

CRAFT BEER + ADVENTURE ITINERARIES + TOP CHEFS + ARTS & CULTURE

SAN DIEGO

Official Fall / Winter Visitor Guide

378

Expert Travel Tips

Balboa Park's
Centennial Celebration

Family-Fun
Attractions

San Diego HAPPINESS
is calling
sandiego.org

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
San Diego
MAGAZINE

South Bay/Coronado



Laid-back beaches, bird sanctuaries and Tijuana-influenced cuisine are the hallmarks of San Diego's South Bay. Come and explore this unique area, just minutes from the U.S./Mexico border.

→ HORSEBACK RIDING

Trot on the beach or frolic through the flower-filled Tijuana River Valley with **Happy Trails**. Sunset rides are also available.

📍 2225 Hollister St., Imperial Beach

→ PORTWOOD PIER PLAZA

Check out "Surfhenge," four 16-20" acrylic surfboard shaped arches and the colorful collection of surfboard benches, then walk out on the pier and watch surfers ride the waves from above.

📍 10 Evergreen Ave., Imperial Beach

↘ SEA 180°

Head here for modern coastal fare served alongside sweeping oceanfront views of the Coronado Islands, South Bay and Mexico.

📍 800 Seacoast Drive (in the Pier South Resort)

→ TIJUANA ESTUARY

Four miles of walking trails lead visitors through the breeding, feeding and nesting grounds for 370 species of migratory and native birds (including six endangered species).

📍 301 Caspian Way, Imperial Beach

→ U.S. OLYMPIC TRAINING CENTER

Take a free, self-guided tour of the Chula Vista Olympic Training Center and watch athletes in training. The 1-mile walking path open to the public passes by the BMX track, athlete housing, softball and field hockey fields and archery range.

📍 2800 Olympic Parkway, Chula Vista

→ TJ OYSTER BAR

Get a taste of Tijuana without crossing the border at this cozy *mariscos* spot with some of the best fish tacos in town. Bonus: they're only 99 cents each.

📍 4246 Bonita Road, Bonita

→ ROMESCO MEDITERRANEAN BISTRO

Javier Plascencia, rock star of the Tijuana culinary world, serves as executive chef of this tapas gem. Try the Tijuana street fare like shrimp and mozzarella grilled tacos for lunch.

📍 4346 Bonita Road, Bonita



The Hotel del Coronado was built in 1888 for \$600,000 and furnished for \$400,000.



Hop on a Bike

The best way to explore Coronado is on two wheels. Rent a bike and ride along smooth, flat paths from the Ferry Landing to the Silver Strand and all points in between. Want a tour guide? Bike and Kayak Tours' "Tour de Coronado" hits all the hot spots.

📍 1201 First St., Suite 215

Leroy's Kitchen and Lounge

You can't beat the brisket burger with truffle fries and a \$5 craft draft during social hour.

📍 1015 Orange Ave.

TOP PICKS

CORONADO

Travel by Ferry

Hop on at either of two downtown locations and enjoy a 15-minute ride to the island.

📍 *Broadway Pier or Convention Center*

Brunch at the Hotel del Coronado

Feast on a lavish spread in the historical Crown Room, including seafood and sushi, international cuisine, a carving station, a gourmet bloody mary bar and an astounding array of sweets.

📍 1500 Orange Ave.

Coronado State Beach

Gentle waves and soft white sand make this vast beach perfect for families. At low tide, spot sea life in the tide pools in front of the Hotel Del.



Mexican Eats

Whether you're noshing in San Diego or taking a trip across the border, welcome to our wonderful world of Mexican cuisine.

→ PUESTO

Located at The Headquarters, this trendy spot blends high design (think graffiti art and giant hanging planters) with artful street food. Don't miss the trio of moles, mahi mahi tacos (with jalapeño peanut sauce) and handcrafted tequila libations.
 ♣ 789 W. Harbor Drive, downtown

→ EL CALLEJON

Locals frequent this friendly Encinitas eatery for its consistently good traditional fare, daily happy hour and freshly squeezed lime margaritas that pack a punch.
 ♣ 345 S. Coast Highway 101, Encinitas

→ LAS CUATROS MILPAS

The line may be long and the menu brief, but those in the know patiently wait for rolled tacos, tamales, burritos, chorizo with eggs, beans and rice at this flourishing third-generation family business.
 ♣ 1857 Logan Ave., Barrio Logan



➤ BIRRIA CHIVOS & CHEVES

Take the trek to National City for the tastes of Jalisco and enjoy the signature *birria* dish—spiced goat or beef stew cradled in house-made tortillas—along with spicy fresh salsas and a friendly crew.
 ♣ 2401 Highland Ave., National City



Puesto



Fun Fact: L.A. designer Thomas Schoos dreamed up the playful design of Puesto at The Headquarters.

→ LA ESPECIAL NORTE

This family-owned, low-key cafe is famous for its homemade soups, especially their Mexican-style chicken soup loaded with tender shredded chicken, cilantro rice and chunks of avocado. Delicious tortilla soup and plenty of fine traditional fare as well.
 ♣ 644 N. Coast Highway 101, Leucadia

→ ORTEGA'S

This Hillcrest gem celebrates Puerto Nuevo-style dining and serves regional specialties like grilled Baja-style lobster and fresh guacamole prepared tableside in a cantina setting. Try the plantain-crust snapper and pomegranate margarita as well.
 ♣ 141 University Ave., Hillcrest



← ROMESCO MEXITERRANEAN BISTRO

At this Javier Plascencia outpost, try several of his greatest hits, including the famous Caesar salad, beef cheek tacos and goat caramel crepes.
 ♣ 4346 Bonita Road, Bonita

BEST TACOS IN SAN DIEGO

Oscar's Mexican Seafood
 Pacific Beach
 and Hillcrest

Bull Taco
 Del Mar and
 Cardiff-by-the-Sea

Tacos Perla
 3000 Upas St.,
 North Park

City Tacos
 3028 University Ave.,
 North Park

Tacos El Gordo
 Chula Vista and
 Otay Mesa