

Mission Valley, San Diego

This year the 2015 NSS/MIC will be held at the Town and Country Resort and Convention Center (T&C). The T&C is located in Mission Valley, about 10 miles north of downtown San Diego on Hotel Circle, and connected to the entire San Diego area via the convenient San Diego Trolley located just next to the T&C. Centrally located in the middle of it all with easy access to popular San Diego attractions like Balboa Park, the San Diego Zoo, Old Town and SeaWorld San Diego, Mission Valley features unique shopping, activities, and accommodations for visitors to enjoy any time of the year.



Mission Valley offers something for nearly every kind of traveler. The area is an epicenter of retail and entertainment with two of San Diego's most popular malls, the 27-hole Riverwalk Golf Club, and Qualcomm Stadium, home of the San Diego Chargers. History buffs can visit Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcalá, founded in 1769 as California's first mission, and outdoor enthusiasts can explore Mission Trails Regional Park, one of the largest urban parks in the United States, encompassing nearly 5,800 acres.

The upscale Fashion Valley mall, a collection of luxury stores in an inviting outdoor setting, features department stores like Bloomingdale's and Neiman Marcus and premium brand shops, including Louis Vuitton, Tiffany & Co., Michael Kors, Coach, Hugo BOSS, Gucci, Jimmy Choo, the recently opened Topshop and Topman and more. Fashion Valley Mall is just a few minutes' walk from the T&C.

Though the T&C includes five on-site restaurants, attendees can also relax and grab a bite at one of Fashion Valley's many restaurants and bistros including True Food Kitchen, The Cheesecake Factory, Stacked, and PF Chang's, or take in a flick at the 18-screen movie theater. Additionally, the neighboring Westfield Mission Valley Center features a 20-screen movie theater, along with numerous retail shops for value-conscious shoppers, like Target, Nordstrom Rack, Marshalls and Bed Bath & Beyond.



SAN DIEGO CULTURAL ICON BALBOA PARK CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

The largest cultural complex west of the Mississippi and the largest urban cultural park in the United States, San Diego's Balboa Park



celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2015. Often referred to as the “Smithsonian of the West” for its vast concentration of major cultural institutions, the 1,200-acre Balboa Park offers visitors eight lush gardens, 15 diverse museums, the Tony Award-winning Old Globe theater and the world famous San Diego Zoo.

Originally built for temporary use during the 1915 Panama-California Exposition, Balboa Park has served as the cultural heart of San Diego for a century. Many of the museums along the park’s

celebrated El Prado walkway are housed in strikingly-beautiful Spanish Colonial Revival-style buildings that reflect San Diego’s rich history and ethnic diversity.

As part of the centennial celebration, one of Balboa Park’s most historic and iconic landmarks, the majestic California Tower at the Museum of Man, will reopen to the public for the first time in 80 years. Beginning January 2015, visitors can ascend the 150-foot tower to take in 360-degree views of both Balboa Park and the surrounding San Diego cityscape.

A Multitude of Local Interests

An incomparable combination of convenient location, world-class attractions and activities and consistently warm sunny weather make San Diego an ideal cruise port. San Diego's two Cruise Ship Terminals are situated on beautiful San Diego Bay adjacent to downtown's exciting urban core and within easy walking distance of numerous museums, hotels and restaurants, making even the quickest port visit a pleasure. With an average daily temperature of 70°F, attendees can certainly find time to explore San Diego Bay and the vibrant downtown area.



WHAT TO SEE AND DO

Popular sights and attractions along San Diego Bay and downtown allow visitors to commune with nature, relive history, and experience the city's exciting urban culture.

Old Town Trolley Tours offers a great way to see San Diego on an entertaining narrated tour of the city covering key points of interest including designated stops at the Cruise Ship Terminal, downtown's Gaslamp Quarter and Little Italy, Seaport Village, Coronado, Old Town, Balboa Park/San Diego Zoo and more. Visitors can stay on board for a continuous two-hour tour or enjoy "on-and-off privileges" at each stop.



The **USS Midway**, a decommissioned aircraft carrier docked at Navy Pier on the Embarcadero, is the most visited ship museum in the world. Celebrating its 10th anniversary, the Midway highlights San Diego's rich military history and provides visitors a glimpse into life aboard an aircraft carrier with dozens of historic aircraft on display and tours both above and below decks.

The **Maritime Museum of San Diego** on the Embarcadero comprises several historic ships and other vessels on which visitors can relive the early days of seafaring. They include the Star of India, the world's

oldest active sailing ship (built in 1863), the Californian, the official tall ship of the State of California, the HMS Surprise from the Academy Award-winning film Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World and two former Soviet and U.S. submarines.

The Port of San Diego commissioned a large collection of public art to enjoy along the bay called the **Tidelands Collection**. These playful sculptures and solemn memorials commemorate San Diego's international ties, cultural diversity, military significance and unique oceanfront environment.

San Diego's bayfront boasts 20 beautiful parks covering 250 acres along the shoreline. Park offerings vary and include features like landscaped walkways, playgrounds, bike trails and picnic facilities. San Diego's near-perfect weather allows cruise passengers to enjoy an afternoon in the park year-round.

A new 12-acre **Waterfront Park** located across the street from the Maritime Museum features playgrounds, sweeping views of San Diego Bay and a spectacular 830-foot long fountain with water jets.

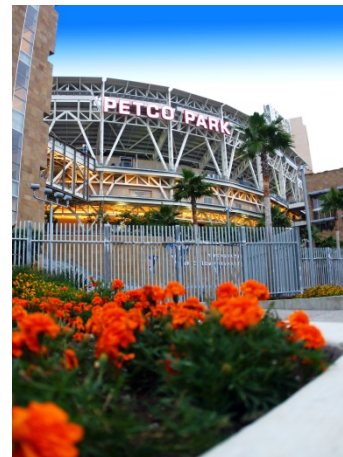
The **New Children's Museum** downtown is a fun interactive arts destination for children and families. The museum encourages children to think, play and create with fun-filled exhibitions, participatory artworks by contemporary artists, hands-on art making activities, special artistic performances and educational experiences. www.thinkplaycreate.org

The **Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego (MCASD)** consists of two downtown galleries, including one in the historic Santa Fe Depot baggage building, featuring rotating exhibitions of world-class art and works from the museum's permanent collection by promising emerging talent and major figures in the international contemporary art scene. MCASD offers free admission to guests 25 years and younger.



In downtown San Diego's historic 16.5-block **Gaslamp Quarter**, grand Victorian-era buildings house more than 150 restaurants, bars, nightclubs and lounges, as well as dozens of boutiques, art galleries and shops.

Petco Park, home of Major League Baseball's San Diego Padres, offers a guided behind-the-scenes tour of its downtown facility. Baseball fans can discover "writer's row" in the press box, explore the Padres' dugout and more. Baseball fans can also catch a Padres home game April through October.



Located five minutes by taxi from the Cruise Ship Terminals, **Balboa Park** is the cultural heart of San Diego. Visitors can easily spend an entire day exploring the park's offerings. Encompassing 1,200 acres, Balboa Park is home to 15 museums ranging from anthropology to science and from classic to contemporary art; performing arts venues like the Tony Award®-winning Old Globe Theater; lush gardens, and the San Diego Zoo.

Visitors can take a walk on the wild side at the San Diego Zoo, a 100-acre tropical oasis located in Balboa Park. Home to more than 4,000 animals representing more than 800 rare and exotic species, the zoo is world-renowned for its naturalistic, bio-climatic exhibits like the new Australian Outback. The zoo is also home to the popular Giant Pandas; San Diego Zoo is one of only four facilities in the United States to house this critically endangered species.



Cabrillo National Monument at nearby Point Loma is named after Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, the European explorer who discovered California. From its cliffs, guests enjoy bird's-eye views of the bustling harbor and magnificent downtown skyline. The park's tide pools are also one of the last and best-preserved rocky intertidal areas open to the public in Southern California.

Visitors can view a life-size, fully functioning replica of Cabrillo's 16th century galleon ship, the San Salvador at San Salvador Village at Spanish Landing near Harbor Island. After her maiden voyage in January 2015, she will become part of the museum's permanent fleet and sail the California coast as a San Diego ambassador.

Old Town State Historic Park marks the site of the first Spanish settlement on the U.S. West Coast and represents San Diego's Hispanic heritage from 1821 to 1872. Easily accessible from the Cruise Ship Terminals by taxi or the San Diego Trolley, the six-block park features 12 acres of Mexican lore



and historical sites presented in popular shops, restaurants, museums, a theater, and several carefully preserved or restored historic adobe and wooden buildings.



SeaWorld San Diego, located a short drive north of downtown San Diego on Mission Bay, offers close encounters of the animal kind in an aquatic setting. Celebrate the wonders of the sea during SeaWorld's 50th anniversary and experience the new Explorer's Reef and dozens of fascinating exhibits containing marine life from

around the globe, amazing animal shows and rides like the new Manta roller coaster.

WHERE TO DINE

Along San Diego's bayfront, visitors can enjoy amazing meals against a backdrop of crimson sunsets, the sparkling harbor and dynamic downtown skyline. There are more than 70 restaurants located along the bay, sure to satisfy any craving.

More than two dozen restaurants can be found along the Embarcadero, with seafood standouts including Anthony's Fish Grotto, The Fish Market, Sally's Seafood on the Water and Roy's San Diego Waterfront.

Harbor Island, conveniently located across the street from San Diego International Airport, features nine terrific dining spots, including the popular Boathouse, Tom Ham's Lighthouse - celebrating 50 years on the island - and Island Prime/C-Level lounge.

The marina resort oasis of Shelter Island features six sensational restaurants including the new Vessel Restaurant in the Kona Kai Resort, tiki-inspired Bali Hai and Humphrey's Restaurant. At the adjacent America's Cup Harbor, six bayside restaurants include the popular Point Loma Seafoods, Galley at H&M Landing and Mitch's Seafood.



WHERE TO SHOP



Batali's Pizzeria Mozza.

Seaport Village, a 14-acre bayfront shopping and dining complex, recreates a California harbor setting of a century ago. Amid cobblestone pathways, ponds, fountains and lush landscaping, Seaport Village offers themed shops, restaurants and cafes.

Horton Plaza, a multi-level, outdoor shopping and entertainment center, offers 130 specialty shops, restaurants, a movie theatre and performing arts theatre. Well-known for its whimsical and vibrantly colored design, Horton Plaza was created to resemble a European marketplace.

Across the bay on Coronado Island, easily accessible via the Coronado Ferry, the Coronado Ferry Landing is a retail complex featuring a charming collection of one-of-a-kind shops, art galleries and waterfront dining surrounded by tree-lined walkways, swaying palms and sparkling ponds.



Shopping enthusiasts can find an abundance of retail shops along the bayfront and downtown. The following are some popular shopping spots where visitors can find trendy and fashionable apparel or that one-of-a-kind memento.

Housed in the iconic former headquarters of the San Diego Police Department, the chic, new Headquarters at Seaport District is home to an exclusive collection of specialty shops and restaurants, including world-renowned surf photographer Aaron Chang's Ocean Art Gallery, Kitson, Puesto Mexican restaurant and Mario



Little Italy is a quaint and lively downtown neighborhood filled with art galleries and shops, patio cafes, restaurants and pubs, particularly along India Street, Fir Street with its colorful cottages housing stylish boutiques and Kettner Blvd. with an array of art and design and home décor stores.