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What's New in San Diego, Fall 2019

July 2019

Major Attractions

In January 2018, the **San Diego Zoo** announced its most ambitious project to date, a \$69 million brand-new **children's zoo** to be completed in spring 2021. Named after Denny Sanford, a San Diego philanthropist who donated \$30 million to this endeavor, the new exhibit will give kids greater opportunities to discover the natural world through play and will be designed to help children develop empathy and better understand and identify with wildlife. Families will be able to venture through four ecosystems—communities of plants and animals that have unique adaptations for their environment. In each region, children will learn about the animals and their environments in ways that awaken their senses and inspire creativity, exploration, and empathy for nature through play. More than 100 species will reside on the 2.3-acre space. (7/19)

Hotel and Casino Renovations

In July 2019, the **Hilton San Diego Bayfront** completed a \$23 million renovation to its 1,190 guest rooms and corridors at this waterfront property adjacent to the San Diego Convention Center and Petco Park. The enhanced guest rooms and suites feature a nautical, contemporary design and amenities including modern furniture, mini coolers, updated restrooms, additional power and USB ports, 55" HD TVs and more. The reimagined rooms offer chic design accents including winged headboards, sconces, blackout and sheer drapery, lounge chairs, floor lamps, mirrors, bathroom vanities and nightstands. Big picture windows showcase San Diego's incredible city and bay views. In addition, the rooms now offer Crabtree and Evelyn beauty amenities and Hilton's popular Serenity Collection luxury bed and linens. Hallway corridors also received a refreshed look with new decorative lighting, textured wallcovering, sconces, artwork and more. In conjunction with the renovation, the Hilton San Diego Bayfront became the first Hilton in California to offer Connected Room technology that enables guests to control their hotel stay from their mobile device using the Hilton Honors app to manage temperature control, lighting and window coverings. Guests can also load streaming media to in-room TVs. As part of Hilton's commitment to sustainable travel, the Hilton San Diego Bayfront offers locally grown, organic options at its restaurants and bars, towel

and sheet reuse program, installation of a laundry system that reclaims 70 percent of water; built-in occupancy sensors for thermostat and light switches, and Hilton's LightStay Program that accurately measures and reports on the hotel's energy consumption to identify areas for improvement. (7/19)

In June 2019, the **San Diego Marriott Del Mar** completed a multi-million-dollar renovation to its guest rooms, lobby, outdoor space, and a revitalized restaurant. The lobby has been enlarged with open front desk pods and includes new seating as well as a new onsite coffee shop, Terra Café, which offers grab-and-go breakfast options and proudly serves Starbucks Coffee. The hotel's award-winning restaurant and bar, **Arterra**, was redesigned with contemporary décor in its indoor and outdoor seating. Inspired by cuisines from around the world and featuring San Diego's fresh, local and sustainable products, Executive Sushi Chef Hoh dazzles taste buds with hand-crafted raw creations and Chef Evan Cruz created an updated menu for general dining. Groups have a choice of three private dining spaces that incorporate Arterra's new design themes. The Marriott Del Mar's guestrooms have been fully renovated and feature hardwood floors, new beds and HDTVs with Netflix streaming. Guest bathrooms offer glass-enclosed showers and large, back-lit mirrors. The Cordero Executive Boardroom was updated with a new conference table that includes easily accessible USB ports and outlets, new furniture and fixtures around the meeting space. (7/19)

New Hotels

In June 2019, **The Guild Hotel** opened in downtown San Diego. The 162-room Marriott Tribute Portfolio property is housed in a historic landmark, 1920s-era Army-Navy YMCA building. The boutique hotel revives 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 staircase is true to its original design and guests are welcomed into a redesigned contemporary lobby that includes a full-service bar. Guest rooms include cozy, European-inspired accommodations and the property also offers a two-bedroom penthouse suite with private rooftop deck. Headed by Executive Chef Justin Vaiciunas, Luca restaurant highlights the city's indoor/outdoor lifestyle with a main room centered around a vibrant outdoor courtyard that serves as an urban oasis in the heart of downtown. Luca's menu features light Mediterranean-inspired fare. The YMCA's former basketball court with elevated running track has been transformed into a grand ballroom featuring original brick wall inlays and hardwood floors. The former underground pool on the basement level is now reimagined into a one-of-a-kind event space with some original design elements intact. Various private spaces throughout the property are available for special meetings, celebrations and signature programming. (10/18)

Carté®, a new luxury lifestyle hotel from Curio Collection by Hilton,™ will open August 2019. Located in San Diego's vibrant Little Italy neighborhood near downtown and San Diego Bay, Carté offers 246 distinctive, modern guest rooms that are fiber wired and offer wireless internet along with a 55-inch 4K LED TV. Custom designed furniture includes an oversized work desk, plush pillow-top mattress and fiber bedding. Each guestroom has a refrigerator and floor to ceiling windows. The spacious executive guestrooms include a sitting area and spectacular views of San Diego Bay and downtown. Watercolors Restaurant is the on-site eatery, serving quality sea-to-table cuisine for breakfast, lunch and dinner, with a private dining space called Branzino that can host up to 35 people. Guests can explore the region's wines by sampling varietals from Southern California and Northern Mexico at Fonte di Vino, and cocktail lovers can enjoy a stunning sunset with handcrafted libations at Above Ash Social, the 16th-floor rooftop venue. Carté guests have access to Fit Athletic Club, providing yoga, hot-yoga, spin classes and a cross fit course for additional fees. The hotel's 4th

floor, 1,200-square-foot Amici meeting space has architecture and design elements depicting San Diego's beach communities, floor to ceiling windows and three 80-inch built-in LED TVs. The hotel offers space on the rooftop for social and private events. (4/19)

Major Events

The popular "**Kids Free San Diego**" promotion returns for its 8th year this October. Major San Diego attractions including SeaWorld San Diego, the world-famous San Diego Zoo, San Diego Zoo Safari Park and LEGOLAND California Resort, along with more than 30 area museums will offer free admission to kids throughout the month. In addition to free attraction admission, many local hotels and restaurants offer specials throughout October, adding up to more than 130 offers throughout San Diego County. (7/19)

Hailed as the "Best U.S. Labor Day Event" by *CNN Travel*, the Port of San Diego's **U.S. Sand Sculpting Challenge** returns Aug. 31–Sept. 2, 2019, to Broadway Pier on San Diego Bay. The pier will be transformed into a giant sandbox with more than 300 tons of sand for 12 Master Class Sculptors from around the world to create spectacular sand sculptures. An accompanying Dimensional Art Exhibition showcases more than 2,000 original works of art including handmade clothing, wall art and jewelry available for purchase. (7/19)

Held Sept. 13-19, 2019, at the seaside Del Mar Fairgrounds, **KAABOO** features performances on six stages by more than 60 musical acts including Snoop Dog, Wu-Tang Clan, Kings of Leon, Duran Duran and more. The festival, which draws an estimated 40,000 attendees each year, also includes a dedicated comedy stage featuring acclaimed comedians Tig Notaro and Bob Saget, plus VIP amenities, food from local and celebrity chefs, craft breweries, local wineries and an extensive arts village. (7/19)

Now in its 5th year, **CRSSD Festival**, the two-day electronic music and dance fete in San Diego's Waterfront Park, will return Sept. 28-29, 2019, with performances by Portugal.The Man, Hot Chip, FISHER and more. The twice-a-year extravaganza has previously garnered a daily audience of 15,000 visitors who are undoubtedly drawn by the 21-and-up festival's craft beer and cocktails, gourmet food, sunsets on the bay, headlining musical acts and DJs performing on three outdoor stages just steps from the water. (7/19)

San Diego's culinary community celebrates the 15th Annual **San Diego Restaurant Week** during Sept. 22-29, 2019. More than 180 of the region's top restaurants offer prix-fixe, three-course lunch menus at just \$10, \$15 and \$20 or dinner menus at \$20, \$30, \$40 or \$50 per person, allowing visitors to sample the signature and diverse cuisines that make San Diego's dining scene one of the region's top attractions. (7/19)

San Diego plays host to Olympic-level weightlifting as USA Weightlifting hosts the **IWF Masters World Cup and San Diego Open**, a bronze-level qualifier for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. The event occurs Oct. 3-6, 2019, at the Town and Country Resort in Mission Valley. (4/19)

La Jolla Playhouse's Without Walls Festival (WoW), a ground-breaking, site-specific theater series, returns Oct. 17-20, 2019. This is the first year that the biennial WoW will be held at **ARTS DISTRICT Liberty Station**, in partnership with the NTC Foundation. Like previous WoW Festivals, the 2019 event will showcase multiple performances by acclaimed local, national and international

artists, along with a selection of family friendly offerings, occurring simultaneously throughout the weekend. (4/19)

San Diego Beer Week returns Nov. 1-11, 2019, for a 10-day celebration of local craft beer and San Diego's thriving brewing culture. The annual event serves as a showcase for San Diego's breweries, restaurants and pubs. Festivities kick off with a Brewers Guild Festival featuring more than 50 breweries, and conclude with The Beer Garden, a gourmet beer and food pairing event held at the Lodge at Torrey Pines in La Jolla. (7/19)

Wonderfront, a new music and arts festival, will debut on Nov. 22-24, 2019, on San Diego Bay. The first annual event plans to integrate the festival into the city's vibrant waterfront, including ferry and yacht tours of the bay and after-parties in downtown's Gaslamp Quarter. Anticipating 70 artists on seven stages, the music lineup will feature new breakout artists as well as career bands including rock, indie, hip hop, rap, EDM, adult alternative, reggae, Americana and Latin artists. Wonderfront will be a celebration of San Diego's arts, culture and beach lifestyle. Concert-goers are invited to participate in water activities like paddle boarding, kayaking, taking a jet boat ride or playing on the beach. (4/19)

New Venues

The iconic **Plunge** beachfront pool in Belmont Park reopened to the public on July 4, 2019. The completion of a \$12 million restoration to this beloved landmark, a 400,000-gallon indoor swimming pool only steps from the Pacific Ocean, is one of several refreshed experiences throughout Belmont Park, a historic seaside amusement attraction in Mission Beach. The Plunge has a rich history. In 1925, The Natatorium, which later became known as the Plunge swimming pool, was constructed as a centerpiece of the Mission Beach Amusement Center along with the Giant Dipper Roller Coaster. At the time of its opening, it was the largest saltwater pool in the world. In 1940, fresh water was used along with an updated filtration system, making The Plunge "the largest indoor heated pool in Southern California." Closed for maintenance and upgrades in 2014, the now restored indoor beachfront pool includes a new building with contemporary floor-to-ceiling glass walls that maximize ocean views and a retractable roof that allows for a climate-controlled environment. The renovation includes features from the original 1925 structure as well as replicas of original entrance archways and pool tiles. The area also offers a dining deck connected to the newly renovated Beach House for guests to enjoy food, drinks and a fresh ocean breeze. Fit Athletic Club of San Diego handles operations for the Plunge and plans to open a new fitness club adjacent to the pool in August 2019. (7/19)

Restaurants, Breweries and Nightlife

In June 2019, **Feast and Fareway**, a dining concept at the Coronado Golf Course, reopened after an extensive six-month overhaul to its physical structure and all food and beverage offerings. Renovations include the construction of two separate bar areas, one which offers exterior seating for drinks just off the green. Massive floor-length windows now allow for stunning views of the golf course and iconic San Diego-Coronado Bridge, and a new patio space with bistro lighting has been added for outdoor dining. In addition to Feast and Fareway's expansive dining space, the property is now equipped with an ocean-front lawn ideal for outdoor events and scenic ceremonies—a much-welcomed amenity for those seeking a full-service, coastal venue with indoor and outdoor options. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, menu items include unique creations such as duck mac and

cheese featuring Havarti cheese cream, goat cheese and baby arugula, and a Hill Meat braised pork shank topped with smoked peach sauce, plated with parmesan risotto and crispy brussels sprouts. Feast and Fareway's libations include the Augusta Azalea concocted from hibiscus-infused Monkey Shoulder whiskey, pineapple and vanilla puree, lemon and Antica Formula vermouth, and the Bethpage Manhattan, brimming with rye whiskey, Antica Formula, walnut bitters and Luxardo cherries. (7/19)

In August 2019, **Animae**, a new venue from *Top Chef* Brian Malarkey's restaurant collective, opens in a stunning space in downtown San Diego's newest luxury condominiums near San Diego Bay. Animae will serve West Coast Asian cuisine created by Executive Chef Joe Magnanelli, formerly of San Diego's celebrated Urban Kitchen Group. The coal-fired menu utilizes a Jospo oven and Japanese Robata grill to prepare large format proteins like West Coast Wagyu, while the finest raw seafoods are presented as crudos. Standouts include koji marinated tomahawk pork with curry, fennel pollen and Asian pear; kung pao sweetbreads with pepper, wasabi peas, broccoli and lotus; and Kampachi with sea bean, daikon, serrano, shiso, and plum vinaigrette. An adjacent casual daytime counterpart, known as Animae Cafe, will serve contemporary takes on Asian favorites from ramen to fresh spring rolls. With pops of lush greenery across the ceiling, Animae Cafe appears as an upside down zen garden. Animae is part of the Puffer Malarkey Collective behind other distinct San Diego restaurants including Herb & Wood, Green Acre and Farmer & the Seahorse. (7/19)

Opening in summer 2019, **Lumi** is Michelin-starred Chef Akira Back's first venture in San Diego. Lumi is an energetic and upscale rooftop venue serving modern Japanese fare and sushi accompanied by handcrafted libations. Chef Back is a two-time Michelin-starred chef behind restaurants spanning across nine countries. Lumi will feature adventurous flavors with a California twist, using local ingredients throughout the menu and influences from around the world for an immersive dining experience. Guests will enjoy views of the city paired with punchy pops of color and three-dimensional art features at this eclectic space in the heart of downtown's Gaslamp Quarter. A dedicated private dining area, The Grand Pacific Room, located on the 3rd level of the historic, newly renovated Grand Pacific Hotel building, offers a highly imaginative space that can accommodate a variety of functions. (4/19)

Slated to open in summer 2019, **Huntress** is a contemporary steakhouse inside the former Grand Pacific Hotel, a historic structure built in 1887 in downtown's Gaslamp Quarter. Helmed by Executive Chef James Montejano, who has worked at Michelin-starred restaurant, Michael Mina, Huntress will offer the finest meats, seafood dishes and other signature classics. Guests can enjoy dishes like the A5 Japanese Wagyu and 45-day, dry-aged porterhouses in addition to a prime filet mignon carpaccio. Huntress will boast one of the largest Japanese whisky selections in the country with more than 100 labels displayed on the second-floor mezzanine, in addition to its incredible selection of masterfully crafted cocktails and hand-selected wines. (4/19)

Arts and Museums

Admired in the world of children's museums for its practice of commissioning contemporary artists, The **New Children's Museum** in downtown San Diego presents its newest art commission **Whammock!** by internationally renowned textile artist Toshiko Horiuchi MacAdam. This one-of-a-kind, interactive three-dimensional textile environment resembles a giant hammock of colorful crocheted circles, open pockets and dangling pendulums. MacAdam's first large-scale work at a U.S. museum, *Whammock!* welcomes children and adults alike to climb, swing, crawl or simply lay in the cradle of its handwoven embrace. Guests are sure to be transfixed by how the movements and vibrations caused by play activate this soaring three-dimensional installation. (7/19)

On display through November 2019, the 78-year old **San Diego Art Institution** (SDAI) in Balboa Park, hosts **Forging Territories: Queer Afro and Latinx Contemporary Art**. Focusing on cultural equity and thought-provoking programming, SDAI's newest exhibit explores and highlights conversations around talented but underrepresented African American and Latinx artists who identify as LGBTQ. The exhibit showcases rarely told stories of personal and cultural awakening and reflects the artists' responses to a sense of identity and place, the influence of the current political moment and the comfort of shared background, language and history. The exhibit brings together 20 established, mid-career and emerging contemporary artists who live within the region and work in such varied mediums as painting, drawing, photography, film and performance. *Forging Territories* is curated by Ruben Esparza, founder and director of **Queer Biennial**, an international art fair. (7/19)

The **Fleet Science Center** in Balboa Park recently announced the newest addition to its permanent exhibit collection: **Sun, Earth, Universe**. Opened on July 20, 2019, this interactive exhibition explores the fascinating world of space science and astronomy and examines the big questions NASA is trying to answer. How is Earth changing? What is it like on other planets? Does life exist beyond Earth? Packed with engaging, hands-on exhibits and dazzling imagery, this 600-square-foot exhibition connects visitors with current NASA science research and includes fun and compelling exhibits for visitors of all ages. Guests can design, build and test a model spacecraft, play the Your Mission to Space board game, or help younger visitors pilot rovers across a Mars landscape play table. The fun experiences in *Sun, Earth, Universe* introduce visitors to ongoing NASA research in the fields of heliophysics, Earth science, planetary science and astrophysics, as well as encouraging them to imagine what the future of Earth and space science might hold. (7/19)

In June 2019, the **San Diego Automotive Museum** in Balboa Park opened a new exhibit, *Vision vs Reality: From the Fires of Imagination to the Forge of Production*. On display until October 12, 2019, the exhibit shows the automobile design process and what results between vision and reality, taking guests through the many steps it takes to create what finally rolls off the production line. Cars in the exhibit include a 1963 Pininfarina Corvaire prototype and 2001 Aerodyne among other unique vehicles, displaying the original vision side-by-side with its ultimate reality. (7/19)

The **San Diego Natural History Museum** in Balboa Park is opening two new exhibitions this November: *Living Lab* focuses on live animals—all things creepy, crawly and slithery—and *Insects Face to Face* features gorgeous macro photography. Both exhibits will be on view through 2020. *Living Lab* invites visitors to meet more than 30 not-so-cuddly creatures, from stinging scorpions to elusive nocturnal lizards. Staffed by a keeper-interpreter and museum volunteers who will invite visitors to watch feedings and interact with the animals on select days, the lab will feature the

behaviors the animals need to survive in San Diego's biodiverse region. Guests can observe lizards, insects and other invertebrates, venomous and non-venomous snakes, frogs, and a colony of harvester ants. They can also get a peek at the inner workings of a beehive. *Insects Face to Face* features oversized photos taken by researchers at the U.S. Geological Survey Bee Inventory Monitoring Lab. This program conducts surveys of native bees, including identification tools and the plants and insects they interact with. Visitors will see more than 30 large-scale photographs of animals ranging from common honeybees to "cute" cockroaches to regal lace bugs. Fluorescent, menacing, and even cute, the images reveal an intricate world of color, pattern and texture. (7/19)

Performing Arts

The Old Globe theater in Balboa Park debuts the world premiere musical ***Almost Famous*** on stage Sept. 13–Oct. 20, 2019. Written by Academy Award-winner Cameron Crowe and based on his iconic 2000 film, *Almost Famous* is set in San Diego in 1973 and follows a 15-year-old aspiring music journalist hired by *Rolling Stone* magazine to go on the road with an up-and-coming band. Based on Crowe's own experience, the story is about a young man finding his place in the world and the indelible characters he meets along the way. (7/19)

During Sept. 28-29 and Oct. 4-6, 2019, guests can purchase a special ticket to ride the San Diego Trolley and be treated to site-specific choreographed dance performances along the route. Celebrating their 21st year, the **San Diego Trolley Dances** takes inspiration from the trolley stations' architectural elements and environs, using public spaces such as the new iconic **San Diego Public Library** downtown to showcase modern dance. Acclaimed local choreographer Jean Isaacs created the dances as an exciting alternative to the artificial formality of conventional stages and the hierarchy of space imposed on dancers when viewed straight on. (7/19)

Broadway San Diego continues to offer touring shows of popular plays and musicals at San Diego's Civic Theater in downtown. The 2019 season includes *Anastasia* (Oct. 1-6), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Nov. 12-17) and *Dear Evan Hansen* (Dec. 31, 2019–Jan. 12, 2020). (4/19 updated)

Tours and Transportation

Beginning in October 2019, **Swoop Airlines**, the low-cost carrier owned by Canada's WestJet Airlines, will offer new services from Edmonton, Alberta, and also Abbotsford, British Columbia, to San Diego. The flights will be available seasonally from October–April with the possibility of year-round schedules in the future. (7/19)

Awards & Recognition

In May 2019, The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) awarded the **2019 National Medal Award** to two San Diego museums, **The New Children's Museum** in downtown and the Barona Band of Mission Indians' **Barona Cultural Center and Museum** in San Diego's East County. The 2019 National Medal is the nation's highest honor for museums and libraries and annually recognizes only five museums in the U.S. The IMLS is the federal agency whose mission it is to advance, support and empower America's museums, libraries and related organizations through grantmaking, research and policy development. (7/19)

In April 2019, 25 San Diego County breweries won 71 of the 287 awards given at the 2019 **Los Angeles International Beer Competition**. The top medal winners from San Diego included Papa

Marce's Cervceria from Carlsbad, Thorn Brewing from Barrio Logan and Deft Brewing from the Morena neighborhood. Overall, roughly a quarter of all awards were given to San Diego breweries, including 26 of the 97 gold medals. (7/19)

In June 2019, San Diego's **Addison** restaurant in the **Fairmont Grand Del Mar** resort received a Michelin star for the new 2019 California guide, and eight local restaurants received Bib Gourmand status, a category established by Michelin in 1997. Bib Gourmand spotlights restaurants that Michelin inspectors rated highly for offering quality meals at affordable prices. San Diego's designees offer a diversity of cuisine and culinary trends and are **Campfire, Cucina Sorella, Cucina Urbana, El Jardin, Juniper & Ivy, Kettner Exchange, Lola55, and Solare**. (7/19)

Anniversaries

The year 2019 marks the **250th commemoration of the founding of San Diego** and California. Today, San Diego is the 8th largest city in the nation known for its beautiful beaches, active lifestyle and diverse, vibrant communities. The area was home to the Kumeyaay Nation and their ancestors for tens of thousands of years, and they continue to be part of the region's cultural fabric. The first Europeans to arrive on the West Coast sailed into San Diego Bay in 1542 and named the land Alta California. This became the starting point for an exploratory expedition northward. Early settlers relied on the help of the Kumeyaay, and much of the exploration of California occurred over native trails. The San Diego of today began on July 16, 1769, with the dedication of Mission San Diego de Alcalá, the first of 21 California missions. This first mission was established near the ancient Kumeyaay village of Kosa'aay (Cosoy), known today as Old Town San Diego. Special events to celebrate the 250th anniversary are being held throughout the year. (7/19)

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