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**San Diego’s Buzzing Neighborhoods**

From pristine beaches to sun-kissed cliffs, San Diego’s vast and varied landscape is the perfect backdrop for more than 100 unique city neighborhoods. Each neighborhood’s personality and style speak of San Diego’s rich diversity, and their cultural and culinary offerings continue to evolve, due to their distinct individuality. Here, visitors can mingle with local residents, get lost in San Diego’s history, and experience the city’s dynamic culinary and artistic scenes.

Whether it’s because of their perseverance, historical relevance or culinary delights, hidden gems like Barrio Logan, Point Loma and the Convoy District in Kearny Mesa are buzzing neighborhoods worth exploring.

**Barrio Logan**

Located south of downtown San Diego, Barrio Logan is a Mexican-American neighborhood established by refugees back in the early 20th century during the Mexican Revolution and rooted in civic movement. Throughout time, numerous rezoning projects slowly transformed this bay front community into an industrial zone, until the 1970s when the construction of a California Highway Patrol Station on a local park heightened the community’s frustration, resulting in a nonviolent uprising to reclaim what is now known as Chicano Park. Today, the resilient voices of this Chicano community are echoed throughout the barrio’s murals and galleries. The neighborhood’s cultural significance resulted in a prestigious designation in 2017 by the California Arts Council as one of 14 California Cultural Districts for showcasing some of the unique artistic identities driving California’s culture.

* Designated a National Historic Landmark in 2017, [**Chicano Park**](https://www.sandiego.org/articles/parks-gardens/chicano-park.aspx) is the heart of Barrio Logan and home to the largest collection of outdoor murals in the world. The murals painted on the support piers of the San Diego-Coronado Bridge narrate the story of San Diego’s Mexican-American community. Throughout the year, the park is the site of many important cultural celebrations like [**Chicano Park Day**](https://www.sandiego.org/explore/events/festivals-and-street-fairs/chicano-park-day.aspx), held every April, which commemorates the park’s anniversary with music, Aztec indigenous dance demonstrations, food and art. Every November 2, Día de los Muertos comes alive with the [**Muertos Candlelight Procession**](https://www.sandiego.org/explore/events/holidays/sherman-heights-dia-de-los-muertos.aspx) and altar blessing that begins in nearby Sherman Heights and culminates at Chicano Park.
* In addition to the more than 80 colorful murals in Chicano Park, Barrio Logan has become an emerging arts district with galleries and art events. A formerly vacant space, [**Bread & Salt**](http://www.breadandsaltsandiego.com/) is a popular spot for cutting-edge art shows, music performances and the occasional immersive theater piece. To highlight the area’s passion for arts, the community organizes a **Barrio Art Crawl**, held every second Saturday of the month throughout the year, for galleries, studios and businesses to host independent events.
* A vibrant culinary scene is also an important characteristic of the neighborhood. An iconic Barrio Logan eatery is **Las Cuatro Milpas**, where locals line up for authentic homestyle Mexican food and freshly made tortillas. [**Salud!**](https://saludsd.com/) restaurant is a former taco truck offering daily taco specials and micheladas, while [**Barrio Dogg**](http://barriodogg.com/) serves Mexican-gourmet hot dogs out of a lowrider food cart. Local craft beer is also becoming an important resident in the neighborhood. [**Border X Brewing**](http://borderxbrewing.com/) specializes in capturing true Mexican flavors like its Abuelita’s Chocolate Stout inspired by traditional Mexican chocolate. Other must-visit breweries in the barrio include [**Mujeres Brew House**](https://mujeresbrewhouse.com/), and [**Thorn Brewing Co.**](http://thornstreetbrew.com/) and [**Attitude Brewing Co**](https://www.attitudebrewing.com/).

**Point Loma**

Located north of downtown San Diego, Point Loma is a historically rich bayfront community set on a scenic peninsula. Not only was the area where “California began” and where the iconic **Spirit of St. Louis** was built and tested, Point Loma also showcases San Diego’s rich military and naval history. However, Point Loma’s resent shift into a cultural and gastronomical hub has transformed itself into one of the city’s hottest neighborhoods. From art galleries, concert venues and food markets to hidden tidepools and the perfect spots to catch the sunset, Point Loma will always be history in the making.

* In 1542, Portuguese navigator Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo landed at the end of the Point Loma peninsula and was the first European to set foot in present-day California. Described as “the birthplace of California,” a statue of Cabrillo stands tall at the [**Cabrillo National Monument**](https://www.sandiego.org/members/parks-gardens/cabrillo-national-monument.aspx), a U.S. National Park. Every October, Cabrillo’s arrival is commemorated during [**The Cabrillo Festival**](https://www.sandiego.org/members/parks-gardens/cabrillo-national-monument/events/cabrillo-festival.aspx),a weekend-long event with reenactments of the discoverer’s arrival, music and food. Cabrillo National Monument is also home to the **Old Point Loma Lighthouse**, San Diego’s first light house, and **Fort Rosecrans**, where gun batteries, bunkers and fire control stations once safeguarded San Diego. However, the area’s history can be traced back millions of years through its eroded sandstone cliffs along the Pacific Ocean, known as **Sunset Cliffs**. Here, 75 million-year-old dinosaur fossils from the Late Cretaceous period can be found, along with some of the best sunsets in San Diego.
* Point Loma’s culinary scene appeals to diverse tastes and styles. [**Phil’s BBQ**](https://philsbbq.net/) is where locals get their barbeque fix, proven by the long lines out the door that can be monitored live through their website. The popular [**Liberty Station**](https://www.sandiego.org/members/parks-gardens/liberty-station.aspx), a former Naval Training Center, is the place foodies flock and is a food lover’s paradise. Guest enjoy local craft beer at [**Stone Brewing World Bistro and Gardens**](https://www.sandiego.org/members/breweries/stone-brewing-world-bistro-and-gardens-liberty-station.aspx), Neapolitan-style pizzas at [**Officine Buona Forchetta**](https://www.sandiego.org/members/restaurants/officine-buona-forchetta.aspx), sharable seafood and meat dishes at [**The Presley**](https://www.thepresleysd.com/) and inventive breakfast eats at [**Breakfast Republic**](http://www.breakfastrepublic.com/). The best example of Liberty Station’s gastronomical influence is the [**Liberty Public Market**,](https://www.sandiego.org/members/shopping/liberty-public-market.aspx) San Diego’s food hall that houses 30 plus all-local artisans offering everything from Mexican, Thai, Argentinian and French cuisine to fresh seafood, flowers, olive oils and even doggie treats.
* Liberty Station is also home to galleries, museums and dance studios like the [**San Diego Comic Art Gallery**](https://libertystation.com/go/san-diego-comic-art-gallery),[**Women’s Museum of California**](http://womensmuseumca.org/)and [**Jean Isaacs San Diego Dance Theater**](http://sandiegodancetheater.org/), all part of Liberty Station’s [**Arts District**](https://www.sandiego.org/members/museums/arts-district-liberty-station.aspx). Throughout the year, the Art District hosts events like the [**Liberty Station Summer Concerts**](https://libertystation.com/post/liberty-station-concerts), a series of outdoor live music events, and the [**ArtWalk @ Liberty Station**](https://artwalksandiego.org/libertystation/), a two-day summer event highlighting local artist, food and beer.For live music aficionados, Point Loma is home to two of the main concert venues in San Diego: The [**Valley View Casino Center**](https://valleyviewcasinocenter.com/), where artist like The Rolling Stones have performed, and [**Humphreys Concerts by the Bay**](https://www.sandiego.org/members/music/humphreys-concerts-by-the-bay.aspx), an open-air venue with live music and comedians performing under the stars.

**Kearny Mesa - Convoy District**

Located north east of downtown, the neighborhood of Kearny Mesa is home to the Convoy District, a hidden dining hub where locals satisfy their cravings for Vietnamese, Japanese, Korean, Thai and Chinese cuisine. Unofficially named Asian Row, the area is where San Diego’s rich pan-Asian culture shines through restaurants, bakeries and supermarkets offering everything from fresh produce to stuffed animals, and where karaoke aficionados get their five minutes of fame.

* From handmade noodles and savory dumplings to matcha ice cream served on fish-shaped cones, northern and Southeast Asia collide in a delicious way in the Convoy District. Local dining favorites include [**Kura**](http://kurausa.com/), a revolving sushi bar where authentic fresh sushi parades on a conveyor belt; for a spicy hot meal, **Tofu House** is a popular Korean BBQ joint serving steaming hot dishes like hot pot soups and hot stone dishes. Also, for Korean food, [**Manna BBQ**](http://mannabbq.com/) is an all-you-can-eat meat-lover’s paradise where patrons can grill their own meat at their table. For brunch, dim sum is a specialty at [**Jasmine Seafood Restaurant**](http://jasmineseafood.com/) where more than 100 plates of Cantonese-style dumplings and buns in traditional table-serving rotating carts are served until 3 p.m. daily.
* In addition to a great selection of Asian cuisine, Convoy District also serves up a fun night on the town. [**HIVE**](https://hivesandiego.com/) is the perfect spot to enjoy local fare, a full bar, arcade games, dance floor with DJs and private karaoke rooms for rent. Staying true to San Diego, beer also plays an important part in the neighborhood. [**Common Theory Public House**](http://commontheorysd.com/) features more than 30 rotating beers on tap, alongside a food menu inspired by Asian, American and Mexican cuisine. Hidden inside Common Theory Public House, [**Realm of the 52 Remedies**](https://www.52remedies.com/) is a one-of-a-kind cocktail and culinary experience inspired by a collection of ancient Chinese herbal recipes. The nanobrewery [**Kilowatt Brewing**](https://kilowatt.beer/) focuses on creating unique beers like its green tea ale and barrel-aged goji berry stout. [**Cross Street Chicken and Beer**](https://www.crossstreetcnb.com/) specializes in traditional Korean-style, twice-fried chicken paired with 20 beers on tap and a bottle beer selection.
* The best way to mingle with Kearny Mesa locals is by visiting one of the many Asian supermarkets selling everything from fresh produce, baked goods and live seafood to unique novelties like teacup sets and plush toys. [**Zion Market**](http://www.zionmarket.com/) specializes in Korean food and produce and features a French-Asian fusion bakery and food court. Another way to meet locals and experience the neighborhood is by attending the [**San Diego Night Market**](http://www.sdnightmarket.com/),a two-day celebration during summer where Convoy’s sounds and flavors intermix in one spot. Over 50 vendors sell Asian-inspired street food and goods, while a stage features live bands, DJs and traditional and modern dances. A beer garden serves up local beers and spirits, and a drive-by cinema plays Asian films.

Happiness is calling in San Diego. For more information on San Diego’s offerings, including exciting vacation packages and valuable coupons for attractions, restaurants and more, visit the San Diego Tourism Authority’s website at [www.sandiego.org](http://www.sandiego.org).

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