



San Diego

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Best Places to Eat

- » Prado (p635)
- » Puerto La Boca (p634)
- » George's at the Cove (p637)
- » Bread & Cie (p635)

Best Places to Stay

- » Hotel del Coronado (p632)
- » Hotel Indigo (p632)
- » La Pensione Hotel (p632)
- » Inn at Sunset Cliffs (p633)
- » Crystal Pier Hotel (p633)

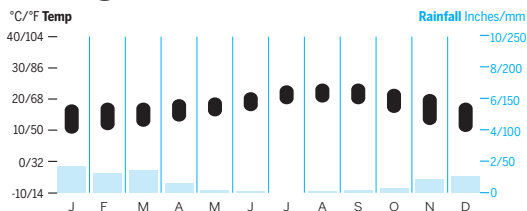
Why Go?

There's a certain arrogance that comes with living on the SoCal coast, a breezy confidence that springs from the assumption that your life is just, well, *better* than everyone else's. No offense – it just is. But as far as coastal snobs go, San Diegans are the ones we like the most. Whether it's a battle-tested docent sharing stories on the USS *Midway* or a no-worries surf diva helping you catch a wave, folks here are pretty willing to share the good life.

The only problem is that with 70 miles of coastline and a near-perfect climate, it's tough to decide where to start. Exploring maritime history, biking the beach paths, microbrewery hopping, ball games, horse races, Japanese gardens? Killer whales? When in doubt, do as the locals do and just take it easy – grab a fish taco and a surfboard and head for the beach.

When to Go

San Diego



Jun–Aug High season. Temperatures and hotel rates are highest. Beware of cloudy weather.

Sep–Oct & Mar–May Shoulder seasons; moderate hotel rates. Chilly evenings and sunny days.

Nov–Feb Low season. But it's still sunnier in San Diego than almost anywhere else in the USA.

DON'T MISS...

The chance to glimpse rhinos, giraffes, and ostriches in their (almost) natural habitat at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park.

Fast Facts

- » **Population** 1.3 million
- » **Average high temperature in San Diego** Jan 65°F, Jul 76°F
- » **San Diego to Tijuana** 18 miles

Planning Your Trip

As your San Diego visit approaches, look online for coupons and special promotions for SeaWorld and the Zoo. If you'd rather skip the stress of southern California traffic, book a hotel room downtown – you can take the trolleys to get around instead.

Resources

- » www.sandiego.org – the official San Diego resource for travelers
- » www.signonsandiego.com – the city's major daily
- » www.sdreader.com – an alt-weekly covering the city's music, art and theater scenes

Green San Diego: the 'finest city on earth?'

San Diegans hold their fair city in high esteem. And by the looks of it, they're devoted to protecting their beautiful beaches and clear, sunny skies: sustainable building and ecofriendly businesses are on the rise, and the laid-back metropolis recently became the home of North America's first all-electric car-sharing program.

GOURMET SAN DIEGO

Though wine connoisseurs and foodies often head elsewhere in California to taste, swirl and sip, San Diego is a gourmet destination in its own right. Local chefs, farmers and brewmasters have slowly but steadily added flavor to a culinary scene that, thanks to the city's location near the border, has long been associated with one-dimensional Mexican food.

On almost any day of the week, you'll find organic farmers selling their plump avocados, strawberries and basil at **farmers markets** scattered throughout San Diego's neighborhoods. While you pick out your peaches and parsley, you'll likely bump shoulders with the kitchen staff from stylish but down-to-earth eateries like **JRDN** (p637) of Pacific Beach or **whisknadle** (p637) of La Jolla. Meanwhile, at **microbreweries** around the city, brewmasters are turning out award-winning India Pale Ales and barley wine. Taste their concoctions at any bar downtown, or drive out to the microbreweries' onsite **tasting rooms**; we recommend **AleSmith** or **The Lost Abbey** (p638). Go ahead, raise your glass to the city's underrated food and drink scene – the secret's not out yet.

San Diego's Best Beach Moments

- » **Coronado** Walk barefoot in the soft white sand in front of the glamorous old Hotel del Coronado, then sit on the terrace with an ice-cold cocktail and stare out at the ocean.
- » **La Jolla** Kayak around sea caves, snorkel near the shore or just pretend like you're in the Mediterranean along this stunning stretch of coastline.
- » **Mission Beach** Rent a bike and ride along the endless beach paths, go for a ride on a vintage roller coaster or just kick back on the sand at this lively, family-friendly beach.