



Surfers at Pacific Beach.

# San Diego Itinerary

By Archana Ram

## New and Classic Neighborhoods

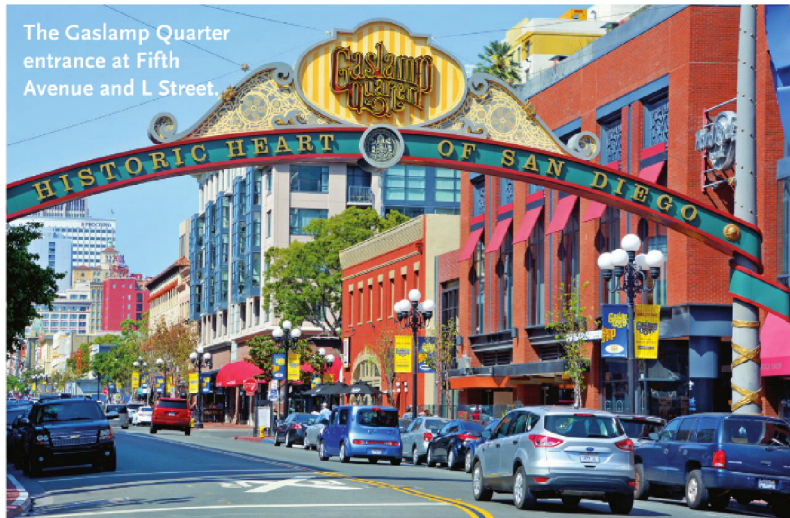
San Diego is renowned for having neighborhoods with their own distinctive sights, sounds and flavors. **Little Italy** blends urban energy with quintessential SoCal views. The main thoroughfares of India Street and Kettner Boulevard are lined with some of the city's hottest dining spots, including Juniper & Ivy and Bracero, as well as hip boutiques and the popular Saturday farmers market. • **Old Town** is where San Diego began, as a small settlement, in 1769. Today, visitors explore the preserved historic buildings, as well as restaurants and shops. • City history and modern cultural offerings are well represented in the **Gaslamp Quarter**, with its shops, galleries, museums and nightlife hot spots. • Craft brews rule in the hipster, pedestrian-friendly enclave of **North Park**, home to numerous bars, pubs and breweries. • Explore emerging art in **Barrio Logan**, anchored by the impressive outdoor murals at Chicano Park. Then pay a visit to La Bodega Gallery for art shows and the Chicano Art Gallery for gifts and decor by local artists.



Torrey Pines Golf Course.

## A Wealth of Beaches

Swimming, sunbathing and all kinds of water sports are cherished activities at beaches within San Diego's city limits, especially north of downtown. It frequently feels like a party at **Pacific Beach**, where 20-somethings and others are often found playing volleyball or swimming. The adjacent boardwalk area draws fun seekers of all ages thanks to grassy nooks, bike paths and nearby food establishments ranging from sleek restaurants to low-key coffee stands. • At the family-friendly **La Jolla Shores** (12 miles north of downtown), the gentle waves are ideal for children and newbie surfers. • La Jolla's **Windansea Beach** has generally smaller crowds and offers beautiful sands and a well-known surf break.



The Gaslamp Quarter entrance at Fifth Avenue and L Street.

## Dining Developments

Feast on San Diego's emerging Baja-Cali cuisine at **Bracero Cocina de Raíz** (619-756-7864; bracerococina.com), a 2016 James Beard Award semifinalist for Best New Restaurant, where Tijuana-born chef Javier Plascencia offers an upscale yet traditional take on Mexican cuisine, including shrimp-and-bone-marrow *sopes* and beef-cheek tacos. • At **Madison** (619-269-6566; madisononpark.com), dine on Mediterranean fare and sip craft cocktails in a stunning space with vaulted ceilings and geometric designs. • A coastal Italian menu—think wood-fired pizzas and fresh seafood—is served with an ocean view at **Catania** (858-551-5105; cataniasd.com). The restaurant's *aperitivo* event, held daily, offers discounts on food and drink as the sun goes down.

## Sports and Recreation

With the wealth of warm, sunny weather in San Diego, there are ample opportunities to get out and play sports—or to watch them. Golfers can enjoy teeing off at **Torrey Pines Golf Course**, perched on the cliffs of La Jolla, or at one of the **many other fine golf courses** in the San Diego area. • San Diegans love their baseball, and a trip to downtown Petco Park to catch a **San Diego Padres** game is a wonderful experience. • In fall, football fans will welcome the start of a new **San Diego Chargers** season at Qualcomm Stadium, in the Mission Valley area. ▲

Archana Ram is a San Diego-based food and travel writer.

## On Deck in San Diego

- ▶ **Art Alive**, April 29–May 1; floral arrangements of more than 100 permanent-collection works; San Diego Museum of Art; 619-232-7931; [sdmart.org](http://sdmart.org).
- ▶ **“Brush and Ink: Chinese Paintings from The San Diego Museum of Art Selected by Pan Gongkai,”** April 29–Sept. 4; traditional Chinese brush techniques from the 15th century through today; San Diego Museum of Art; 619-232-7931; [sdmart.org](http://sdmart.org).
- ▶ **Mission Federal ArtWalk**, April 30–May 1; more than 350 local, national and international emerging and established artists; live music; street food; and more; Little Italy; [artwalksandiego.org/missionfederal](http://artwalksandiego.org/missionfederal).

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