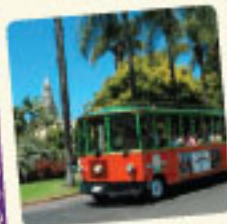


## Get There

**Fly In** San Diego International Airport ([san.org](http://san.org)) lies so close to the heart of the city that the landing lights are posted on mid-rise office towers that sit under the flight path. Metropolitan Transit System's route 992 connects the airport and downtown's Gaslamp Quarter for \$2.25 ([sdcommute.com](http://sdcommute.com)).



The Blue route links major tourist attractions. Rates start from \$1 per ride.

**Get Away** To fully explore the San Diego coast, you'll need a car. Rent one at the airport.

**Get Around** Linking San Diego's major sights, Old Town Trolley Tours ([trolleytours.com](http://trolleytours.com)) offers convenient on/off service for a one-day ticket. MTS also operates three color-coded trolley lines ([sdcommute.com](http://sdcommute.com)).

## Take There



**Cal-Med Weather** Famed for its recreation-friendly weather, San Diego boasts a moderate Mediterranean climate with warm (not hot) summers and cool (not cold) winters. The average annual temperature hovers around 64 degrees. The 10 inches of annual rain fall generally between November to March.

**Packing for It** The coastal chill, common in the evenings, means you'll always need a sweater or light jacket. Surfers wear wet suits even in August, so expect the water to be cold if you decide to take the ocean plunge.

**Coastal Conditions** Thanks to the vast, cooling Pacific Ocean, the coastal climate stays moderate year-round. The sky often dawns cloudy until the sun burns the haze away. Since inland temperatures can warm considerably, dress in layers.

## Stay There



**Budget** Pacify your inner banker without sacrificing comfort at La Pensione Hotel, a Mediterranean-style 75-room inn in the city's Little Italy neighborhood. Rooms from \$80. [lapensionehotel.com](http://lapensionehotel.com)

**Middling** The 1926 downtown Pickwick Hotel was recently given a \$16 million update to emerge as the gracious Sofia Hotel. The handsome brick exterior was preserved, but inside is a 24-hour yoga studio, the latest in-room technology, and the just-opened American brasserie Curren. Rooms from \$149. [thesofiahotel.com](http://thesofiahotel.com)



**Splurge** The Victorian-age charmer Hotel del Coronado has all the right vintage touches where you'd like them—cage elevator, lush courtyard, spacious terraces—but interiors are thankfully updated with cushy beds, WiFi, and flat-screen televisions. Rooms from \$300. [hoteldel.com](http://hoteldel.com)

## Celebrate There

**Every Sunday** Sugar magnates John D. and Adolph Spreckels in 1914 donated the 4,500-pipe Spreckels Organ in Balboa Park to the city, stipulating free concerts would be offered weekly. Catch the shows Sundays at 2 p.m. [balboapark.org](http://balboapark.org)

**Nov. 14–18** The annual San Diego Bay Wine and Food Festival features cooking classes, wine tasting seminars, and a whole lot of chowing down. [worldofwineevents.com](http://worldofwineevents.com)

**Dec. 9 and 16** Led by a Coast Guard cutter, a fleet of boats colorfully lighted for the holidays parades from Shelter Island to Coronado in the San Diego Bay Parade of Lights, a seasonal tradition. [sdparadeoflights.org](http://sdparadeoflights.org)

**Jan. 21–27** Can Tiger Woods make it four in a row at Torrey Pines? The Buick Invitational draws the golf world's best to Torrey Pines Golf Course at the start of the New Year. [buickinvitational.com](http://buickinvitational.com)