



TOURISM AUTHORITY

NEWS

CONTACT:

Sarah Weinberg (619) 557-2838
sweinberg@sandiego.org
Robert Arends (619) 557-2834
rarends@sandiego.org
Edna Gutierrez (619) 557-2887
egutierrez@sandiego.org
Joe Timko (619) 557-2812
jtimko@sandiego.org
Twitter @VisitSD_PR
www.sandiego.org

October 2018

What's New in San Diego Winter 2018-2019

Major Events

Maritime Museum of San Diego, home to one of the world's finest collections of vintage vessels, will sail the historic *Star of India* on Nov. 17-18, 2018, for the first time in five years. Built in 1863, *Star of India* is the world's oldest active sailing ship and has circumnavigated the globe 21 times. The museum will be offering "companion sails" alongside *Star of India* aboard three legendary sailing vessels. Guests can reserve tickets aboard *Californian*, the official tall ship of the state, *San Salvador*, the 1542 Spanish galleon replica built in San Diego, or *America*, a replica of the historic yacht that won the America's Cup in 1851. Tickets are \$249 per person and include breakfast, lunch, drinks and champagne, as well as an on-board historian. Space is limited. (10/18)

Nov. 2-11, 2018, marks the 10th anniversary of **San Diego Beer Week**, bringing together craft brewers for events both large and intimate to celebrate local suds. From a kick-off Brewer's Guild Festival featuring more than 60 independent breweries to a VIP beer-centered cruise on San Diego Bay to the exclusive culinary closing event at the Lodge at Torrey Pines featuring 14 chefs and decadent food and beer pairings, Beer Week celebrates San Diego as the Capital of Craft for 10 days of tasting opportunities throughout the county. (10/18)

On Dec. 7-8, 2018, **Balboa Park December Nights** celebrates the holiday season as the largest free community festival in San Diego. The event offers foods and crafts from around the world for sale, free music and dance performances, and free admission to Balboa Park's diverse museums. (10/18)

On Dec. 9 and 16, 2018, the Port of San Diego hosts a free **San Diego Bay Parade of Lights**. This colorfully unique San Diego holiday tradition features more than 100 private boats decorated with holiday lights, sailing along the waters of San Diego Bay. (10/18)

The annual **San Diego County Credit Union Holiday Bowl** will be played at SDCCU Stadium on Monday, Dec. 31, 2018, at 4 p.m., marking the first time the San Diego bowl game has been played

on New Year's Eve. The game will feature powerhouse teams from the Pac-12 Conference and the Big Ten Conference and will be featured as the anchor event of FOX Sports' New Year's Eve bowl game coverage. The **Big Bay Balloon Parade** along downtown San Diego's waterfront will be held the morning of the game. (5/18)

During Jan. 20-27, 2019, more than 180 of San Diego's finest restaurants participate in a celebration of the local dining scene with special prix fixed menus for **San Diego Restaurant Week**. (10/18)

On Jan. 24-27, 2019, the **Farmers Insurance Open** annual PGA Tour men's tournament hosts golf's biggest stars on the green at the world-famous Torrey Pines Golf Course in La Jolla, home of the 2021 U.S. Open. (10/18)

After successfully hosting the **Breeders' Cup** for the first time in 2017, the prestigious horse race returns to San Diego's **Del Mar Thoroughbred Club** again in 2021. The championship will be held in Santa Anita Park in 2019, Keeneland in 2020 and Del Mar in 2021. (10/18)

New Hotels

Anticipated to open in February 2019, **The Guild** is a 162-room Marriott Tribute Portfolio property housed in the historic landmark, 1920s-era Army-Navy YMCA building in downtown San Diego. The new boutique design will revive a hospitality space that served as a place of respite and leisure for millions of service men and women. The Guild's exterior Italian Renaissance-style facade and grand staircase will be left largely untouched, and guests will be welcomed into a redesigned contemporary lobby that includes a full-service bar. Guest rooms will appeal to an array of travelers with everything from cozy, European-inspired accommodations to a two-bedroom penthouse suite with private rooftop deck. A signature restaurant will highlight the city's indoor/outdoor lifestyle with greenery-filled surroundings and a light, Mediterranean-inspired menu. The YMCA's former basketball court with elevated running track will be transformed into a grand ballroom, featuring original brick wall inlays and hardwood floors. The underground pool on the basement level will be reimagined into a one-of-a-kind event space with original design elements. Various private spaces throughout the property will be available for special meetings, celebrations and signature programming. (10/18)

Hotel Renovations

Starting fall 2018, the **Town and Country San Diego** will undergo an \$80 million renovation. The resort, an oasis in the Mission Valley neighborhood, has a rich 50-year history and will incorporate notes from the past to create a fresh new hotel aesthetic that includes seamless indoor/outdoor experiences. The transformation plan will include: 675 renovated guest rooms, 150,000 square feet of renovated meeting space with a 41,000-square-foot exhibit hall, a separate adult pool and a family pool with slide and water features, three new restaurants, fun pool bars and a lounge, a new open-air lobby and entranceway and a new San Diego river park. The hotel portion of this project is projected to be complete in 2020. (4/18)

New Venues

A new open-air food market on San Diego Bay opened in August 2018. **Lane Field Park Markets** is named for the historic ballpark that was home to the Pacific Coast League Padres from 1936 to

1957. Today, the park is adjacent to three new hotels (SpringHill Suites, Residence Inn and InterContinental San Diego). At the Lane Field Park Markets, visitors can try a variety of food from local vendors, play lawn games, browse creative hard goods and enjoy live music. Vendors featured include Dang Brother Pizza from a vintage fire truck, Doggos Gus gourmet hot dogs, The Brazilian Guys' stuffed hash browns, Patson's Goopy Cookies, Pure Burger, Parana Markets' sweet and savory empanadas, Fit Taco, Gnarly Nachos, Popo Bros' Vietnamese banh mi sandwiches, BBQusion's slow cooked beef brisket and more. The outdoor market is open to the public every Sunday and is fully accessible, family friendly and features pop-up installations periodically to showcase local restaurant talent. (10/18)

Carlsbad's first food hall is slated to debut in fall 2018 with vendors serving offerings ranging from Korean fried chicken to Liege waffles. The new **Windmill Food Hall**, located within an iconic roadside "windmill" landmark off Interstate 5 near LEGOLAND Resort, will offer food from lobster rolls to Asian rolled ice cream and more. The concept includes a full-service bar, ample outdoor seating and "The Library," a speakeasy that will occupy the second floor and open after the main food hall is complete. (10/18)

The **CA Training Facility**, an elite skateboarding training center located in San Diego's north city of Vista, opened in June 2018 and is the world's first and only high-performance center developed explicitly for skateboarding. The training facility hosts world-class athletes from professional skate tours and Olympic hopefuls. Skateboarding will be the opening event of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, and the new site features both a full-size concrete competition street course and park course. The member-only venue offers visitors weekly and monthly memberships, along with coaching programs. The facility will complete an athlete lounge area in October. While CA Training Facility is privately owned, it will hold public events and is available for rental for launch parties, video premiers, corporate team building, tradeshow and other action sports events. (10/18)

Sugar Factory American Brasserie confections and retail chain has partnered with TCL's Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles and Nick Cannon's Wild 'N Out Sports Bar and Arcade to develop **Theatre Box**[®]. The two-story, 73,000-square-foot entertainment, dining and luxury movie theatre complex opens this fall in San Diego's Gaslamp Quarter. Sugar Factory American Brasserie will serve hamburgers, woodfired pizzas and more, as well as its 60-oz. smoking candy goblets and decadent milkshakes. The luxury boutique cinema will house eight theaters with plush, reclining seating, serving Sugar Factory's signature cuisine and confections, including its famed couture pops, a celebrity favorite for Britney Spears, Nicki Minaj, Katy Perry, Kylie and Kendall Kardashian and more. The Chocolate Lounge will serve an array of exclusive, movie-themed cocktails served in chocolate dipped glassware as well as host various DJ appearances. Nick Cannon's Wild 'N Out will feature interactive games and memorabilia from the MTV show alongside a full-service sports bar with the largest televisions in San Diego. Visitors can expect to see regular DJ appearances by Nick Cannon, celebrity guests and the Wild 'N Out girls. (4/18)

Restaurants, Breweries and Nightlife

In July 2018, the Andaz San Diego, a boutique hotel located in the lively Gaslamp Quarter downtown, opened **STK San Diego**, the first San Diego location of the STK brand, a modern twist on the American steakhouse concept. The menu features signature dishes such as house-made pappardelle pasta with short rib ragout, grilled summer squash, grilled octopus and blackened cod in addition to the highest quality cuts of steak. A robust mixology program features locally-inspired

beverages with cocktails such as the strawberry cobbler, cucumber stiletto, and old Cuban. As a part of its local beer program, STK will offer options from some of San Diego's favorite breweries, such as Mission Hefeweizen, Latitude 33 Blood Orange IPA and Alesmith .394 Pale Ale. Located on the lobby level of the Andaz San Diego, the 8,300-square-foot restaurant includes a spacious main dining room, bistro seating area, bar, patio and versatile private dining spaces—two on the main level, one on the mezzanine—and a sky-lit atrium. (10/18)

Tocaya Organica opened its first San Diego outpost in the Gaslamp Quarter in July 2018. The casual, fresh Mexican eatery uses locally sourced organic produce and only serves meat and fish that are fresh, never frozen, and are 100-percent free of hormones, steroids, and antibiotics. Tocaya Organica's modern organic Mexican cuisine includes salads, tacos, bowls, and burritos—serving them in a sophisticated yet accessible fast-casual setting. The versatile menu is rooted in traditional Mexican recipes, naturally accommodating a variety of preferences including vegan, vegetarian, and gluten-free, with menu items like the tostada salad, a crispy corn tortilla layered with black beans, shaved butter lettuce, roma tomato, diced red onion, corn salsa and spicy citrus dressing or the fajita burrito featuring sautéed poblano peppers and onions, cilantro lime rice, black beans, vegan chipotle crema, guacamole and pico de gallo in a jalapeño tortilla. Items can include vegan, meat or fish protein add-ons. Two additional Tocaya Organica restaurants are planned to open in San Diego County in 2019. (10/18)

With more than 120 varieties of mezcal, **Tahona** is a dining destination and tasting room opening October 2018 next to Old Town San Diego's historic Cemetery of El Campo Santo. Tahona will feature modern Mexican cuisine with a Oaxacan influence, mezcal tastings, and public events. Additionally, a speakeasy is rumored to be opening once the restaurant is complete. (10/18)

With an anticipated opening in fall 2019, **Draft Republic Brewing Co.**, located in the burgeoning La Mesa neighborhood of San Diego, is an ambitious beer-centric establishment. An expansive, open-air restaurant space will serve elevated fast-casual offerings ranging from gourmet sandwiches and salads to burgers and more. The dog and family-friendly venue will also introduce an activity-rich beer garden featuring a high-end, 18-hole miniature golf course, alongside shuffleboard and bocce ball courts, children's play area and plenty of shade. The new in-house brewing operation will produce a variety of styles to be served on the property, as well as at the Cohn Restaurant Group's other eateries throughout the region. (10/18)

Storyhouse Spirits is set to open this October in San Diego's East Village downtown. The urban distillery, bar and lounge will occupy 7,600 square feet in a historic building transformed into three distinct spaces blending old and new. The space includes a distillery and production facility, a bar opening to a street-side patio, and a mezzanine overlooking the distillery and offering skyline and peak water views. Storyhouse guests will sip hand-crafted cocktails from the preliminary spirits lineup including a seaside vodka, Meyer lemon and cucumber vodka, California dry gin, and California coastal gin. Bourbon and American single malt whiskey will be released at a later date. The spirits will be available for purchase at the distillery and eventually distributed regionally. In addition to the distillery, Storyhouse's menu of casual fare features seasonal small plates with a focus on dishes cooked in their copper wood-fired oven. Storyhouse Spirits is available for group reservations for private parties, corporate functions, and other special events and can accommodate up to 75 guests. (10/18)

Arts and Museums

The **San Diego Museum of Art** presents *Tim Shaw: Beyond Reason*, an exhibition creating psychologically charged environments that address humanitarian issues in several immersive installations. On view Oct. 20, 2018–Feb. 24, 2019, the exhibition touches on several major themes, including global terrorism, freedom of speech, abuse of power and the future of artificial intelligence. Tim Shaw, a celebrated Northern Irish sculptor, is known for his large-scale multi-sensory installations that create dialogue around controversial topics. The six installations featured in this exhibition are based on extraordinary personal experiences throughout the artist’s life, but the topics are universal and timeless. *Tim Shaw: Beyond Reason* is the first time the artist’s work has been on view in the U.S. (10/18)

The **Museum of Man** offers a new guided tour and behind-the-scenes experience via the Balboa Park mobile app that allows visitors to explore hidden places in the museum. The mobile tour became available in April 2018 and includes photos, videos, audio interviews, and an augmented reality experience. The app features written content in over 100 languages and is available for iOS and Android [downloadable here](#). (10/18)

Performing Arts

The San Diego Symphony will be launching a new series—**Rush Hour 2.0**—on Nov. 1 that features one-hour concerts designed to help people enjoy world-class musical programs at a lower price. The Symphony will also be featuring **a world premiere** commissioned by the San Diego Symphony on Nov. 2 and 4. This unique work brings together Mexican composer Javier Alvarez and genre-crossing United States Poet Laureate Juan Filipe Herrera in a piece scored for orchestra, narrator and four vihuelas. (10/18)

The Old Globe theater in Balboa Park welcomes the annual production of the holiday musical fable, ***How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*** Nov. 3–Dec. 29, 2018.

The **California Center for the Arts, Escondido** celebrates the holiday season with international singing sensation The TEN Tenors performing a special “Home for the Holidays” program on Nov. 30, 2018. The concert will provide a magical experience for the whole family with soaring versions of “Joy to the World,” “Sleigh Ride,” “White Christmas,” and many more seasonal favorites. On Jan. 19, 2019, the reigning virtuoso of the violin, Itzhak Perlman will perform at the center. Perlman has performed with every major orchestra and at venerable concert halls around the globe. (10/18)

La Jolla Playhouse debuts the world-premiere play, **The Year to Come** (Dec. 4-30, 2018), in which rising playwright Lindsey Ferrentino introduces a distinctly American family whose evolution mirrors the turbulence of the 21st century with their discussion of politics, pools and onion dip during a New Year’s gathering in their Florida backyard. (10/18)

Tours and Transportation

New San Diego based commercial carrier **California Pacific Airlines** will begin flights from San Jose on Nov. 1, 2018, and from Reno on Nov. 15, and later in the month, from Las Vegas and Phoenix to McClellan-Palomar Airport in Carlsbad, California, in San Diego’s north county. (10/18)

Tickets for **The Hopper “Plus Tour”** provide two full days of hop on and off bus tour access and free admission to top San Diego attractions including new stops at the San Diego Zoo and Petco Park. Hopper guests now have the option to add-on discounted attraction tickets to USS Midway Museum, Maritime Museum, Petco Park Tours, 1-Hour Hornblower Cruise, Flagship Coronado Ferry, San Diego Zoo, and SeaWorld. Additionally, The Hopper launched **Complimentary Shuttle Service** at participating hotels and includes round trip transportation to and from Old Town. The service is available for hotel guests who purchase a Hopper Tour Package and stay at Paradise Point, Kings Inn, Handlery, Hyatt Regency Mission Bay, DoubleTree Hotel Circle, The Atwood, The Dana on Mission Bay and Best Western Seven Seas, with more hotels planned. (10/18)

Awards & Anniversaries

In October 2018, **San Diego breweries** took home 16 medals at the **Great American Beer Festival** in Denver, Colorado. San Diego County brewers brought home five gold medals, six silvers and five bronze. The San Diego breweries that won medals include Ocean Beach Brewery, named “Small Brewery/Brewpub of the Year,” Port Brewing/The Lost Abbey, Breakwater Brewing, Eppig Brewing, Karl Strauss Brewing Co., Société Brewing, Surge Beer, Duck Foot Brewing, Groundswell Brewing, Pizza Port Solana Beach Brewpub, Rip Current Brewing, BNS Brewing & Distilling Co., Home Brewing Co., Kilowatt Brewing and the North Park Beer Co. (10/18)

The City of San Diego and **Old Town Chamber of Commerce** will mark the **250th commemoration** of the birth of San Diego in 2019. In 1769, the first settlement of Alta California was established, which included a mission and presidio. A main calendar of events marking significant moments throughout the history of San Diego will be hosted on oldtownsandiego.org/250th. Planned activities that commemorate events include monthly lectures, festivals like the Founders’ Day Festival, and other family friendly activities will be held throughout the year to celebrate Old Town San Diego. (10/18)

Celebrating 20 years since being designated as a historic highway, the **Historic Highway 101** is still a favorite drive for locals and visitors alike. The a 935-mile highway, which runs the length of California, was once the main street of many California cities and towns along the coast. In San Diego, the route links a string of charming beach communities from Oceanside, where it is also known as Coast Highway, to La Jolla. The road hugs the Pacific Ocean providing a taste of Southern California’s fervent surf culture. Although no longer a formal Highway Route, a historic designation for the nearly 100-year-old roadway was secured in 1998 so that it would be recognized for its outstanding cultural and scenic qualities as well as its significant contribution to the development of California in the 20th century. Today, remaining portions of the original US Highway Route 101 are recognized by highway markers and signs that highlight the special designation. (10/18)

San Diego ranked No. 4 **Top Meeting Destination** in the U.S. by Cvent, a leading cloud-based event management platform. San Diego moved up a spot in the September 2018 ranking from 5th in 2017. (10/18)

In September 2018, **Family Vacation Critic**, TripAdvisor’s family travel site, selected San Diego as a must-visit destination for families. The website included San Diego in its top ten listing of “Best City for...” the following categories or attractions: **Best Cities for Families**, Best for Infants and Toddlers (0-2): La Jolla Cove; Best for Little Kids (3-6): San Diego Zoo; Best for Big Kids (7-9): Balboa Park; Best for Tweens and Teens (10-13+): California Surf Museum. (10/18)

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.

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Funded in part by the San Diego Tourism Marketing District with City of San Diego Tourism Marketing District Assessment Funds.