Local Information

ACerS Concierge: Have questions about the meeting location? Contact Greg Phelps mailto:gphelps@ceramics.org for assistance.

Greg's Top 10 Things to Do in San Diego

With near perfect weather year-round, 70 miles of spectacular coastline, world-class attractions, and a thriving urban core, complete with a sophisticated art, dining and nightlife scene, San Diego has earned the title of "California's beach city." The coastal city is made up of distinct neighborhoods, each adorned with its own retro-style, street-spanning sign. With more than its fair share of sunshine, gorgeous beaches, and a buzzing restaurant scene, San Diego is the perfect spot for low-stress California fun.

1. **Balboa Park:** Ever changing, always amazing. Where culture, science, and nature collide, Balboa Park is home to more than 17 museums, multiple performing arts venues, lovely gardens, trails, and many other creative and recreational attractions, including the San Diego Zoo. With a variety of cultural institutions among its 1,200 beautiful and lushly planted acres, there is something for everyone. https://www.balboapark.org/

2. **Mission Beach:** Only minutes away from the Hyatt Regency is San Diego's lively take on the classic boardwalk beach town. You can enjoy nearly two miles of oceanfront boardwalk, numerous rental shops, and plenty of bars in Mission Beach and adjacent Pacific Beach, offering hot nightlife scene for young adults and the young at heart. Mission Beach is also home to Belmont Park, a boardwalk amusement park, featuring the Giant Dipper Roller Coaster, originally built in 1925 but since restored, the Wave House, miniature golf, bumper cars, rock climbing, an arcade, and more. Here are the top 10 things to do in Mission Beach: http://www.missionbeachonline.com/content/article/165777/

3. **North Park:** One of the hippest neighborhoods in San Diego, North Park is bursting with cool cafes, breweries and shops. What will you find when you wander around this eclectic neighborhood? From the art lover to the music enthusiast, fashionista to the foodie, North Park truly offers a wholly authentic experience for everyone. The following guide will help you discover how to do the best exploring in North Park ranging from the history, bars, and different cultures: http://www.explorenorthpark.com/

4. **Hiking in San Diego County:** In addition to museums, colorful neighborhoods, and boardwalks, San Diego County has a wide variety of parks and hiking trails to get away from the hustle and bustle of the city. It is entirely possible to visit a palm oasis, a mixed-conifer forest, a boulder-

studded peak carpeted in chaparral, a riparian gallery forest, a stretch of pristine beach, and one of the rarest pines on the planet. The following is a list of the 10 Best Hikes in San Diego:
http://www.pacificsandiego.com/local-entertainment/10-best-hikes-san-diego/

5. **San Diego Bay Wine and Food Festival:** Extend your stay and attend one of the largest wine and food festivals in the nation, the San Diego Bay Wine and Food Festival, Nov. 13-19. This festival has helped shine the light on San Diego's thriving food scene and is an international showcase of the world's premier wines and spirits, culinary personalities, and gourmet foods. Check out the city's most drool-worthy restaurants and newest food trends to hit the streets, and savor an epicurean experience unlike any other. http://www.sandiegowineclassic.com/

6. **Old Town San Diego:** The first permanent California mission was established here in 1769, making Old Town San Diego the "birthplace" of California. Wander through lush gardens or browse at one of the many specialty shops for treasures from around the world. Indulge in authentic Mexican food at one of the many restaurants or dance to the strolling mariachis. Pause to reflect at the fountains at Fiesta de Reyes and in the Bazaar del Mundo. Old Town San Diego State Historic Park is in the center of Old Town. Here you can experience life from the early Mexican-American period of 1821-1872 through rich living history programs. Watch forms come to life at the blacksmith and woodworker shops, and read a newspaper from the 19th century. To learn more about this living legacy of California's birthplace visit:
http://www.oldtownsandiegoguide.com

7. **Hidden San Diego:** San Diego has a lot of unique and interesting hidden places that might be unknown to the population at large, but are well worth discovering. Are there really munchkin houses? What neighborhoods are connected by footbridges? Is there really a bridge that plays music? What do the neighbors think about the house with more than 50 topiary creatures populating the front yard? Discover some of the best of San Diego's less visited, but interesting and beautiful sites, right here: https://www.tripsavvy.com/hidden-san-diego-2937401

8. **Skydiving:** San Diego is considered one of California's most beautiful areas and is on the Frommer's top-10 list of worldwide destinations for skydiving. The gorgeous landscape is breathtaking from ground level; just imagine it from 13,000 feet. Many people seek out roller coasters, shooting ranges, off-road driving, or rock climbing for their thrills. But the people who really want to experience the heart-pounding mega-rush undoubtedly choose skydiving.
https://skydivesandiego.com/

9. **Geisel Library:** Visit the main library building of the University of California's San Diego Library, which is named in honor of Audrey and Theodor Seuss Geisel (better known as Dr. Seuss). The building's distinctive Brutalist architecture makes it one of the most recognizable buildings on

campus. As an icon of brutalism, the library has at times been subjected to the vitriolic criticism so commonly associated with the movement, even being named to a Reuter's list of the "Top 10 Ugly Buildings to Visit." For more about this distinctive building and the architect behind it: http://www.archdaily.com/566563/ad-classics-geisel-library-william-l-pereira-and-associates

10. **Ride a Bike:** Mission Bay comprises 4,200 acres in roughly equal parts of land and water, surrounded by 27 miles of meandering shoreline of sandy beaches. Interconnected by a network of waterways, inlets, and islets, the bay is best traveled by boat. But if you don't have a boat and would rather stay dry, biking along pedestrian and bicycle paths is the next best way to explore. A San Diego County Bicycle Coalition's recommended route incorporates almost 12 miles of flat, scenic bike paths along most of the interior of the bay. With the exception of a few short sections, the route is vehicle free. https://www.sandiego.org/articles/biking/bike-path-mission-bay.aspx

For more things to do in San Diego and surrounding areas, check out the San Diego Convention and Visitors Bureau: https://www.sandiego.org