



# 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)

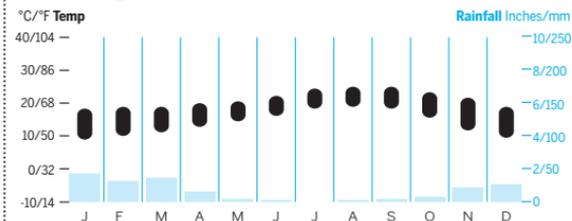
## Why Go?

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, micro-brewery 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](http://www.sandiego.org) – the official San Diego resource for travelers
- » [www.signonsandiego.com](http://www.signonsandiego.com) – the city's major daily
- » [www.sdreader.com](http://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.