San Diego in the city of Rancho Bernardo, upon what was once a Spanish land grant. Since 1928, the Rizzo family has been producing fine wine here. You are free to wander through the rolling hillside covered with grapevines, sip wine on the patio, and shop in specialty



Bernardo Winery

Day 3 - continued...

hours:
9a-5p M-Su

stores converted from some of the original winery buildings. ©
wcities.com

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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