



## Relocation Guide

[www.iorworld.com](http://www.iorworld.com)

*IOR makes every effort to ensure the information contained in this guide is as current as possible. If you notice errors, or information which is no longer accurate, please contact us immediately so we may correct the issue.*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOME AND OVERVIEW .....	1
EMERGENCY .....	3
HOUSING .....	5
DRIVER'S LICENSE.....	11
SCHOOLS IN YOUR AREA.....	12
BANKING .....	14
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION/DRIVING .....	15
LIVING AND SHOPPING .....	17
RECREATION.....	19
TRANSFEREE RESOURCES.....	23
PET RESOURCES .....	25
AREA MAP .....	26
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.....	27



Courtesy of [Coronado Times](#)

San Diego is the second largest city in California, and is located 20 miles north of the Mexican border along the Pacific Coast. It has an excellent natural harbor, which has made it an important shipping and receiving point for Southern California, Arizona, New Mexico and Mexico's Baja California. The City is also headquarters for the 11th U.S. Naval District.

San Diego was the first site visited by Europeans on what is now the West Coast of the United States. Upon landing in San Diego Bay in 1542, Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo claimed the entire area for Spain, forming the basis for the settlement of Alta California 200 years later. The Presidio and Mission of San Diego, founded in 1769, formed the first European settlement in what is now California. In 1821, San Diego became part of newly independent Mexico, and in 1850, became part of the United States following the Mexican-American War and the admission of California to the union.

Today, San Diego has large aerospace, electronics and shipbuilding industries, and the presence of both the University of California San Diego and the University of San Diego make the city an important center for biomedical research and oceanography. It is also a distributing and processing point for the highly productive Imperial Valley agricultural area to the east.

Because of San Diego's sunny climate, its 17 miles of public ocean beaches, many historic attractions and proximity to Mexico, many visitors, convention groups, artists and retirees vacation in the city. Its year-round mild climate, sunny days and warm ocean temperatures make the San Diego coast one of the nation's surfing capitals. The city also has two professional sports teams and a variety of museums and cultural exhibits.

## San Diego Overview

- [Official Website of the City of San Diego](#)
- [San Diego Parks and Recreation Department](#)
- [San Diego Public Library](#)
- [Current Weather in San Diego](#)
- Population: 1.407 million
- Land Area: 372.4 sq miles (964.5 km<sup>2</sup>)
- Parks: Over 340 major parks

## History

- [San Diego Magazine](#)
- [Old Town San Diego History](#)

## What to See, Sightseeing Tours, Value Packages and Passes, Tourist Information

- [San Diego Visitors Center](#)
- [San Diego Attractions](#)
- [San Diego for Free](#)
- [San Diego Tours](#)
- [Go San Diego Card](#)

## Where to Find Arts and Entertainment

- [San Diego Union-Tribune](#)
- [San Diego Magazine](#)
- [Sandiego.org](#)
- [San Diego Entertainment](#)

## Where to Eat

- Make a reservation online at [OpenTable](#)
- [Yelp](#) Restaurant Reviews
- Food Blogs
  - [San Diego Food Finds](#)
  - [San Diego Eater](#)
- [San Diego Restaurant Week](#): A public food event showcasing menus from some of San Diego's best restaurants. From casual to fine dining establishments, Restaurant Week allows diners to enjoy the San Diego culinary scene for at an affordable price.

## Daylight Saving Time

San Diego is in the Pacific Time Zone and participates in Daylight Saving Time.

**IN CASE OF EMERGENCY  
DIAL 911  
FOR FIRE, POLICE & AMBULANCE**

Emergency personnel will ask for the following information so keep this page close to your phone:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

**If you accidentally call 911, please do not hang up.** The police will automatically be dispatched to your home to make sure there are no problems. Explain to the Operator the call was an accident.

[POISON CONTROL](#) (800) 222-1222  
[ANIMAL POISON CONTROL](#) (888) 426-4435

Other Important Numbers:

PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN \_\_\_\_\_  
WORK PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

DIAL 311 for a non-emergency, or to request a City Service (such as replacing a broken street-lamp or removing an abandoned vehicle).

**Urgent Care Centers**

An Urgent Care Center is different than a Hospital Emergency Room. An Emergency room would be in an absolute emergency. You may visit an Urgent Care Center if, for example, you have a terrible ear ache and need medicine immediately but your Primary Care Physician's office is closed. Many Urgent Care Centers have extended hours and are open early morning until late evening during the week and also some weekend hours. Be sure to refer back to your health insurance company to clarify which urgent care centers and primary care physicians you are allowed to visit using your health insurance. Your insurance card should have a toll-free 1-800 number on the back for you to call and ask questions and clarify which urgent care center would be closest for you. Please always carry your insurance card with you!

## **Safety and Security**

While San Diego is relatively safe, it is still a major city. Like every major metropolitan area in the USA, there is some crime.

Take basic precautions: lock your car, lock your doors and windows in your home, be aware of strangers and things that just don't seem right. It is always better to be cautious.

Check [here for a list of crime rates per neighborhood in San Diego.](#)

## **Hospitals & Clinics**

- [General San Diego Hospital Directory](#)
- [General Children's Hospital Directory](#)
- [Rady Children's Hospital](#)
- [Sharp Grossmont Hospital](#)
- [Sharp Memorial Hospital](#)
- [UC San Diego Health](#)

## **Veterinary Clinics**

- [ABC Veterinary Hospital](#)
- [Bay Park Veterinary Clinic](#)
- [Center Veterinary Clinic](#)
- [Veterinary Clinics](#)

## **Pharmacies**

There are several major pharmacy chains in San Diego, found on nearly every block on commercial streets. These pharmacies are also general stores and carry a large selection of cleaning, house care, pet care and other supplies. Click on "Store Locator" and enter your zip (postal) code to find the pharmacy near you. Many pharmacies are open 24 hours. Check for hours of operation.

- [CVS](#)
- [Rite-Aid](#)
- [Walgreens](#)
- [Local Pharmacies in San Diego](#)

A lease is an agreement that outlines the obligations of the owner and the tenants of a house or apartment. It is a legally binding document, so it is important for you to know the exact terms of the lease agreement before you sign it. Please do not sign a lease without reviewing it with your IOR DS Consultant.

### **Rental Agents**

In most situations, your IOR consultant will partner with a local realtor to have access to the most current and extensive property listings as well as the realtor's expertise in preparing and negotiating leases. This agent receives a commission for their assistance, and in most US locations this commission is paid by the Landlord, not the tenant. Your IOR DS Consultant will discuss this with you.

### **Renter's Rights**

Tenants who lease or rent property are protected against discrimination by [The Fair Housing Act](#). If you think your rights have been violated, you may write a letter or telephone the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) office nearest you. You have one year after the alleged violation to file a complaint with HUD, but you should file as soon as possible.

While you can generally expect the same service from landlords, it's important to know your state's laws. Each state and most major cities have their own tenant rights, laws and protections. [Here are California's](#).

You can also visit the [HUD website here for a full guide to renters' rights by states](#).

If your rental property ever suffers any defects that make your place uninhabitable, your landlord has a duty to fix it. While some apartments let you make online requests for repairs, as well as provide a phone number for "emergencies," always make sure you document your request in writing. The landlord will then have a certain amount of time to make those repairs.

### **Privacy**

You have the right to privacy. While the landlord owns the property, they can't access it anytime they want. All states have laws stating renters have a right to privacy while renting. Pretty much the only time the landlord can come into your rental without permission or notice is when they're responding to an emergency that threatens injury or property damage. Any other time the landlord wants to enter your apartment, they need to have your permission and in most cases give you 24-hours' notice before entering.

### **What to expect from the landlord:**

In most states, you are legally entitled to:

- Safe structural elements including floors, walls, roofs and secure doors and windows.
- Privacy as described above.
- All electrical, plumbing, heating and air conditioning systems function.

- Working hot and cold water.
- Exterminating infestations of rodents and other insects.
- Access to trash receptacles.
- Landlords cannot discriminate based on race, gender, sexual orientation or disabilities.
- Apartment buildings sometimes come with laundry and dryer machines in the basement.
- Water, electricity and gas bills are up to you to pay. **Your IOR DS Consultant will assist you with this process.**

### **Utilities and Appliances**

Your IOR DS Consultant will assist you or provide information on connecting your utilities. It is possible some will be included in your rent, but typically most are not.

**\*\*Note that you will need a social security number in order to register and pay for utilities\*\***

### **Recycling**

The [City of San Diego Recycling Ordinance](#) requires recycling at all single-family homes, all apartments and condominiums serviced by the City.



### **The Lease Process**

#### **Review your housing budget with your IOR DS Consultant**

Your DS Consultant can help you understand what kind of property you can afford. You also need to take into account that you may be responsible for some of the utility costs of your rental.

#### **Know what you want**

What are you looking for in a property? Do you want a studio or a single bedroom? Maybe you want to rent a single-family home? Do you need the property to come with appliances, including washer and dryer? Do want it to be close to school or your work? Do you want it to be within walking distance of retail, like groceries or coffee shops? Are you looking for a child friendly area? Keep in mind that outside of the city center in major cities, there is not much public transportation and most locals drive everywhere.

#### **Identify potential apartments**

IOR offers home finding services to aid you with this process. Your consultant may work with a local broker who will help to organize appointments and visit properties. They will also assist in the rental application and the leasing process.



## Common Abbreviations and Acronyms used in rental housing listings

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
<b>24-hr mtn</b>	24-hour emergency maintenance
<b>AC or A/C</b>	Air conditioning
<b>Appls</b>	Appliances
<b>Apt</b>	Apartment
<b>BA</b>	Bathroom
<b>BR</b>	Bedroom
<b>Bsmt</b>	Basement
<b>CAC</b>	Central air conditioning
<b>DA</b>	Dining area
<b>Det</b>	Detached
<b>Dk</b>	Deck
<b>DR</b>	Dining room
<b>Dw (D/w)</b>	Dishwasher
<b>Eff</b>	Efficiency
<b>EiK</b>	Eat-in kitchen
<b>Fin bsmt</b>	Finished basement
<b>FDR</b>	Formal dining room
<b>FHA</b>	Fair Housing Act
<b>FMR</b>	Fair market rent
<b>FP</b>	Floorplan
<b>Gar</b>	Garage
<b>H/A</b>	Handicapped accessible
<b>H/W</b>	Hardwood floors
<b>Hi ceil</b>	High ceilings
<b>HVAC</b>	Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
<b>LA</b>	Living area
<b>LR</b>	Living room
<b>MBR</b>	Master bedroom
<b>MBTH</b>	Master bathroom
<b>Neg</b>	Negotiable
<b>Ofc</b>	Office
<b>OSP</b>	Off-street parking
<b>Pkg</b>	Parking
<b>PM</b>	Property manager (management)
<b>Pvt</b>	Private
<b>Pwdr rm</b>	Powder room (1/2 bath)
<b>RE</b>	Real estate
<b>Renov</b>	Renovated
<b>Rf</b>	Roof
<b>Rm</b>	Room
<b>SF</b>	Single-family
<b>SFA</b>	Single-family attached
<b>SFD</b>	Single-family detached
<b>Sp, Pl (S/p)</b>	Swimming pool
<b>Sq. ft</b>	Square feet
<b>Th (T/H)</b>	Townhouse
<b>Vw (vu)</b>	View
<b>W/A</b>	Wheelchair accessible
<b>W/W</b>	Wall-to-wall carpeting

## **Visit**

Make this process as efficient as possible by visiting as many potential properties as you can in one or two days. Try to go sometime during the week if possible. Your IOR DS consultant will work with you to set an appropriate schedule and to ensure that the properties you visit meet your needs as closely as possible.

## **What to do once you're there**

As you look at the rental unit, be sure to ask a lot of questions. While you should keep small concerns to yourself about the unit while looking at it, feel free to ask the landlord or apartment manager any questions you might have that will help in your decision. Here are some possible questions you may consider asking:

- What's the monthly rent?
- Are any utilities included with the rent?
- How much is the security deposit?
- When is rent due? Do you have auto-pay?
- What's the make-up of the other tenants? Are they mainly younger students? Married couples with families? Older folks?
- What's the parking situation like? Do you pay for a parking spot?
- Do you take care of small maintenance issues or am I responsible for some of the repairs in the property?
- Am I able to re-paint the walls or make other modifications?

Again, be friendly and polite when you ask these questions.

## **The Application**

The next step in the leasing process for an apartment is to submit a rental application for the location you want. The manager or landlord will be able to give you the application as well as anything else that they may need to have filled out. Your IOR DS Consultant will assist with this process. For a single-family home there will likely be a rental application.

You will need your ID, Social Security number, and proof of employment. Some landlords may charge you an application fee which could be between \$20 to \$400 dollars, depending on the landlord. This could be a combination of an application fee and move-in fee.

Once you've done this, it can take up to a few days to hear back from the property manager. Once your application has been approved the lease approval process will begin with IOR and likely your employer.

## **Signing the lease**

DO NOT SIGN THE LEASE until your IOR DS consultant has reviewed it in full and given their approval.

The lease is a binding contract, so it is very important to pay attention as a leasing agent goes over it with you. It is perfectly normal for you to take your time and read all the fine print for yourself. If you

are working with an IOR DS consultant, make sure to talk with them and receive approval before signing. You will also be given a copy of the lease to take with you and keep for your records, but it is very important to know everything included in your lease from the start.

Some things to look for in a lease:

- Term of the lease and any important dates such as when the rent is due.
- Extra fees for parking spaces or storage, garbage collection and pets.
- Information regarding utility providers and whether you or the landlord is responsible for those bills.
- Notification requirements in case of renewal.
- Requirements/responsibilities of the tenants to do routine repairs such as lawn maintenance, cleaning or notification of repairs.
- Clauses that allow the landlord to change the terms of the lease after it is signed.
- Restrictions that would prevent you from living normally or comfortably in the home.

Sometimes landlords will ask for a security deposit before you sign the lease. This is normal, but you shouldn't pay in cash. Make sure all payments are made out as a check or money order just in case.

### **What to expect from the lease**

Most leases include the following or a variation thereof:

- Your employer requires that all leases include a Break Clause in case you are transferred for work or personal needs.
- Contracts will often be for periods of a year or more.
- Minimum stay. Typically, three fourths of your lease contract time. If you choose to move out before this date, you will lose your security deposit. If you move out afterwards, you are still required to give a specified number of days notice.
- Security Deposit. Landlords will expect you to leave them with a deposit (usually about one to two month's rent) that they will hold for the duration of your lease. You will receive your security deposit back at the end of the lease provided you don't break any specific clauses in your lease, such as moving out without proper notice, not paying rent, causing damages to the property, etc.
- Landlords should not be given unchecked access to your apartment. If there isn't anything in your lease about landlord's rights to enter the leased premises, suggest the following clause:

*Entry by the Landlord. Landlord or his agent will not enter Tenant's home except to deal with an emergency; to make necessary or agreed repairs; to supply necessary or agreed services; or to show the unit to potential purchasers, tenants, or repair persons. Unless there is an emergency, Landlord will give Tenant at least 24 hours' written notice of the date, time, and purpose of the intended entry and will schedule entries during normal business hours, Monday–Friday.*

Most landlords will be hard-pressed to say no to such a reasonable clause. If the landlord refuses, it's a sure sign that he won't be reasonable in other respects, too. Continue on in your housing search.

### **Moving In**

On your selected move-in date, after the lease has been signed, and deposits have been paid...you should be given your keys and more than likely a move-in form to fill out. Your IOR DS Consultant will assist you with an initial walk through of your apartment. Look for dings in the walls, cracked windows or other irregularities and report them on this form. This will indicate that these things were there before you moved in and you will not be held responsible for them at the end of the lease term.

### **Get Renter's Insurance**

Renter's insurance covers any loss to your personal property due to robbery or accidents. It also covers any damage you might cause to other tenant's property. For example, let's say your washing machine springs a leak and water seeps through the floor and ruins your neighbor's antique dresser. Renter's insurance would cover that.

Renter's insurance will cost approximately about \$15-125 a month, less if you tack it onto another policy (like auto) you have with an insurance company. A few popular options are [Allstate](#) and [StateFarm](#).

### Obtaining a Driver's License

If you are a visitor in California over 18 and have a valid driver license from your home state or country, you may drive in this state without getting a California driver license as long as your home state license remains valid.

If you become a California resident, you must get a California driver license within 10 days. Residency is established by voting in a California election, paying resident tuition, filing for a homeowner's property tax exemption, or any other privilege or benefit not ordinarily extended to nonresidents.

To apply for an original driver license if you are over 18, you will need to do the following:

- Make an appointment before visiting a DMV office (walk-ins are only accepted at our [Driver License Processing Centers](#)).
- Complete application form DL 44 (An original DL 44 form must be submitted. Copies will not be accepted.)
- Give a thumb print
- Have your picture taken
- Provide your social security number. It will be verified with the Social Security Administration while you are in the office.
- Verify your [birth date and legal presence](#)
- [Provide your true full name](#)
- [Pay the application fee](#)
- Pass a vision exam
- Pass a traffic laws and sign test. [Sample Test](#))

**Note:** To allow you sufficient time for testing DMV will not be administering written or audio exams after 4:30 p.m.

- Steps for applying for a California driver's license [here](#)
- For general information and to find an office near you, see general California [DMV website](#)

For general information and instructions on how to obtain an official state ID card or driver's license, [visit the website of the California DMV](#).

**Your Destination Services Consultant will also assist you with the proper procedure.**

## SCHOOLS IN YOUR AREA

Generally, to register your child for school you will need to have a birth certificate, proof of immunizations, any applicable past school records and proof of residency. Most public schools have boundary areas, and you must show proof (i.e. copy of lease or home purchase agreement) to be allowed to register in that particular school. Please always confirm requirements with the school you are interested in before assuming that your child will be able to attend that school.

Grade level in the public school system is determined by the age of the child. Typically, the child must be 5 years old by September 1st to enter kindergarten. School districts may be very strict about the age requirement, but inquire with the school district you are interested in to determine if there are any exemptions for students who are ahead in grade level. You may also want to ask about any gifted or advanced programs. Some elementary schools also offer a pre-Kindergarten program for children who miss the September 1st requirement. You may inquire at the school districts for availability.

Contact your IOR Destination Services Consultant for more assistance with schooling questions.

### **Public Schools in San Diego**

The public-school system in San Diego is managed by multiple independent school districts, but the largest is the [San Diego Unified School District](#). The district is the second largest public-school district in the state after the Los Angeles Unified School District.

To view which SDUSD schools are available in your neighborhood, click [here](#).  
For more information on the enrollment process at SDUSD schools, click [here](#).

Other public school districts in the area include:

- [Poway Unified School District](#)
- [Del Mar Union School District](#)
- [San Dieguito Union High School District](#)
- [Sweetwater Union High School District](#)

### **Private Schools in San Diego**

There are over 100 private schools in San Diego, ranging from early childhood education to high school. In general, many private schools in the U.S. require high application standards and entrance exams, and some may align with a specific religion when devising a curriculum. Listed below are some of the most acclaimed private schools in San Diego:

- [The Bishop's School](#)
- [Cathedral Catholic High School](#)
- [Del Mar Pines School](#)
- [Francis Parker School](#)
- [La Jolla Country Day School](#)

- [Ocean View Christian Academy](#)
- [San Diego Jewish Academy](#)
- [Waldorf School of San Diego](#)

#### **Colleges and Universities**

- [San Diego City College](#)
- [San Diego Mesa College](#)
- [San Diego Miramar College](#)
- [San Diego State University](#)
- [University of California, San Diego](#)
- [University of San Diego](#)



*University of San Diego*

### Checking and Savings Accounts

To open a checking or savings account you will need the following information:

- Two forms of picture identification including but not limited to your driver's license or work ID.
- Social security number
- Local mailing address. You may use your office address as your mailing address, but be prepared to call your bank branch as soon as you have your permanent address.
- Letter of Employment
- Cash for the initial deposit can range from \$25-\$150 dollars.

### Security

Always pay attention to the other people around you at an ATM. Do not use the machine if you are suspicious of someone's behavior. It is safer to find another ATM or to come back later. Do not put your PIN number in with anyone close enough to see it.

Credit card theft is another increasing problem. In order to protect your card from being abused, never give your credit card or credit card number to a service provider you have not called. Another precaution is to destroy or shred copies of receipts and bills. Criminals will not hesitate to dig through the trash to find a copy of your credit card number.

### Major Banks

Below is a list of links to some of the banks that have offices in the area. Not every bank is represented in all U.S. locations; in some cases you may find that the local bank is a better option for you than some of the larger banks. Your IOR DS Consultant can help you in selecting a bank by sharing the various options available locally.

- [Bank of America](#)
- [Chase](#)
- [Citibank](#)
- [HSBC](#)
- [TD Bank](#)
- [US Bank](#)
- [Wells Fargo](#)
- [List of Banks in San Diego](#)

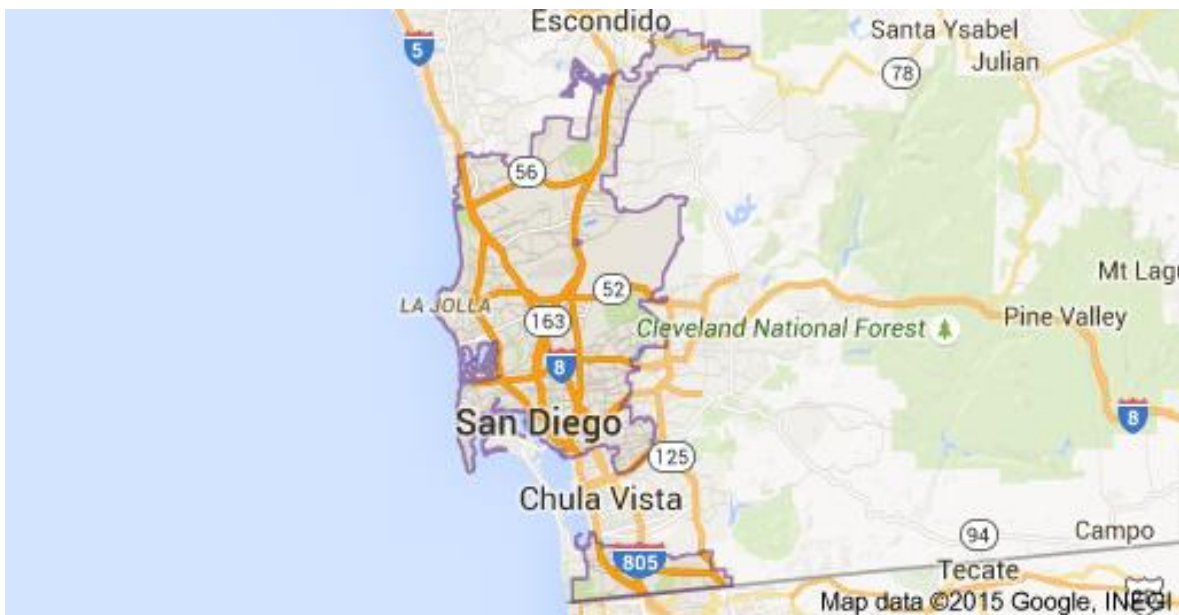


## PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION/DRIVING

### Driving

Driving is the most popular form of transportation in San Diego, with personal vehicles as the primary means of transportation for 80% of San Diego residents. The city is served by numerous freeways and highways. This includes Interstate 5, which runs south to Tijuana and north to Los Angeles; Interstate 8, which runs east to Imperial County and the Arizona Sun Corridor; Interstate 15, which runs northeast through the Inland Empire to Las Vegas and Salt Lake City; and Interstate 805, which splits from I-5 near the Mexican border and rejoins I-5 at Sorrento Valley.

Major state highways include SR 94, which connects downtown with I-805, I-15 and East County; SR 163, which connects downtown with the northeast part of the city, intersects I-805 and merges with I-15 at Miramar; SR 52, which connects La Jolla with East County through Santee and SR 125; SR 56, which connects I-5 with I-15 through Carmel Valley and Rancho Peñasquitos; SR 75, which spans San Diego Bay as the San Diego-Coronado Bridge, and also passes through South San Diego as Palm Avenue; and SR 905, which connects I-5 and I-805 to the Otay Mesa Port of Entry.



### Public Transportation

#### Bus and Rail

[SDMTS Trolley](#): The entire Trolley network serves 53 stations, comprises 53.5 miles of route and three primary lines named the Blue Line, the Orange Line and the Green Line. The network also has a supplementary heritage streetcar downtown circulator known as the Silver Line that operates on select weekdays, weekends and holidays. In 2014, the Trolley was the 4th most-ridden light rail system in the United States, with an average of 119,800 riders per weekday.

[SDMTS Bus](#): There are plenty of lines and routes that are serviced throughout San Diego. Be sure to check timetables and schedules, and plan your routes in advance.

[COASTER](#): The COASTER commuter train provides breathtaking coastal scenery as it runs north and south through San Diego County, serving eight stations between Oceanside and downtown San Diego. More than 20 trains run on weekdays, with additional service on the weekends. It takes about an hour to travel the entire COASTER route.



*San Diego Coaster*

[Amtrak Pacific Surfliner](#): Connecting San Luis Obispo and San Diego through Los Angeles and Santa Barbara, the Pacific Surfliner offers a unique vantage on the Southern California seascape. The Pacific Surfliner offers twelve daily round-trip services between San Diego and Los Angeles, and between Santa Barbara and San Diego.

### By Water

[Coronado Ferry](#): This passenger ferry runs regularly across San Diego Bay, between the Broadway Pier and the Convention Center in downtown San Diego and the Coronado Ferry Landing. A 15 minute ride takes you one way, and is one of the most efficient modes of transportation while providing gorgeous views of the downtown skyline and the Coronado Bridge.

[San Diego Water Taxi](#): offers transportation services between Downtown and Coronado.

### Taxi and Car Services

- [City Captain](#)
- [San Diego Silver Cab](#)
- [San Diego Taxi Company](#)
- [Uber](#)
- [Lyft](#)

### Biking in San Diego

Whether you're an avid mountain bicyclist, a road bike warrior, or a breezy beach cruiser, there are plenty of [paths, trails and roads in San Diego](#) to explore on two wheels.



### Airport

- [San Diego International Airport](#): (SAN) - While primarily serving domestic traffic, San Diego has nonstop international flights.

### AAA Travel Protection

[AAA](#) is a membership organization that offers benefits such as roadside service and towing, discounts on car products and services, maps, reference materials, etc. Call 1-800-352-5382 for information.

### TV, Cable, Telephone, and Internet

The main service providers for TV cable, landline telephone and internet all offer combination packages. They are in stiff competition with each other, so special offers change monthly, sometimes even weekly.

- [AT&T](#)
- [Comcast](#)
- [DirectTV](#)
- [Dish](#)
- [Time Warner Cable](#)

### Housewares and Furniture

- [Bed Bath & Beyond](#)
- [Ikea](#)
- [Home Depot](#)
- [Crate and Barrel](#)
- [Furniture Envy](#)
- [Pottery Barn](#)
- [Williams-Sonoma](#)
- [Rooms to Go](#)
- [The Container Store](#)

### Food Shopping

Residents in San Diego go to market at a wide range of open air farmers markets, large gourmet markets, small specialty shops and conventional supermarkets. The main conventional supermarkets are listed below. They are located all over town and the surrounding areas:

- [Ralph's](#)
- [Trader Joe's](#)
- [Vons](#)
- [Whole Foods](#)

Listed below are some of the specialty markets located in San Diego. They often carry a more specified variety of products, ranging from organic produce to international cuisine and beverages:

- [Bread and Cie](#)
- [Chua Chocolate](#)
- [Venissimo Cheese](#)
- [The Wine Bank](#)

## Farmers' Markets

For those looking to get their goods directly from the producer, there are many farmer's market locations throughout San Diego. From fresh produce to prepared foods, you can find an available market almost every day of the week. A select few:

- [Coronado Farmers Market](#)
- [Hillcrest Farmers Market](#)
- [La Jolla Open Aire Market](#)
- [Mercato Little Italy Farmers Market](#)
- [North Park Farmers Market](#)
- [Ocean Beach Farmers Market](#)
- [List of Farmers Markets](#)



### Art and Culture

San Diego's vibrant arts and culture scene teems with lively performances, thought-provoking exhibitions and engaging historic sites and monuments. San Diego is also home to two Tony® Award-winning theaters, historic sites, public art, music venues, dance performances, film festivals, galleries, missions and more. Whatever inspires you, there's always something happening in San Diego to engage your senses and enrich your mind.

- [California Ballet](#): California Ballet Company's (CBC) mission is to present high quality, professional works and educational opportunities to the community of Southern California, and preserve the classical dance style through maintaining a resident company of professional dancers. CBC presents a full season at the San Diego Civic Theatre.
- [San Diego Symphony](#): In the years since its inception in 1910, the San Diego Symphony has become one of the leading orchestras in the United States. The Symphony offers a wide range of concert experiences and performs over 100 concerts each season.
- [San Diego Art Institute](#): The San Diego Art Institute's "Museum of the Living Artist", with its main gallery located in historic Balboa Park, is a center for the visual arts for the Southern California /Baja California region.
- [Spanish Village Art Center](#): A community of over 250 artists from the San Diego area. These working studios enable visitors to meet the artists, see demonstrations of art being created and enjoy the unique Spanish Village atmosphere.
- [San Diego Museum of Art](#): Located in the heart of beautiful Balboa Park, the Museum's nationally renowned permanent collection includes Spanish and Italian old masters, South Asian paintings, and 19th- and 20th-century American paintings and sculptures.
- [The Old Globe](#): The Tony Award-winning Old Globe is one of the country's leading professional regional theatres and San Diego's flagship arts institution. The Old Globe produces a year-round season of 14 productions of classic, contemporary, and new works.



Balboa Park

## Museums

There are over 90 museums in San Diego County catering to a broad, diverse range of interests and subjects. From the fine arts, including classical, contemporary and folk art, to science and natural history, San Diego's museum world offers an abundance of options. The museums collectively dedicate themselves to preserving and caring for our cultural, natural and historic heritage.

- [Balboa Park](#): Often referred to as the "Smithsonian of the West," Balboa Park is the largest urban park with cultural institutions in the United States. Fifteen museums devoted to topics as varied as anthropology, art, aviation, natural science and technology are spread throughout the pristine gardens and historic Spanish Colonial architecture in Balboa Park.
- [USS Midway Museum](#): The USS Midway Museum is a maritime museum located in downtown San Diego at Navy Pier. The museum consists of the aircraft carrier Midway.
- [San Diego Natural History Museum](#): Located in Balboa Park, the museum's award-winning exhibit design team creates exhibitions on the unique and biodiverse southern California region.
- [San Diego Air and Space Museum](#): San Diego Air & Space Museum is an aviation and space exploration museum. It is located in Balboa Park and is housed in the former Ford Building, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- [San Diego Museum of Man](#): The San Diego Museum of Man is a museum of anthropology located in Balboa Park and housed in the historic landmark buildings of the California Quadrangle.
- [Old Town San Diego](#): Considered the "birth place" of California, Old Town San Diego gives visitors a glimpse into San Diego's colonial period from 1821-1872. At the center of Old Town is the Whaley House Museum Complex, which consists of five historic buildings, the most famous of which is the Whaley House.



USS Midway

## Attractions

San Diego is home to many of Southern California's top tourist attractions which provide exhilaration, education and excitement for adults and kids of all ages. San Diego's close proximity to Anaheim also makes for an easy day trip to [Disneyland](#). For more information on the best way to enjoy the area's attractions and to purchase advance tickets, be sure and visit [San Diego's International Visitors Center](#), located on the bay front at Harbor Drive.

- [San Diego Zoo](#): The San Diego Zoo is a zoo in Balboa Park housing over 3,700 animals of more than 650 species and subspecies. Its parent organization, San Diego Zoo Global, is the largest zoological membership association in the world.
- [SeaWorld](#): SeaWorld San Diego is an animal theme park, oceanarium, outside aquarium and marine mammal park. SeaWorld offers interactive exhibits and thrilling rides.
- [Birch Aquarium](#): Perched on a picturesque bluff in La Jolla, the aquarium features 60+ tanks of colorful marine life, including dazzling coral reefs, thrilling sharks, undulating jellyfish and three outdoor tide pools. An interactive museum showcases research discoveries on climate, earth and ocean science.
- [Legoland](#): Legoland California is a theme park and miniature park located in Carlsbad, California, based on the Lego toy brand. The theme park features rides, performances and activities for the entire family.
- [Belmont Park](#): Belmont Park is a historic oceanfront amusement park located in the Mission Bay area of San Diego. The attractions and rides that remain from the original 1925 park include the Giant Dipper, a wooden roller coaster that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- [San Diego Padres](#): San Diego's Major League baseball team.
- [San Diego Chargers](#): San Diego's National Football League team.



#### **Downtown Entertainment**

- [The Gaslamp Quarter](#): The Gaslamp Quarter is San Diego's dining, entertainment and urban shopping district.
- [Broadway San Diego](#): located at the Civic Center, there are many shows to see, including local talent!
- [San Diego Performance Theaters](#): San Diego is known as a theatre town, and that is because it sends more shows to Broadway than any other city in America. Here is a guide to some smaller, more local shows.
- [San Diego Symphony- Summer Pops](#): The Ashford University SUMMER POPS is San Diego Symphony's annual outdoor summer concert series. The concerts are performed on a stage constructed each year at Embarcadero Marina Park South, on San Diego Bay right behind the San Diego Convention Center.

#### **Beaches and Outdoor Recreation**

If San Diego is known for one thing, it would be for the city's gorgeous beaches and landscapes. With 70 miles of pristine coastline, year-around sunshine and mild temperatures, you can enjoy the surf and sand almost any day of the year. From expansive sandy beaches, rocky cliffs, reefs, tide pools and everything in between, the beaches in San Diego are as varied as the California beach towns that were built around them.

- [Point Loma Beaches](#): Point Loma is one of the best places in San Diego to meditate on waves crashing on the cliffs and explore tidepools in the rocky reefs full of marine life. If you're adventurous, drive out to the old Cabrillo Lighthouse and hike out to the tide pools by the point.
- [La Jolla Cove](#): La Jolla Cove is San Diego's most desirable spot for kayaking, snorkeling and diving. The water is calm and ecologically protected, and surfboards, boogie boards and other flotation devices are not permitted.
- [Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve](#): Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve is located within San Diego city limits, yet remains one of the wildest stretches of land on our Southern California coast. The reserve is visited by travelers from all over the world and by local residents who come daily to rest at the stunning overlooks, walk a peaceful trail, or exercise in a clean, beautiful environment.
- [Coronado Central Beach](#): Consistently voted one of America's finest beaches by The Travel Channel, Coronado's beaches glisten year around due to the mineral Mica in the sand. Coronado Central Beach offers tidepools, fishing in front of the Hotel del Coronado, fire rings and a dog run at north end.
- [Mission Trails Regional Park](#): Mission Trails Regional Park is a 5,800-acre open space preserve within the city of San Diego. The large urban park preserves nearly 5800 acres, and includes Lake Murray and historical Old Mission Dam.



*Mission Trails Park*



## TRANSFEEE RESOURCES

### Expatriate Resource Guide

- [www. expatexchange.com](http://www. expatexchange.com)

### Google Translator

- [Translate](#) 90 languages to and from language of choice using iTunes.

### Volunteer Opportunities

- [Volunteer Match](#)
- [United Way](#)
- [San Diego Human Society](#)

### Parent & Children Resources

- [Mom's Clubs](#) - social groups offering events and outings with mothers and their young children.

### Smart Phone Apps for Travel:

- [Uber](#) : Similar to a taxi service but all web based. Payment also handled online, do not pay or tip driver directly. Uber driver knows your approximate location based on your phone GPS.
- [Lyft](#) : Wherever you're headed, count on Lyft for rides in minutes. The Lyft app matches you with local drivers at the tap of a button. Just request and go.
- [Google Maps](#) : Map by direction
- [Apple Maps](#) : Map by direction
- [Map Quest](#) : Map by direction
- [Waze](#) : Community based traffic & navigation with alternate route suggestions
- [CityMaps2Go](#) : The #1 travel app lets you discover exciting new places. Beautiful photos and insider tips at the touch of a button. You will receive stories about places you like and can instantly save and find them on your maps and in your lists.

### Smart Phone Apps for Communication:

- [WhatsApp](#) : Free local & international Real Time messaging
- [Line](#) : Exchange free instant messages with friends whenever and wherever with one-on-one and group chats. LINE is available on all smartphone devices (iPhone, Android, Windows Phone, Blackberry, Nokia) and even on your PC.
- [Viber](#) : Free text, calling, photo messages and location-sharing with Viber users. No registration, alias or invitations required. Instantly integrates with your own contact list. Best-quality mobile calls using 3G or Wi-Fi.
- [Skype](#) : Stay in touch with your family and friends for free on Skype. Download Skype today to chat and call on desktop and mobile.

**Smart Phone Apps for Local Information/Reviews:**

- [Angie's List](#) : Referrals for doctor, dentist, child care, maid, mechanic, painter, plumber, etc.
- [Yelp!](#) : Find local businesses, restaurants, bars, clubs, events, etc. with map, lists, and reviews
- [Next Door](#) : Neighbors share community events, items for sale, recommendations for babysitters, doctors and handymen, crime reports, ideas about how to improve their neighborhood and more.
- [Meet Ups](#) : Meetups are neighbors getting together to learn something, do something or share something. Cultural groups advertise gatherings here as well.

**Smart Phone Apps for Weather:**

- [AccuWeather](#): Local weather; includes radar and forecast
- [Weather Channel](#) : National and international time, temperature & weather
- [Tornado](#) : Set up tornado alerts & siren

**Smart Phone Apps for Entertainment/Tickets;**

- [Goldstar](#): Discounted tickets for theater, concerts, sports, and comedy events
- [Groupon](#): Find local deals on events, restaurants, spas, and more
- [Musement](#): Tickets to museums, attractions, and interesting activities in the city

### Veterinary Clinics

- [ABC Veterinary Hospital](#)
- [Bay Park Veterinary Clinic](#)
- [Center Veterinary Clinic](#)
- [Veterinary Clinics](#)

### Licensing

By law all dogs must be [licensed](#). Dog license fees help pay for the care of lost and orphaned pets; for animal cruelty investigations and other community services that promote animal health and safety.

You must buy your dog's first license before it is five months old or within 30 days of moving it into our service area if the dog is older than five months.

### Dog Parks

All dogs shall be maintained on a leash not to exceed 8 feet, including trails and canyons in all parks. For those parks that have been designated dog [off-leash areas](#), dogs must be leashed until inside the posted boundary for the off-leash area.

### Volunteer

- [San Diego Humane Society](#)

AREA MAP



## PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Holidays can be confusing as there are national (federal) holidays, bank holidays, state holidays. Verify those in your area with Human Resources at your place of business, especially before planning vacations or weekend get-aways!

### [Federal Holidays](#)

### [State Holidays observed in California](#)

The following are federal holidays and need to be treated as such by employers:

- New Year's Day                      January 1\*
- Martin Luther King Day            Third Monday in January
- Memorial Day                        Last Monday in May
- Independence Day                  July 4\*
- Labor Day                              First Monday in September
- Columbus Day                        Second Monday in October
- Veterans' Day                         November 11\*
- Thanksgiving Day                  Fourth Thursday in November
- Christmas Day                        December 25\*

\*If a holiday falls on a Sunday, the day following is observed as the legal holiday.

