



San Diego, CA



San Diego, California, was the first European settlement on the Pacific Coast of the United States and Canada. Presidio Hill is the site of the first California mission established by Spanish Franciscan missionary Father Junipero Serra and a group of soldiers.

Balboa Park is a large cultural center in San Diego and home to many museums in the city, including the San Diego Air & Space Museum, San Diego Automotive Museum, San Diego Hall of Champions Sports Museum, San Diego Museum of Art, San Diego Natural History Museum, Veterans Museum and Memorial Center, Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, Museum of Photographic Arts, San Diego Model Railroad Museum, and San Diego Art Institute—Museum of the Living Artist. The San Diego Museum of Man is an anthropological museum containing various artifacts and exhibits. The Mingei International Museum collects, conserves, and exhibits folk art, craft, and design from all eras and cultures of the world. The Marston House is a 1905 Arts and Crafts-style museum home open to the public.

Other museums in the city include the San Diego Maritime Museum; New Children's Museum; USS Midway Museum, which is located aboard the Navy aircraft carrier; Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego in La Jolla and Downtown; Birch Aquarium at Scripps (in La Jolla); and Junipero Serra Museum. The Aviation Museum preserves the contributions made by Marine Corps aviators and their ground support personnel.

Balboa Park also has many performing arts centers, such as the Old Globe, Starlight Theatre and Bowl, Spreckels Organ Pavilion, Casa del Prado Theater, Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theater, Recital Hall, War Memorial Building, and Balboa Park Club. Other venues in the city include Balboa Theatre, Civic Theatre, Diversionary Theatre, Birch North Park Theatre, Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay, and La Jolla Playhouse. The Centro Cultural de la Raza and the WorldBeat Center promote and preserve various cultures through art, music, dance, and education.

NEIGHBORHOODS

San Diego's six downtown neighborhoods—Columbia District, Cortez Hill, Gaslamp Quarter, Little Italy, East Village, and Marina District—feature high- and mid-rise condominiums, lofts, townhomes, and apartments. Old Victorian-style homes, row-style townhomes, and historic buildings converted into various residential options are intermixed with buildings in contemporary designs.

Located adjacent to Balboa Park, South Park was built between 1906 and the 1930s, and features large Arts and Crafts homes, modest Bungalows, Spanish-style homes, and some newer apartment and houses. Nearby North Park is the site of the Dryden Historic District, which consists of 136 homes in styles ranging from late Victorian to Craftsman, Spanish Revival, and early California Ranch built between 1912 and 1941. Mission Hills is characterized by older stately homes, Craftsman bungalows, large mansions, and winding hilltop streets. In the mid-city area, Kensington was developed in 1926 and is known for its distinct California Spanish-style, single-family homes with tiled roofs built on winding streets. University Heights has a mix of Craftsman bungalows and apartments.

La Jolla, located near the northern boundaries of the city, is composed of many neighborhoods with housing that ranges from small but expensive cottages to multimillion dollar mansions in styles that include ranch, contemporary, Spanish, and Italian Renaissance. Condominiums also are available in most of the neighborhoods, and apartments are available in the Village.

PARKS AND RECREATION

San Diego has more than 340 parks; 13 swimming pools; 3 public golf courses; 5 skate parks; open-space parks; trails for hiking, biking, and equestrian use; 56 recreation centers; 11 public beaches; 2 fishing piers; and 15 designated off-leash dog areas. Some beaches are recommended for surfing or scuba diving, whereas others are restricted for swimming.

Balboa Park has 17 specialty gardens, including the Botanical Building and the San Diego Zoo, which has a prominent botanical collection in addition to rare and endangered animals.

Mission Bay Park is the largest man-made public aquatic recreational area in the world and features walking, jogging, and biking paths; playgrounds; boat docks and launching facilities; basketball courts; and 8 designated swimming areas.

SeaWorld San Diego offers interactions with various aquatic animals, shows, rides, and other activities.

San Diego has many professional sports teams, including the San Diego Padres (baseball), San Diego Chargers (football), San Diego Sockers (indoor soccer), and San Diego Gulls (hockey).

EDUCATION

San Diego Unified School District educates approximately 132,000 students in 117 traditional elementary schools, 9 kindergarten through 8th grade schools, 25 traditional middle schools, 24 high schools, 49 charter schools, and 14 atypical/ alternative schools.

Students may attend schools other than their resident schools. Magnet programs are available at all levels.

San Diego offers many opportunities for higher education. The University of California, San Diego, and San Diego State University provide education at the undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral levels. The University of California, San Diego, has a school of medicine and a school of pharmacy. University of San Diego and Point Loma Nazarene University have a religious focus and provide undergraduate and graduate programs.

Specialized higher education is available at the NewSchool of Architecture & Design, Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising, The Scripps Research Institute, California College San Diego Coleman University, Pacific College of Oriental Medicine, The Art Institute of California—San Diego, San Diego Culinary Institute, Design Institute of San Diego, IPSB College, Alliant International University, Bethel Seminary, National University, Southern States University, California Western School of Law, and Thomas Jefferson School of Law.

San Diego Community College District consists of San Diego City College, San Diego Mesa College, and San Diego Miramar College and offers associate degrees and certificates.

HEALTH CARE

San Diego is served by 11 hospitals that together have more than 3,500 adult and pediatric acute care beds. In addition, Naval Medical Center San Diego and the VA San Diego Medical Center are located in the city. Facilities are able to supply long-term acute care services, psychiatric treatment, and substance abuse treatment.

CITY STATS

2012

City Population	1,338,348
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	3,177,063
Per Capita Personal Income, San Diego—Carlsbad, MSA	\$49,719