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Escondido may mean "hidden valley" but it's no secret that there's a lot going on here!

Located 30 miles northeast of downtown San Diego and 20 minutes from the coast, Escondido is home to major attractions, beautiful wineries, craft breweries, delicious culinary experiences, unique arts & theater, and a charming historic downtown. Enjoy our beautiful outdoors with year-round golfing, hiking, biking, fishing, and fantastic events!



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With average summer temperatures in the upper-70s, San Diego offers a cool respite for visitors of every type. A range of activities, from oceanfront amusement parks and sunset cruises to art museum tours and shopping for imports, keep vacationers busy while ocean breezes keep them cool. When it comes to summer fun, San Diego truly has something for everyone.

FAMILY FIESTA

There's plenty to love for children of all ages – and for adults' inner children – in San Diego, even beyond the big attractions of SeaWorld, the San Diego Zoo and LEGOLAND in Carlsbad. One of the biggest bonanzas of fun is Belmont Park, a 7-acre amusement park opened in 1925 along South Mission Beach replete with rides (roller coasters, bumper cars, carousel), a go-kart speedway, wave machines, a zipline, and

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more. Grab lunch and a show at Wavehouse Bar & Grill, home of a ten-foot wave machine named "Brutus Maximus" that surfers use to show off their skills.

The New Children's Museum is a new model for museums in that the mission is to stimulate imagination, creativity and critical thinking through inventive and engaging experiences. This new concept is sure to keep the attention of your children, no matter their ages, with a wide range of exhibits, interactive activities, artistic performances and much more. The best part of a family outing to the New Children's Museum is everyone will learn something through these numerous opportunities. They'll just be having too much fun to realize it.

Located near Belmont Park, the Hyatt Regency Mission Bay caters to every type of traveler (couples will love the sunrise and sunset views from the VIP corner suites, as well as the eco-friendly Blue Marble Spa), but families will find an array of appealing amenities including amazing ocean views, three pools, three water slides, and a seasonal water taxi (runs Memorial Day through Labor Day) that takes guests to a private entrance at SeaWorld.

Families can see another exciting show of sea life aboard a boat cruise from Hornblower, such as the Summer Whale Watching Adventures tour (June 24 - Sept. 4) - a four-hour excursion with views of dolphins, whales, sea lions, and San Diego landmarks; and a one- or two-hour Harbor Cruise & Sea Lion Ad-



Explore Another Side of San Diego

Museums, cultural institutions & more

Did you know that in addition to having mild weather and a beautiful coastline, San Diego is home to over 40 museums and cultural attractions? Throughout San Diego County, we have museums to appeal to all ages—come learn about art, music and our rich military history, or explore the outdoors, sea life and outer space. Visit sandiegomuseumcouncil.org to learn about all the museums San Diego has to offer.



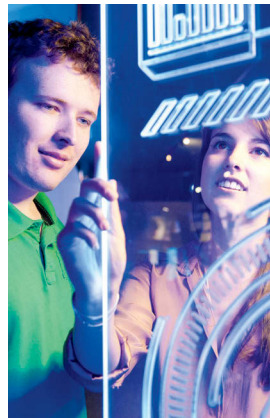
THE NEW CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

The New Children's Museum is an arts-based children's museum that inspires imagination and creativity in children and families. With three floors of interactive space, an organic garden and a park across the street, there is always something "new" to explore and discover. Open 7 days/week all summer.

thinkplaycreate.org

VETERANS MUSEUM AT BALBOA PARK

The Veterans Museum at Balboa Park keeps alive the experiences of the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces and the Wartime Merchant Marine by telling their stories of service and documenting their contributions to the nation. New exhibits present the History of Women in the services from the Revolutionary War to today, and a retrospective on the Vietnam War. veteranmuseum.org



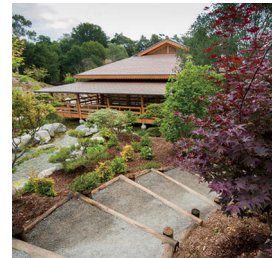
REUBEN H. FLEET SCIENCE CENTER

Get your hands on science at the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center! Interact with intriguing exhibits, featuring **Science Fiction, Science Future** through September 5, 2016, where you can see tomorrow ... today! Youngsters ages five and under rule in Kid City, an area just for them. Watch immersive films in the world's first IMAX® Dome Theater, featuring a 76-foot tilted, wrap-around screen, bolstered by a 16,000-watt sound system. Visit the Fleet for an engaging and entertaining experience.

rhfleet.org

JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

The Japanese Friendship Garden is a hidden jewel located in the heart of historic Balboa Park with eleven acres of lush landscapes, winding pathways, tranquil water features, a meditative rock garden, bonsai collection, two koi ponds, and the new Inamori Pavilion featuring special exhibits. NIWA.org



MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTS

Be inspired at the Museum of Photographic Arts with a range of exhibitions from *Beauty and the Beast: The Animal in Photography* in partnership with the San Diego Zoo's centennial to celebrating the 100-year anniversary of the National Park Service in *America's Cathedrals*. Get hands-on with interactive stations and take your own photos to share your experience. Explore even more when MOPA's open late Thursday until 8 p.m. all summer during Balboa Park After Dark. MOPA.org



MARSTON HOUSE MUSEUM & GARDENS

The 8,500 square-foot Marston House was designed by the internationally renowned architectural firm of Hebbard & Gill, and built in 1905 for George Marston and his wife, Anna, and is one of California's finest examples of the Arts and Crafts movement. Surrounded by five acres of rolling lawns, manicured formal gardens, and rustic canyon gardens, you'll want to spend some time exploring the grounds in the shade of towering pine, eucalyptus and oak trees. SOHOSandiego.org

SAN DIEGO MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM

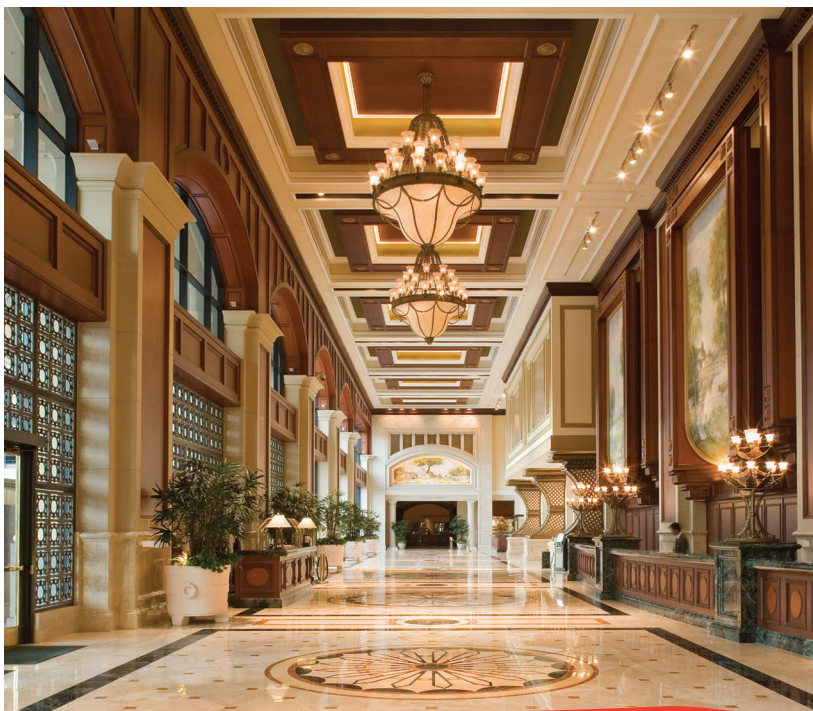
With over 27,000 square feet of tracks, trestles, and trains, the San Diego Model Railroad Museum is a world of wonder for kids and kids at heart. The recent addition of the Centennial Railway Garden leads the way in new technology and sustainable exhibit design. History buffs will appreciate the fact that most exhibits in the museum are based on actual historic railway lines – this museum truly is an unparalleled experience of art and history come alive. sdmrm.org



BIRCH AQUARIUM AT SCRIPPS

Birch Aquarium at Scripps is the public exploration center for Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego. Perched on a bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean in beautiful La Jolla, the aquarium features habitats of fish and invertebrates from the cold waters of the Pacific Northwest to the tropical waters of Mexico and beyond. Visitors enjoy one of the best ocean views in San Diego, tide pool touch tanks, and the opportunity to learn about our ocean and what we can do to protect it. aquarium.ucsd.edu





MANCHESTER GRAND HYATT

venture, which traverses 13 miles down the Big Bay.

Omni San Diego is minutes from the San Diego Zoo, SeaWorld, Balboa Park, Seaport Village, Wild Animal Park, and Embarcadero Park, making it a great stay-and-play spot for families. And it's a perfect pitch for taking the family out to a San Diego Padres baseball game, since the hotel is connected to PETCO Park.

COUPLES FUN

What could be more romantic than a sunset cruise, accompanied by a glass of sparkling wine? Hornblower gives guests

a gamut of glamorous options, from three-hour dinner cruises to champagne brunch excursions to fireworks cruises with a DJ on deck. Accommodations a deux include the exotic, Polynesian-themed Catamaran Resort Hotel and Spa, and its sister property, the Bahia Resort Hotel, both on the azure shores of Mission Bay. Couples can cruise the bay between the resorts aboard the 74-foot, three-story sternwheeler, the Bahia Belle, while enjoying cocktails and each other's company. The Manchester Grand Hyatt, located downtown, puts couples in the heart of the city's urban action, while offering a reprieve

at its Marilyn Monroe Spa overlooking San Diego Bay.

A ten-minute drive down the Pacific Highway from Downtown San Diego, Old Town San Diego proffers a plethora of delights for duos, anchored by the colorful complex of shops at Bazaar del Mundo, home to a boutique book store (Libros), Native American jewelry displays (The Gallery), Southwestern and Mexican furniture (Design Center



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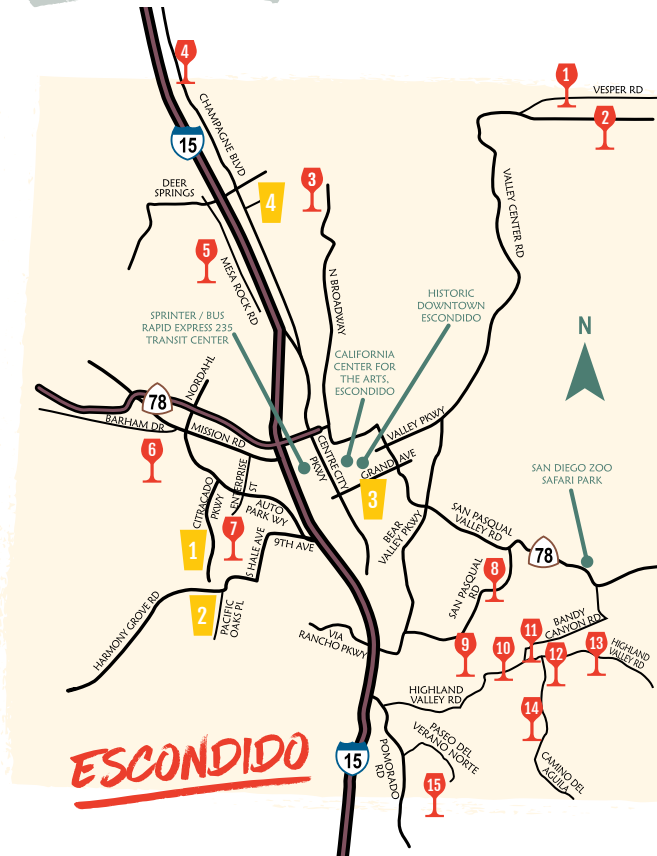
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Inc.), global gifts at every price point (Treasures), and more. If all the shopping works up an appetite, there are scores of restaurants in Old Town, including Mexican food favorites Casa Guadalajara, Cafe Coyote and El Agave. Or get cozy around "Big" Baja buckets for two at the Rockin' Baja Coastal Cantina. There are also 33 historical sites around Old Town for couples to peruse, including the Mormon Battalion Historic Site, the San Diego Sheriff's Museum, Church of the Immaculate Conception and the First San Diego Courthouse.

For couples wanting to wander off the beaten path and into new and intoxicating territory, it's worth the scenic 35-minute drive to Escondido. While San Diego's long been known for its craft beer scene (pioneered by Escondido-based Stone Brewing Co.), there's also a burgeoning wine scene in Escondido, with more than 20 producing wineries. Ambiance ranges from hilltop terraces overlooking the vineyards to edgy, urban tasting rooms. Many wineries pair their pours with live music ranging from acoustic folk to improvisational jazz.

CULTURE CACHE

More than 45 museums make their marks throughout San Diego, offering visitors a variety of arts and history-oriented experiences. The San Diego Museum of Art houses a huge collection of art from all over the world, including Spanish and Italian old masters and works from South Asia. Culture vultures looking for more modern artistic visions can find them at places like the Museum of Contemporary Art downtown and the new Lux Art Institute, where visitors can watch short-term resident artists create their works in the studio gallery. History buffs are drawn to spots like the San Diego Archeological Center, San Diego Natural History Museum, and the Women's Museum of California – the only women's history museum in the country. Automobiles, art and history collide at the San Diego Automotive Museum (where a 1948 Tucker is on display),



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DIANE POWERS – THE GODMOTHER OF OLD TOWN

If you've filled out a comment card at any of the restaurants Diane Powers owns, rest assured she personally read it. Though the lauded San Diego entrepreneur and design professional stays busy with the day-to-day operations of her businesses – the Bazaar del Mundo shops, and quartet of restaurants (Casa de Pico, Casa Guadalajara, Casa Sol y Mar and Casa de Bandini) – she takes the time to read every single customer comment card. It's just one example of Powers' dedication to detail and desire to elevate her patrons' experiences.

Other examples abound throughout Powers' shops and restaurants. At Bazaar del Mundo, displays of piñatas, patio umbrellas, skirts and sarapes scream with bold, bright colors, creating a kaleidoscopic labyrinth of eye candy. "One of the reasons the Bazaar del Mundo is so unique and enchanting is... you go in and you keep discovering new areas," Powers says. "You wander from one room to another to another, where all these beautiful displays are and different themes of stores. So it's very fun shopping there."

Powers first opened Bazaar del Mundo in 1971, on the site of the old Casa de Pico Motor Hotel in Old Town State Historic Park. At that point, Powers – a San Diego native with a degree in design from San Diego University – had been running the design firm she'd purchased from Ilse Ruocco three years prior, and taking fre-

quent trips to Mexico and Guatemala since the mid-1960s. "I just loved the Mexican culture – I loved the art, the folk art, the architecture, the gardens, the music, the food, everything," Powers recalls. "When I started traveling to these villages down in Mexico, I saw just an oasis of creative people doing their folk art. And I just loved it."

Bazaar Del Mundo reflects Powers' passion for all facets of Mexican culture, and for creative presentation. "We have new merchandise coming in every single day. We constantly change our displays – they're just beautiful; we have really talented people who work with us," Powers says.

"And it's more of a lifestyle sort of environment – we have fashion, we have galleries, we have a Guatemala shop, we have a kitchen shop, a home furnishings shop that features Mexican and Southwest furniture. We're very multi-faceted."

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In 2005, Powers relocated Bazaar Del Mundo to its current location next to Casa de Guadalajara on the corner of Juan and Taylor streets in Old Town San Diego. Losing her lease in Old Town State Historic Park after 35 years was disappointing to Powers, especially considering how much her businesses did to revitalize the Old Town area, but the entrepreneur – who also pioneered the city's annual Cinco de Mayo festival in 1983 and has received a slew of recognitions including a Living Legacy Award from the nonprofit Women's International Center and numerous nods from the San Diego Business Journal – says everything has worked out well. "We have our new Bazaar del Mundo and it's doing very well right next to Casa Guadalajara, which is probably one of Old Town's most popular restaurants," Powers says. "Not only do we have visitors from all over the world that come enjoy our environment, but also a huge local clientele. So, we have the best of both worlds with this."



DIANE POWERS



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BALBOA PARK

while maritime mavens enjoy the Birch Aquarium at Scripps and the Maritime Museum of San Diego. Visitors can ogle seahorses and coral reefs at the former, and take bay discovery excursions or adventure sails at the latter.

For the ultimate cross-cultural experience, you can visit Europe, right in the heart of San Diego. The best place to base yourself for this is the elegant Westgate Hotel. This downtown icon features fine art and furniture from all over Europe in its public places, including an 18th-century marble fireplace adorned with gilded bronze nymphs in the Versailles Ballroom, an artisanal mirror dating from the Louis XVI era by noted cabinet maker Claude Charles Saunier, a seven-foot long 1886 desk by Henri Dasson decorated with golden cherubs, a detailed reproduction of Pompeo Batoni's 1773 painting *Return of the Prodigal Son*, tapestries by Aubusson and Beauvais, and one of the first five pia-

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PHOTO BY LEAH LEMOINE

nos ever manufactured by the Steinway company. Looming in luminescence over the lobby (which is a re-creation of one of the anterooms at Versailles) are spectacular chandeliers of hand-cut Baccarat crystal custom-made for the Westgate Hotel in Milan, Italy. In the hotel's restaurant, The Westgate Room, Executive Chef Fabrice Hardel combines California ingredients with French gastronomy traditions. Further French flair is found at numerous nearby restaurants, including bistro Cafe Chloe, Le Parfait Paris pastry shop, Bleu Bohème, upscale farmhouse Smoking Goat and American-hued Mr. A's. Italian food abounds in Little Italy, of course, and at Buona Forchetta, while Cafe Sevilla serves seafood with a Spanish spin. Anglophiles will find ales and satisfaction at the Shakespeare Pub & Grill.

Westgate Hotel is within walking distance of Balboa Park, a 1,200-acre urban oasis flush with gardens, museums, shops, restaurants and the San Diego Zoo. The replica Tudor building of the Old Globe Theatre, the WorldBeat Cultural Center, the Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theater, and Spreckels Organ Pavilion are just a few of the cultural delights within the boundaries of Balboa Park.



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