

50 Fun & Free

Summer

Activities in San Diego 2010



Having fun during the summer in San Diego doesn't require a lot of money. In fact, many things to see and enjoy in San Diego are absolutely free. With 70 miles of beautiful beaches, near-perfect weather and a variety of summer street fairs, concerts, art and cultural events, San Diego offers a fun and inexpensive summer getaway.

1. Put on your bathing suit, grab your towel and head to one of [San Diego's 70 miles of beaches](#), all open to the public and perfect to body surf, play in the sand, collect seashells or just bask in the sun.

2. [Summer "Concerts in the Park"](#) abound throughout San Diego County, including the Alpine Summer Concert Series at 6 p.m. on select Sundays at 1834 Alpine Boulevard; Annual Coronado Promenade Concerts at 6 p.m. on Sundays at Spreckels Park; Annual Encinitas Sunday Concerts by the Sea from 3-5 p.m. on Sundays at Moonlight Beach; Annual Lemon Grove Concerts in the Park from 6:30-8 p.m. on Thursdays at Berry Street Park; Carlsbad TGIF Jazz-in-the-Park Series at 6 p.m. on Fridays in different park locations throughout Carlsbad; Chula Vista Music in the Park at 4 p.m. on Sundays at the Memorial Bowl Park; Santee Summer Concerts from 6:30-8 p.m. on Thursdays at Santee Trolley Square Amphitheater; Summer in the Park Concerts from 6-8 p.m. at Trolley Barn Park on Adams Avenue, and Twilight in the Park Summer Concerts from 6:15-7:15 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at the Spreckels Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park.

3. Visit [Seaport Village](#) during the weekends for free entertainment while you window-shop in the Village's stores. Guests can also take a leisurely stroll along the bay-front or sit in the grass and watch passing yachts and ships along San Diego's beautiful Big Bay.



Seaport Village

4. Visit the 16½-block historic [Gaslamp Quarter](#) in downtown San Diego and view the renovated turn-of-the-century Victorian architecture, home to antique stores and art galleries.

5. Fly a kite at the [Tecolote Shores of Mission Bay Park](#), a 4,600-acre aquatic park. Away from trees and overhead wires, friends and family gather to launch colorful kites into the high-flying bayside breezes.

6. Enjoy [free organ concerts at the Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park](#). The Organ Pavilion features the world's largest outdoor pipe organ, a San Diego landmark for 84 years. (2 pm on Sundays and 7:30 pm on Mondays)

7. Visit [Old Town](#), full of Mexican lore, to take free flamenco dance lessons or to stroll through the variety of international shops. Wander freely through Old Town's historic buildings, including the blacksmith shop, the Seeley Stables, the Stewart House, the Estudillo House and the oldest schoolhouse in San Diego.



Street Vendors, Old Town

8. [Bike or jog along Mission Bay Park's many trails](#). Joggers and walkers share more than 20 miles of scenic running paths winding through sunlight and shade near the shoreline with workout courses at planned stations along the route.

9. Visit the [Arco Olympic Training Center](#) in Chula Vista for a free tour of the 150-acre facility, including training fields and tracks, athlete dorms and the Otay Lake Reservoir. Tours are offered daily starting at the Copley Visitor Center.

10. Take [free fishing lessons](#) on Saturday mornings from 10-11 am at Lake Cuyamaca in Julian, or [free fly-fishing lessons](#) on Sunday mornings from 9 am to Noon at Lake Murray in La Mesa. If you don't have your own gear, arrive early for a free equipment loan.

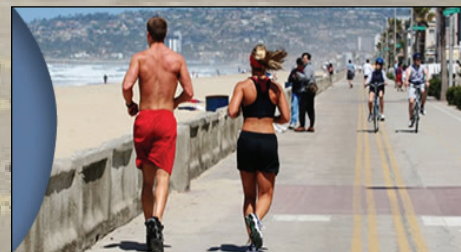
11. [Stargaze](#) outside the Reuben H. Fleet Space Theater on the first Wednesday of every month for "Stars in the Park." The San Diego Astronomy Association sets up huge telescopes and offers guests a great view of our magnificent evening sky.

12. Take a scenic, one-hour drive to [Mt. Laguna](#) for a hike, bike or picnic while enjoying the fresh mountain air. Stop at Julian on your way back to San Diego to sightsee in this century-old gold mining town.

13. Have a picnic at [Torrey Pines State Park](#) and watch the talented hang-gliders do tricks along the coastline.

14. Cross the border into colorful and exciting [Tijuana](#), Mexico where the entrance is free and the varieties of shops offer unique gifts and apparel.

15. [Rollerblade, skateboard or bicycle along the Mission Beach Boardwalk](#), a scenic 3-mile course through Mission and Pacific Beaches.



Mission Beach Boardwalk

16. Visit [Mission Trails Regional Park](#) to explore the cultural, historical and recreational aspects of San Diego. The Park's state-of-the-art Visitor's Center boasts a 94-seat theater where guests explore and learn about the wonders of nature and the people who once lived on the land. The park also offers 40 miles of natural and developed hiking and biking trails.

17. Go [scuba diving or snorkeling off San Diego's shores](#) to see spectacular creatures of the sea. La Jolla Cove offers some of the clearest waters on the California coast, as well as miles of protected underwater preserves to explore.

18. Don't miss the [La Mesa Flag Day Parade](#), featuring marching bands, floats and drill teams. The parade route begins at University Avenue and La Mesa Boulevard. **June 5th beginning at 10:00 am.**

19. Cheer on participants of the [Rock 'n Roll Marathon 2008](#) while listening to live bands lined along the 26.2-mile marathon route. **June 6th beginning at 6:30 am.**

20. Late at night join San Diegans [running with the grunion](#) on warm summer nights when the tide is high and the moon is full. Witness thousands of grunion swimming ashore to mate and bury their eggs in the sand before riding a wave back out to sea. **May 27-30, June 12-15 & 26-29, July 11-14 & 25-28, August 9-12 & 24-26.**

Compliments of:

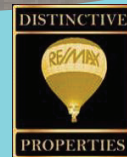
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21. Attend **28th Season of La Jolla Concerts by the Sea** on Sundays in the beautiful setting of picturesque Scripps Park at La Jolla Cove. Bring your blankets and picnic baskets and enjoy live musical entertainment, from Pops to Big Band Swing to Dixieland Jazz. **June 27th through September 5th, 2-4 pm.**



La Jolla Concerts by the Sea

22. While at **La Jolla Cove**, stay around to see the magnificent sunset on the ocean and watch sea lions play along its shore. La Jolla Cove is one of the most spectacular natural settings in the world.

23. Tour the **tidalands of San Diego's Big Bay** and see the impressive public art sculptures, tributes and memorials all along the shoreline. These projects celebrate San Diego's international ties, cultural diversity, military significance and unique oceanfront environment.

24. Attend the **31st Annual Ocean Beach Street Fair & Chili Cook-off**, featuring more than 200 vendors, works by local artists, food, children's area and entertainment on three stages. **Saturday June 26th from 10 am to 8 pm.**

25. Join the festivities at **San Diego's Fourth of July celebrations**. Fireworks, festivals and patriotic parades are held in numerous communities throughout the county.

26. Don't miss the **30th Annual U.S. Open Sandcastle Competition** in Imperial Beach. Hundreds of sand sculpting artists from around the country gather to create magnificent works of art using only sand and water. The event also features a parade, children's sandcastle contest and fireworks display. **August 6-8th at the Imperial Beach Pier.**

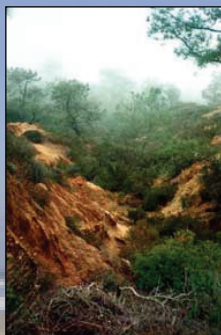
27. Watch the **57th Annual World Championship Over-the-Line Tournament**, San Diego's most popular beach and softball event on Fiesta Island in Mission Bay. **July 10-11 and 17-18 beginning at 7 am.**

28. Join the festivities at the **36th Annual San Diego Lesbian and Gay Parade, Rally and Festival**, one of the most popular events of its kind in the country. Hillcrest on University Avenue between Normal Street and 6th Avenue. **Parade July 17, Festival July 17-18.**

29. Cheer on national and international youth soccer players at the **30th Annual San Diego Surf Cup Soccer Tournament** at the San Diego Polo Club in Del Mar. This nationally-recognized amateur tournament draws players ages 10-18 from 30 states and several countries from around the world. **U10-15 July 24-26 & U16-19 July 31 through August 1-2 beginning at 8:30 am.**

30. Put on your jeans and cowboy boots and attend the **Ramona Country Fair Days** featuring old-fashioned country fun, a parade on Saturday and lots of entertainment. **July 29-August 1.**

31. Go on a **bird watching tour of the Torrey Pines State Reserve** on Saturday and Sunday mornings, or simply enjoy the spectacular views of the dramatic cliffs overlooking the Pacific, deep valleys and majestic pine trees in this scenic 1,000-acre wilderness playground.



Torrey Pines State Reserve

32. Bird watching is also featured at the **Chula Vista Nature Center**, located on the Sweetwater Marsh National Wildlife Refuge in South Bay. Get an up-close look at burrowing owls, walk through an enclosed shore bird exhibit and observe birds and other wildlife on two bird-watching platforms.

33. Gather your family, friends and firewood and have a cozy beach bonfire at one of the select **beaches around San Diego County, including Coronado Beach, La Jolla Shores and Mission Beach.**

34. **Get up-close and personal with the San Diego Chargers** as they train for the 2010 NFL football season at Chargers Park, 4020 Murphy Canyon Road, San Diego. Charger players often take time out of training to meet fans and sign autographs. **Late July through August.**

35. **Take a walk around Balboa Park** to discover its beautiful architecture. Take advantage of the variety of free offerings, including 15 museums (**select museums free on Tuesdays**), tours of the park, organ concerts (Sundays and Mondays) and spectacular gardens (seven of the eight are free on a regular basis).

36. Visit other museums around town that offer similar free days. In its La Jolla and downtown facilities, the **Museum of Contemporary Art is free the first Sunday each month.**

37. Celebrate the culture of Latin American at the **28th Annual Latin American Festival at Bazaar del Mundo** in Old Town. The event features guest artists, entertainment, demonstrations, and food booths. **August 6-8.**

38. Don't miss the Annual **Hillcrest Cityfest 2010 Street Fair**, featuring fine arts, crafts, food booths, entertainment and a beer garden. **August 8 from Noon to 8 pm.**

39. View objects in the clear night sky at the **Julian StarFest** in the historic mountain town of Julian. The festival takes place at the Menghini Winery and overnight camping is available. **August 6-9.**

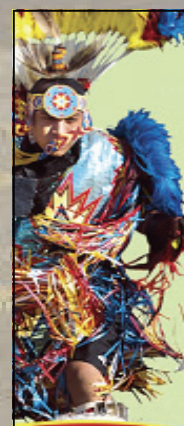
40. Watch international and U.S. body surfers, equipped with only a pair of swimming fins, ride and perform on ocean waves during the **34th Annual World Body Surfing Championships** at the Oceanside Pier. **August 21-22 from 7 am to 6 pm.**

41. Join the festivities at the Cabrillo National Monument to celebrate the **93rd anniversary of National Park Service Founder's Day**. Enjoy spectacular views of the city skyline from the catwalk on the Old Point Loma Lighthouse tower. This is the only day during the year when entrance into the park is free. **August 25.**

42. While in Point Loma, explore the **tide pools** when the tide is low and the pools are visible to see some of the magnificent creatures of the sea. Point Loma tide pools are located just short of the tip of Cabrillo Point.



Tide Pools at Point Loma



Pow Wow

43. Don't miss the **40th Barona Pow Wow** at the Barona Indian Reservation in San Diego's East County. The event features food, Native American dance, arts and crafts. **August 27-29.**

44. For more Pow Wow excitement, attend the **Traditional Gathering and 21st Annual Pow Wow** at the Sycuan Indian Reservation. The Sycuan Band of Kumeyaay Nation's Traditional Gathering features Native American song, dance, arts, crafts and food. **September 3-5 from Noon to Midnight.**

45. Cheer on participants or compete yourself in the **80th La Jolla Rough Water Swim**, the largest competition of its kind in the country. In its 79th year, the event takes place at La Jolla Cove, beginning at 9 am. **September 11.**

46. Go on a self-guided walking tour of **The Stuart Collection**, a display of contemporary sculptures scattered throughout the campus of the University of California, San Diego.

47. Take a scenic drive to **San Diego's North County** for a free wine tasting at the Bernardo Winery in Rancho Bernardo. **9 am to 5 pm daily.**

48. Take a drive to the top of **Mt. Soledad** in La Jolla for breathtaking, 360-degree views of San Diego.

49. Other spectacular views await guests at the top of **Mt. Helix**, offering magnificent 360-degree views of San Diego's East County communities.

50. Visit **Anza-Borrego Desert State Park** and experience the heat and natural beauty of the desert. The 600-acre park is one of the largest state parks in the United States.



Events subject to change. All information deemed reliable but not guaranteed. Not responsible for any errors or omissions or the results obtained from use of such information.



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