

Things to Do in San Diego

This guide highlights the best things to do in San Diego, organized by vibe and activity to help you easily plan a perfect day or weekend.

Beaches & Coastal Experiences

- 1 Coronado Beach – Wide sandy beach with calm water and golden sparkling sand.
- 2 La Jolla Cove – Cliffs, sea lions, snorkeling, and clear water.
- 3 Pacific Beach – Lively boardwalk scene with bars and casual restaurants.

Nature & Outdoor Adventures

- 1 Sunset Cliffs Natural Park – Dramatic ocean cliffs and iconic sunsets.
- 2 Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve – Oceanfront hiking with incredible views.
- 3 Cabrillo National Monument – Panoramic views and tide pools.
- 4 Bike the Silver Strand between Coronado and Imperial Beach.
- 5 Kayak through the La Jolla sea caves.

Balboa Park Highlights

- 1 Spanish-style architecture and gardens.
- 2 San Diego Zoo – One of the world's best zoos.
- 3 Botanical Building photo area.
- 4 Free organ concerts on weekends.

Food Neighborhoods to Explore

- 1 Little Italy – Farmers Market, patio dining, and wine bars.
- 2 Gaslamp Quarter – Nightlife, rooftop bars, and live music.
- 3 Old Town San Diego State Historic Park – Historic buildings and Mexican food.

Waterfront & Harbor Experiences

- 1 Walk the Embarcadero promenade.
- 2 Visit the USS Midway Museum aircraft carrier.
- 3 Take a harbor cruise or sunset sailing.

Unique San Diego Experiences

- 1 Watch seals at Children's Pool Beach.
- 2 Enjoy rooftop drinks overlooking Petco Park.
- 3 Taco crawl in Barrio Logan.
- 4 Sunset at Mount Soledad viewpoint.

Shopping & Local Areas

- 1 Seaport Village – Waterfront shops and strolling.
- 2 Liberty Station – Food hall, art spaces, and relaxed local vibe.

Perfect 1-Day San Diego Plan

- 1 Morning: La Jolla Cove walk and coffee.
- 2 Lunch: Little Italy.
- 3 Afternoon: Balboa Park and Zoo or museums.
- 4 Sunset: Sunset Cliffs.
- 5 Night: Gaslamp dinner and rooftop drinks.