

# Coastal Convergence

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**S**an Diego may be more renowned for its coastal climate and resorts than its metropolitan attractions, but it's the second largest city in California and the eighth largest in the United States. The AAO annual session returns April 21-25 for its first visit since 1999.

Temperatures in late April consistently range into the high 60s, with lows in the upper 50s. Precipitation is unlikely, but morning fog or a shower is possible.

Ground transportation at San Diego International Airport is available at both terminals 1 and 2. Since the airport is less than four miles from the convention center, taxi fares are only about \$17 one way before tips. Shared shuttles can be hired at about \$10 each way. The Metropolitan Transit System ([www.sdmts.com](http://www.sdmts.com)) bus fare is \$2.25 each way.

The San Diego Trolley is the light-rail service of the MTS, connecting downtown to the eastern suburbs, Old Town, Mission Valley, and the Mexican border. One-way fares are \$2.50 for adults, but various pass combinations can be purchased from one-day to monthly. The North County Transit District's Coaster commuter train ([www.gonctd.com/coaster](http://www.gonctd.com/coaster)) runs north from downtown to Oceanside, connecting with Amtrak and other intercity rail services. Uber and Lyft also operate in San Diego, and the Free Ride service ([thefreeride.com](http://thefreeride.com)), using electric cars supported by advertising, runs in a loop around downtown all day; these ride-sharing companies all have apps for use on mobile devices.

## Attractions

For sightseeing, Old Town Trolley Tours ([www.trolleytours.com/san-diego](http://www.trolleytours.com/san-diego)) offer a number of routes and packages, covering much more than just the Old Town district. In addition, many companies provide scenic harbor cruises, dolphin and

Boldface names in this article are listed in the Directory on pp. 74-75 with their telephone numbers and street addresses. The online version of this article (freely accessible) includes live website links; visit the JCO Online Archive at [www.jco-online.com](http://www.jco-online.com).



The historic tower at the Museum of Man in Balboa Park. Photo © Scott Jones, Dreamstime.com.

whale watching, fishing charters, and water sports ([www.sandiego.org/articles/transportation/sandiego-aquatic-boat-tours-and-transportation.aspx](http://www.sandiego.org/articles/transportation/sandiego-aquatic-boat-tours-and-transportation.aspx)). Note that the protected Mission Bay is much calmer than San Diego Bay.

The historic **Gaslamp Quarter**, adjacent to downtown, offers a self-paced audio architecture tour on a downloadable app ([geotourist.com](http://geotourist.com)). **Old Town San Diego State Historic Park** contains the site of the first Spanish mission settlement in

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California, making it a must for aficionados of early Spanish-American history.

Coronado appears to be an island across San Diego Bay from the convention center, but it's actually connected to the mainland by the Silver Strand peninsula. There is no longer a toll to drive across the San Diego-Coronado Bridge in either direction. The 15-minute **Coronado Ferry**, departing every half-hour from the convention center and every hour from the Broadway Pier, costs \$4.75 each way. The elegant, 128-year-old **Hotel Del Coronado** deserves a visit.

The Embarcadero, stretching along the waterfront near the convention center, comprises Waterfront Park (with sculptures from the Port of San Diego Public Art Program), various cruise-line docks, and the Seaport Village shopping area. The **Maritime Museum of San Diego** holds one of the world's largest collections of historic ships. Nearby is the **USS Midway Museum**, aboard the nation's longest-serving aircraft carrier.

Just northeast of downtown is Balboa Park, America's largest urban cultural park at 1,200 acres. In addition to the iconic **San Diego Zoo**, it contains a vast array of gardens and horticultural collections, recreational activities, restaurants, and even a miniature railroad. Of its 15 museums, the most significant is the **San Diego Museum of Art**, with special exhibitions of sculptor Richard Deacon and modern Japanese prints on display during the convention. The **San Diego Natural History**



Facades of historic houses in the Gaslamp Quarter. Photo © Jorg Hackemann, Dreamstime.com.



HMS Surprise at the Maritime Museum of San Diego. Photo © Mvogel, Dreamstime.com.

**Museum** will feature “Ultimate Dinosaurs”, using 21st-century technology to explore the Mesozoic Era. The gemlike **Timken Museum of Art** will be showcasing “Witness to War”: etchings and lithographs by Jacques Callot, Francisco de Goya, and George Bellows. Other Balboa Park institutions include the **Centro Cultural de la Raza**, **Fleet Science Center** (with IMAX theater), **Marston House** (1905 home), **Mingei International Museum**, **Museum of Photographic Arts**, **San Diego Air & Space Museum**, **San Diego Art Institute** (featuring local artists), **San Diego Automotive Museum**, **San Diego Hall of Champions Sports Museum**, **San Diego History Center**, **San Diego Model Railroad Museum** (the world's largest), **San Diego Museum of Man** (anthropology), **Veterans Museum & Memorial Center**, and **WorldBeat Center** (indigenous cultures from around the world). The **Spreckels Organ Society** hosts a free concert at 2 p.m. every Sunday on the



San Diego Natural History Museum. Photo © F11photo, Dreamstime.com.

largest outdoor organ in the Western Hemisphere, housed in a pavilion within the park.

The downtown **San Diego Museum of Contemporary Art** will be exhibiting “Dimensions of Black”, a collaboration with the San Diego African American Museum of Fine Art; “Madame Curie”, a video installation by Jennifer Steinkamp; and sculpture by Tristano di Robilant. The region also has two interactive museums devoted to kids: the downtown **New Children’s Museum** and the **San Diego Children’s Discovery Museum** in Escondido. Also near Escondido is the **San Diego Zoo Safari Park**; the **Palomar Observatory**, with its 200" Hale Telescope, is on Palomar Mountain to the northeast.

For marine-life lovers, the venerable **Sea-World San Diego** is just north of Old Town on Mission Bay. Next door on the beach is **Belmont Park**, a retro-style amusement park. **Birch Aquarium**, housing more than 5,000 fish in 60 habitats, is farther north in La Jolla, at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography of the University of California-San Diego.

**Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve** is a spectacular wooded area with miles of walking paths and scenic ocean views, about a half-hour’s drive up the coast from the city. Even farther north, in Carlsbad, **The Flower Fields at Carlsbad Ranch** offer 50 acres of colorful plantings overlooking the Pacific. The Sweetwater Creek Band performs there on April 22, and April 24 is Bluegrass Day.

## Events

Opera fans won’t want to miss Giuseppe Verdi’s *La Traviata* at the **San Diego Opera**, April 22 and 25 in the Civic Theatre. The **San Diego Gay Men’s Chorus** offers a concert of Broadway tunes April 22 and 23 at the Historic Balboa Theatre. The **San Diego Symphony Orchestra** is presenting a kids’ concert, “Dr. Seuss’s *The Sneetches*”, on April 23 at Copley Symphony Hall. Also for the whole family, **Allegro 2017**, “Bringing Classy Bach!” is an all-day festival of world classical music staged on April 23 at the Del Mar Fairgrounds.

Reverend Horton Heat and Dale Watson perform a rockabilly show at **Belly Up** in Solana Beach on April 20. A seminal alt-rock band, the Pixies, brings its reunion tour to the **Cal Coast Credit Union Open Air Theatre** on April 22. That same night, Bob Marley’s old backup group, the Wailers, will be at the **Music Box**. Country favorite Clint Black sings at **Sycuan Casino** on April 23.

A play called *Red Velvet*, depicting a true story of backstage intrigue from early-19th-century London, will be running during the convention at **The Old Globe**. A new musical called *The Geeze and Me* is playing at the **Tenth Avenue Arts Center**. The **San Diego Repertory Theater’s** Roustabouts present the suspense drama *Margin of Error* at the Lyceum Space. Comedian Jay Larson appears April 21 and 22 at **The Comedy Store** in La Jolla. The 10th annual **CityBeat Festival of Beers** takes place on the afternoon of April 22 in North Park.



The historic aircraft carrier **USS Midway**, now a museum. Photo © F11photo, Dreamstime.com.

## DIRECTORY

### Events and Attractions

### Address\*

### Phone

Allegro 2017		
Del Mar Fairgrounds	2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd., Del Mar	(858) 755-1161
Belly Up	143 S. Cedros Ave., Solana Beach	(858) 481-8140
Belmont Park	3146 Mission Blvd.	(858) 228-9283
Birch Aquarium	2300 Expedition Way, La Jolla	(858) 534-3474
Cal Coast Credit Union Open Air Theatre	5500 Campanile Drive	(619) 594-0234
Centro Cultural de la Raza	2004 Park Blvd.	(619) 235-6135
CityBeat Festival of Beers	2223 El Cajon Blvd.	
The Comedy Store	916 Pearl St., La Jolla	(858) 454-9176
Coronado Ferry	900 N. Harbor Drive (Broadway Pier)	(619) 234-4111
Fleet Science Center	1875 El Prado	(619) 238-1233
The Flower Fields at Carlsbad Ranch	5704 Paseo Del Norte, Carlsbad	(760) 431-0352
Gaslamp Quarter	514 Fifth Ave.	(619) 233-5227
Hotel Del Coronado	1500 Orange Ave., Coronado	(619) 435-6611
Maritime Museum of San Diego	1492 N. Harbor Drive	(619) 234-9153
Marston House Museum & Gardens	3525 Seventh Ave.	(619) 297-9327
Mingei International Museum	1439 El Prado	(619) 239-0003
Museum of Photographic Arts	1649 El Prado	(619) 238-7559
Music Box	1337 India St.	(619) 795-1337
New Children's Museum	200 W. Island Ave.	(619) 233-8792
The Old Globe	1363 Old Globe Way	(619) 234-5623
Old Town San Diego State Historic Park	4002 Wallace St.	(619) 220-5422
Palomar Observatory	35899 Canfield Road, Palomar Mountain	(760) 742-2119
San Diego Air & Space Museum	2001 Pan American Plaza	(619) 234-8291
San Diego Art Institute	1439 El Prado	(619) 236-0011
San Diego Automotive Museum	2080 Pan American Plaza	(619) 231-2886
San Diego Children's Discovery Museum	320 N. Broadway, Escondido	(760) 233-7755
San Diego Gay Men's Chorus		
Balboa Theatre	868 Fourth Ave.	(619) 570-1100
San Diego Hall of Champions		
Sports Museum	2131 Pan American Plaza	(619) 234-2544
San Diego History Center	1649 El Prado	(619) 232-6203
San Diego Model Railroad Museum	1649 El Prado	(619) 696-0199
San Diego Museum of Art	1450 El Prado	(619) 232-7931
San Diego Museum of Contemporary Art	1100 Kettner Blvd.	(858) 454-3541
San Diego Museum of Man	1350 El Prado	(619) 239-2001
San Diego Natural History Museum	1788 El Prado	(877) 946-7797
San Diego Opera		
Civic Theatre	1100 Third Ave.	(619) 570-1100
San Diego Padres		
Petco Park	100 Park Blvd.	(619) 795-5000
San Diego Repertory Theater	79 Horton Plaza	(619) 231-3586
San Diego Symphony Orchestra		
Copley Symphony Hall	750 B St.	(619) 235-0804
San Diego Zoo	2920 Zoo Drive	(619) 231-1515
San Diego Zoo Safari Park	15500 San Pasqual Valley Road, Escondido	(619) 231-1515

\*San Diego, unless otherwise specified.

Events and Attractions (cont.)	Address*	Phone
SeaWorld San Diego	500 Sea World Drive	(619) 222-4732
Spreckels Organ Society	1549 El Prado	(619) 702-8138
Sycuan Casino	5469 Casino Way, El Cajon	(619) 445-6002
Tenth Avenue Arts Center	930 10th Ave.	(619) 920-8503
Timken Museum of Art	1500 El Prado	(619) 239-5548
Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve	12600 N. Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla	(858) 755-2063
USS Midway Museum	910 N. Harbor Drive	(619) 544-9600
Veterans Museum & Memorial Center	2115 Park Blvd.	(619) 239-2300
WorldBeat Center	2100 Park Blvd.	(619) 230-1190
<b>Dining</b>		
1500 Ocean Restaurant	1500 Orange Ave., Coronado	(619) 522-8490
Addison Del Mar	5200 Grand Del Mar Way	(858) 314-1900
Bice San Diego	425 Island Ave.	(619) 239-2423
BO-beau kitchen + bar	4996 W. Point Loma Blvd.	(619) 224-2884
Carnita's Snack Shack	1004 N. Harbor Drive	(619) 696-7675
Cucina SORELLA	4055 Adams Ave.	(619) 281-4014
CUCINA urbana	505 Laurel St.	(619) 239-2222
Eddie V's Prime Seafood	789 W. Harbor Drive	(619) 615-0281
The Grill at Torrey Pines	11480 N. Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla	(858) 777-6641
The Hake	1250 Prospect St., La Jolla	(858) 454-1637
Indigo Grill	1536 India St.	(619) 234-6802
Island Prime	880 Harbor Island Drive	(619) 298-6802
Market Restaurant + Bar	3702 Via de la Valle, Del Mar	(858) 523-0007
Mille Fleurs	6009 Paseo Delicias, Rancho Santa Fe	(858) 756-3085
Mister A's	2550 Fifth Ave., 12th floor	(619) 239-1377
NOBU San Diego	207 Fifth Ave.	(619) 814-4124
Oceana Coastal Kitchen	3999 Mission Blvd.	(858) 539-8635
Pamplemousse Grille	514 Via de la Valle, Solana Beach	(858) 792-9090
Searsucker	611 Fifth Ave.	(619) 233-7327
Truluck's Seafood, Steak and Crab House	8990 University Center Lane, La Jolla	(858) 453-2583
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In baseball, the **San Diego Padres** play host to the Arizona Diamondbacks April 18-20 and the Miami Marlins April 21-23 at Petco Park.

### Restaurants

Many of San Diego's top dining destinations focus on seafood, including **Eddie V's Prime Seafood**, **Island Prime**, and **Searsucker** in the convention center area; **Oceana Coastal Kitchen** on Mission Bay; **1500 Ocean Restaurant** at the Hotel Del Coronado; and **Truluck's Seafood, Steak and Crab House** and **The Hake** in La Jolla. Other options near the convention center are **BO-beau kitchen + bar** on Ocean Beach, **CUCI-**

**NA urbana** and **Mister A's** on Bankers Hill, **NOBU San Diego** in the Hard Rock Hotel, **Indigo Grill** (nuevo Latino) in Little Italy, and **Bice San Diego** in the Gaslamp Quarter.

A local favorite, **Carnitas' Snack Shack**, opened a branch on the Embarcadero less than a year ago. Another new entry is the pasta-oriented sister to **CUCINA urbana**, **cucina SORELLA**, in the Kensington neighborhood.

The finest Continental cuisines are generally found north of the city, including the superb **Addison Del Mar**, **Mille Fleurs** in Rancho Santa Fe, and **Pamplemousse Grille** in Solana Beach. Also well worth a drive are **The Grill at Torrey Pines** and **Market Restaurant + Bar** in Del Mar. □