

JUNE 2009

FamilyCircle



Easy Summer
Recipes

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The Secret to
Less Stress

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Help Your Teen
Find a Job



La Jolla Cove

Balboa Park

San Diego skyline

USS Midway Aircraft Carrier

Gaslamp Quarter

Torrey Pines State Reserve

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

*SAN DIEGO

EXPLORE > See San Diego's skyline and naval history along downtown's Embarcadero, a waterfront pathway leading to the USS Midway Aircraft Carrier Museum (\$17 for adults; \$9 for ages 6 to 17). Take trolleys, trains or buses to other attractions. Don't miss Balboa Park, with 15 museums and the famous San Diego Zoo. Experience the city's Hispanic heritage at Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, a site that commemorates California's first Spanish settlement. You'll find restored adobes, mariachi music and hand-rolled tortillas. Old Town Mexican Cafe is a local favorite for fresh food. For cheaper south-of-the-border fare, head to Rubio's Fresh Mexican Grill (there are several in San Diego), and order a Baja-style fish taco, the specialty of the house.

STAY > The new Hilton San Diego Bayfront has a spa and saltwater pool; rooms start at \$180 per night (hilton.com). It's smack in the middle of dynamic downtown—across from Petco Park, where baseball's Padres play, and near the Gaslamp Quarter and the pretty-in-pastels Horton Plaza shopping center. Across the bridge from downtown, Loews Coronado Bay Resort is relaxing and quiet, with a laid-back, private-island feel. Surrounded by both bay and ocean, it's great for jet skiing and sailing adventures, and teens will love the Guitar Hero World Tour competitions in the ultra-cool P18teen lounge, which also has movies and iPod-ready rockin' chairs. Nightly rates start at \$199 (loewshotels.com).

SNORKEL > The water is crystal clear at La Jolla Cove, part of a protected ecological preserve. Look for brightly colored fish, rays and coral, and sometimes seals and harmless leopard sharks. Rent snorkel or kayak equipment on Prospect Street, two blocks away. Or ask about surfing lessons in the area. And don't forget to save time for window shopping and gallery hopping in downtown La Jolla.

SKATE > San Diego is heaven for rollerbladers and skateboarders—after all, Tony Hawk is a hometown legend. Kids can zoom along paved paths on Mission Beach, stopping at Belmont Park for a ride on the Giant Dipper coaster (\$6). Or head to one of the skate parks in Coronado, Oceanside or Ocean Beach, for X Games-style fun.

WHALE WATCH > Besides being home to star orca Shamu, Sea World brings you face to face with adorable belugas in the Wild Arctic exhibition; 1-day admission, \$65, ages 10 and up; seaworld.com. To glimpse whales in the wild, head to the Cabrillo National Monument lighthouse, on Point Loma Peninsula; from December through mid-March, you can spot gray whales migrating to Baja.

INFO > sandiego.org

[SCENIC ROUTE]
San Diego to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Hike
 through California's largest State Park (parks.ca.gov).
DISTANCE: 90 MILES EAST
Sights to See > **Wildflowers:** The desert is awash in color every March. **Palm Canyon Trail:** This rugged 3-mile pathway leads to palm groves, waterfalls, swimming holes and rock grottoes. **Wildlife:** Big-horned sheep, roadrunners, iguanas, mule deer and golden eagles all call this place home.

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Photos: Courtesy of Jerome D'Amico (LA Jolla Cove); Michael J. Pech/istock.com (Balboa Park); iStockphoto.com (San Diego skyline); USS Midway Museum (USS Midway Aircraft Carrier); iStockphoto.com (Gaslamp Quarter); iStockphoto.com (Torrey Pines State Reserve); iStockphoto.com (Anza-Borrego Desert State Park)