2-DAY TRAVEL GUIDE

2 Days in San Diego: The Essential Itinerary

A first-timer two-day San Diego route pairing La Jolla's coastline and tacos with Balboa Park, Spanish Village and the San Diego Zoo.



AT A GLANCE

01	*Day One* **La Jolla Coast & Local Favorites**	Wayfarer Bread & Pastry / La Jolla Cove / Windansea Beach
02	*Day Two* **Balboa Park, the Zoo & Dinner**	Balboa Park / San Diego Zoo / Kingfisher

LA JOLLA - UNIVERSITY CITY

Day One: La Jolla Coast & Local Favorites



STOP 1 / 8:30 AM

Wayfarer Bread & Pastry

A popular craft bakery in Bird Rock that bakes French pastries by hand daily We tried a bunch, but the seasonal pear pastry was my absolute favorite



STOP 2 / 9:30 AM

La Jolla Cove

A compact cliffside walk with close-up coastal views and frequent sea lion sightings. There's literally MILES of SEALIONS!!!

BOOK THIS STOP >



STOP 3 / 10:30 AM

La Jolla Shores

A mile-long sandy beach with calmer waves for a laid back beach picnic day or a dip in the ocean! You can also book a guided kayak tour to view kelp beds and marine-wildlife habitat up close I'd choose this beach if you are a...

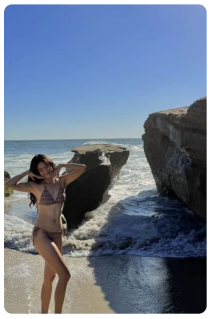
BOOK THIS STOP >



STOP 4 / 2:00 PM

The Taco Stand

Baja-style tacos with tortillas, salsas and guacamole made from scratch daily This is our San Diego tradition-the al pastor and carne asada never disappoint!



STOP 5 / 3:30 PM

Windansea Beach

A rocky La Jolla beach where nearshore reefs create powerful, photogenic surf breaks Caution: the waves are STRONG here. Don't go too far in unless you are a confident swimmer!

BALBOA PARK - GOLDEN HILL - CONVOY

Day Two: Balboa Park, the Zoo & Dinner



STOP 1 / 8:30 AM

Balboa Park

A free 1,200-acre cultural park packed with architecture, gardens and 17 museums El Prado and the Botanical Building are free even without museum tickets!

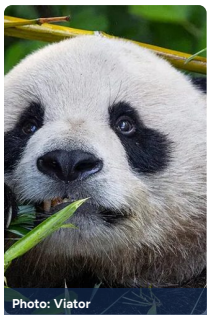
BOOK THIS STOP >



STOP 2 / 10:00 AM

Spanish Village Art Center

A colorful working-artists' village with more than 200 local creatives across dozens of mediums Watch artists work, then browse the small studios for genuinely local souvenirs



STOP 3 / 11:00 AM

San Diego Zoo

A wildlife park where admission includes a guided bus and Skyfari aerial tram. Wear comfortable shoes. This is a BIG zoo, you could spend a whole day here!

BOOK THIS STOP >



STOP 4 / 6:00 PM

Kingfisher

A polished Vietnamese-inspired dinner with dramatic cocktails and a gorgeous curved bar We came for smoked dry-aged duck, but the crispy pork ear salad stole the show

EXTEND YOUR TRIP

Have more time?

Consider these stops.

OTHER ITINERARY LENGTHS: 3 days in San Diego - 4 days in San Diego



EMBARCADERO - CORONADO -...

USS Midway Museum Admission

Explore the historic aircraft carrier's flight deck, restored aircraft, crew spaces, and interactive exhibits with an included audio tour.

BOOK NOW >



EMBARCADERO - CORONADO -...

San Diego: Best of Coronado and Ferry Ride from San Diego

Ride the ferry across San Diego Bay, then explore Coronado highlights including Orange Avenue, Hotel del Coronado, and the beach.

BOOK NOW >



EMBARCADERO - CORONADO -...

San Diego Hop-On Hop-Off Trolley Tour

Ride a narrated trolley loop connecting Old Town, Balboa Park, the Gaslamp Quarter, Coronado, and San Diego's waterfront.

BOOK NOW >



EMBARCADERO - CORONADO -...

San Diego Bay Jet Ski Rental

Ride a jet ski from Coronado for an independent, fast-paced look at the bay and downtown waterfront.

BOOK NOW >



EMBARCADERO - CORONADO -...

Gondola Cruise through the Coronado Cays

Glide through the Coronado Cays on a private-style gondola cruise with calm water and waterfront-home views.

BOOK NOW >



EMBARCADERO - CORONADO -...

San Diego: The Most Extensive City & Beach Tour

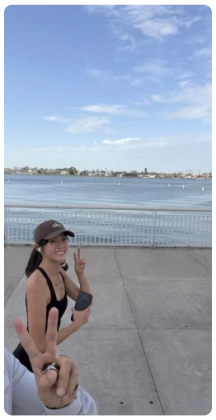
Cover San Diego's city and coast highlights on a small-group tour including Balboa Park, Old Town, La Jolla, Coronado, and Hotel del Coronado.

BOOK NOW >

EXTEND YOUR TRIP

Have more time?

More bookable ideas for extending your trip.

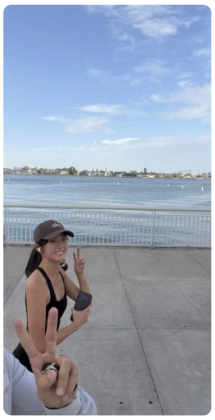


EMBARCADERO - CORONADO -...

San Diego SEAL Amphibious City Tour

See waterfront landmarks by road before the amphibious vehicle splashes into San Diego Bay for wildlife and skyline views.

BOOK NOW >

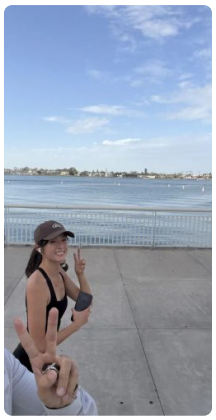


EMBARCADERO - CORONADO -...

San Diego Harbor Cruise

See the San Diego skyline, naval vessels, Coronado Bridge, and harbor wildlife from the water with live guided commentary.

BOOK NOW >

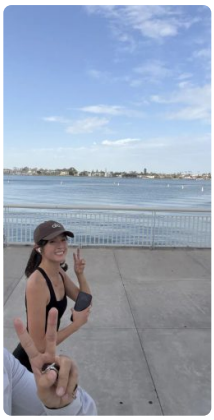


EMBARCADERO - CORONADO -...

San Diego Whale-Watching and Dolphin Cruise

Head into Pacific waters with naturalist commentary to look for seasonal whales, dolphins, sea lions, and seabirds.

BOOK NOW >

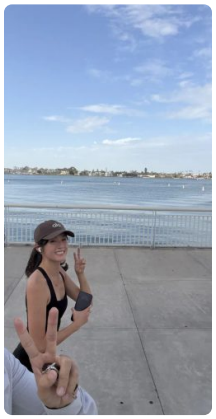


EMBARCADERO - CORONADO -...

San Diego Whale-Watching Cruise

Head offshore with naturalist commentary to look for migrating whales, dolphins, sea lions, and seabirds.

BOOK NOW >

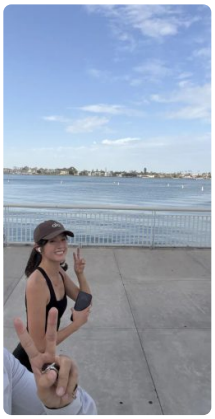


EMBARCADERO - CORONADO -...

San Diego: Mission Bay Sunset Cruise

Enjoy a sunset cruise around Mission Bay with music, drinks available from the bar, and Pacific sunset views from the deck.

BOOK NOW >



EMBARCADERO - CORONADO -...

Best of the Bay Scenic Harbor Tour

Sightsee across San Diego Bay from a comfortable yacht with open-air observation decks and narrated harbor views.

BOOK NOW >