

# SAN DIEGO, CA



San Diego is a great location to host a reunion. The history of modern San Diego begins with Alonzo Horton, the former New Englander. In 1867, he purchased nearly 1,000 jackrabbit-infested acres (for about 27 cents each) along the harbor, initially giving away lots to anyone who would agree to build on them. By the turn of the century, "New Town" contained more than 300 buildings and had replaced Old Town as the center of San Diego commerce.

As we explore the downtown you will see Horton's legacy lives on in the unique citadel of shopping and dining that bears his name, **Horton Plaza**, located in Gaslamp Quarter where Horton's development first began.



Horton Plaza

The 16-block **Gaslamp Quarter** has become the hottest place since the development of Horton Plaza in 1985 and the creation of San Diego Convention Center. Also, there are round-the-clock activities in the area with shops, galleries, coffee houses, theatre spaces and dozens of restaurants.



*The Gaslight Historic Society works to preserve the spirit of Victorian times through the restoration of old buildings that now house offices, shops and restaurants.*

On the waterfront is the **San Diego Maritime Museum** showcasing San Diego's rich maritime past. It consists of the century-old windjammer *Star of India*, the steam ferry *Berkeley* and the luxury yacht *Medea*.



Medea



Star of India

We have established a really good relationship with the Public Affairs Office on the Naval Base, and barring alerts, or some other special occasion, we can normally arrange a guided tour on an active duty ship. We of course have no control over the type of ship. The last reunion we hosted in San Diego this November got a 3 1/2 hour tour of USS VALLEY FORGE and were treated like VIPs. It was the highlight of the reunion for many of the men.

Along the Embarcadero toward the Convention Center you'll find not only the city's working tuna fleet but also part of the US Navy's Pacific Fleet. The city's maritime history is actively commemorated in Seaport Village, a 14-acre waterfront shopping and dining complex that recalls the days when cargo ships would make the dangerous journey from New England around Cape Horn.



*Seaport Village, opened in 1980, is spread out over 14 acres of lawns and walkways. The waterways provide a nice view for walkers and joggers, and a yachting harbor.*

Downtown San Diego encompasses much more than the harbor area. The most famous attraction is **Balboa Park**, another reminder of Alonzo Horton's civic vision. Just north of the

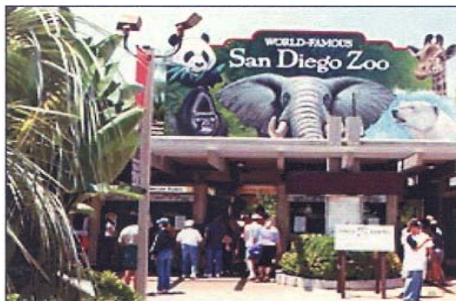
central business district, the park covers 1,200 lush acres and contains some of the most fantastic architecture ever assembled in one place:

**13 Museums**  
**Art Galleries,**  
**Reuben H Fleet Space Theater**  
**and Science Center**  
**Simon Edison Centre for**  
**the Performing Arts**  
**San Diego Junior Theatre**  
**Starlight Bowl**  
**California Tower**  
(with its working 100-bell carillon)  
**San Diego Automotive Museum**  
**War Memorial Building**



*A trolley will take you right to Balboa Park's Visitor's Center, located in the historic House of Hospitality on the Plaza de Panama.*

Balboa Park is also the home of the world-famous **San Diego Zoo**, which houses 800 different species in the enclosures carefully designed to resemble the animals' natural habitat. The entire Zoo is designed as a 100-acre tropical garden and can be visited on foot and on a special three-mile guided bus tour.



Just across the harbor from downtown San Diego lies the quaint village of **Coronado** which is accessible by the four-lane, two mile long San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge. It is also connected to the mainland on the south by a long, narrow sandbar known as the **Silver Strand**. The jewel in the Crown City is the historic and fascinating **Hotel del Coronado**, which has attracted the rich and famous since its opening in 1888.

The north end of Coronado is occupied by



*Hotel Del Coronado*

*The Hotel Del Coronado, built in 1888, retains a gracious air from a time when civility was everything. Refined, but not stuffy. The "Hotel Del", as she's affectionately called, has almost 700 guest rooms, 10 restaurants, and an endless supply of dignified hospitality. Its red shingled turrets are one of San Diego's best known landmarks.*

**North Island Naval Air Station**, and the east is the headquarters for the Naval Amphibious Base.



*Naval Air Station*

**Point Loma**, one of the most beautiful spots in California is also nearby. Situated at the tip of Point Loma is Cabrillo National Monument which honors Juan Cabrillo, the Spanish explorer who discovered the area that is now San Diego. On the site is the historic Point Loma Lighthouse, first lit in 1855.



*Point Loma Lighthouse and Cabrillo National Monument*

scenic drive down the Silver Strand will take us just across the border into Mexico to **Tijuana**. Tijuana is a shoppers mecca, and even if you don't spend a peso, the trip is worthwhile.



*Tijuana*