

ILA 2014 Conference Local Information

Manual

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WELCOME TO SAN DIEGO



WELCOME TO SAN DIEGO!

For a sneak peek of the beauty and magic of San Diego, watch [this](#).

We are thrilled to welcome you to “America’s Finest City”. We know that you will enjoy the conference and hope that you can also take advantage of all of the incredible sights and experiences our city has to offer.

Please use this manual as a guide to help plan your time here in San Diego.

BREATHTAKING VIEWS



San Diego has some amazing scenery — from the mountains to the ocean, explore some of these favorite local spots...

1. [La Jolla Cove](#)
2. [Marine Street](#)
3. [Soledad Mountain](#)
4. [The “green flash” at sunset](#): Look toward the west and watch the sun go down; the green flash will appear at the last minute as the sun sets into the ocean
5. [Torrey Pines Glider Port](#)
6. [Sunset Cliffs](#)
7. [Ferry to Coronado Island](#)

If you have a car, think about traveling on [San Diego's 59-mile Scenic Drive!](#)

BREWERY TOURS



There are over 60 craft breweries right here in San Diego County. For information on brewery tours, click [here](#).

For a local guide on beer hot spots, click [here](#).

To learn more about the San Diego Craft Beer scene and special events throughout the week, visit the [San Diego Brewers Guild web page](#).

DAY TRIPS FROM SAN DIEGO

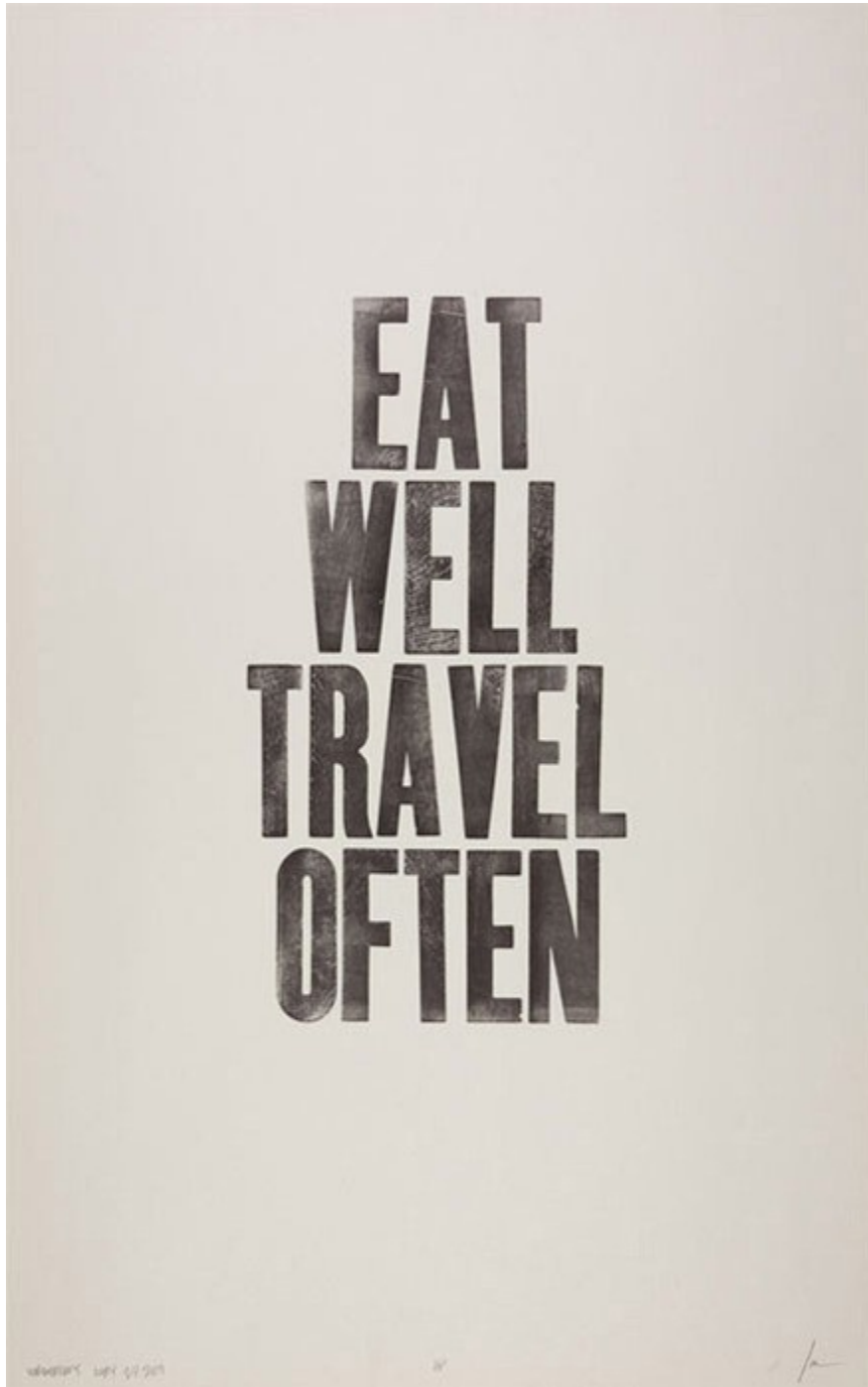


These day trips are fun and will offer you a different perspective of Southern California!

1. [Mexico](#) – Bring your passport!
2. [Temecula Wine Country](#)
3. [Julian](#) – taste some traditional American Apple Pie
4. [Desert Hot Springs](#) – soak in therapeutic hot springs
5. [Palm Springs](#) – a desert oasis
6. [San Juan Capistrano](#) – take a train ride up the beautiful California coastline

Note: Visitors planning to travel to Mexico (even just to cross the border into Tijuana) **MUST** bring their original passport.

DINING INFORMATION



Below are dining locations personally selected by the ILA Welcome Team. Some are even local secrets so be sure to try them while you are in town!

FAST FOOD OPTIONS – for a quick bite downtown

1. [Burger Lounge](#)
2. [J Wok](#)
3. [The Kebab Shop](#)
4. [Rama](#)
5. [Smashburger: Burgers, Cheeseburgers & Fast Casual](#)
6. [Greek Islands Cafe](#)
7. [Margarita's Kitchen & Cantina](#)

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS for Dining and Nightlife

For more insider information, please review [San Diego, Curiously – Food, Drink and Cooking Just for Fun](#)

HISTORIC LANDMARKS



Founded in 1850, San Diego has a rich history. Explore some of these beautiful and historic landmarks during your stay in America's Finest City:

1. [Hotel Del Coronado](#)
2. [Cabrillo Monument & Lighthouse](#)
3. [Mission San Diego de Alcalá](#) (San Diego's first mission)
4. [Ocean Beach Pier](#) (the longest pier on the West Coast)
5. [Balboa Park](#)

LGBTQ



LGBTQ in San Diego

To the north of Balboa Park is a unique neighborhood in the heart of San Diego. Famous for its one-of-a-kind and welcoming joie de vivre, Hillcrest is the center of San Diego's LGBTQ community. With an energy all its own, Hillcrest's streets are lined with 1950's-style storefronts, colorful awnings, rainbow flags, boutiques, salons, thrift stores, and restaurants and bars to suits all tastes. Many popular dining, drinking, and shopping hot spots in Hillcrest are concentrated in "The Village" area that runs along University Avenue, between Fourth and Fifth Avenues; however, there are plenty of hidden gems scattered throughout the streets of this colorful neighborhood. Not to be missed is the "Before I Die" chalkboard on the corner of University and Richmond Street!

Points of Interest

[The San Diego LGBT Community Center](#)

[Hillcrest Pride Flag](#)

[Harvey Milk Street](#) (first in the nation)

LGBTQ Restaurants & Bars

Hillcrest

[Urban Mo's](#)

[Baja Betty's](#)

[Gossip Grill](#)

[Hillcrest Brewing Company](#)

[Martinis Above 4th](#)

[Babycakes](#)

[Harvey Milk's American Diner](#)

[Fiesta Cantina](#)

[The Brass Rail](#)

[Flicks](#)

[#1 on Fifth](#)

[The Loft](#)

[Rich's](#)

Banker's Hill

[Caliph Lounge](#)

[SRO Lounge](#)

University Heights

[Lei Lounge](#)

[Bourbon Street](#)

[Cheers](#)

North Park

[Lips](#)

[Redwing](#)

Point Loma

[The Hole](#)

Other Resources

1. [Leading LGBTQ news source in Southern California/San Diego Area](#)
2. [LGBTQ Neighborhood Information and Resources](#)
3. [City of San Diego's LGBTQ Planning Guide](#)

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES



While in San Diego you can visit the mountains, the desert, the beach and the city all in one day (if you are adventurous). Otherwise, these various landscapes can be discovered and explored on a more leisurely basis over the span of a couple days. To the left you will see some suggested outdoor activities to try while you are in San Diego.

Hiking Trails & Rock Climbing



There are thousands of trails to explore in San Diego and rock climbing opportunities for all ages and skill levels. Explore the links below to learn more.

1. [Hiking Trails](#)
2. [Rock Climbing](#)

Surfing/Stand Up Surfing/PaddleBoarding



Enjoy the beautiful Pacific Ocean! Companies listed below rent/sell equipment and also offer classes at various skill levels.

1. [Pacific Surf School](#)
2. [Mission Bay Sports Center](#)
3. [Surf Diva](#)

Hang Gliding



Experience the breathtaking views of San Diego's coastline while floating through air...

[Torrey Pines GliderPort](#)

Yoga (including yoga at the beach!)



Traditional Yoga Classes – all located downtown near the San Diego Convention Center:

1. [Yoga One San Diego](#)
2. [Pura Vida Yoga Center](#)
3. [Urban Yogi](#)

Yoga at the Beach – Meditate and stretch just steps from the ocean:

1. [Yoga at the Beach](#)
2. [NamaSteve Yoga](#)

Tidepools



There are various tidepools to explore along San Diego's coast. The link below contains comprehensive information about the various locations

[Tidepools in San Diego](#)

Museums & Parks



In addition to the San Diego World Famous Zoo, there are many other great museums and parks within close proximity to the downtown area. See below for some recommendations.

MUSEUMS

1. [Scripps Aquarium](#)
2. [Star of India Maritime Museum](#)
3. [USS Midway Aircraft Carrier Museum](#)

PARKS

1. [Balboa Park](#)
2. [Belmont Park](#)
3. [Old Town](#)

Ferry to Coronado



Experience Coronado Island and arrive in style by boarding the Coronado Ferry.

For information about this short ferry ride over to the Island, click [here](#).

For a list of activities and events on Coronado Island, please click [here](#).

San Diego Padres – PetCo Park



PetCo Park is the home of the San Diego Padres and is located across from the San Diego Convention Center. There is great park space there and also a Fan Zone store.

SECRET SPOTS – SHHH!



SHHHHH – these are secrets from local San Diegans...happy exploring!

1. [Gondola Ride in Coronado](#) (a bit of Italy here in town)
2. [Potato Chip Rock](#)
3. [Bahia Belle Evening Boat Ride to/from Bahia & Catamaran Hotels](#)

SHOPPING OUTLETS



Name brand designers and low, low prices! Explore these various shopping outlets and remember to save room in your luggage for your purchases – you will definitely find some bargains that you will want to bring home with you.

WITHIN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

1. [Plaza de Las Americas](#)
2. [Carlsbad Factory Outlet](#)

JUST OUTSIDE SAN DIEGO COUNTY (1-2 HOUR DRIVE)

1. [Lake Elsinore](#) (about 1 hour and 15 minute drive from San Diego)
2. [Cabazon](#) (about 2 hour drive from San Diego)