

## San Diego Walking and Hiking Internet Resources

*Thanks to Patricia Murray for this fine resource.  
(initial rough draft, not all info has been verified)*

**American Hiking Society** (hiking resources) - <https://americanhiking.org/hiking-resources/>

**America Walks** (list of walking groups, by state) - <https://americawalks.org/local-walking-organizations/#CA>

**Best hiking trails** - <https://www.alltrails.com/us/california/san-diego>

**CA Dept Parks & Recreation “Take a Hike” resources** - [https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=23997](https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=23997)

**Canyoneers (Natural History Museum)** - <https://www.sdnhm.org/education/canyoneer-hikes/>

**Frommer’s San Diego Walking Tours** <https://www.frommers.com/destinations/san-diego/walking-tours>

**Grossmont Mall Walkers Fitness Program** - <https://www.sharp.com/health-classes/grossmont-mall-walkers-fitness-program-2047>

**Hiking, Biking and Equestrian Trails** - <https://www.sdparcs.org/content/sdparcs/en/buttons/TrailsButton.html>

**Hiking Guy** - <https://hikingguy.com/hike/hiking-trails/hiking-san-diego/>

**Hiking Ladies** – <https://hikingladies.com/>

**Hiking Project (Hiking Clubs in CA)**- <https://www.hikingproject.com/directory/clubs/california>

**Hiking San Diego** – <https://www.hikingsandiego.com/>

**Hiking Trails** - <https://www.sandiego.org/explore/things-to-do/sports/hiking.aspx>

**Nature Unplugged** – <https://www.natureunplugged.com/>

San Diego Hiking Network – <https://www.facebook.com/groups/738194866391446/>

San Diego Hiking Club - <https://sandiegohikingclub.org/>

San Diego North County Sierra Club - <https://sierraclubncg.org/>

San Diego Sierra Club – [www.sandiegosierraclub.org](http://www.sandiegosierraclub.org)

Walk with a Doc (Balboa Park area)- <https://walkwithadoc.org/join-a-walk/locations/california/>

**Walkabout San Diego (new!)- <https://walkabout-sd.org/>**

Walking Groups - [https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/hhsa/programs/ais/health\\_promotion/Walking-Groups-in-San-Diego-County.pdf](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/hhsa/programs/ais/health_promotion/Walking-Groups-in-San-Diego-County.pdf)

Women in the Wild - <https://www.sdparks.org/content/sdparks/en/participate/WomenintheWild.html>

### **PAID WALKING TOURS:**

GPS My City (paid) - <https://www.gpsmycity.com/gps-tour-guides/san-diego-1033.html>

Guided Walking Tours (paid) - <https://www.getyourguide.com/san-diego-l263/walking-tours-tc3/>

San Diego Walks (paid) - <https://sandiegowalks.net/>

San Diego Explorer (paid) - <https://sandiegoexplorer.com/best-san-diego-walking-tours/>

Tour Freely GPS Drive and Walk Audio tours (paid) - [www.tourfreely.com](http://www.tourfreely.com)

## San Diego Walking Groups

Group	Region	Site & Address	Date & Time	Contact	Additional Info
Walk to Wellness	Central	<i>AgeWell Services, City of San Diego Parks &amp; Recreation Park de la Cruz Community Center 3905 Landis Street San Diego, CA 92105</i>	Saturdays, 8:30-9:30am Sept. 11 <sup>th</sup> – Nov. 20 <sup>th</sup>	AgeWell Services (619) 525-8247 <a href="mailto:thescroll@sandiego.gov">thescroll@sandiego.gov</a>	55+ Registration required Register at <a href="http://sdreconnect.com">sdreconnect.com</a>
Walking Group	Central	<i>Serving Seniors Gary &amp; Mary West Senior Wellness Center 1525 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101</i>	Thursdays, 8:45-10am	(619) 235-6572	
Glide n Stride Walkers	Central	<i>Fourth District Seniors Resource Center Charles L Lewis III Assembly Room 570 South 65<sup>th</sup> Street San Diego, CA 92114</i>	Wednesdays 11-12pm	(619) 266-2066	55+
Chula Vista Walks	South	<i>Norman Park Senior Center 270 F Street Chula Vista, CA 91910 *Meeting at the Marina until September</i>	Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:30-10:30am	(619) 409-1930	Meeting locations vary, please call the number listed to verify current meeting location.
La Mesa Walks	East	<i>City of La Mesa Location varies</i>	Wednesdays, 9am	(619) 667-1322 or <a href="mailto:recreation@cityofamesa.us">recreation@cityofamesa.us</a>	<a href="http://www.cityofamesa.us/urbantrails">www.cityofamesa.us/urbantrails</a> or join “Connect La Mesa” meetup group for updates
Mall Walkers	East	<i>SHARP Senior Resource Centers Grossmont Center Mall Food Court 5500 Grossmont Center Drive La Mesa, CA 91942</i>	Saturdays, 8am & 9am	(619) 740-4214	No registration or fees required
Senior Walking Club	East	<i>County of San Diego Parks &amp; Recreation Spring Valley County Park Gazebo</i>	Tuesdays & Wednesdays 9-	(619) 479-1832	55+ No registration or fees

		8735 Jamacha Boulevard Spring Valley, CA 91977	10am		required
CLUB Walk	South	<i>Paradise Valley Hospital</i> Plaza Bonita Food Court (2 <sup>nd</sup> Level) 3030 Plaza Bonita Road National City, CA 91950 <i>*Enter through entrance next to The Broken Yolk restaurant on the East side of the mall</i>	Thursdays, 9-10:30am	(619) 470-4346	Registration required, no fees
Merry-Go-Round Walk	Central	<del><i>Walkabout International</i></del> Zoo Place & Park Boulevard San Diego, CA 92101 <i>*Meet at the Carousel in front of the San Diego Zoo</i>	Sundays, 8:15am-11:15am	(858) 735-7557	
Sunrise Series	Varies	<del><i>Walkabout International</i></del>	Mondays & Thursdays, 6:30am	<del>(619) 231-7463</del>	Meeting locations vary. Please visit <a href="http://www.walkabout-int.org">www.walkabout-int.org</a> to learn more.

## MEMBERSHIP GROUPS

Front Runners & Walkers (all ages)	Central	<i>Front Runners &amp; Walkers</i> 6 <sup>th</sup> Avenue & Laurel San Diego, CA 92103	Saturdays, 8am	(619) 857-8719 or <a href="http://frwsd.org">frwsd.org</a>	Membership required; <a href="http://frwsd.org">Membership Form - Front Runners &amp; Walkers (frwsd.org)</a>
Walking Group 'Street Walkers'	North Coastal	<i>Oceanside Newcomers &amp; Friends</i>	Thursdays, 9am	<a href="mailto:onfcontact@gmail.com">onfcontact@gmail.com</a>	Membership dues \$30 per year; non-members can participate as a guest in any 2 activities
YMCA Walking Club (all ages)	North Central	<i>Ryan Family YMCA</i> 4390 Valeta Street San Diego, CA 92107 <i>*Front entrance meeting area</i>	Wednesdays, 8-8:50am	(619) 226-8888	YMCA membership required. No registration or additional fees. Can participate in the class for free as a guest twice with a guest pass.

YMCA Walking  
Club (all ages)

North  
Coastal

*Magdalena Ecke Family YMCA*  
200 Saxony Road  
Encinitas, CA 92024

Saturdays,  
8:15-9:45am

(760) 942-9622

YMCA membership required. No  
registration or additional fees.  
Can participate in the class for

## **MEET-UP HIKES:**

### **San Diego Day Hikers**

**Cost to Join:** Free

**Location:** San Diego

**Link:** <https://www.meetup.com/sandiegodayhikers>

**Description:** This group has over 19,000 members with consistent events for nearly 30 years. They have hiking events at least once a month and as of 2021 they host weekday hikes. The hiking events have helpful descriptions of the hike with the trail distance and trail difficulty. It is very organized and active.

### **Take a Hike**

**Cost to Join:** Free

**Location:** El Cajon, CA

**Link:** <https://www.meetup.com/takeahikesd/>

**Description:** Take a Hike focuses on meeting other hiking enthusiasts. They practice leave no trace and their hikes are intermediate and higher. This is a great group to join for more challenging hikes. They require a photo of you before joining and attending the events. This group has had over 6,000 events in the past. Great group to join for events in the east part of San Diego.

### **Hiking in San Diego**

**Cost to Join:** Free

**Location:** San Diego, CA

**Link:** <https://www.meetup.com/Outdoor-life/>

**Description:** Hiking in San Diego is for those looking to meet other hikers for ongoing hikes. This is also a great group if you are not familiar with San Diego and want others to explore with. There is no skill level or experience required. The hiking events list the trail distance and hiking difficulty so you can easily pick a hike based on your current experience. The hikes range from beginner level to more strenuous hikes.

### **Hike with San Diego Sierra Club**

**Cost to Join:** Free

**Location:** San Diego, CA

**Link:** <https://www.meetup.com/Hike-with-San-Diego-Sierra-Club/>

**Description:**

Hike with San Diego Sierra Club is a great group to join if you are looking to explore areas in and outside of San Diego. Each event is lead by experienced volunteer. All San Diego hikes are free to members, but the out of town events vary by price due to transportation and lodging costs. They have had 200 events in the past and are a very organized group.

### Hiking for Fun in San Diego

**Cost to Join:** Free

**Location:** San Diego, CA

**Link:** <https://www.meetup.com/HikeSD/>

**Description:** Hiking for Fun in San Diego markets itself as summer camp for adults. This group has a lot of non-hiking social events and out of town trips. They have had over 400 events in the past. Their trips have ranged from Sequoia National Park to Yosemite National Park. This is a good group to check out to figure out of town hiking trips.

### San Diego Hikers Association

**Cost to Join:** Free

**Location:** San Diego, CA

**Link:** <https://www.meetup.com/San-Diego-Hikers-Association/>

**Description:** This group focuses on local San Diego hikes. They also have potluck picnic bonfires at Mission Bay to help create new friendships. They have had over 375+ events in the past with recurring hikes at Mission Bay and Marian Bear Park.

### Casual Hikers of SD 20's and 30's

**Cost to Join:** Free

**Location:** San Diego, CA

**Link:** <https://www.meetup.com/casualhikerssd/>

**Description:** This group focuses on hikers that want to hike at a slower pace and meet other like-minded individuals between the ages of 20 to 30. The vibes of this group are more relaxed and to take in the views of the hike. This group has had over 160 events in the past consisting mostly of local San Diego hikes.

### North County Hikers

**Cost to Join:** Free

**Location:** North County, CA

**Link:** <https://www.meetup.com/northcountyhikers/>

**Description:** With San Diego being such a large city, this group focuses on exploring the outdoors with those in Northern San Diego County. While most of their hikes are in north county, they do explore other areas as well. This is a consistent group with over 2,587 events in the past.

## Organized Hikes in San Diego County

- San Diego Natural History Museum's **Canyoneer Nature Walks** - <https://www.sdnhm.org/education/canyoneer-hikes/>
- **San Diego Day Hikers** meetup - <https://www.meetup.com/sandiegodayhikers/>
- The **San Diego Chapter of the Sierra Club** leads many [hikes in the area](#). They publish a bimonthly newsletter, the [Hi-Sierran](#) for chapter members - <https://sandiegosierraclub.org/>
- **Seaside Hiking Club** has organized hikes once or twice per week. During the summer they hike on Thursday evenings along the San Diego North County coast. Sunday hikes are farther inland.
- The **San Diego Hiking Club**, North County chapter - <https://sandiegohikingclub.org/>
- Philip Erdelsky leads a monthly hike in San Diego County - <http://www.efgh.com/hike/> and <https://www.meetup.com/sandiegodayhikers/>
- The [American Volkssport Association](#) has regular "walking events" - <https://ava.org/>
- Ham Radio Operators have a [Hikers' Net](#) at 9 p.m. on Friday nights, used to arrange future hikes. Some of the hikes that are scheduled more in advance are posted on their website.
- ~~[Guided Adventures In Nature](#), half day, full day, and multi-day hikes, bikes, and kayak *guided* trips, which of course requires a fee.~~

## Walking and Hiking Clubs

### California Walking Clubs

<http://www.californiaforvisitors.com/activities/walking-clubs.htm?>

### California Hiking Clubs

<https://www.hikingproject.com/directory/clubs/california>

### [Footsore Fiends](#)

Carlsbad, North San Diego County

### [Coronado Beachcombers](#)

San Diego, CA 92120

### [Urban Walkers San Diego](#)

San Diego, CA

### [San Diego County Rockhoppers](#)

Poway, San Diego County

### [South Bay Roadrunners](#)

San Diego, San Diego County

**Serving Seniors Walking Group** - <https://servingseniors.org/get-involved/volunteer.html/title/walking-group-champions>

**Description:** Join our senior walking group for a 45–60-minute walk around the downtown area. Enjoy fresh air, visit scenic and historic sites in downtown San Diego, and get to know our seniors! The Walking Group meets every Tuesday and Thursday at 8:45 AM.

**Location:** Start and end at the Gary and Mary West Senior Wellness Center, 1525 Fourth Ave, San Diego, CA 92101. Walking route varies; navigation provided by one of our senior Walking Group Guides.

## Frommer's Walking Tour 1 in San Diego: The Gaslamp Quarter

**Start:** Fourth Avenue and E Street, at Horton Plaza

**Finish:** Fourth Avenue and F Street

**Time:** Approximately 1 1/2 hours, not including shopping and dining.

**Best Times:** During the day. **Worst Times:** Evenings, when the area's popular restaurants and nightspots attract big crowds.

A National Historic District covering 16 1/2 city blocks, the Gaslamp Quarter contains many Victorian and Edwardian commercial buildings built between the Civil War and World War I. The quarter -- featuring electric versions of old gas lamps -- lies between Fourth Avenue to the west, Sixth Avenue to the east, Broadway to the north, and L Street and the waterfront to the south. The blocks are not large; developer Alonzo Horton knew corner lots were desirable to buyers, so he created more of them. This tour hits some highlights along Fourth and Fifth avenues; Fifth Avenue, in fact, was named one of "America's Great Streets" by the nonprofit educational group the American Planning Association. If this whets your appetite for more, the **Gaslamp Quarter Historical Foundation**, 410 Island Ave. (tel. **619/233-4692**; [www.gaslampquarter.org](http://www.gaslampquarter.org)), offers guided walking tours every Saturday at 11am (\$10, including museum admission, or \$8 for seniors, students, and military; free for children 11 and under). The book *San Diego's Gaslamp Quarter*, jointly produced by the GQHF, the San Diego Historical Society, and the Gaslamp Quarter Association, makes an excellent, lightweight walking companion; it has then-and-now photos and historical background.

The tour begins at:

### **1. Horton Plaza**

It's a colorful conglomeration of shops, eateries, and architectural flourishes -- and a tourist attraction. Ernest W. Hahn, who planned and implemented the redevelopment and revitalization of downtown San Diego, built the plaza in 1985. This core project, which covers 12 acres and 6 1/2 blocks in the heart of downtown, represents the successful integration of public and private funding.

The ground floor at Horton Plaza is home to the **Jessop Street Clock**. The timepiece has 20 dials, 12 of which tell the time in places throughout the world. Designed by Joseph Jessop, Sr., and built primarily by Claude D. Ledger, the clock stood outside Jessop's Jewelry Store on Fifth Avenue from 1907 until being moved to Horton Plaza in 1985. Until recently, it had reportedly stopped only three times in its history: once after being hit by a team of horses, once after an earthquake, and again on the day in 1935 when Mr. Ledger died.

Exit Horton Plaza on the north side, street level, near ~~Macy's~~. At the corner of Fourth and Broadway is:

## **2. Horton Plaza Park**

Its centerpiece is a **fountain** designed by well-known local architect Irving Gill and modeled after the monument of Lysicrates in Athens. Dedicated October 15, 1910, it was the first successful attempt in the United States to combine electric lights with flowing water. On the fountain's base are bronze medallions of San Diego's "founding fathers": Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo, Father Junípero Serra, and Alonzo Horton.

Walk south along Fourth Avenue to the:

## **3. Balboa Theatre**

Constructed in 1924, the Spanish Renaissance-style building, at the southwest corner of Fourth Avenue and E Street, has a distinctive tile dome, striking tile work in the entry, and two 20-foot-high ornamental waterfalls inside. In the theater's heyday, plays and vaudeville took top billing. After years of sitting dormant and decrepit, the renovated Balboa ([www.sandiegoteatres.org](http://www.sandiegoteatres.org)) is hosting live performances of dance, theater, music, and spoken word once again.

Cross Fourth Avenue and proceed along E Street to Fifth Avenue. The tall, striking building to your left at the northeast corner of Fifth and E is the:

## **4. Watts-Robinson Building**

Built in 1913, this was one of San Diego's first skyscrapers. It once housed 70 jewelers and is now a boutique hotel. Take a minute to look inside at the marble wainscoting, tile floors, ornate ceiling, and brass ornamentation.

Return to the southwest corner of Fifth Avenue and E Street. On the opposite side of the street, at 837 Fifth Ave., is the unmistakable "grand old lady of the Gaslamp," the twin-towered baroque revival:

## **5. Louis Bank of Commerce**

You can admire the next few buildings from the west side of the street and then continue south from here. Built in 1888, this proud building was the first in San Diego made of granite. It once housed the city's first ice-cream parlor; an oyster bar frequented by legendary lawman Wyatt Earp (of OK Corral shootout fame); and the Golden Poppy Hotel, a brothel run by a fortuneteller, Madame

Coara. After a fire in 1904, the original towers of the building were removed, and the iron eagles perched atop them disappeared. A 2002 renovation installed a new pair of eagles, cast at the same English foundry as the originals.

On the west side of Fifth Avenue, at no. 840, near E Street, you'll find the:

### **6. F. W. Woolworth Building**

Built in 1910, this building had been the site of San Diego Hardware since 1922. Sadly, the store relocated to friendlier confines in 2006, and the space was most recently an outlet for American Apparel. Hopefully, the amazing hammered-tin ceiling and the rounded glass display windows will survive, whatever venture is coming in next.

Across the street, at 801 Fifth Ave., stands the two-story:

### **7. Marston Building**

This Italianate Victorian-style building dates from 1881 and housed businessman and philanthropist George W. Marston's department store for 15 years. In 1885, San Diego Federal Savings' first office was here, and the Prohibition Temperance Union held its meetings here in the late 1880s. Ironically, the site was later occupied by a series of bars and strip clubs. After a fire in 1903, the building was remodeled extensively. The current restaurant/bar in residence, retro-themed **Analog**, features odes to albums, cassettes, and tall-boy beers.

The redbrick, Romanesque revival on the northwest corner of Fifth Avenue and F Street is the:

### **8. Keating Building**

A San Diego landmark dating from 1890, this structure was nicknamed the "marriage building." It was developed by businessman George Keating, who died halfway through construction; his wife, Fannie, finished the project, changing some of the design along the way. She had her husband's name engraved in the top cornice as a tribute to him. Originally heralded as one of the city's most prestigious office buildings, it featured conveniences such as steam heat and a wire-cage elevator. A boutique hotel, the **Keating Hotel**, is now ensconced here.

Continuing south on Fifth Avenue, cross F Street and stand in front of the:

## **9. Spencer-Ogden Building**

It's on the southwest corner at 770 Fifth Ave. Built in 1874, this is one of the oldest buildings in the Gaslamp Quarter -- and it's lucky to still be standing. It escaped major damage after an explosion in 1887 caused by a druggist who was making fireworks. Other tenants over the years included realtors, an import business, a home-furnishings business, and a "Painless Parker" dental office. Edgar Parker owned a chain of dental offices and legally changed his name to "Painless" in order to avoid claims of false advertising.

Directly across the street stands the:

## **10. William Penn Hotel**

Built in 1913, it started out as the elegant Oxford Hotel; a double room with private bathroom and toilet cost \$1.50. Note the restored glasswork that wraps around the building.

On the west side of the street, at 726 Fifth Ave., you'll find the:

## **11. Llewelyn Building**

Built in 1887 by William Llewelyn, this building housed his family shoe store until 1906. Of architectural note are its arched windows, molding, and cornices. Through the decades, it has been home to a series of hotels, none of which had a particularly high standing among those in proper society; in 1917 charges were brought against the proprietor for operating a "cat house." Today the Llewelyn is a colorful hostel.

On the southwest corner of Fifth Avenue and G Street is the:

## **12. Old City Hall**

Dating from 1874, when it was a bank, this Florentine Italianate building features 16-foot ceilings, 12-foot windows framed with brick arches, antique columns, and a wrought-iron cage elevator. Notice the windows on each floor are different. (The top two stories were added in 1887, when it became the city's public library.) Incredibly, in a 1950s attempt at modernization, this beauty was completely encased in stucco. It was restored in the 1980s.

Across the street in the middle of the block, at 631-633 Fifth Ave., is the:

### **13. Yuma Building**

The striking edifice was built in 1888 and was one of the first brick buildings downtown. The brothel at the Yuma was the first to be closed during the infamous 1912 cleanup of the area. In the end, 138 women (and no men) were arrested. They were given a choice: Join the Door of Hope charity and reform or take a one-way train ride to Los Angeles. One hundred thirty-six went to L.A. (many were back within days), one woman was pronounced insane, and the last became San Diego's first telephone operator.

Go left on Market Street; at no. 526 is the:

### **14. I.O.O.F. Building**

Finally finished in 1882 after 9 years of construction, this handsome building served as a joint lodge for the Masons and Odd Fellows. Gaslamp lore has it that while watching a parade from the balcony, Kalakaua, Hawaii's last reigning king, caught cold and died shortly thereafter in San Francisco in 1891.

Head back toward Fifth Avenue. On the northwest corner of Fifth Avenue and Market Street is the:

### **15. Backesto Building**

Built in 1873, this classical revival and Victorian-style building fills most of the block. Originally a one-story structure on the corner, it expanded to its present size and height over its first 15 years. At the turn of the 20th century, this part of the Gaslamp was known as the **Stingaree**, the city's notorious red-light district. Gambling, opium dens, and wild saloons were all part of the mix.

Across Market Street, on the east side of the street, is the former:

### **16. The Metropolitan**

This building had bay windows and a cupola when it was built in 1886; now it looks decidedly contemporary -- until you spot the rugged 19th-century columns still visible on the street level. The Metropolitan also features arrestingly realistic *trompe l'oeil* effects painted on the facade. When the building was being renovated in the '80s, it was determined a faithful restoration would be too costly, so the owner was permitted to do the faux finish. Today the Metropolitan is another of San Diego's well-located hostels.

In the middle of the block, at 536 Fifth Ave., is the small but distinctive:

## 17. Lincoln Hotel

It dates from 1913 -- the date is cast in a grand concrete pediment two stories up. An equally grand stone lion's head once reigned atop the parapet, but tumbled to the street during an earthquake in 1986 and was quickly snatched by a passerby. The building's unusual green-and-white ceramic tile facade is thankfully intact. At one time, the block was comprised of primarily Japanese-owned businesses; Japanese residents ended up being held in the hotel during World War II before being sent to internment camps.

Proceed to Island Avenue and turn right. The saltbox house at the corner of Fourth Avenue is the:

## 18. William Heath Davis House

Downtown's oldest surviving structure, this prefabricated lumber home was shipped to San Diego around Cape Horn from New England in 1850. Alonzo Horton lived in the house in 1867, at its original location at the corner of Market and State streets. Around 1873 it was moved to 11th Avenue and K Street, where it served as the county hospital. It was relocated to this site in 1984 and completely refurbished. The entire house, now a **museum** and gift shop, and the small park next to it are open to the public. The Gaslamp Quarter Historical Foundation is also headquartered here.

At the southwest corner of Island and Fourth avenues you'll see the bay windows of the winsome:

## 19. Horton Grand Hotel

Two 1886 hotels were moved here -- very gently -- from other sites, and then renovated and connected by an atrium; the original Grand Horton is to your left, the Brooklyn Hotel to your right. Now it's all one: the **Horton Grand Hotel**. The life-size papier-mâché horse (Sunshine), in the sitting area near reception, stood in front of the Brooklyn Hotel when the ground floor was a saddlery. Wyatt Earp lived upstairs at the Brooklyn for most of his 7 years in San Diego. The reception desk is a recycled pew from a choir loft, and old post-office boxes now hold guests' keys. In the Palace Bar, look for the portrait of Ida Bailey, a local madam whose establishment, the Canary Cottage, once stood nearby.

## 20. Take a Break

The **Cheese Shop**, 627 Fourth Ave. (tel. **619/232-2303**), is open for breakfast or lunch with house-made corned beef hash, blueberry pancakes, fresh soups, and tasty pork sandwiches. After 4pm, try the **Palace Bar** (tel. **619/544-1886**) in the Horton Grand Hotel; it's a

good place to relax while surrounded by a bit of history. The bar is part of the same choir-loft pew that has been turned into the reception desk.

Around the corner from the Horton Grand, at 433 Third Ave., stands the:

### **21. Former Home of Ah Quin**

One of the first Chinese merchants in San Diego, Ah Quin arrived in the 1880s and became known as the "Mayor of Chinatown" (an area bound by Market and J sts., and Third and Fifth aves.). He helped hundreds of Chinese immigrants find work on the railroad and owned a general merchandise store on Fifth Avenue. He was a respected father (of 12 children), and a leader and spokesperson for the city's Chinese population.

The Ah Quin home is not open to the public, but across the street at 404 Third Ave. is the:

### **22. Chinese Mission**

Originally located on First Avenue, this charming brick building, built in 1927, was a place where Chinese immigrants (primarily men) could learn English and find employment. Religious instruction and living quarters were also provided. The building was rescued from demolition and moved to its present location, where it now contains the **San Diego Chinese Historical Museum**. There's a gift shop with Chinese wares; a small Asian garden with a memorial to the father of modern China, Sun Yat-sen; and a statue of Confucius. Admission is \$2.

When you leave the museum, retrace your steps back to Fourth and Island and walk north; in the middle of the block on the west side you will come to the:

### **23. Royal Pie Bakery Building**

Erected in 1911, this building was a bakery for most of its existence. Something else was cooking upstairs, though -- the second floor housed the Anchor Hotel, which was eventually closed because of "rampant immorality."

At the southwest corner of Fourth Avenue and Market Street stands the:

### **24. Frey Block Building**

Built in 1911, this was first a secondhand store, then a series of Chinese restaurants. But real fame arrived in the 1950s when it became the Crossroads, one of San Diego's most important jazz clubs. It was a venue for local and touring African-American artists.

Across the street on the southeast corner, at 401-417 Market St., is the:

### **25. Hotel Lester**

This hotel dates from 1906. It housed a saloon, pool hall, and hotel of ill repute when this was a red-light district. It's still a hotel (cheap but not tawdry) upstairs, while the ground level supports retail businesses, including an upscale pet boutique.

On the northeast corner of Fourth Avenue and Market Street, at 402 Market St., stands the:

### **26. Brokers Building**

Constructed in 1889, this building has 16-foot wood-beam ceilings and cast-iron columns. In recent years it was converted to artists' lofts, with the ground floor dedicated to the downtown branch of the Hooters chain. Due to the failure of many previous ventures here, as well as a fire and a structural collapse, this was thought of as a "cursed corner."

At the north end of this block, you will find the:

### **27. Carriage Works**

Established in 1890, it once served as storage for wagons and carriages. It then segued to horseless carriages, serving as a Studebaker showroom and repair shop. The building now features restaurants and clubs.

Cross G Street and walk to the middle of the block to the:

### **28. Labor Temple Building**

Dating from 1907, it has striking arched windows on the second floor. The inside was once used as a meeting hall for unions representing everyone from cigar makers to theatrical employees. Le Travel Store is now located here.

Continue north; at 801 Fourth Ave. is the:

## 29. Ingle Building

It dates from 1906 and now houses the **Hard Rock Cafe**. The mural on the F Street side of the building depicts a group of deceased rock stars (Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, John Lennon, Jim Morrison, and Elvis) lounging at sidewalk tables. Original stained-glass windows from the old Golden Lion Tavern (1907-32) front Fourth Avenue. Inside, the colorful stained-glass ceiling was taken from an Elks Club in Stockton, California, and much of the floor is original.

## 30. Winding Down

Walk to bohemian **Café Lulu**, 419 F St. (tel. 619/238-0114), near Fourth Avenue, for coffee and sweets; or head back into **Horton Plaza**, where you can choose from many kinds of cuisine, from Chinese to Indian, along with good old American fast food.

*Note: This information was accurate when it was published, but can change without notice. Please be sure to confirm all rates and details directly with the companies in question before planning your trip.*

## **Frommer's Walking Tour 2 in San Diego: The Embarcadero**

**Start:** The Maritime Museum, at Harbor Drive and Ash Street.

**Finish:** The Convention Center, at Harbor Drive and Fifth Avenue.

**Time:** 1 1/2 hours, not including museum and shopping stops.

**Best Times:** Weekday mornings (when it's less crowded and easier to park).

**Worst Times:** Weekends, especially in the afternoon, when the Maritime Museum and Seaport Village are crowded; also when cruise ships are in port (days vary).

San Diego's colorful Embarcadero, or waterfront, cradles a bevy of seagoing vessels -- frigates, ferries, yachts, cruise ships, a merchant vessel, an aircraft carrier, and even a Soviet submarine. You'll also find the equally colorful Seaport Village, a shopping and dining center with a nautical theme. It's not all about the water, though -- you'll also find the two downtown wings of the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, including a spectacular annex that opened in 2007.

Start at the:

### **1. Maritime Museum**

Not a building, but a collection of ships, the **Maritime Museum** is at Harbor Drive at Ash Street. The main attraction is the magnificent *Star of India* -- the world's oldest sailing ship that still goes to sea -- built in 1863 as the *Euterpe*. The ship, whose billowing sails are a familiar sight along Harbor Drive, once carried cargo to India and immigrants to New Zealand, and it braved the arctic ice in Alaska to work in the salmon industry. Another component of the museum is the 1898 ferry *Berkeley*, built to operate between San Francisco and Oakland. In service through 1958, it carried survivors to safety 24 hours a day for 4 days after the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. You can also check out the HMS *Surprise*, which had a star turn in the film *Master and Commander*; a Soviet-era B-39 attack submarine; the *Californian*, a replica of a 19th-century revenue cutter; the *Medea*, a 1904 steam yacht; and the *Pilot*, which served as San Diego Bay's official pilot boat for 82 years.

From this vantage point, you get a fine view of the:

### **2. County Administration Center**

This complex was built in 1936 with funds from the Works Progress Administration, and was dedicated in 1938 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The 23-foot-high granite sculpture in front, *Guardian of Water*, was completed by Donal Hord -- San Diego's most

notable sculptor -- in 1939; it depicts a stoic woman shouldering a water jug. On weekdays, the building is open from 8am to 5pm; there are restrooms and a cafeteria inside.

### **3. Take a Break**

The cafeteria on the fourth floor of the **County Administration Center**, 1600 Pacific Coast Hwy. (tel. **619/515-4258**), isn't exactly posh, but it has lovely harbor views; it serves breakfast and lunch weekdays from 7am to 2:30pm. The salads, panini, and burgers are all modestly priced. If you can't pass up the chance to have some seafood, return to the waterfront to **Anthony's Fishette**, 1360 N. Harbor Dr. (tel. **619/232-5105**), a simple eatery with a simply marvelous location. You can dine alfresco to enjoy your fish and chips and clam chowder.

Continue south along the Embarcadero.

### **4. Urban Trees**

You probably noticed the collection of sculptures along the Embarcadero -- this is the Urban Trees public art project that stretches from Hawthorn Street to the cruise ship terminal. There are 30 Urban Trees, ranging from whimsical abstractions to modernist totems; each collection stays up for about a year before being replaced by the next crop. If you really fall in love with one, they are for sale.

Continue past the B St. Pier cruise ship terminal to the:

### **5. Harbor Cruises**

They depart from the Embarcadero all day; there are evening dinner cruises, too. Ticket booths are right on the water.

A little farther south, ~~near the Broadway Pier~~, is the:

### **6. Coronado Ferry**

It makes hourly trips between San Diego and Coronado. Buy tickets from the Flagship booth -- a one-way trip is 15 minutes.

Head out onto the Broadway Pier for a better look at the:

## 7. Port Pavilion

Unveiled in 2010, this 52,000-square-foot, \$28 million facility is a cruise ship terminal and event space; it's also a LEED-certified "green building." The most notable feature of this aqua-shaded, steel-and-glass building with the sawtooth roof is the soaring, sculptured exterior wall designed by artist Leni Schwendinger. Described by its creator as a "monumental sea creature," the piece is called *Tidal Radiance*, and it's at its shimmering best after dark.

Head straight back to Broadway, you'll see the two gold mission-style towers of the:

## 8. Santa Fe Depot

This mosaic-draped railroad station was built in 1915 and provides one of the city's best examples of Spanish Colonial Revival style. It's only 1 1/2 blocks away, so walk over and look inside at the vaulted ceiling, wooden benches, and walls covered in striking green-and-gold tiles. A scale model of the aircraft carrier USS *Midway* is on display inside.

Continue to the north end of the station where you will find the:

## 9. Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego

What was once the station's baggage building is now the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego's dynamic **Jacobs Building**. Designed by the architect responsible for the Warhol museum in Pittsburgh and the Picasso museum in Spain, this is one of the city's cultural flagships. The original downtown annex is across the street.

Return to Harbor Drive and head south; you'll stroll through a small tree- and bench-lined park and to the:

## 10. USS *Midway*

This aircraft carrier had a 47-year military history that started 1 week after the Japanese surrender of World War II in 1945. By the time the *Midway* was decommissioned in 1991, more than 225,000 men had served aboard. The carrier is now a naval museum, telling the story of life on board the ship, of the wars it fought, and of the records it set (the *Midway* was tasked with setting new standards throughout much of its career).

South of the *Midway*, at Pier 11, is the:

### **11. Unconditional Surrender Statue**

Kitsch on a grand scale. This 25-foot, full-color statue re-creates an iconic American image: Alfred Eisenstaedt's 1945 photo of a sailor and nurse in passionate embrace following the news of Japan's surrender in World War II. You have to see this one to believe it. Nearby are several other pieces of patriotic art, including a salute to another American icon, Bob Hope. Featuring a cast of 15 bronze statues, this recent addition to the Embarcadero art collection depicts the comedian entertaining the troops.

Continue along the walkway to:

### **12. Tuna Harbor**

This is where the commercial fishing boats congregate. San Diego's tuna fleet is based here but is a shadow of its former self -- it was once the world's largest.

### **13. Take a Break**

The red building on the peninsula to your right houses the **Fish Market**, 750 N. Harbor Dr. (tel. **619/232-3474**), a market and casual restaurant, and its upscale counterpart, **Top of the Market**, just upstairs. A meal here is fresh off the boat. Both serve lunch and dinner, and the Fish Market has a children's menu and an oyster and sushi bar. It's fine to drop in just for a drink and to savor the mighty view. Prices are moderate downstairs, expensive upstairs. For dessert or coffee, go inside Seaport Village, 849 W. Harbor Dr., to **Upstart Crow** (tel. **619/232-4855**), a bookstore and coffeehouse.

Keep walking south, where you can meander along the winding pathways of:

### **14. Seaport Village**

This outdoor shopping center contains myriad boutiques and restaurants. The **carousel** is pure nostalgia -- Charles Looff, who built the first carousel at Coney Island, carved the animals out of poplar in 1895. You will no doubt also notice the official symbol of Seaport Village: a 45-foot-high detailed replica of the famous Mukilteo Lighthouse in Washington State.

From Seaport Village, continue your waterfront walk southeast to the:

### **15. Embarcadero Marina Park North**

Jutting out into the bay, Embarcadero Marina Park North is a lovely patch of green, well used by San Diegans for strolling and jogging. It features expansive views and is often fairly deserted. The four hotel towers here that wall you off from the rest of the city belong to the Manchester Grand Hyatt and the Marriott San Diego Hotel & Marina. A concession at the marina rents boats by the hour, and arranges diving, water-skiing, and fishing outings.

The waterfront walkway continues to the:

### **16. Convention Center/Embarcadero Marina Park South**

This building is another striking piece of architecture hugging the city's waterfront. When it was first completed in late 1989, its presence on the Embarcadero was a major factor in the revitalization of downtown San Diego. It was later enlarged to an even more imposing size, to less acclaim. Embarcadero Marina Park South stretches out into the bay from here; you'll find a restaurant, basketball courts, a concession stand, and a fishing pier. You can also catch a ferry to Coronado.

To access the Gaslamp Quarter or San Diego Trolley, you'll need to head back to Seaport Village or cut through the lobbies of the Hyatt or Marriott hotels.

### **17. Winding Down**

There's no better place in San Diego to catch a sunset than the **Top of the Hyatt**, 1 Market Place (tel. **619/232-1234**), a 40th-floor lounge with sweeping views of the city and harbor. It's located in the eastern tower of the Manchester Grand Hyatt and opens at 3pm daily. For those afraid of heights, there's a branch of the popular Pacific Rim-fusion eatery **Roy's**, 333 W. Harbor Dr. (tel. **619/239-7697**), on the marina side of the Marriott, perched right above the action along the pedestrian pathway.

*Note: This information was accurate when it was published, but can change without notice. Please be sure to confirm all rates and details directly with the companies in question before planning your trip.*

## **Frommer's Walking Tour 3 in San Diego: Old Town**

**Start:** The McCoy House, overlooking the San Diego Trolley's Old Town station. **Finish:** Heritage Park.

**Time:** 2 hours, not including shopping or dining.

**Best Times:** Weekdays; there are daily 1-hour free tours at 11am and 2pm; on Wednesdays and Saturdays, from 10am to 4pm, costumed park volunteers reenact life in the 1800s. There's storytelling on the green Tuesdays and Thursdays, noon-2pm, and Fridays from 1-3pm. Be prepared to be joined by lots of school groups.

**Worst Times:** Weekends, especially if you want to dine at one of the restaurants, where waits can be long. Of special note is Cinco de Mayo weekend (the first weekend in May) -- Old Town is a madhouse, so plan accordingly. The holiday celebrates Mexico's defeat of the French on May 5, 1862, in the Battle of Puebla, and there are a number of special events held.

When you visit Old Town, you go back to a time of one-room schoolhouses and village greens, when many of the people who lived, worked, and played here spoke Spanish. Inside the state park the buildings are old or built to look that way, making it easy to let the modern world slip away -- you don't have to look hard or very far to see yesterday. The time warp is especially palpable at night, when you can stroll along the unpaved streets and look up at the stars. Begin your tour at the McCoy House, at the northwestern end of this historic district, which preserves the essence of the small Mexican and fledgling American communities that existed here from 1821 to 1872. The core of Old Town State Historic Park is a 6-block area with no vehicular traffic and a collection of restaurants and retail shops; the commercial district of Old Town continues for several blocks, with San Diego Avenue as the main drag.

Start at the intersection of Wallace and Calhoun, the location of the:

### **1. McCoy House**

This is the interpretive center for the park and is a historically accurate replication of the home of James McCoy, a lawman/legislator who lived on this site until the devastating fire of 1872. With exhibits, artifacts, and visitor information, the house gives a great overview of life in San Diego in the 19th century.

After checking in here and getting your bearings, head to the neighboring:

### **2. Robinson-Rose House**

Built in 1853 as a family home, it also served as a newspaper and railroad office; now, it's the visitor center for the park. Here you'll see a large model of Old Town the way it looked prior to 1872, the year a large fire broke out (or was set). The blaze destroyed much of the town and initiated the population exodus to New Town, now downtown San Diego. Old Town State Historic Park contains seven original buildings, including the Robinson-Rose House, and replicas of other buildings that once stood here.

From here, turn left and stroll into the colorful world of Mexican California called:

### **3. Fiesta de Reyes**

Located at 2754 Calhoun St., this is where colorful shops and restaurants spill into a flower-filled courtyard. Costumed employees and nightly entertainment create an early California atmosphere throughout what was once a 1930s motel (albeit one designed by acclaimed architect Richard Requa).

### **4. Take a Break**

This is a good opportunity to sample the Mexican food in and around Fiesta de Reyes. In addition to **Casa Guadalajara**, there are other restaurants in the immediate area -- **Barra Barra Old Town Saloon** (tel. 619/291-3200), **Casa de Reyes** (tel. 619/220-5040), and the **Cosmopolitan Hotel and Restaurant** (tel. 619/297-1874). All offer indoor/outdoor dining and a lively ambience, but the **Cosmo** offers the most sophisticated, accomplished food and drink. If the wait for a table is long at one, put your name on the list at another.

From Fiesta de Reyes, stroll into the grassy plaza, where you'll see a:

### **5. Large Rock Monument**

This monument commemorates the first U.S. flag raised in Southern California. After Northern California had been wrested from Mexico by invading U.S. forces in July 1846, the USS *Cyane* sailed into San Diego Bay to lay claim to the southern portion of the state. Aboard ship were John C. Frémont (who would go on to become one of California's first senators and the first Republican candidate for president) and legendary frontiersman and scout Kit Carson. On July 29, 1846, a detail raised the Stars and Stripes on this spot. When Frémont rode off with his battalion 10 days later, though, the town was left to its own devices and loyal *Californios* hoisted the Mexican flag again. A sailmaker, Albert B. Smith, eventually nailed Old Glory permanently in place to the flagpole.

Straight ahead, at the plaza's eastern edge, is:

## **6. La Casa de Estudillo**

An original adobe building dating from 1827, the U-shaped house has covered walkways and an open central patio. The patio covering is made of corraza cane, the seeds for which were brought by Father Junípero Serra in 1769. The walls are 3 to 5 feet thick, holding up the heavy beams and tiles, and they work as terrific insulators against summer heat. In those days, the thicker the walls, the wealthier the family. The furnishings in this "upper-class" house are representative of the 19th century (note the beautiful four-poster beds); the original furniture came from as far away as Asia. The Estudillo family, which then numbered 12, lived in the house until 1887; today family members still live in San Diego.

After you exit La Casa de Estudillo, turn right. Here you'll find the:

## **7. ~~Casa de Bandini~~/Cosmopolitan Hotel**

Now a beautifully renovated restaurant and hotel, the Casa de Bandini was completed in 1829. It was the home of Peruvian-born Juan Bandini, who arrived in California in 1818 and became one of early San Diego's most prominent citizens. The 14-room home was the hub of the small town's social and political life. When U.S. troops invaded in 1846, Bandini welcomed them and appealed to others to do the same. In fact, the commander of the U.S. force, Samuel Du Pont, was a guest in the Bandini home, where there was music and dancing every night during his stay. In 1869, the building, with a second story added, became the Cosmopolitan Hotel.

Walk back across the plaza to the:

## **8. Colorado House**

Built in 1851, it was destroyed by fire in 1872 -- as were most buildings on this side of the park. Today it's the home of the Wells Fargo Historical Museum, but the original housed San Diego's first two-story hotel. The museum features an original Wells Fargo stagecoach, numerous displays of the overland-express business, and a video presentation (as well as ATM machines if you need some cash). Next door to the Wells Fargo museum, and kitty-corner to La Casa de Estudillo, is the small, redbrick San Diego Court House & City Hall.

From here, continue along the pedestrian walkway, turn right, and walk down to a reddish-brown building. This is the one-room:

## **9. Mason Street School**

This is an original building dating from 1865 and is California's first public school. If you look inside, you'll notice that the boards that make up the walls don't match; they were leftovers from the construction of San Diego homes. The school was commissioned by San Diego's first mayor, Joshua Bean, whose brother was the notorious Roy Bean, who would go on to become an eccentric judge in Texas. Before Roy Bean became known as "the law west of the Pecos," though, he had to escape a San Diego jail by digging his way through the adobe walls with a knife that legend has it was hidden in a tamale (he had been jailed for wounding a man in a duel).

When you leave the schoolhouse, retrace your steps to the walkway (which is the extension of San Diego Ave.) and turn right. On your left, you'll see two buildings with brown shingle roofs. The first is the:

### **10. Pedroreña House**

No. 2616 is an original Old Town house built in 1869, with stained glass over the doorway. The shop inside now sells fossils, minerals, and gems. The original owner was Miguel Pedroreña, a Spanish-born merchant and local bigwig. He also owned the house next door, which became the:

### **11. San Diego Union Printing Office**

The newspaper was first published here in 1868. This house arrived in Old Town after being prefabricated in Maine in 1851 and shipped around the Horn (it has a distinctly New England appearance). Inside you'll see the original hand press used to print the paper, which merged with the *San Diego Tribune* in 1992. The offices are now in Mission Valley, about 3 miles away.

At the end of the pedestrian part of San Diego Avenue stands a railing; beyond it is Twiggs Street, dividing the historic park from the rest of Old Town, which is more commercial, with shops, galleries, and restaurants.

At the corner of Twiggs Street and San Diego Avenue stands the Spanish mission-style:

### **12. Immaculate Conception Catholic Church**

The cornerstone was laid in 1868, making it the first church built in California that was not part of the mission system. With the movement of the community to New Town in 1872, though, it lost its parishioners and was not dedicated until 1919. Today the church serves about 300 families in the Old Town area.

Continue along San Diego Avenue 1 block to Harney Street. On your left is the restored:

### **13. Whaley House**

The first two-story brick structure in Southern California, it was built between 1856 and 1857. The house is said to be haunted by several ghosts, including that of Yankee Jim Robinson, who was hanged on the site in 1852 -- for stealing a *rowboat*. The house is beautifully furnished with period pieces and features a life mask of Abraham Lincoln, the spinet piano used in the film *Gone With the Wind*, and the concert piano that accompanied Swedish soprano Jenny Lind on her final U.S. concert tour in 1852.

Continue down San Diego Avenue 2 short blocks to:

### **14. El Campo Santo**

This is San Diego's first cemetery, established in 1850. The small plot is home to the mortal remains of several notable characters, including the hanged boat thief Yankee Jim Robinson and Antonio Garra, who led the Southland's last Native American uprising. The small brass plaques you see on the sidewalk and in the street indicate where the remains of some of San Diego's earliest citizens are still interred. Stories float through Old Town about cars that are unable to start after parking over these markers, or whose alarms go off for no reason.

Return down Old Town Avenue and make a right on Harney Street. Head up the hill 1 1/2 blocks to the collection of Victorian jewels known as:

### **15. Heritage Park**

There are seven original 19th-century buildings in this 7.8-acre park; each was saved from destruction and moved here from other parts of the city. Among the highlights are the Sherman-Gilbert House (1887), with its distinctive widow's walk, and the classic revival Temple Beth Israel, dating from 1889. These structures will soon be joined by a group of new buildings -- done in Victorian style -- for the creation of a bed-and-breakfast village. Heritage Park is open during construction.

### **16. Winding Down**

You've been immersed in California's Mexican culture, but two of Old Town's best restaurants don't follow suit, serving sushi and South American fare. At the end of your walk, make your way back down Harney Street, past San Diego Avenue to **Harney Sushi**, 3964 Harney St. (tel. **619/295-3272**). If this hip and lively sushi joint isn't your style, continue to Congress Street, make a right, and

head 1 block to **Berta's Latin American Restaurant**, 3928 Twiggs St. (tel. **619/295-2343**). This unassuming eatery offers a travelogue of dishes that roams from El Salvador to Argentina.

*Note: This information was accurate when it was published, but can change without notice. Please be sure to confirm all rates and details directly with the companies in question before planning your trip.*

## **Frommer's Walking Tour 4 in San Diego: Balboa Park**

**Start:** Cabrillo Bridge, entry at Laurel Street and Sixth Avenue. **Finish:** San Diego Zoo.

**Time:** 2 1/2 hours, not including museum or zoo stops. If you get tired, hop on the free park tram.

**Best Times:** Anytime. If you want to get especially good photographs, come in the afternoon, when the sun lends a glow to the already photogenic buildings. Most museums are open until 4 or 5pm (many are closed on Mon).

**Worst Times:** More people (especially families) visit the park on weekends. But there is a festive -- rather than overcrowded -- spirit even then, particularly on Sunday afternoons when you can catch a free organ concert at the outdoor Spreckels Organ Pavilion at 2pm.

Established in 1868, Balboa Park is the second-oldest city park in the United States, after New York's Central Park. Much of its striking architecture was the product of the 1915-16 Panama-California Exposition and the 1935-36 California-Pacific International Exposition. The structures, which now house a variety of museums, contribute to the overall beauty of the park. But what makes Balboa Park truly unique is the extensive botanical collection, thanks largely to Kate Sessions, a horticulturist who devoted her life to transforming the barren mesas and scrub-filled canyons into the oases they are today. Originally called "City Park," it was renamed in 1910 when Mrs. Harriet Phillips won a contest, naming it in honor of the Spanish conquistador Vasco Núñez de Balboa, who in 1513 was the first European to see the Pacific Ocean.

Take bus no. 3 or 120 along Fifth Avenue to Laurel Street, which leads into Balboa Park through its most dramatic entrance, the:

### **1. Cabrillo Bridge**

It has expansive views of downtown San Diego and straddles scenic, sycamore-lined Hwy. 163 (which John F. Kennedy allegedly proclaimed as "the most beautiful highway I've ever seen," during his 1963 visit to San Diego). Built in 1915 for the Panama-California Exposition and patterned after a bridge in Ronda, Spain, the dramatic cantilever-style bridge has seven pseudo-arches. As you cross the bridge, to your left you'll see the yellow cars of the zoo's aerial tram and, directly ahead, the distinctive California Tower of the Museum of Man. The delightful sounds of the 100-bell **Symphonic Carillon** can be heard every quarter-hour. Sitting atop this San Diego landmark is a weather vane shaped like the ship in which Cabrillo sailed to California in 1542. The city skyline lies to your right.

Once you've crossed the bridge, go through the:

### **2. West Gate**

The heart of Balboa Park is accessed through this ceremonial arch. Built for the 1915 Exposition, the gateway's two reclining figures hold flowing water jugs and represent the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. The park's cornucopia of attractions lies just beyond. For now, just view the museums from the outside.

You have entered the park's major thoroughfare, El Prado -- if you're driving a car, you'll want to find a parking space and go to the:

### **3. San Diego Museum of Man**

Architect Bertram Goodhue designed this structure, originally known as the California Building, in 1915 -- it now houses an anthropological museum. Goodhue, considered the world's foremost authority on Spanish Colonial architecture, was the master architect for the 1915-16 exposition. The exterior doubled as part of Kane's mansion in the 1941 Orson Welles classic *Citizen Kane*; historical figures carved on the facade include conquistador Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo, Spanish kings Charles I and Phillip III, and, at the very top, Father Junípero Serra.

Just beyond and up the steps to the left is the nationally acclaimed:

### **4. Old Globe Theatre**

This is actually a three-theater complex that includes the Old Globe, an outdoor stage, and a small theater-in-the-round. The Old Globe was built for the 1935 exposition as a replica of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre; it was meant to be demolished at the conclusion of the expo but was saved by a group of dedicated citizens. In 1978, an arsonist destroyed the theater, which was rebuilt into what you see today; if you have the opportunity to go inside, you can see the bronze bust of Shakespeare that miraculously survived the fire, battered but unbowed. In 2010, the Globe completed sweeping renovations in honor of its 75th anniversary.

Beside the theater is the:

### **5. Sculpture Garden of the Museum of Art**

The San Diego Museum of Art Sculpture Garden features works by Joan Miró and Alexander Calder, as well as a signature piece, *Reclining Figure: Arch Leg*, by Henry Moore. *Reclining Figure* was damaged by a falling tree branch several years ago, but it was seamlessly repaired and reclaimed its spot in the garden. Admission is free.

Across the street, to your right as you stroll along the Prado, is the:

## 6. Alcazar Garden

It was designed in 1935 by Richard Requa and W. Allen Perry. They patterned it after the gardens surrounding the Alcazar Castle in Sevilla, Spain. The garden is formally laid out and trimmed with low clipped hedges; in the center walkway are two star-shaped yellow-and-blue tile fountains. The large tree at the rear is an Indian laurel fig, planted by Kate Sessions when the park was first landscaped.

Exit to your left at the opposite end of the garden, and you'll be back on El Prado. Proceed east to the corner; on your right is the:

## 7. House of Charm

This is the site of the **San Diego Art Institute** gallery and the **Mingei International Museum**. The Art Institute is a nonprofit space that primarily exhibits works by local artists; the Mingei offers changing exhibitions that celebrate human creativity expressed in textiles, costumes, jewelry, toys, pottery, paintings, and sculpture.

To your left is the imposing:

## 8. San Diego Museum of Art

This exquisite facade was patterned after the famous university building in Salamanca, Spain. The three life-size figures over the scalloped entryway are the Spanish painters Bartolomé Murillo, Francisco de Zurbarán, and Diego Velázquez. The museum holds San Diego's most extensive collection of fine art; major touring shows are presented, as well. There's also an ongoing schedule of concerts, films, and lectures, usually themed with a current exhibition.

Across the street are the House of Hospitality and the park's:

## 9. Visitor Center

Pick up maps, souvenirs, and discount tickets to the museums here; the park's guided tours also depart from this location. In the central courtyard behind the visitor center is the beautiful *Woman of Tehuantepec* fountain sculpture by Donal Hord, as well as the attractive **Prado** restaurant.

Head back toward the House of Charm, passing the statue of the mounted:

## **10. El Cid Campeador**

Created by Anna Hyatt Huntington and dedicated in 1930, this sculpture of the 11th-century Spanish hero was made from a mold of the original statue in the court of the Hispanic Society of America in New York. A third version is in Sevilla, Spain. A decidedly more modern sculpture is found outside the entrance to the Mingei Museum. Created by Niki de Saint Phalle, a French artist who made San Diego her home until her death in 2002, the colorful mosaic alligator is a favorite with kids, who love to clamber over it.

Continue to your left toward the ornamental outdoor Organ Pavilion. Before reaching the pavilion, the wooden bridge above the ravine on your right will take you into:

## **11. Palm Canyon**

Fifty species of palm, plus magnolia trees and a Moreton Bay fig tree provide a tropical canopy here. It's secluded, so care should be exercised if you're walking solo, but you can get a good sense of its beauty by venturing only a short distance along the path. The walkway dead-ends, so you must exit from where you entered.

From the top of Palm Canyon, continue to the ornate:

## **12. Spreckels Organ Pavilion**

Donated to San Diego by brothers John D. and Adolph B. Spreckels, the pavilion was dedicated on December 31, 1914. Famed contralto Ernestine Schumann-Heink sang at the ceremony; a brass plaque honors her charity and patriotism. Free, lively recitals featuring one of the largest outdoor organs in the world (its vast structure contains 4,518 pipes) are given Sundays at 2pm, with additional concerts and events scheduled in the summer.

As you continue on, you'll see the Hall of Nations on your right, and beside it, the:

## **13. United Nations Building**

This building also houses the United Nations International Gift Shop, a favorite for its diverse merchandise, much of it handmade around the world. You'll recognize the shop by the United States and United Nations flags out front. Check the bulletin board, or ask inside, for the park's calendar of events. If you need to rest, there's a pleasant spot with a few benches opposite the gift shop.

You will notice a cluster of small houses with red-tile roofs. They are the:

#### **14. House of Pacific Relations International Cottages**

These charming dollhouse cottages promote ethnic and cultural awareness and are open to the public on Sunday afternoons and on the fourth Tuesday of the month year-round. From March to October, there are lawn programs with folk dancing.

Take a quick peek into some of the cottages, and then keep heading south to see more of the park's museums; to your right is the notable:

#### **15. San Diego Automotive Museum**

Whether you're a gearhead into muscle cars or someone who appreciates the sculptural beauty of fine design, this museum has something for everyone. It features a changing roster of exhibits, as well as a permanent collection of fabulous wheels.

And the cylindrical:

#### **16. San Diego Air & Space Museum**

The museums in this part of the park operate in structures built for the 1935-36 Exposition. It is not necessary to walk all the way to the Air & Space Museum (located appropriately enough under the flight path to San Diego's airport), but it's one of San Diego's finest examples of Art Deco architecture. Across the parking lot on the left is the Hall of Champions Sports Museum, with another fun Niki de Saint Phalle sculpture in front.

Go back past the parking lot and the Organ Pavilion. Take a shortcut through the pavilion, exit directly opposite the stage, and follow the sidewalk to your right. Almost immediately, you'll come to the:

#### **17. Japanese Friendship Garden**

Only a small portion of this 12-acre canyon has been developed, but the part that has been incorporates beautifully serene, traditional Japanese elements. At the entrance is an attractive teahouse whose deck overlooks the entire ravine; there is a small meditation garden beside it.

## 18. Take a Break

Now is your chance to have a bite to eat, sip a cool drink, and review the tourist literature you picked up at the visitor center. The **Tea Pavilion** (tel. 619/231-0048) at the Japanese Friendship Garden serves fresh sushi, noodle soups, and Asian salads -- and carries imported Japanese candies and beverages as well as more familiar snacks.

Return to El Prado, which becomes a pedestrian mall to the east of the El Cid sculpture. Set your sights on the fountain at the end of the broad walkway and head toward it. Stroll down the middle of El Prado to get the full benefit of the lovely buildings on either side. On weekends, you'll pass street musicians, artists, and clowns -- one of their favorite haunts is around the fountain.

The latticework building you see to the left is the:

## 19. Botanical Building & Lily Pond

An open-air conservatory, this delicate wood lath structure dates to the 1915-16 Exposition, and is filled with 2,100 permanent plants, plus seasonal displays. Particularly noteworthy is the collection of cycads and ferns. Admission is free, and the gardens are a cool retreat on a hot day. Directly in front is the Lily Pond.

Back on El Prado, left of the Lily Pond, you'll see the:

## 20. Casa de Balboa

Inside, you'll find the **Museum of Photographic Arts**, the **Model Railroad Museum**, and the **San Diego History Center**. Note the realistic-looking bare-breasted figures atop the Casa de Balboa. These shameless caryatids were the perfect complement to the nudist colony that temporarily sprouted as an attraction in Zoro Garden -- the canyon immediately east of the building -- during the 1935-36 Exposition.

On the other side of El Prado, on your left, note the ornate work on the:

## 21. Casa del Prado

While it doesn't house a museum, it's one of the best -- and most ornate -- of the El Prado buildings, featuring baroque Spanish Golden Age ornamentation.

At the end of El Prado, on either side of the fountain, are two museums particularly appealing to children; the first, on the right, is the:

## **22. Reuben H. Fleet Science Center**

This science fun house has plenty of hands-on attractions, as well as a giant-screen IMAX theater.

To the left is the:

## **23. San Diego Natural History Museum**

The original building that stood on this spot burned to the ground in 1925 -- hours before local firefighters were to gather there for their annual gala. A new structure, funded by the ever-generous Ellen Browning Scripps, rose in 1933. In 2001, the museum more than doubled in size with the completion of an ultramodern wing that springs from the building's north side.

In the center of the Plaza de Balboa is the high-spouting:

## **24. Bea Evenson Fountain**

This fountain was added to the park in 1972, and was later named in honor of the woman who formed the "Committee of 100," a group dedicated to preserving the park's architecture. It spouts water almost 60 feet into the air, but what makes it truly unique is a wind regulator on top of the Natural History Museum -- as the wind increases, the fountain's water pressure is lowered so the water doesn't spray over the edges. The 200-foot-wide fountain is especially beautiful at night when it's illuminated by colored lights.

From here, use the pedestrian bridge to cross the road and visit the nearly secret:

## **25. Gardens**

They are tucked away on the other side of the boulevard: to your left, a Desert Garden for plants at home in an arid landscape; to your right, the Inez Grant Parker Memorial Rose Gardens, home to 2,400 roses. The World Rose Society voted the latter as one of the top 16 rose gardens in the world. Blooms peak March through May, but there are almost always some flowers visible, except in January and February when they are pruned. After you've enjoyed the flowers and plants, return to El Prado.

Just past the Natural History Museum, take a right. Behind the museum is another voluptuous Moreton Bay fig tree, planted in 1915 for the exposition; it's now more than 62 feet tall, with a canopy 100 feet in diameter.

Straight ahead is the quiet:

## **26. Spanish Village Art Center**

Artists work here daily from 11am to 4pm. They create jewelry, paintings, and sculptures in tile-roofed studios around a courtyard. There are restrooms here, too.

Exit at the back of the Spanish Village Art Center and take the paved, palm-lined sidewalk that will take you past the:

## **27. Miniature Railroad and Carousel**

The tiny train makes a 3-minute loop through the eucalyptus trees, while the charming 1910 carousel offers a ride atop hand-carved wood frogs, horses, and pigs. The train and carousel are open daily in summer, weekends the rest of the year.

To the left is the entrance to the world-famous:

## **28. San Diego Zoo entrance**

You can also retrace your steps and visit some of the tempting museums you just passed, saving the zoo for another day.

**Bus tip:** From here, you can walk out past the zoo parking lot to Park Boulevard; the bus stop (a brown-shingled kiosk) is on your right. The no. 7 bus will take you back to downtown San Diego.

## **29. Winding Down**

Back on El Prado (in the House of Hospitality), the **Prado Restaurant** (tel. **619/557-9441**) has a handsome view of the park from oversize windows and a great patio for outdoor dining. Far from your average park concession, the Prado boasts a zesty menu with colorful ethnic influences -- plus inventive margaritas and Latin cocktails. Lunch daily, and a festive (expensive) dinner menu takes over at 5pm (reservations advisable). In between, a long list of tapas will satisfy any hunger pangs.

## **Frommer's Walking Tour 5 in San Diego: La Jolla**

**Start:** Silverado St. and Girard Ave. **Finish:** Girard Gourmet, 7837 Girard Ave.

**Time:** 3 to 5 hours, depending on how long you linger in the museums and parks.

**Best Times:** Thur-Tues if you want to see the Museum of Contemporary Art (free admission third Thursdays 5-7pm). The Atheneum is also open Tues-Sat; Sun-Wed-Fri is when bridge is played at Ellen Browning Scripps Park.

**Worst Times:** The museums are closed on Mondays.

La Jolla is Southern California's Riviera. This seaside community of about 25,000 is home to an inordinate number of wealthy folk who could probably live anywhere. They choose La Jolla for good reason -- it's surrounded by the beach, the University of California, San Diego, outstanding restaurants, boutiques, galleries, and some of the world's best medical facilities. The heart of La Jolla is referred to as the Village, roughly delineated by Pearl Street to the south, Prospect Street to the north, Torrey Pines Road to the east, and the rugged coast to the west; this picturesque neighborhood is an ideal place to simply stroll about. It's undetermined whether "La Jolla" (pronounced la-HOY-ya) is misspelled Spanish for "the jewel" or an indigenous word for "cave," but once you see it, you'll likely go with the first definition.

Take bus route 30 to Silverado St. and Girard Ave. Walk south (away from the ocean) on Girard Ave. until you reach:

### **1. Mary, Star of the Sea Catholic Church**

Dedicated in 1937, this beautiful little Mission-style Catholic church (7669 Girard Ave. tel. **858/454-2631**, [www.marystarlajolla.org](http://www.marystarlajolla.org). Mon-Fri 6am-noon and daily services) was designed by noted San Diego architect Carleton Winslow, Sr. Above the entrance, a striking mosaic re-creates the original fresco painted there by Mexican artist Alfredo Ramos Martínez. An influential art instructor in Mexico, Martínez once taught Rufino Tamayo and David Alfaro Siqueiros. Inside the church, the unique mural above the altar was painted by accomplished Polish artist John De Rosen. It depicts the Virgin Mary on a crescent moon, presiding over a storm-tossed sea.

From the church, north on Girard Ave. (toward the ocean) for 2 blocks, then turn left at Silverado St. Walk down Silverado until you reach:

### **2. Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego**

Works produced since 1950 include noteworthy examples of minimalism, light and space work, conceptualism, installation, and site-specific art (the outside sculptures were designed specifically for this location). MCASD also offers lectures, cutting-edge films, and special events on an ongoing basis; the bookstore is a great place for contemporary gifts, and the cafe is a pleasant stop before or after your visit. The museum is on a cliff overlooking the Pacific Ocean, and the views from the galleries are gorgeous. The original building on the site, designed by Irving Gill in 1916, was the residence of Ellen Browning Scripps. Admission is free on the 3rd Tuesday of the month; and a paid ticket good for admission to MCASD downtown within 7 days.

From here, head northeast on Prospect Street (with the ocean on your left), then turn left at Jenner St., which becomes Coast Blvd. to:

### **3. Children's Pool**

A seawall protects this pocket of sand -- originally intended as a calm swimming bay for children, but serving since 1994 as a sanctuary for a colony of harbor seals; on an average day you'll spot dozens lolling in the sun. After much heated debate (and even acts of civil disobedience), people were allowed to swim here again -- to the displeasure of many. While it is possible to now go in the water at the Children's Pool, keep in mind those are federally protected wild animals, and it is illegal to approach them or harass them in any way. Volunteers, with speed dials set to "lifeguard," keep watch to make sure bathers don't bother the colony.

From the beach, follow Coast Blvd. northeast (with the ocean on your left) to:

### **4. Ellen Browning Scripps Park**

This park and the bluffside walkway that courses through it afford some of California's finest coastal scenery. There's plenty of soft grass where you can toss a Frisbee, have a picnic, or just laze. A series of rustic wooden shelters -- popular with seagulls, pigeons, and pedestrians -- overlooks La Jolla's shapely curves. The **La Jolla Cove Bridge Club** (tel. **858/459-7000**; [www.lajollacovebridgeclub.com](http://www.lajollacovebridgeclub.com). Games Sun, Wed, Thurs, 11am-3p). -- a Works Project Administration structure dating to 1939, where card games still take place -- must be one of the world's most view-enhanced card rooms.

Follow the bluffside walkway to:

### **5. La Jolla Cove**

These protected calm waters, celebrated as the clearest along the coast, attract snorkelers, scuba divers, and families. The small sandy beach gets a bit cramped during the summer, but the cove's "look but don't touch" policy safeguards the colorful garibaldi, California's

state fish, plus other marine life, including abalone, octopus, and lobster. The unique Underwater Park stretches from here to the northern end of Torrey Pines State Reserve and incorporates kelp forests, artificial reefs, two deep canyons, and tidal pools.

Leave the park via Coast Blvd., and follow it along the coast until you get to Prospect Street, where you'll find:

## **6. Sunny Jim Cave**

The only one of La Jolla's seven sea caves accessible by land, the Sunny Jim Cave (1325 Cave St., just off Prospect St., tel. **858/459-0746**; [www.cavestore.com](http://www.cavestore.com). \$4 adults, \$3 kids 3-16, free for 2 and under) is reached by a narrow, often slippery, staircase in the Cave Store. (Sunny Jim was a cartoon character created in 1902 for a cereal advertising campaign, and the cave opening resembles his profile.) Part art gallery, part antiques store, this cliff-top shop also rents snorkel equipment. The passageway with 145 steps was dug through the rock in 1902.

From the Cave Store, as you face the ocean, you'll find two paths:

## **7. Coast Walk**

One leads to a fabulous wood-platform overlook, the other continues along the bluffs. It's a cool little trail, affording expansive views of the coast. You can exit at a stairway that leads back to Prospect Street (before you come to the white wooden bridge) and circle back into town. If you continue along the trail, it will put you on Torrey Pines Road, an extra 10- to 15-minute walk back to the village.

Head back to Coast Blvd., taking it south (away from the ocean), until you get to Prospect St., take a sharp left and proceed to:

## **8. La Valencia**

Within its bougainvillea-draped walls and wrought-iron garden gates, this bastion of gentility resurrects the golden age, when celebrities like Greta Garbo and Charlie Chaplin vacationed here. The blufftop hotel, which looks much like a Mediterranean villa, has been the centerpiece of La Jolla since opening in 1926. There are several lounges and restaurants, some with incredible vistas, which can be enjoyed by non-guests; the **Whaling Bar** is a classic, old-school haunt.

From La Valencia, head south on Prospect St., and make a left at Herschel Ave. and go 1 block, then turn left at Wall St. and go 1-1/2 blocks, where you will see:

## 9. Athenaeum Music and Arts Library

One of only 17 nonprofit, membership libraries in the U.S., the Athenaeum hosts art exhibits, jazz and classical concerts, lectures, and special events open to the general public. Visitors can browse through the vast collection of books, music, and more, but only members can take something out. Founded in 1899, the library has expanded into adjacent buildings, including one built by Balboa Park architect William Templeton Johnson.

After you finish at the Athenaeum, turn left onto Wall St. and go to the end of the block, then turn right at Girard Ave. In less than a block, you'll find:

## 10. Take a Break

**Girard Gourmet** (7838 Girard Ave. tel. **858/454-3325**, [www.girardgourmet.com](http://www.girardgourmet.com)), a wonderful small bakery and restaurant that always draws a crowd with its cookies, quiches, soups, salads, and deli sandwiches (the eight-grain bread is a must). The Belgian proprietor also whips up heartier fare like lamb stew and duck à l'orange. It's the perfect place to gather your goods for a picnic, or rest at the end of your tour of La Jolla.

*Note: This information was accurate when it was published, but can change without notice. Please be sure to confirm all rates and details directly with the companies in question before planning your trip.*