

# Tourist Attractions in San Diego

## Places to Visit:

1. **[Balboa Park](#)** -- Balboa Park is over a 1400 acre site with historical buildings, numerous museums, gardens, and green space. The park was created for the Panama California Exhibition of 1915-1916 with most of the buildings in the park remaining from that event. The predominant architecture is Spanish-Mexican style, low level buildings that blend in with the natural surroundings. Among the highlights of the park are the Botanical Gardens and lily pond, the Museum of Man, the Museum of Natural History, the San Diego Museum of Art, and the famous San Diego Zoo. Even if you never go into a building the park is simply a beautiful place.

**Address:** 1549 El Pardo, San Diego CA

**Pricing:** Free Entrance and Parking. Some exhibits are completely free, others range from \$45-95 dollars. Please [click here](#) to find out more information about pricing.

2. **[Sea World](#)** -- SeaWorld San Diego is one of the city's main attractions, particularly for families. It is located along the waterfront in Mission Bay. For many American's SeaWorld has been a long time family tradition, having been around since the 1960s. Among the highlights are the myriad of shows featuring killer whales, sea lions, dolphins, and other sea life. There are all kinds of rides from roller coasters plowing into water, to more sedate carnival type rides for tots. SeaWorld is an aquarium that allows for close up looks at sharks and other sea creatures that can be seen through an acrylic tunnel, along with touch tanks, and close encounters with dolphins and inhabitants of tidal pools.

**Address:** 500 SeaWorld Drive, San Diego, CA 92109

**Pricing:** Currently SeaWorld has various ticket options depending on how long you would like to continue your membership for. Please [click here](#) to see a complete list of prices.

3. **[San Diego Zoo](#)** -- Located in Balboa Park, the San Diego Zoo is one of the largest and most famous zoos in the United States. The zoo has all kinds of exotic animals, including pandas which have been successfully bred here. It is spread out along a canyon, with many hills that can sometimes be challenging for visitors wandering through the site. The park prides itself on the Animal enclosures which are designed to recreate natural settings.

**Address:** 2920 Zoo Drive, Balboa Park, CA

**Pricing:** One day passes range from \$48-54 per person. Please [click here](#) to see a complete list of prices.

4. **[Seaport Village](#)** -- San Diego's Seaport Village is a delightful place to stroll around and spend an afternoon. Located right on the waterfront this area of unique shops and restaurants is one of the city's must sees. Picnic tables, benches, and waterfront patios are sprinkled throughout the area and weekends can be very busy. Outdoor performers take to the stage regularly in the afternoons, some of which can be quite eclectic. The area is easily accessible on foot from many of the nearby attractions including the USS Midway. Since there is limited and expensive parking at Seaport Village, it may be best to park a little distance away and enjoy the stroll along the waterfront to the site. **(Please visit the website to see a list of shops and restaurants.)**
5. **[Old Town State Historic Park](#)** -- The Old Town San Diego State Historic Park gives visitors a look at the town's Mexican and early American history, and offers opportunities for shopping and

dining. It was probably founded in 1820 by demobilized Mexican soldiers who had done their military service at the Presidio or in the fort on Presidio Hill, both of which are located here. Many of the historic buildings, including numerous adobe houses, have been repaired. Also located here are interesting shops and restaurants with outdoor patios. The Old Town State Historic park is the most visited State Park in California. **There is no admission fee.**

6. **[San Diego Museum of Art](#)** -- The San Diego Museum of Art is a copy of the 17th century University of Salamanca, in the so-called Platero style, with finely-chiseled terracotta and silversmith work. Busts of Spanish painters adorn the façade, and their works hang in the museum's collection. The museum's collection covers a broad spectrum of works from around the world and pieces that date back to 7000 years ago. Spanish old master paintings, along with Asian Art, European Art and Art from the Americas are highlighted.

**Address:** 1450 El Prado Balboa Park, San Diego, CA

**Pricing:** Admission tickets range from \$9-12. Please [click here](#) for a complete list of prices.

7. **[Midway Aircraft Carrier Museum](#)** --Walking along the San Diego waterfront trail, visitors may be surprised when they come across one of the US military's largest ships. The decommissioned USS Midway is permanently berthed at Navy Pier. The highlights of a visit to the USS Midway Museum include over 60 exhibits and 25 restored aircraft. Over 225,000 military service personnel served on the ship and today visitors can take a self-guided audio tour to learn all about its history. For an additional fee visitors can try a flight simulator on board.

**Address:** 910 North Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92101

**Pricing:** Adult admission tickets purchased on site \$20, tickets purchased online \$18. Please [click here](#) for a complete list of prices.

8. **[Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcalá](#)** -- This was California's first mission. In 1769 the Spanish Franciscan Father from Majorca, Junipero Serra, founded the mission stations, the first of which was built in San Diego. A few years after it was founded, however, it was moved 6 miles inland, because disputes had arisen between the Spanish troops and the Indians. In 1775 the Indians set fire to the new mission; the Fathers sought refuge with the army and it was 1777 before they built a new mission station with the help of the Indians. However, it quickly became dilapidated following secularization. Today visitors can see the old church with a bell-tower, declared a basilica in the 1970s, a beautiful garden, and a small museum. It is a National Historic Landmark.

**Address:** 10818 San Diego Mission Road, San Diego, CA 92108

**Pricing:** Pricing was not shown on the website.

9. **Coronado Island** -- Situated just across the Big Bay from downtown San Diego, Coronado is most notably known for two famous structures, the historic Hotel del Coronado and the distinctive San Diego-Coronado Bridge. But beyond these architectural marvels, the quaint island community of Coronado offers visitors an experience that is a world apart. Coronado's coastline offers gentle surf and sparkling sand beaches (courtesy of the mineral Mica) that draw in visitors from around the world. Add to this a charming small-town quaintness, with elegant gardens, old-world mansions, unique shopping experiences, and dining options with spectacular ocean views, no wonder it's been dubbed as "The Crown City" (Coronado is Spanish for "the crowned one").

## Things to Do:

1. **[Boating/Sailing](#)** -- **Seaforth Boat Rentals**-- San Diego's largest boat rental and yacht charter company with five locations to choose from. Please visit website for more details.
2. **[Golf](#)** – For a fun time on the golf course please click on the link to visit the website and make reservations. To see a full list of prices please [click here](#).
3. **Kayaking/Scuba Diving/ Snorkling:**
  - a. **[La Jolla Sea Cave Kayaks](#)** -- Tour prices are \$70 per person, and \$110 for two people.
  - b. **[Scuba San Diego](#)** -- Scuba San Diego has a variety of activities. Scuba instruction, world class guided diving tours and snorkeling tours off La Jolla Cove, boat dives to Wreck Alley's HMCS Yukon, and kayak tours. Please click on the hyperlink to find out more detailed information. Prices vary based on activity. Activities related to scuba diving can range from \$75-\$175.
  - c. **[Bike & Kayak Tours](#)** – Pricing varies based on activities.
4. **[Surfing](#)** – San Diego is popular for surfing. Click on the link to see some amazing places to surf. You can also [click here](#) to see a list of surf shops in the area.
5. **[Biking](#)** – This organization does bike, kayak and snorkeling tours in the La Jolla and Coronado Island areas. Please click on the link to find out more information regarding those activities.
6. **Hiking Trails:**
  - a. **Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve**
  - b. **Los Penasquitos Canyon Trail**
  - c. **Cowles Mountain**
  - d. **Iron Mountain Trail**
  - e. **Cuyamaca Peak Loop Trail**
  - f. **Lake Poway to Mount Woodson**
  - g. **Cedar Creek Falls to Devil's Punchbowl**
  - h. **Mission Trail Regional Park: Oak Canyon Trail**
  - i. **Double Peak Trail**
  - j. **Three Sisters Falls Trails**

**Places to Eat:** (These are some suggestions based on internet searches.)

**Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner:**

- [Quad House](#)
  - Address: 868 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, Level 3, San Diego , CA 92101
  - [Menu](#)
- [Bracero Cocina de Raiz](#)
  - Address: 1490 Kettner Blvd, San Diego, CA 92101
  - [Menu](#)
- [BURNSIDE](#)
  - Address: 3375 Adams Ave, San Diego, CA 92116
  - [Menu](#)
- [Rustic Root](#)
  - Address: 535 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, San Diego, CA 92101
  - [Menu](#)
- [Breakfast Republic](#)
  - Address: 2730 University Ave, San Diego, CA 92104
  - [Menu](#)
- [Hodad's](#)
  - Address: multiple locations
- [Coronado Tavern](#)
  - Address: 1310 Orange Ave, Coronado, CA 92118
  - [Menu](#)
- [Oceana Coastal Kitchen](#)
  - Address: 3999 Mission Blvd, San Diego, CA 92109
- [Draft](#)
  - Address: 3105 Ocean Front Walk, San Diego, CA 92109
- [Tidal](#)
  - Address: 1404 Vacation Rd., San Diego, CA 92109
  - [Menu](#)
- [The Marine Room](#)
  - Address: 2000 Spindrift Dr., La Jolla, CA 92037
  - [Menu](#)
- [Jake's Del Mar](#)
  - Address: 1660 Coast Blvd., Del Mar, CA 92014
  - [Menu](#)
- [Pacific Coast Grill](#)
  - Address: 2526 Hwy 101, Cardiff, CA 92007
  - Menu ( several menu choices on the website)
- [Stratford at the Harbor](#)
  - Address: 280 S Harbor Dr, Oceanside, CA 92054
  - [Menu](#)

## Deserts:

- [Baked Bear](#)
  - Address: (multiple locations) nearest location: 4516 Mission Blvd, Suite C, San Diego 92109
  - [Menu](#)
- [Extraordinary Desserts](#)
  - Address: 1430 Union St. San Diego, CA 92101
- [Hammond's](#)
  - Address: 3077 University Ave, San Diego, CA 92104
- [MooTime Creamery](#)
  - Address: 1025 Orange Ave, Coronado, CA 92118