

San Diego

Balboa Park's Spanish-Renaissance museums, La Jolla's coves and year-round sun

San Diego is the sunniest city in America, with 70°F days most of the year, a Spanish-Renaissance park of 17 museums at Balboa, the best zoo in the country, an aircraft-carrier museum and 110 km of beach. Tacos in Barrio Logan, a cove at La Jolla and a sunset on Coronado are all within 20 minutes of downtown.

At a glance

AIRPORT	SAN, 10 min to downtown
BEST SEASON	All year; Sep-Nov warmest water
GETTING AROUND	Car useful · Trolley and Coaster train help

When to go

Any month. September to November has the warmest ocean and the fewest crowds. March to May is green from winter rains. Summer is busy but rarely above 26°C.

Getting around

The Trolley connects downtown, Old Town and the Mexican border. A car helps for La Jolla, Coronado and the beaches, but downtown, Balboa Park and the Gaslamp are walkable. Parking at beaches is tight on weekends.

What to see

Balboa Park	17 museums, the zoo, the Spanish-Renaissance towers and the organ pavilion.
Gaslamp Quarter	Victorian blocks, rooftop bars and the ballpark next door.
La Jolla	The Cove, the Children's Pool seals and kayaking the sea caves.
Coronado	The silver-sand beach, the Hotel del Coronado and the ferry from Broadway Pier.
Old Town	Mexican California's first capital; mariachi and tamales.
Barrio Logan	Chicano Park murals and the best fish tacos in the city.
Pacific Beach	The boardwalk, Crystal Pier and sunset surfer crowds.
USS Midway	A 1,000-foot carrier museum on the Embarcadero.

Tours worth booking

San Diego Zoo 1-day admission	Full day · Nature · 4.7/5 (6210 reviews)
San Diego whale-watching cruise	3.5 h · Nature · 4.5/5 (2180 reviews)
Universal Studios Hollywood day ticket	Full day · Adventure · 4.7/5 (4120 reviews)
Alcatraz Island day tour with ferry	2.5 h · Culture · 4.8/5 (8920 reviews)
Warner Bros Studio Tour Hollywood	3 h · Culture · 4.8/5 (3640 reviews)
Disneyland Park 1-day ticket with Genie+	Full day · Adventure · 4.8/5 (12480 reviews)

Where to stay

Le Parc at Mission Valley	San Diego · Mission Valley · Family · From \$210
Wayfarer San Diego	San Diego · Little Italy · Boutique · From \$240
The Beverly Hills Hotel	Beverly Hills · Sunset Boulevard · Historic · From \$850
Chateau Marmont	West Hollywood · Sunset Boulevard · Historic · From \$720
Hotel Erwin, Venice Beach	Venice Beach · boardwalk · Design · From \$380
Hotel Bel-Air	Bel-Air · canyon · Luxury · From \$1,100

Day-by-day itineraries

San Diego in 1 day	suitesandsunsets.com/itineraries/san-diego/1-day-itinerary
San Diego in 2 days	suitesandsunsets.com/itineraries/san-diego/2-day-itinerary
San Diego in 3 days	suitesandsunsets.com/itineraries/san-diego/3-day-itinerary

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