



**nileGUIDE**

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



Michael in Flagstaff, Arizona

# San Diego: On a Budget

## San Diego, La Jolla, 3 Days

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# Guide Description



**AUTHOR NOTE:** San Diego might be recognized around the world for being one of the most gorgeous places on earth, but that also doesn't equate to spending wads of cash. While traveling to the west coast this season, make sure that you pack light in ways beyond your suitcase. Join the many bold who have enjoyed San Diego's landscapes without much more than the packs on their back, and a few adventures that cost no more than a meal.

# Itinerary Overview

things to do  
restaurants  
hotels  
nightlife

## Day 1 - La Jolla, San Diego

**DAY NOTE:** Start your day with the beauty of La Jolla, a vast and expansive neighborhood that is lined by the coast and features some of the most high-end of homes, restaurants and hotels. But don't get discouraged - there are some serious finds in this small area!

Black's beach is a world renowned beach not just for its surfing but for its "barely there" qualities - a nude beach, leaving your suit at home on this trip could cost you a bundle. Next, stop at the most famous Mexican food restaurant founded in SD, Rubio's, where the fish tacos are the thing to consume. Deep fried and street styled, this delicious treat will fill you up quick and for a minimum sum. Later, walk off that lard with a walk through the Children's Pool (or seal haven) before stopping at some of the illustrious restaurants on Girard. Don't be fooled by the more than average prices - stop through during happy hour for a drink and you'll get home safe and with tons of extra pocket cash.

Finally, rest your head at the illustrious Pacific Beach Banana Bungalow, where the view of the ocean is almost as wonderful as the price tag.



### Black's Beach

Get naked



### Rubio's Fresh Mexican Grill



### Banana Bungalow

the Pacific Ocean, enough said

## Day 2 - San Diego

**DAY NOTE:** To truly experience all that is San Diego, trolley it downtown to the Gaslamp District, where you'll find grassy knolls of Balboa Park that roll into some of the area's finest museums and parks. Though often times museum tickets are a bit much, if you're a local you'll find certain dates free - if not, the Balboa Park in itself is a dream come true. Pack a picnic found from the Farmer's Market purchases and you'll be good to go!

Later in the evening, stay true to the downtown experience with an evening at Stingaree. For the price of dinner, you'll additionally get entrance into this popular nightclub (about \$30 if you spend it right), where several rooms offer different styles of dance tunes. Finish up with Banana.



### OB Farmers' Market

Wednesday's in Ocean Beach



### San Diego Trolley

Clang, clang, clang



### Balboa Park

The center of the city



### Timken Museum of Art

See the old masters



### San Diego Museum of Man

Teaching people about people



### Stingaree

Three-Level Nightclub Deluxe



### Banana Bungalow

the Pacific Ocean, enough said

## Day 3 - San Diego

**DAY NOTE:** Finish your day all over the place - from north country's Cardiff by the Sea where the walking and dog parks are just what one needs after a long night on the town, to Ocean Beach's South Beach Bar and Grill, where tacos are cheap and the margaritas are full. You'll love what you find when you can pull just a few measly dollars out of the pocket, and if anything at the Banana and around the city you'll find many people who do the same.



### Cardiff State Beach

Sandy beach



### South Beach Bar and Grill

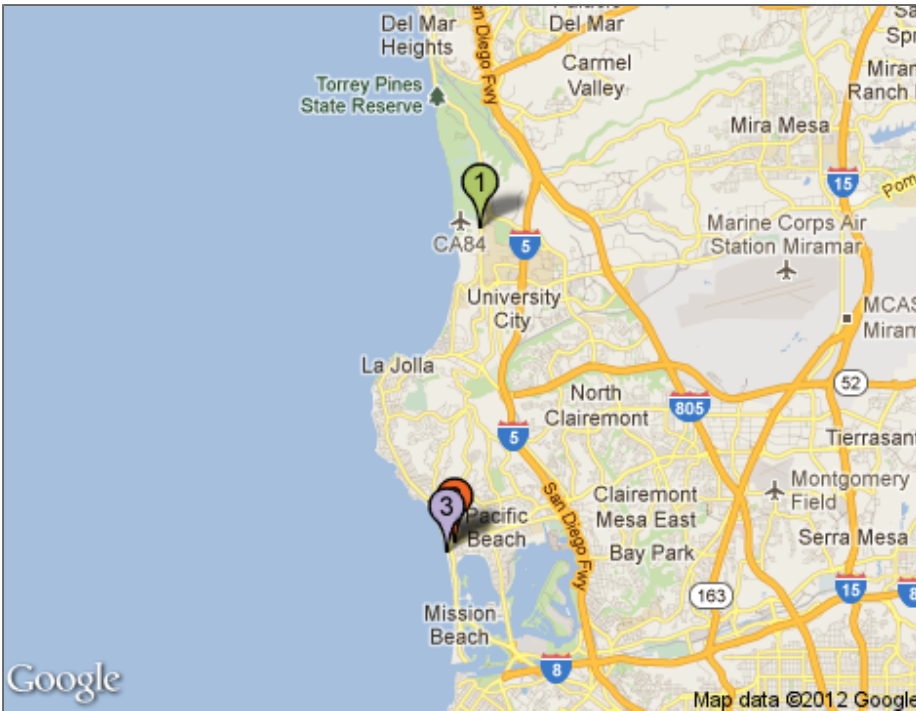
Freshest of the Ocean's Treasures



### Banana Bungalow

the Pacific Ocean, enough said

# Day 1 - La Jolla, San Diego



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### contact:

<http://www.sandiego.gov/lifeguards/beaches/blacks.shtml>

### location:

La Jolla CA 92161

## 1 Black's Beach

### OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Expert surfers - black beach is where it's at; more luscious spaces than other locals-only joints, Blacks Beach offers veteran surfers a place to call home

**DESCRIPTION:** Although not officially sanctioned, Black's is the unofficial clothing optional beach for the San Diego area. Black's Beach is a two mile long, sandy strip situated at the base of majestic cliffs up to 300 feet high. It is formally known as Torrey Pines City Beach and Torrey Pines State Beach in



that it is jointly owned by the City of San Diego and the State of California. There is a glider port atop the cliff overlooking the beach where hanggliders, paragliders and remote controlled gliders can often be seen soaring. Access to Black's Beach is very difficult due to the high cliffs and lack of improved stairways. The safest access is from adjacent beaches to the north and south, but this access may be obstructed by high tides or surf.

**contact:**

tel: (858) 270-4800  
[http://sandiego.citysearch.com/profile/external/463043/san\\_diego\\_ca/rubio\\_s\\_fresh\\_mexican\\_grill.html](http://sandiego.citysearch.com/profile/external/463043/san_diego_ca/rubio_s_fresh_mexican_grill.html)

**location:**

910 Grand Ave Ste 115  
San Diego CA 92109

**2 Rubio's Fresh Mexican Grill**

**DESCRIPTION: In Short**

After years of traveling to Baja California and enjoying fish tacos at beachside stands, Ralph Rubio opened his first restaurant in San Diego in 1983, banking on the south-of-the-border favorite. Today, Rubio's are located throughout the Southwest serving tacos, burritos salads and more. Baja-style fish tacos are the specialty--beer-battered Alaskan Pollack, cabbage and salsa in a soft corn tortilla. Street tacos (carnitas, carne asada, chicken), quesadillas, nachos and taquitos are other popular options.



Photo courtesy of Rubio's Fresh Mexican Grill

**contact:**

tel: +1 858 273 3060  
<http://www.bananabungalow.com/>

**location:**

707 Reed Ave  
Pacific Beach CA 92109

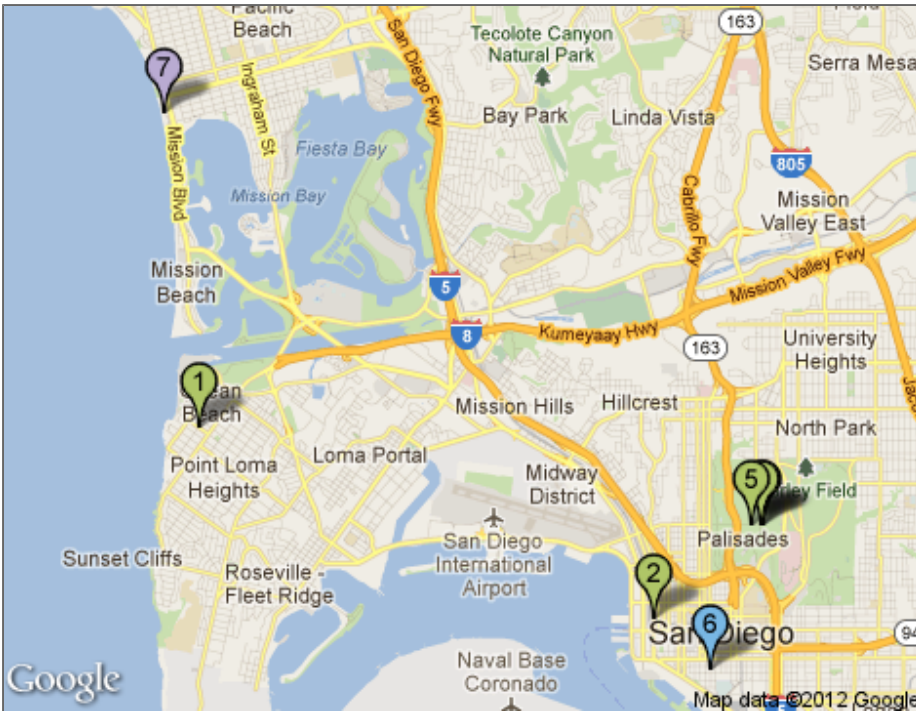
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**DESCRIPTION:** Short on the cash and no objections to sharing a dorm with up to 11 other people? Wake up (there's a good chance you might be hungover) in bunks of questionable quality decorated with the inevitable grains of sand you carried into the room the night before. Make friends with the staff and enjoy the nightlife of Pacific Beach just around the corner. What better cure for a hangover is there than the panoramic view of the Pacific Ocean from the outdoor patio while sipping free coffee served all day?private rooms available, reservation for those, only by phone. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Banana Bungalow

# Day 2 - San Diego



## QUICK NOTE

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**contact:**  
tel: 619-279-0032  
<http://www.oceanbeachsandiego.com/event-farmers-market>

**location:**  
4900 Newport Ave  
San Diego CA 92107

## 1 OB Farmers' Market

### OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Parking is a huge challenge most days in OB - even more so on Wednesdays - so make sure to carpool or be prepared to walk!

**DESCRIPTION:** As one of the favorite local spots in Ocean Beach, the Farmer's Market on Wednesday evenings is a place to enjoy both the beach location of OB and local performers, food and company. Celebrating the local, Wednesday evenings Ocean Beach's main drag (Newport Avenue) is closed off between Cable and Bacon streets where locals meander through festive foods favorites like flavored almonds, fresh panini's, mini donuts, sliced fruit and grilled corn on the cob. Ponies sometimes wander through the block, giving children rides, while musical acts entertain patrons at the edge of the



Photo courtesy of Ocean Beach MainStreet Association.

streets with varying music - from punk-pop to jazz. The Ocean Beach Farmer's Market is often the most extensive of the traveling event with clothing and jewelry vendors.  
© NileGuide

**contact:**  
tel: +1 619 233 3004  
<http://www.sdcommute.com>

**location:**  
1050 Kettner Boulevard  
San Diego CA 92101

**hours:**  
5a-12:30a M-F, 24 hrs Sa

## 2 San Diego Trolley

**DESCRIPTION:** One of the best bargains in this city is the fare to hop aboard one of the bright red trolleys that can quickly whisk you away to major attractions. Stops include notable places such as the Convention Center, the Gaslamp District, Seaport Village, Horton Plaza, the Embarcadero and Old Town. You can even travel south all the way to the San Ysidro stop, where then you can easily walk across the border to Tijuana, Mexico. This route is particularly popular on Saturdays. Self-ticketing machines line the tracks at the major boarding stations. Be sure to read the directions carefully or purchase a ticket from one of the agents to avoid any confusion. Trolleys run every 15 minutes on most lines and every half-hour after 7p. © wcities.com



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

**location:**  
1549 El Prado  
San Diego CA 92101

## 3 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: +1 619 239 5548  
fax: +1 619 531 9640  
<http://www.timkenmuseum.org>  
g

**location:**  
1500 El Prado  
San Diego CA 92101

**hours:**  
10a-4:30p Tu-Sa, 1:30p-4:30p  
Su

## 4 Timken Museum of Art

**DESCRIPTION:** How many art museums invite you to see great works of art for free? The Timken houses the Putnam Foundation's collection of 19th-century American paintings and works by European old masters, as well as a worthy display of Russian icons. Yes, it's a small collection, but the marquee attractions include a Peter Paul Rubens, Portrait of a Young Man in Armor; San Diego's only Rembrandt, St. Bartholomew; and a masterpiece by Eastman Johnson, The Cranberry Harvest. Since you can tour all of the museum in well under an hour, the Timken also makes for an easy introduction to fine



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art for younger travelers; docent tours are available Tuesday through Thursday from 10am to noon, the third Tuesday of the month from 1 to 3pm, or by appointment. © Frommer's

**contact:**

tel: +1 619 239 2001  
fax: +1 619 239 2749  
<http://www.museumofman.org/>

**location:**

1350 El Prado  
San Diego CA 92101

**hours:**

Daily 10a-4:30p

## 5 San Diego Museum of Man

**DESCRIPTION:** In 1911, San Diego began planning the 1915 Panama-California Exposition, creating a unique educational concept to distinguish itself from the San Francisco exposition planned for the same year. Dr. Edgar Lee Hewett of the School of American Archaeology (now School of American Research) was appointed designer of the central exhibit The Story of Man through the Ages. He took expeditions to the Southwest to collect prehistoric pottery and to Guatemala to make replicas of Maya monuments. Dr. Ales Hrdlicka of the Smithsonian Institution was engaged to collect specimens for the most comprehensive physical anthropology exhibit ever assembled. Expeditions were sent to Alaska, Siberia, Africa, and the Philippines, and European museums provided important casts and photographs of early man fossils. From Peru, skeletal material and rare trephined skulls were collected. Panama-California Exposition postcardThe Panama-California Exposition opened on January 1, 1915, with The Story of Man through the Ages enjoying public acclaim. As the Exposition neared its close in November 1915, a farsighted group of San Diegans formed the San Diego Museum Association. Led by prominent citizen George Marston, they were determined to retain the valuable collections and to establish a museum of anthropology. Dr. Hewett became the first Director, and important collections followed, notably the Jessop Weapon Collection and the Scripps Egyptian Collection. Field work by Museum staff in the 1930s focused on prehistoric sites of Southern California. Through the efforts of pioneer archaeologist Malcolm J. Rogers, hundreds of sites, many now destroyed by development, were recorded. Because of the Museum's concentration on anthropology, its name was changed in 1942 to the Museum of Man (with "San Diego" added in 1978). During World War II, the Museum was converted to a hospital, and exhibits and collections were stored. During the 20-year directorship of Clark Everham, beginning in 1951, the Museum entered a period of community outreach. Important acquisitions included Mexican apparel and ceramics. In 1966, the collection and research focus of the Museum was narrowed to the peoples of the Western Americas. This redefinition of purpose capitalized on collection strengths and acknowledged our proximity to these cultures. Exposition Christmas Greetings postcardIn 1972, Lowell E. English, retired Marine Corps Major General, became Director. For the next decade, the focus was on establishing a strong financial base. The Collectors Club was started in 1974 to support collection acquisitions. The Haber Collection of Mayan figurines and the Harkleroad Collection of Southern California archaeological material were accessioned. A 1980 amendment of the mission allowed for temporary exhibits from regions outside our area of specialization to provide cross-cultural perspective. In 1981, the Museum commenced planning for large scale capital improvements and exhibit



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enhancement. Anthropologist Douglas Sharon became Director, and major projects were undertaken: doubling of collection storage, remodeling the lobby, paving the Plaza de California, restoration of the historic St. Francis Chapel, installation of an elevator and modern HVAC, addition of a 16,000 sq. ft. education and design center, and renovation of expanded exhibits. Through the 1980s and early 1990s important collections were acquired: the Gildred Collection of pre-Hispanic Peruvian ceramics, Mexican and Guatemalan apparel, the Stanford-Meyer Osteopathology Collection, the Cannon Collection of Southern Californian Indian basketry, and the Smith Collection of Egyptian antiquities. The Museum's research collections reached 72,000 items plus 37,000 historic photographs, mostly of Native Americans, and unquantified archaeological holdings. In 1994, recognizing that cultural preservation is intimately linked to the environment, the Museum's mission was expanded to include human ecology. As we approach a new century, our original philosophy, whereby collections form the basis for relevant exhibits, education, and research, is being reaffirmed. © wcities.com

**contact:**  
tel: 619/544-9500  
<http://www.stingsandiego.com/>

**location:**  
454 Sixth Ave  
San Diego CA 92101

**hours:**  
Tuesday & Wednesday open  
5pm, Thursday-Saturday  
open 6pm-2am, Sunday &  
Monday closed

## 6 Stingaree

**DESCRIPTION:** This \$6-million, three-level club has become a hot destination in the Gaslamp Quarter since opening in 2005. It has more than 22,000 square feet of space, a fine dining component, a handful of bars and private nooks, and a rooftop deck with cabanas and fire pit. While the cover charge (\$20) is definitely contemporary, the decor is chicly mod and retro. The name is a throwback, too -- back in San Diego's Wild West days, this area was known as the Stingaree. © Frommer's



citysearch

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

**location:**  
707 Reed Ave  
Pacific Beach CA 92109

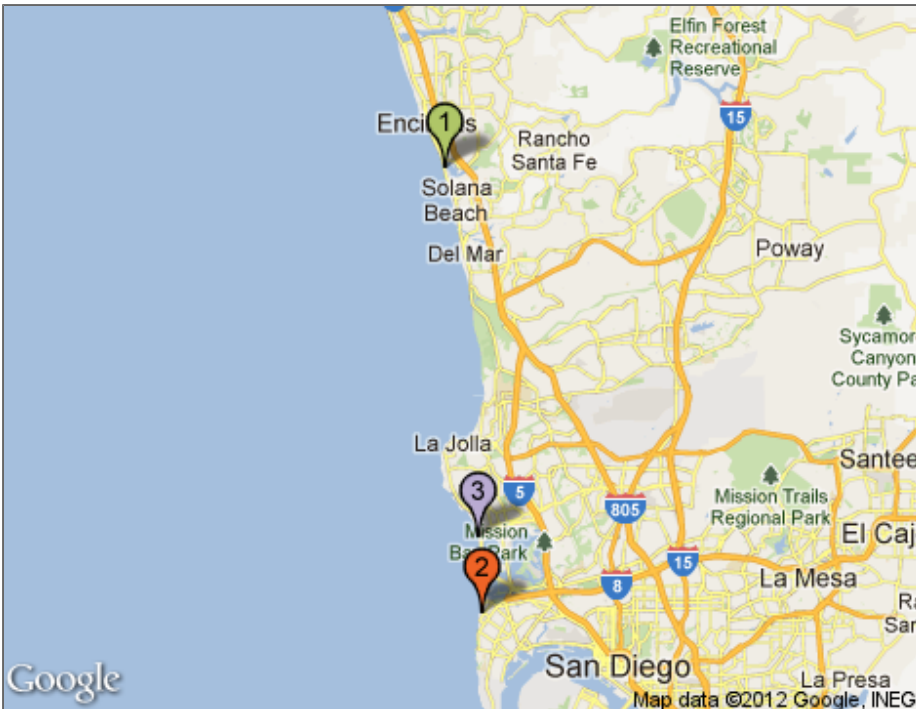
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Photo courtesy of Banana Bungalow

# Day 3 - San Diego



## QUICK NOTE

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### contact:

tel: 619-642-4200  
fax: 619-642-4222  
cal-parks.ca.gov

### location:

Administrative Office: 9609  
Waples Street, Suite 200  
San Diego CA 92121

## 1 Cardiff State Beach

**DESCRIPTION:** Located on the San Diego Coast, which has been called the Riviera of the West, Cardiff State Beach has a gently sloping sandy beach. The park lies within a two-mile stretch of state beaches between Solana Cliffs and a series of tidepools to the north. The facilities include a boardwalk, firepits, restrooms and cold showers. This park is open for fishing, swimming, surfing, biking and boating. Beach combing is also a popular activity at Cardiff Beach. Lifeguards are normally on duty and visitors will be charged a day use fee to enter. The beach is located slightly north of San Diego between Cardiff By the Sea and Solana Beach on California State Highway 21.



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### contact:

tel: +1 619 226 4577  
http://southbeachob.com/

### location:

5059 Newport Avenue

## 2 South Beach Bar and Grill

**DESCRIPTION:** With an ocean front location and the name South Beach Bar and Grill, fresh seafood is just the right thing to expect. Keep walking towards the ocean and look out for the Mahi fish on the signboard. The oysters, clams and mussels seem to have landed in the kitchen from

10

San Diego CA 92107

**hours:**

Mo to Su from 11:00 AM to 02:00 AM

the deep just outside! Wondering why they're so delicious? They're steamed in garlic butter, white wine and lemon, and there's some garlic bread to go with it! For a filling meal, ask for grilled fish—choose the native specialty, Mahi—served with rice, beans, salsa fresca and flour Tortillas. Tacos, quesadillas, sandwiches, burgers and salads are a hearty offering combined with any of the sides. Beers from renown breweries are also served here. © wcities.com

**contact:**

tel: +1 858 273 3060

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

**location:**

707 Reed Ave  
Pacific Beach CA 92109

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Photo courtesy of Banana Bungalow

# 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.

© NileGuide

# La Jolla Snapshot

## Local Info

From art galleries and trendy boutiques to world-class golf courses and stunning beaches, La Jolla's attractions please travelers from far and wide. Each district is uniquely different, yet all are similar with respect to one important facet: top-notch quality.

## Business District

While La Jolla is most well known for its incredible shoreline, the city's upscale business district is hardly modest. Located on the eastern side of La Jolla, law firms, financial institutions and tech industry outposts dominate this district, along with modern shopping centers and a wealthy residential area. The world-famous Scripps Memorial Hospital & Medical Research Center resides here, as well as the San Diego Mormon Temple, a remarkable place of worship that, oddly enough resembles an ice castle.

Perhaps the most notable establishment in this region of La Jolla is the University of California at San Diego, which hosts a world-renowned medical school and a number of other rigorous academic programs. If you're in town in the spring, embark on a Grunion Run with some of the University's marine biologists. Prefer indoor entertainment? The University is home to one of the region's most popular attractions, the La Jolla Playhouse, founded by Hollywood stars and now famous for showcasing new, cutting-edge plays.

Another popular site in the vicinity is Mount Soledad, where you'll find the colossal and controversial Easter Cross, as well as a breathtaking panoramic view of the whole county, from the northernmost beaches to the Mexican border.

## La Jolla Village

Known to locals as "the Village," La Jolla's downtown area, though geographically

tiny, is jam packed with enough shops, restaurants, hotels, salons and galleries to draw hordes of wealthy patrons from around the region and around the globe. Girard Avenue is widely acknowledged to be La Jolla's main drag (home to everything from surf shops like World Core to fine-art galleries like Images of Nature and elegant boutiques like Neroli), although Prospect Street has often been dubbed "the Rodeo Drive of San Diego" (thanks to specialty shops like such as Aja and perhaps despite neighborhood haunts like John Cole's Book Shop). Art lovers will be glad to know that the San Diego Museum of Contemporary Art is located here in the village, along with smaller operations like the Cosmopolitan Fine Arts gallery.

If neither art nor shopping are your cups of tea, La Jolla Village also features the La Jolla Recreation Center and La Jolla Woman's Club, great places to spend an afternoon, both in buildings designed by renowned architect Irving Gill.

After a day of patronizing the arts and spending some cash at upscale boutiques, travelers need not venture out of the Village for a delectable meal. The Spot and Roppongi are popular establishments. Nightlife also flourishes in the area, as top comedians perform at the La Jolla branch of the Comedy Store.

## Shoreline

Perhaps the most memorable of La Jolla's districts is the Shoreline. La Jolla is home to one of the most spectacular waterfronts in Southern California, complete with remarkable caves, cliffs, beaches and sunsets. Children young and old gather in droves for unbelievable seal watching at Children's Pool Beach. Nearby Ellen Browning Scripps Park is a green and inviting cliff-top open space perfect for a picnic, a mid-afternoon snooze or a game of volleyball. If you get tired of

the sun, venture into La Jolla Caves, an underground cavern just as much a part of the local ecosystem as the shore itself.

La Jolla's beaches are eminently welcoming to surfers, sunbathers, snorkelers, scuba divers and swimmers, and all of these activities make for superb means by which to enjoy this geographically dramatic stretch of coast. Feel at home in the chop? Treat yourself to a surfing lesson courtesy of Surf Diva. If Earth-bound thrills such as these prove too tame, take to the skies! Paragliding and hang gliding are offered at Torrey Pines Gliderport.

Travel a short distance north from La Jolla Cove and see marine life up close at Birch Aquarium. This world-famous oceanographic museum, operated by the Scripps Institute of Oceanography, showcases marine life native to the entire continental shelf, from the sounds of the Pacific Northwest to the warm waters of Baja.

Even though La Jolla's beaches and caves are heralded throughout Southern California, one of the coastline's most popular attractions has nothing to do with sand or surf. Torrey Pines Golf Course, the only public course on the PGA circuit, offers two challenging 18-hole courses, and spectacular views of the surrounding natural beauty.

After so much activity, complete the day by dining just above the waters of the Pacific. George's At The Cove and the Crab Catcher, both perched on the cliffs above the cove, draw diners from all around the region eager to feast on tasty food and breath-taking ocean views. Cody's, on the other hand, is a neighborhood favorite with a splendid view of Ellen Browning Scripps Park across the street.

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