



**nileGUIDE**

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



Michael in Flagstaff, Arizona

# First Time in San Diego

## San Diego, 4 Days

### Table of contents:

Guide Description	2
Itinerary Overview	3
Daily Itineraries	5
San Diego Snapshot	18

# Guide Description



**AUTHOR NOTE:** San Diego's long coast is filled with tourist havens (like the San Diego Zoo and Balboa Park) as well as local secrets (like Coronado's Cafe 1134 and the indie music joint Belly Up) that make this southern California city so special. Casual ambiance is the specialty, where flip-flops, sand and a tan are always in season. Enjoy the beach at every destination, where most neighborhoods (like Cedros Design District, Ocean Beach and even Gaslamp) are all within walking distance of the water. But be aware of San Diego's vast circumference, as must-see destinations like Coronado, North Park, Pacific Beach and Solana Beach are so far apart a car is necessary.

# Itinerary Overview

things to do  
restaurants  
hotels  
nightlife

## Day 1 - San Diego

**DAY NOTE:** Things to Do: San Diego is known best for its world famous zoo (which recently welcomed a baby panda) and its beaches. The brilliant part about San Diego's neighborhoods is that most of them include their own secret - with Cedros Design District's own chic vegan restaurant and indie tavern (Belly Up), while the Gaslamp Quarter entertains late into the night - whether you want to find a night club (The Ivy) or mend that chocolate craving (Ghirardelli), Surf in the famous La Jolla Shores with Surf Diva, indulge in Italian music and food in Little Italy and scout out the most popular dogs at the OB Dog Beach. The only necessity besides an open-mind and a willing palate is a car.



**Little Italy District**  
Savor the Italian flavors



**Surf Diva**  
La Jolla's surf shop



**Gaslamp Quarter**  
The city's entertainment hub



**Cedros Design District**  
The "do-it-yourself" district



**Ocean Beach Dog Beach**  
Watch Fido swim



**Horton Plaza**  
Exciting Outdoor Mall



**Japanese Friendship Garden**  
Welcoming walking path



**Balboa Park**  
The center of the city



**Coronado Island**  
San Diego's elegant island



**San Diego Zoo**  
Internationally recognized zoo

**DAY NOTE:** Restaurants: Just as San Diego's neighborhoods are diverse, as is its cuisine - from Italian to Mexican, casual to expensive chic, there isn't an area where you won't find everything you're looking for. La Jolla's Cottage is a neighborhood treat, while the Wild Note Cafe connects indie rock groovers of the Belly Up with divine dishes. It's everything you need to satisfy the taste buds during an exciting trip to San Diego.



**The Cottage**  
Inexpensive La Jolla breakfast



**Wild Note Cafe**  
Casual and classy



**Pizza Port Carlsbad**  
Pizza & Handcrafted Brews



**The Prado at Balboa Park**  
in the heart of Balboa Park

## Day 3 - San Diego

**DAY NOTE:** Nightlife: San Diego knows how to party - with three colleges and a slew of transplants, the city is filled to the brim with spots that are simple, chic, high-class and dive-y. The location makes a difference - you'll find dive bar after dive bar in most beach cities, nightclubs in Gaslamp, local breweries up north and complete funk in Northpark.



**Firehouse Beach Cafe**  
Keeping PB red hot



**Beauty Bar**



**Envy at the Ivy Hotel**



**Wine Steals**  
Wine and Dine



**Shout! House (The)**  
Scream and Shout

## Day 2 - San Diego

# Itinerary Overview

things to do  
restaurants  
hotels  
nightlife



## Croce's Restaurant & Jazz Bar

In honor of singer Jim Croce

## Day 4 - San Diego

**DAY NOTE:** Local Recommendations: A Day in the life There isn't an area you should miss while in San Diego, so it may be difficult to choose just one category to see and taste while in the area. A must-have is the Gaslamp district where The Bitter End opens with a comedy hour brought to locals by SD resident Mal Hal, followed by an Asian/ Mexican inspired meal at the Red Circle, late night snacks found at the Farmer's Market in OB and finally an impromptu-concert at the Spreckel's Organ Pavilion, following a jog/walk through San Diego's classic Balboa Park. It's all here.



## The Topsy Crow

Downtown pub & comedy central



## Red Circle

Asian influenced nightlife



## OB Farmers' Market

Wednesday's in Ocean Beach



## Spreckel's Organ Pavilion

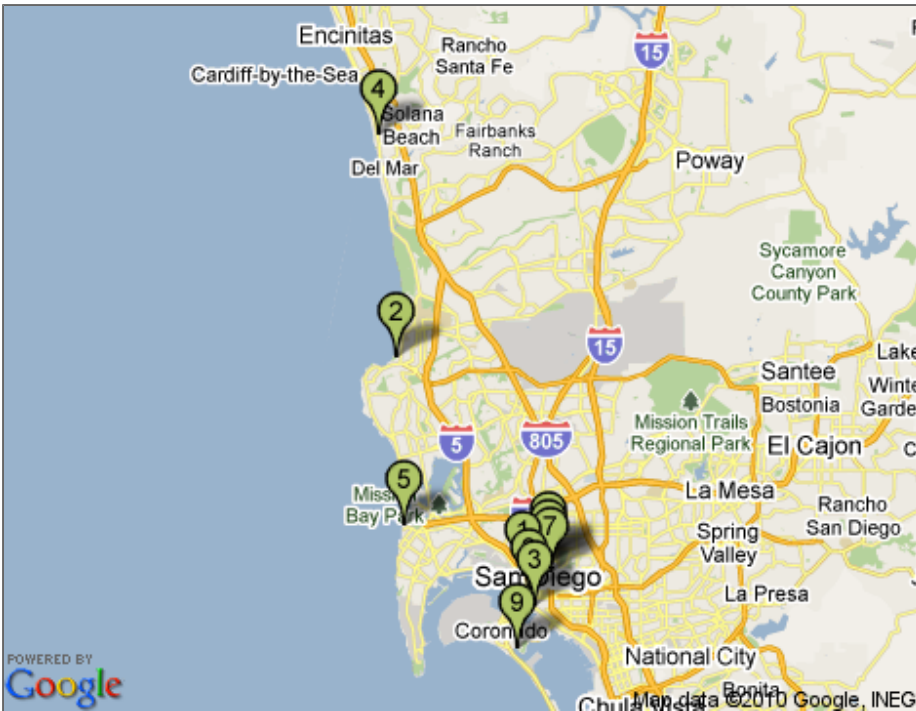
A classical night in Balboa Park



## The Prado at Balboa Park

in the heart of Balboa Park

# Day 1 - San Diego



## QUICK NOTE

**DAY NOTE:** Things to Do: San Diego is known best for its world famous zoo (which recently welcomed a baby panda) and its beaches. The brilliant part about San Diego's neighborhoods is that most of them include their own secret - with Cedros Design District's own chic vegan restaurant and indie tavern (Belly Up), while the Gaslamp Quarter entertains late into the night - whether you want to find a night club (The Ivy) or mend that chocolate craving (Ghirardelli), Surf in the famous La Jolla Shores with Surf Diva, indulge in Italian music and food in Little Italy and scout out the most popular dogs at the OB Dog Beach. The only necessity besides an open-mind and a willing palate is a car.

### contact:

tel: +1 619 233 3898 (Little Italy Association)  
fax: +1 619 233 4866  
<http://www.littleitalysd.com>

### location:

1830 Columbia Street  
San Diego CA 92101

## 1 Little Italy District

**DESCRIPTION:** Just outside of Gaslamp, San Diego welcomes some of the most distinctive and delicious culture in the area - Italy. Though the strip downtown is small, Little Italy's street sign is flavored with just the right amount of garlic, Italian music and festivals that make any visit feel like you're away from home. Little Italy houses some of the area's finest Italian restaurants, but additionally you will find one of a kind art galleries, fountains reminiscent of the Tuscany countryside and holiday festivals that welcome all. The district is extremely small, lining over a few city streets in the heart of downtown San Diego, but it makes up for its small figures with extremely wide taste and heart.

© NileGuide



**contact:**  
tel: +1 858 454 8273  
fax: +1 858 454 8505  
<http://www.surfdiva.com>

**location:**  
2160 Avenue de la Playa  
La Jolla CA 92037

**hours:**  
Class times vary

## 2 Surf Diva

**DESCRIPTION:** This all-women surfing school is dedicated to helping females of all ages succeed in this popular water sport. Many classes are offered, ranging from two hours to five-day camps. The two-day clinic is the most popular course, taught on Saturday and Sunday mornings at the La Jolla Shores Beach. Beginning and intermediate surfers may attend this class, which includes ocean awareness, paddling and wave riding. Young surfers have their own class, as youth day camps are held for ages 10-18. Bring a swimsuit, towel, water and sunscreen for your class at the beach. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Surf Diva.

**contact:**  
tel: +1 619 233 5227  
(Gaslamp Quarter  
Association)  
<http://www.gaslamp.org>

**location:**  
Gaslamp Quarter  
San Diego CA 92101

## 3 Gaslamp Quarter

**OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:**  
When visiting for the day, park in any one of the garages - but make sure to find the cheapest (usually around \$10)- unless you can find street parking

**DESCRIPTION:** Vibrant, eclectic, and endlessly entertaining, the Gaslamp Quarter covers more than 16 city blocks of downtown San Diego in the area once infamously known as Stingaree, with hundreds of specialty shops and dozens of trendy restaurants, bars and avant-garde playhouses. Most of the shops keep late hours, so delightful shopping, drinking, and dining can occur virtually simultaneously. Cutting-edge women's fashions elbow up against exclusive art galleries, and once-run down-hotels have undergone multi-million dollar makeovers and found new and chic lives. The San Diego Convention Center is just steps away from the Gaslamp, and during major conventions the flow of souvenir-hunting attendees floods the area. For an upscale shopping mall experience, the adjacent Horton Plaza offers major department stores and a hundred or so mall shops set in an architecturally amusing maze of bridges, stairways, and intricately tiled walls. If you have just a few hours to devote to shopping - or San Diego itself - spend the time and the money here. Credit card acceptance varies by business. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Gaslamp Quarter

**contact:**  
tel: +1 858 755 4775  
(Chamber of Commerce)  
fax: +1 858755 0470  
<http://cedrosdesigndistrict.com>

**location:**  
Cedros Avenue  
Solana Beach CA 92075

## 4 Cedros Design District

**OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:**  
Take advantage of the local fare every Sunday when the Cedros Avenue Farmer's Market takes over half of the district, from 1 to 5pm.

**DESCRIPTION:** This small street just parallel to the 101 in Solana Beach offers up the area's most unique shops, design stores, chic restaurants and local flare. Merely three



blocks, the aptly named "design district" is home to several magazines, San Diego's own design shoppes, an organically vegan restaurant and the famous indie venue The Belly Up. Literally across the street from the Solana Beach train station, this place can be found easily and should not be missed if you're interested in purchasing any gifts, home decor or catching a under-the-radar musician.

© NileGuide

**contact:**

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

**location:**

Foot of Voltaire St. Ocean Beach  
San Diego CA 92107

**hours:**

24 hours daily

**5 Ocean Beach Dog Beach**

**DESCRIPTION:** Since 1972, San Diego's Dog Beach has been a legal 24/7 off-leash paradise for dogs and their humans. It offers 38 acres of sand where the San Diego River meets the Pacific Ocean. Please pick up after your pet.



Photo courtesy of Ocean Beach Dog Beach

**contact:**

tel: +1 619 239 8180  
fax: +1 619 239 4021  
<http://westfield.com/hortonplaza/>

**location:**

324 Horton Plaza  
San Diego CA 92101

**hours:**

M-F 10a-9p, Sa 10a-8p, Su 11a-7p

**6 Horton Plaza**

**DESCRIPTION:** The Disneyland of shopping malls, Horton Plaza is the heart of the revitalized city center, bounded by Broadway, First and Fourth avenues, and G Street. Covering 6 1/2 city blocks, the multilevel shopping center has more than 130 specialty shops and kiosks -- there are clothing and shoe stores, fun shops for kids, and a bookstore. There's a performing arts venue (the Lyceum Theatre, home to the San Diego Repertory Theatre), a 14-screen cinema, two major department stores, and a variety of restaurants and short-order eateries. Horton Plaza opened in 1985 to rave reviews and provided an initial catalyst for the Gaslamp Quarter's redevelopment. It's almost as much an attraction as SeaWorld or the San Diego Zoo, transcending its genre with a conglomeration of crisscrossing paths, bridges, towers, and piazzas. Anchor stores are Macy's and Nordstrom, while name outlets such as Abercrombie & Fitch, Victoria's Secret, and Louis Vuitton are also in the mix; the top-level food court has a good variety of meal options. Three hours of free parking are available from 7am to 9pm; there are machines scattered throughout the mall where you can self-validate (validation in food court offered until 11pm). The lot is open 24 hours and costs \$8 per hour. The parking levels are confusing, and temporarily losing your car is part of the Horton Plaza experience; if you need help or information, you can find a plaza concierge on the first level (Mon-Sat 11am-7pm, Sun 11am-6pm). Macy's also has a Visitor Information Center on the third floor, open daily 10am to 6pm. © Frommer's



**contact:**

tel: +1 619 232 2721  
fax: +1 619 232 0917  
<http://www.niwa.org>

**location:**

2125 Park Boulevard  
San Diego CA 92101

**hours:**

Tues-Sun 10am-4pm; daily  
10am-4pm in summer

**7 Japanese Friendship Garden**

**DESCRIPTION:** These absolutely lovely, tranquil grounds began their long history when the garden was built as part of the World Expo of 1915. Because the public enjoyed it, the garden remained cared for by volunteers for the next 30 years. The permanent spot has been maintained as, 'San-Kei-En', meaning 'our garden'. The Japanese gardens incorporate traditional elements and San Diego regional landscape. The exhibit hall includes objects of Japanese cultural arts. © [wcities.com](http://wcities.com)



**contact:**

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

**location:**

1549 El Prado  
San Diego CA 92101

**8 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](http://wcities.com)



**contact:**

tel: +1 619 522 7300  
(Coronado Visitors Bureau)  
<http://www.coronado.ca.us/>

**location:**

Across the bridge from  
downtown  
Coronado CA 92118

**9 Coronado Island**

**OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:**

The island is so small that you can essentially walk everywhere - don't be fooled by the paid parking lots of the Del, as parking throughout the neighborhoods is abundant and free

**DESCRIPTION:** Coronado Island sits pretty just across a bridge from San Diego's famed downtown and while it has been deemed an island for years, this center city is actually not an island at all. Rather, this chic and upscale resort town features most sides on waters edge, but likewise houses a connection to San Diego's southern neighborhoods. Coronado features some of the area's most exquisite eateries, museums and beaches, but it might be best known for it's namesake hotel, the Hotel Del Coronado. Tourists flock here year round to enjoy the white beaches, specialty cocktails and historic homes, though for the majority of its residents the island is home because of their job. Just as beautiful as Coronado is, it is additionally home to the





area's largest naval base, where some of the residents in San Diego live, work and play.  
© NileGuide

**contact:**

tel: +1 619 231 1515  
fax: +1 619 231 0249  
<http://www.sandiegozoo.org>

**location:**

2920 Zoo Dr  
San Diego CA 92103

**hours:**

Sept to mid-June daily  
9am-4pm (grounds close at  
5 or 6pm); mid-June to Aug  
daily 9am-8pm (grounds close  
at 9pm)

**A San Diego Zoo**

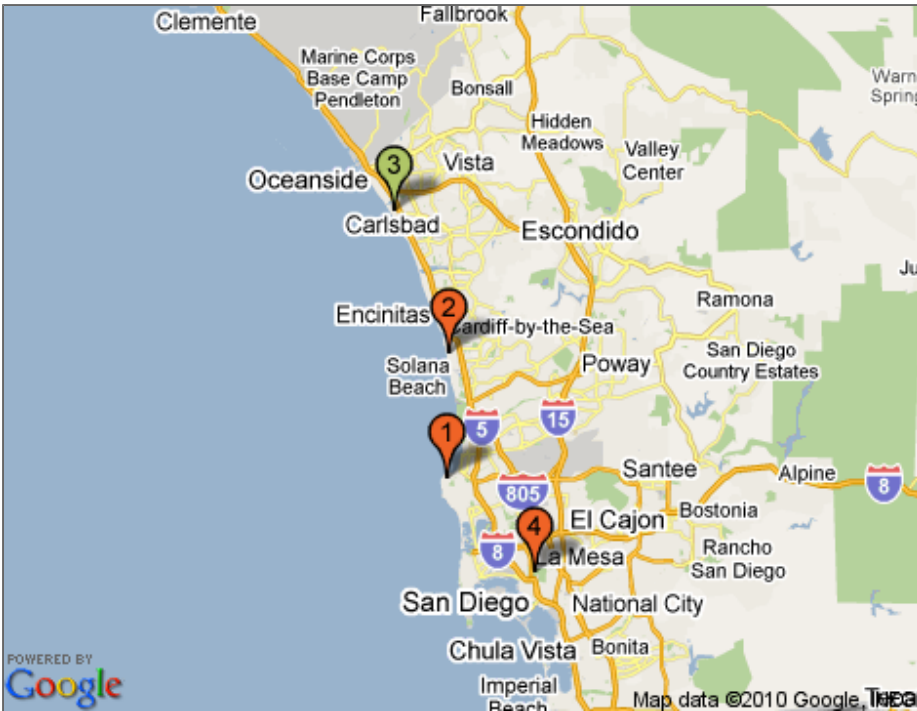
**OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:**

Be prepared to walk - a lot!

**DESCRIPTION:** This world-famous establishment is clearly no ordinary zoo. Walk or ride a double-decker bus throughout this expansive park, home to over 4,000 rare and exotic animals exhibited in beautiful garden habitats. More than a park, this zoo is a major research facility although it is cleverly disguised with entertaining shows and inspiring exhibits like Polar Bear Plunge and Hippo Beach. General Admission required. © wcities.com



# Day 2 - San Diego



## QUICK NOTE

**DAY NOTE:** Restaurants: Just as San Diego's neighborhoods are diverse, as is its cuisine - from Italian to Mexican, casual to expensive chic, there isn't an area where you won't find everything you're looking for. La Jolla's Cottage is a neighborhood treat, while the Wild Note Cafe connects indie rock groovers of the Belly Up with divine dishes. It's everything you need to satisfy the taste buds during an exciting trip to San Diego.

**contact:**

tel: 858/454-8409  
fax: +1 858 454 0284  
www.cottagelajolla.com

**location:**

7702 Fay Ave  
La Jolla CA 92037

**hours:**

Daily 7:30am-3pm; dinner  
(June-Aug only) Tues-Sat  
5-9:30pm

## 1 The Cottage

**DESCRIPTION:** La Jolla's best -- and friendliest -- breakfast is served at this turn-of-the-20th-century bungalow. The cottage is light and airy, but most diners opt for tables outside, where a charming white picket fence encloses the trellis-shaded brick patio. Omelets and egg dishes feature Mediterranean, Cal-Latino, and classic American touches. Homemade granola is a favorite as well (it's even packaged and sold to take home). The Cottage also bakes its own muffins, rolls, and coffee cakes. While breakfast dishes are served all day, toward lunchtime the kitchen begins turning out freshly made, healthful soups, light meals, and sandwiches. Summer dinners (never heavy, always tasty) are a delight, particularly when you're seated before dark on a balmy seaside night. If you like what you taste, The Cottage sells a cookbook that includes many of its most popular recipes. © Frommer's



seaside village

**contact:**  
tel: 1 858 720 9000  
<http://www.wildnote.com/>

**location:**  
143 South Cedros Avenue  
Solana Beach CA 92075

**hours:**  
11a-3p M-Su, 5p-10p Tu-Su

## 2 Wild Note Cafe

**DESCRIPTION:** Few restaurants have successfully achieved an atmosphere that is both casual and classy, yet this spot has done exactly that. Inside, dark burgundy woods are complemented by notable artwork, while outside dining along the sidewalk is intimate and peaceful. The menu offers a wide variety of salads, including Grilled Prawn Salad and Salmon Dill Cakes served over baby greens. Favorite entrees include the Vegetarian Garden Burger and Catch of the Day Sandwich. The cafe hosts wine tasting on the last Wednesday of each month. Reservations are required for this event. © wcities.com

**contact:**  
tel: 760 720 7007  
<http://www.pizzaport.com/>

**location:**  
571 Carlsbad Village Drive  
Carlsbad CA 92008

**hours:**  
Su-Th 11a-10p, F-Sa 11a-Mid

## 3 Pizza Port Carlsbad

**DESCRIPTION:** Downtown Carlsbad combines three attractions at this restaurant: original pizza preparations, handcrafted brews, and a clambake atmosphere. Surfboards are suspended overhead throughout the restaurant. Surfing pictures plaster the walls while televisions show surfing footage. Seating is available at long, wooden picnic-style tables or at the bar. Try the hometown Pizza Carlsbad, which offers toppings of pesto, chicken, artichoke hearts, feta and sun dried tomatoes. Top off your meal with one of Port Brewing's award-winning, world-famous handcrafted brews. Two popular choices are the California Honey and Sharkbite Red. Opt for the Wipeout IPA if you're feeling up to it. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Pizza Port Carlsbad.

**contact:**  
tel: 619 557 9441  
[www.pradobalboa.com](http://www.pradobalboa.com)

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

**hours:**  
Mon-Fri: 11:30am - 3pm Sat-  
Sun: 11am - 3pm Dinner: Tue-  
Sun at 5pm

## 4 The Prado at Balboa Park

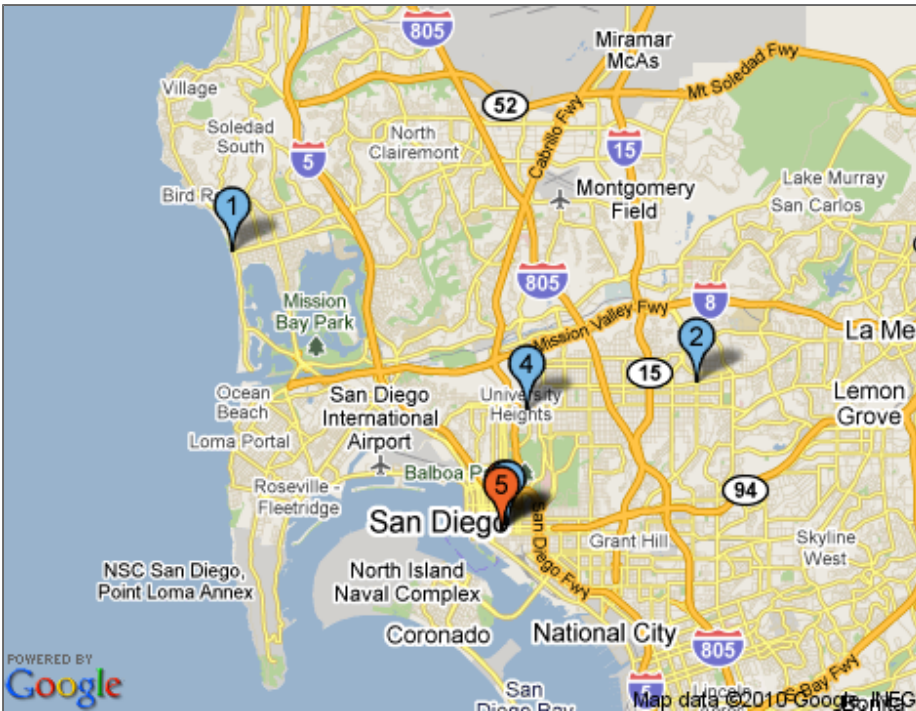
**OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:**  
Make a reservation, and make a reservation early! During the summer and special occasions everything gets booked quickly!

**DESCRIPTION:** Graciously housed in the House of Hospitality, this venue has hosted myriad weddings, parties and intimate dinners. Casual elegance with a Spanish-fusion flavor is on the menu in the heart of Balboa Park. Zesty seafood paella, wild mushroom risotto, or adobo braised pork will all have your taste buds shouting "olé." The Chicken Milanese is richly flavored with garlic and sage, served with rosemary-infused potatoes with arugula in a tomato concasse. If you want plainer food, try the Prado Cheeseburger. The luscious dessert tray varies daily. © wcities.com



citysearch

# Day 3 - San Diego



## QUICK NOTE

**DAY NOTE:** Nightlife: San Diego knows how to party - with three colleges and a slew of transplants, the city is filled to the brim with spots that are simple, chic, high-class and dive-y. The location makes a difference - you'll find dive bar after dive bar in most beach cities, nightclubs in Gaslamp, local breweries up north and complete funk in Northpark.

**contact:**  
tel: 1 858 272 1999

## 1 Firehouse Beach Cafe

**location:**  
722 Grand Avenue  
Pacific Beach CA 92109

**DESCRIPTION:** Check out Firehouse Beach Cafe, a lively, fun place to eat. Located next to a firehouse, its menu is enormous, including nachos, burgers, pasta, chicken and seafood. A favorite item is the Martini Pasta, which boasts dry vermouth among the sauce ingredients. As the name suggests, this restaurant has many spicy dishes, which are indicated on the menu with a chili pepper next to the dish. Some dishes get two chili peppers, like the Firehouse Wings. There are several daily specials like Margarita Mondays and a Bloody Mary bar on Saturday and Sunday mornings. © wcities.com



citysearch

**contact:**  
tel: 619/516-4746  
www.beautybar.com

## 2 Beauty Bar

**location:**  
4746 El Cajon Blvd  
San Diego CA 92105

**DESCRIPTION:** The indie set that eschews the glitz of the Gaslamp Quarter flocks to this club, located in a rather sketchy part of town. Part of a minichain that includes outlets in New York, San Francisco, and Austin, it presents live music, as well special events like burlesque and fashion shows. Martini manicures available, too. Open daily from 7pm. © Frommer's

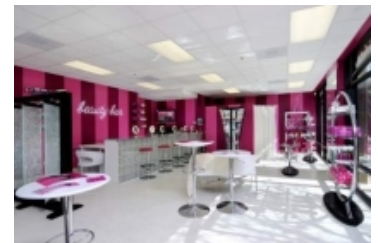


Photo courtesy of Beauty Bar.

Mon 8pm-2am Tue-Thu, Sat-  
Sun 9pm-2am Fri 6pm-2am

**contact:**

tel: (619) 814-1000  
[http://www.envysandiego.com/  
/IvyNightClub.aspx](http://www.envysandiego.com/IvyNightClub.aspx)

**location:**

630 F St  
San Diego CA 92101

**hours:**

Thu-Sat 5pm-2am

**3 Envy at the Ivy Hotel**

**DESCRIPTION:** This relatively new hot spot in downtown San Diego offers out-of-town guests a taste of big time city within casual-chic San Diego. The Envy at the Ivy Hotel is a four level nightclub perfect for anyone who just wants to escape - with a bottom level full of fist pumping beats, a rooftop for those looking to catch a great view and VIP guests galore.

© NileGuide



citysearch

**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

**4 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

**contact:**

tel: 619 231 6700  
fax: 619 231 6777  
[http://www.theshouhouse.co  
m/San\\_Diego/home.asp](http://www.theshouhouse.com/San_Diego/home.asp)

**location:**

655 4th Avenue  
San Diego CA 92101

**5 Shout! House (The)**

**DESCRIPTION:** As its name suggest, The Shout House is the place where you can scream, yell and just bellow your lungs out. This club offers unique entertainment. It has a dueling piano bar with talented musicians, who keep the night alive by playing all the audiences' requests. Sing along or just enjoy the night with some drinks and food. The restaurant is also available for private parties, events and receptions. © wcities.com



citysearch

**contact:**

tel: 619 233 4355  
fax: 619 232 9836  
<http://www.croces.com>

**location:**

802 5th Ave  
San Diego CA 92101

**hours:**

**6 Croce's Restaurant & Jazz Bar**

**DESCRIPTION:** Named for the late, great singer Jim Croce, this trendy spot in the downtown Gaslamp Quarter run by his wife, Ingrid, is an ideal place for people-watching, while enjoying live jazz entertainment. From time to time, the late performer's son (now known in his own right), pops in with his friends to jam. The food is good, unpretentious American and



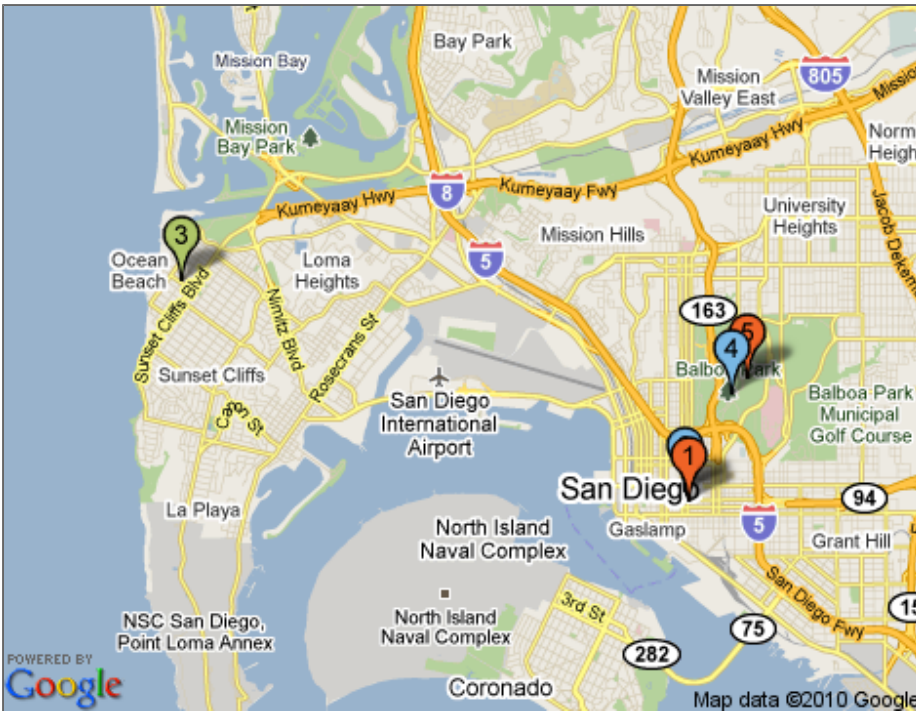
---

Mo to Fr from 05:30 PM to  
12:00 AM, Sa to Su from  
10:00 AM to 12:00 AM

you cannot go wrong with the selection of steaks and seafood,  
particularly the Grilled Ahi or Swordfish. © wcities.com

---

# Day 4 - San Diego



## QUICK NOTE

**DAY NOTE:** Local Recommendations: A Day in the life There isn't an area you should miss while in San Diego, so it may be difficult to choose just one category to see and taste while in the area. A must-have is the Gaslamp district where The Bitter End opens with a comedy hour brought to locals by SD resident Mal Hal, followed by an Asian/ Mexican inspired meal at the Red Circle, late night snacks found at the Farmer's Market in OB and finally an impromptu-concert at the Spreckel's Organ Pavilion, following a jog/walk through San Diego's classic Balboa Park. It's all here.

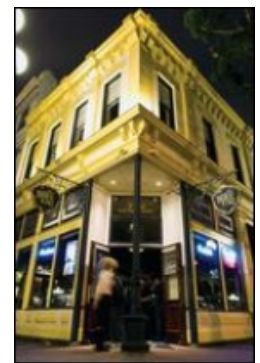
**contact:**  
tel: 619 338 9300  
fax: 619 338 0613  
<http://www.thebitterend.com>

**location:**  
770 Fifth Avenue  
San Diego CA 92101

## 1 The Topsy Crow

**DESCRIPTION:** Right in the middle of Gaslamp, The Bitter End is a low-key dive bar that is threateningly deceiving from the front but surprises local and tourist patrons with its multi-entry level that offers a VIP lounge, dance floor and basement venue for local and national comedy acts. Earning some press for performances by national comedy acts put together by local act Mal Hall, The Bitter End entertains all audiences with its swift drink and pounding music. There isn't anything you aren't going to get at The Bitter End, so park at Horton Plaza and enjoy a night where the streets are filled with gas.

© NileGuide



citysearch

**contact:**  
tel: +1 619 234 9211  
<http://redcirclesd.com/>

**location:**  
420 E Street  
San Diego CA 92101

**hours:**  
We to Sa from 07:00 PM to  
02:00 AM

## 2 Red Circle

**DESCRIPTION:** This relatively new entry onto the San Diego nightclub scene in the Gaslamp has attracted a loyal posse of followers. Striving for a classic decadence recalling the renowned clubs of Hollywood, the club also hosts celebrity events. The tapas-style snack prices are surprisingly reasonable and the standards of service are in sharp contrast to the idea of "laid-back San Diego". You can 'rent' a table for ten with a premium bottle, endless mixers, and a private VIP waitress for about \$275 and up. Unlike most venues in San Diego, the dress code is self-defined as "upscale" and is strictly enforced.



Red Circle

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

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

## 3 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 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



Photo courtesy of Ocean Beach MainStreet Association.

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

**location:**  
2211 Pan American Road  
San Diego CA 92101

**hours:**  
Concerts: 2p onwards Su

## 4 Spreckel's Organ Pavilion

**DESCRIPTION:** Aside from Spreckel's Organ being one of the world's largest outdoor pipes, this centerpiece for downtown's Balboa Park plays at the city's tendencies toward outdoor adventure, as annual outdoor excursions to Balboa Park wouldn't be complete without a trip to Spreckel's. Whether there is a special performance happening or not, the benches that line the front part of the stage are great places to enjoy picnics or each other's company. Yet during the season, events happen nightly - from holiday events to national ballet companies, where patrons enjoy a picnic and a show under the bright stars or shimmering San Diego sky.

© NileGuide





**contact:**  
tel: 619 557 9441  
www.pradobalboa.com

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

**hours:**  
Mon-Fri: 11:30am - 3pm Sat-  
Sun: 11am - 3pm Dinner: Tue-  
Sun at 5pm

## 5 The Prado at Balboa Park

### OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Make a reservation, and make a reservation early! During the summer and special occasions everything gets booked quickly!

**DESCRIPTION:** Graciously housed in the House of Hospitality, this venue has hosted myriad weddings, parties and intimate dinners. Casual elegance with a Spanish-fusion flavor is on the menu in the heart of Balboa Park. Zesty seafood paella, wild mushroom risotto, or adobo braised pork will all have your taste buds shouting "olé." The Chicken Milanese is richly flavored with garlic and sage, served with rosemary-infused potatoes with arugula in a tomato concasse. If you want plainer food, try the Prado Cheeseburger. The luscious dessert tray varies daily.  
© wcities.com



citysearch

# San Diego Snapshot

## History

While today San Diego is recognized for its picturesque beaches, family friendly activities and historical landmarks, during 20,000 BC the area was home to some of the richest herds of Caribou, bison and more. Eventually the natives most commonly referred to as the San Dieguito people began culturing the area just east of Rancho Santa Fe; descendants from the area moved to La Jolla (commonly referred to as La Jolla peoples) and established themselves around San Diego's modern day La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club. Named after the Catholic Saint Didacus, more often referred by his nickname San Diego, by Sebastian Vizcaino in 1602, the area was actually originally "San Miguel" by Spain's explorer Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo. With Cabrillo's death just a few months later, San Miguel (today's Point Loma) was no longer under Spain's flagship and Vizcaino took over.

The area, Point Loma and Mission Bay, had been inhabited by Kumeyaay Indians for 10,000 years. Plans to Christianize the area started immediately, as threats from "alta California" begin to loom. Father Junipero Serra – the infamous leader and founder of "El Camino Real" – began establishing the Mission San Diego de Alcalá, which marked the end of his famous California mission trail. The missionary crew got help by several European ships and two land groups, all of whom established camp in today's Old Town. The colonization was completed by 1797 when San Diego's Mission welcomed California's largest number of occupants. When Mexico won its independence from Spain, San Diego ("baja California") fell under the rule of the reigning country; the Presidio Hills welcomed some of the first residents to the area while California followed command under Mexico.

By 1825 San Diego is named the unofficial capital of both lower and upper California and just ten years later the first mayor was elected. That same year seaman Richard Henry Dana stepped onto San Diego's land following detailed accounts of his time at sea. The Mexican-American War ensues, finishing up in a bloody battle in today's Escondido. By 1850, just three years after California's brutal win against

Mexico, San Diego is named one of 27 original California counties – spanning as far east as the Colorado River into modern-day's Imperial County and the cities San Bernardino and Riverside. The city's first mayor is elected that year, while Cabrillo Monument's iconic image is captured for the first time on paper.

San Diego, now with a little more than 700 in its city, establishes the Weekly Union, which in just a few short years will become the San Diego Union-Tribune following mergers of the Union and Evening Tribune. John D. Spreckels is the paper's sole owner, who manages the business until 1928. Prominent businessman Alonzo Horton begins building the first wharf in the area in 1869 and later goes on to become one of the wealthiest men in the area – owning several blocks in today's downtown San Diego, among other establishments.

Gold rush hits San Diego in 1870, where mines produce \$2 million in gold (though the industry only lasts for another six years). The city continues to grow in population, nearly doubling in size as the city directory is published and the San Diego Society of Natural History is established. Typical city institutions finally begin to fashion a growing commerce with the establishment of several organizations like the Russ School, which will eventually be taught by Kate Sessions. When the transcontinental railroad reaches San Diego in 1885 the area begins promoting one of its most feasible resources – itself (today tourism makes up one of San Diego's biggest money-makers). The first tourists come just as construction for the Hotel del Coronado begins, welcoming guests in 1886 following the peninsula's acquisition by Elisha S. Babcock and H.L. Story.

Sessions, who began establishing a nursery upon her arrival to San Diego, purchases 36 acres of "City Park" which before long becomes known as Balboa Park. Eventually buildings are constructed in Balboa Park as San Diego hosts the 1915 Panama-California Exposition, while a large Organ Pavilion donated by resident Spreckles is also added to the venue. San Diego's now world famous San Diego Zoo is created only after Dr. Harry Wegeforth, who hoped to quarantine

animals for the 1915 Expo, petitioned for a permanent park.

Today's San Diego State University opened up as the State Normal School in 1899 in Normal Heights as a two year training college. Just four years later the Scripps Institution of Oceanography is established by University of California Zoology Professor William E. Ritter and Ellen Browning Scripps. Not before too long the University of San Diego is founded in Linda Vista (1954), followed merely a decade later by the University of California, San Diego in La Jolla.

San Diego becomes a Mecca for entertainment, with the 1929 establishment of the Fox Theatre, a prominent movie house and current home to the San Diego Symphony (Copley Symphony Hall) along with Balboa Park's Fine Arts Gallery. These mark just one of many that improve San Diego's artistic endeavors, with Del Mar Fairgrounds construction through a Work Progress Authority project and the San Diego's Civic Center debut.

The San Diego Padres moved from minor-league to Major League in 1968, opening up their season at the new San Diego Stadium (which would eventually become Petco Park). Sports become more prominent in the area beyond baseball with Escondido's Olympic training venue opening and the Super Bowl held in Qualcomm Stadium.

© NileGuide

## Nightlife Insights

### Art

Nightclubs

### Theater

### Film

### Music

### Sports

©

## Travel Tips

### Getting There

## San Diego Snapshot continued

### Air

San Diego International Airport(SAN)+1 619 400 2400<http://www.san.org>

SAN is located three miles from downtown and services the following airlines:

Aero Mexico(+1 800 237 6639/ <http://www.aeromexico.com>) Alaska Airlines(+ 1 800 426 0333/ <http://www.alaskaair.com>) Aloha Airlines(+1800 367 5250/ <http://www.alohaairlines.com>) American Airlines(+ 1 800 433 7300/ <http://www.aa.com>) Continental(+1 800 525 0280/ <http://www.continental.com>) Delta(+1 800 221 1212/ <http://www.delta.com>) Hawaiian Airlines(+1 800 367 5320/ <http://www.hawaiianair.com>) Jet Blue(+1 800 538 2583/ <http://www.jetblue.com>) Northwest(+1 800 225 2525/ <http://www.nwa.com>) Southwest(+1 800 434 9792/ <http://www.southwest.com>) United(+1 800 241 6522/ <http://www.ual.com>) US Airways(+1 800 428 4322/ <http://www.usairways.com>)

### From the Airport

Bus: There is public transportation to and from the airport via bus on Flyer Route no. 992.

Shuttle: There are also a number of taxis and shuttle services that offer airport transit including:

Airport Shuttle(+1 619 234 4403)  
Yellow Cab(+1 619 234 6161/ <http://www.driveu.com>) San Diego Cab(+1 619 226 8294)

Car Rental: Alamo(+1 800 327 9633/ <http://www.alamo.com>) Avis(+1 800 831 2847/

<http://www.avis.com>) Enterprise(+1 800 736 8227/ [http://www.enterprise.com/car\\_rental/home.do](http://www.enterprise.com/car_rental/home.do)) Flexcar(+1 619 262 3539/ <http://www.flexcar.com/undergrad>) Budget(+1 800 527 0700/ <http://www.budget.com>) Hertz(+1 800 654 3131/ <http://www.hertz.com>) Thrifty(+1 800 367 2277/ <http://www.thrifty.com>)

### Car Share

Another attractive ground transportation option is Flexcar, which operates in certain U.S. cities. This new breed of rental car allows you to rent on an hourly basis rather than a daily basis. Be sure to register online before your trip. Flexcar(+1 877 353 9227/ <http://www.flexcar.com>)

### Train

Amtrak(+1 800 872 7245/ <http://www.amtrak.com>) offers frequent services to San Diego.

### Bus

San Diego is serviced by Greyhound(+1 800 231 2222/ <http://www.greyhound.com>) bus lines which provide transportation to destinations throughout America.

### Car

San Diego is accessible by I-5, I-15, and US 15.

### Getting Around

#### Public Transit

The Metropolitan Transit System(MTS, 1+ 619 238 0100/ <http://www.sdcommute.com>) offers a comprehensive system of buses, trolleys, light rail trains, and commuter trains to destinations throughout San Diego.

N.B. If traveling overseas, take the safety precaution of registering your trip at <https://travelregistration.state.gov> and for helpful, practical advice about traveling technicalities and safety standards check out <http://travel.state.gov/>

©

### Fun Facts

**San Diego State:** California **Country:** United States

#### San Diego by the Numbers:

Population: 1.25 million Average Winter Temperature: 60 degrees F/15.5 degrees C Average Summer Temperature: 71 degrees F/22 degrees C

#### Quick Facts:

Electricity: 110 volts, 60Hz, standard two pin plugs Time Zone: GMT-8 Country Dialing Code: 1 Area Codes: 619, 760, 858

#### Did You Know?

From San Diego, you can walk across the border to Mexico!

Ever heard of a Zambian Sable Antelope? Well, the world-famous San Diego Zoo has one!

#### Orientation:

San Diego is located 120 miles south of Los Angeles and 20 miles north of Tijuana, Mexico.

©

## San Diego Snapshot continued

### Weather

Statistics	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Temperature C												
Average High	20	20	20	21	21	23	24	26	26	25	22	20
Average Mean	14	14	15	16	17	19	21	22	22	19	16	14
Average Low	8	9	10	12	14	16	18	18	18	14	10	8
Temperature F												
Average High	69	69	68	70	70	73	76	78	79	76	72	69
Average Mean	57	58	59	61	63	66	70	71	71	67	61	57
Average Low	46	48	50	53	57	60	64	65	64	58	50	46
Rainy Days	6	6	6	4	2	0	1	0	1	2	4	6
Rain Fall (cm)	5.0	5.0	5.3	1.8	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.5	1.0	2.8	3.0
Rain Fall (in)	2.0	2.0	2.1	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.4	1.1	1.2

© NileGuide