

San Diego

City of Life

America's Finest City

101 Reasons San Diego is the *City of Life*

San Diego arguably has the best quality of “*life*” of any city in the world. The city’s stunning visual beauty, geographic location, and extraordinary year-round weather have spawned a one-of-a-kind atmosphere of unlimited possibilities and opportunities.

Let’s take a look at what makes San Diego such an incredible *City of Life*:

Recreation / Entertainment

70 miles of spectacular beaches
Numerous bays, harbors and tidelands
Sailing and boating on San Diego Bay, Mission Bay and the Pacific Ocean
Whale Watching
Swimming and snorkeling in La Jolla Cove
Deep sea ocean fishing
Fishing in lakes and streams
Water-skiing in San Diego Bay, Mission Bay and on multiple nearby lakes
Numerous Indian Reservations and Gaming Casinos
Cabrillo Monument – birthplace of modern California
San Diego Mission settled by Spanish missionaries
Old Town
World-class bird watching
Golfing, hiking and swimming at Torrey Pines State Park
Hiking in Mission Trails Park
Yachtfest – The annual west coast premier yacht show
Thunderboat Racing on Mission Bay
Festival of Sail of historic tall ships in San Diego Harbor
The Star of India ship in San Diego Harbor

USS Midway Museum aircraft carrier in San Diego Harbor
Vibrant nightlife in the downtown Gaslamp Quarter
MCAS Miramar Air Show featuring the U.S. Navy Blue Angels
San Diego Zoo
San Diego Wild Animal Park
Sea World
Legoland
Disneyland (a mere one hour away)
Horton Plaza
Shopping in the stylish Cedros Design District of Solana Beach
Temecula vineyards and wine tasting
San Diego County Fair at the Del Mar Fairgrounds
Del Mar Horse Racing
Hot Air Ballooning over Del Mar and Rancho Santa Fe
The historic Del Coronado Hotel on Coronado
Birch Aquarium at Scripps
Driving and hiking through the rising mountains of Cleveland National Forest
Playing in the snow on Mount Cuyamaca and Mount Laguna
Mount Palomar and Mount Laguna Observatories
Eating apple pie in the historic mining town of Julian
Relaxation and golf in nearby Palm Springs, Palm Desert and Borrego Springs
Dune bugging, motorcycle riding, and hiking in vast deserts to the east
Glamis Sand Dunes to the east
Skiing in Big Bear to the north (or world-class skiing a one hour flight away)
Snorkeling on Catalina Island to the northwest
Big wave surfing at Cortez Banks off the coast
Historic Highway 101 – the original artery that winds along the California coast

Sporting Activities

Sports Illustrated declared San Diego to be “*Sportstown, USA*”
San Diego Hall of Champions
San Diego Padres professional baseball
San Diego Chargers professional football
Olympic Training Village
Surfing
Sailing
Boating
Swimming
Diving
Water-skiing and jet skiing
Golfing – over 90 golf courses including the spectacular Torrey Pines which hosted the 2008 U.S. Open
Tennis
Biking
Skateboarding

Motorcycle off-road riding
Running
Hiking
Hang Gliding over Torrey Pines State Park and beaches

Arts & Culture

Balboa Park
San Diego Museum of Art
Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego – La Jolla & Downtown
Timken Museum of Art
Mingei International Museum
San Diego Natural History Museum
San Diego Museum of Man
Museum of Photographic Arts
Maritime Museum of San Diego
Reuben H. Fleet Science Center
San Diego Air & Space Museum
San Diego Automotive Museum
The New Children’s Museum
San Diego Film Festival
San Diego Opera
San Diego Symphony
Old Globe Theater
La Jolla Playhouse at UCSD
Street Scene Music Festival
Fashion Week San Diego – featuring designers from Southern California and Mexico
Old Town Art Festival
Little Italy Art Walk
Christian Youth Theater (CYT)
A diverse community where English and Spanish are both widely used
Public Art that engages our citizens

Business, Military, Science & Education

San Diego’s rising metropolitan skyline
San Diego - the third largest “Life Sciences” hub in the nation
Torrey Mesa (a.k.a. Life Sciences Mesa)
University of California, San Diego (UCSD)
San Diego State University (SDSU)
University of San Diego (USD)
Salk Institute
Scripps Institute
Sanford / Burnham Institute

J. Craig Venter Institute
Major U.S. Naval base with multiple aircraft carriers
US Naval Air Station
Marine Corp Recruiting Depot (MCRD) and Miramar Air Station
Camp Pendleton (Marine Corp) to the north
Qualcomm – leader in wireless technology
Ecke Poinsettia farms in Encinitas
San Diego Convention Center

Mexico

Tijuana / San Diego is one of the largest population concentrations on the west coast
The Tijuana / San Diego border crossing is the busiest border crossing in the world
Tijuana – birthplace of the Caesar Salad
Bullfighting and Mariachis in Tijuana and Ensenada
Rosarito Beach
Eating lobster in beautiful Puerto Nuevo
The spectacular Guadalupe Valley vineyards
Ensenada
Hussong's Cantina in Ensenada
San Felipe to the southeast
Mike's Sky Ranch for off-road motorcycle riders
Tecate Beer factory
Guadalupe Islands – mating grounds of the Great White Shark

Why the *City of Life*?

Why the *City of Life* identifier for San Diego, as opposed to “*Biotech Beach*”, “*Telecomm Valley*”, “*City of Innovation*”, “*City of Guacamole*” or any other number of ideas? Perhaps a better approach is to ask if there is another identifier that successfully:

1. Defines the *essence* of what San Diego is, and what San Diego aspires to be.
2. Projects a unique, world-class image for San Diego. (*We know the “City of Life” does so because when we started promoting it for San Diego, Hong Kong suddenly embraced it as theirs. They only abandoned it because of the 2003 SARS epidemic that ravaged their city. Hong Kong is one of the savviest cities in the world and their attempt to brand themselves as the “City of Life” speaks volumes about its potent marketing power.*)
3. Celebrates San Diego as the birthplace of “*life*” for modern day California. (*The first European expedition to set foot on the west coast of the United States was led by Spanish explorer Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo in 1542, and the location of the first landing was San Diego.*)
4. Highlights the reason most of the original settlers migrated to San Diego in the first place – for “*life*” itself. (*San Diego has long been recommended as an ideal climate and location to cure or forestall a host of illnesses. Likewise, San Diego continues to exemplify “on the cutting-edge” when it comes to healthcare that preserves “life”.*)
5. Promotes the *Life Sciences* and *Biotech*, key San Diego industries that are playing a pivotal role in improving and lengthening the quality of “*life*” for people all around the globe. Yet, at the same time, remains inclusive of all of San Diego’s vast industries and professions. (*Note the definition of “Bio” is “Life”.*)
6. Invokes San Diego’s “*Life is Innovation*” state-of-mind. (*This mindset prompted Forbes to name San Diego the top place in America to launch a start-up business. Local innovation successes include Qualcomm, Illumina, Life Technologies, Salk Institute, Qualcomm Life, SPAWAR, Stone Brewing, Taylor Guitars, Venter Institute, WD-40, Price Club (Costco), etc.*)
7. Honors San Diego’s Spanish and Mexican heritage and lifestyle, and resonates bilingually. (*The Spanish translation, “Ciudad de Vida”, to be interchangeably used. San Diego is nearly one-third Hispanic / Latino by population, borders Mexico, and hosts the busiest land-border in the world with over 40 million people crossing annually.*)
8. Showcases San Diego as a year-round sporting and activity metropolis with endless opportunities for sailing, surfing, swimming, golfing, tennis, running, biking, motorcycling, et al. Likewise, presents an uplifting sporting image for San Diego’s bid to host the 2024 Olympics. (*Sports Illustrated declared San Diego to be “Sportstown, USA”.*)
9. Presents San Diego as a city teeming with enthusiasm and a *joie de vivre* (joy of living). (*“Life” embodies everything a city should want to be about.*)
10. Spotlights a “*quality of life*” in San Diego second to none in the world.

11. Honors the San Diego presence of the United States Navy and Marine Corps who are in the business of defending “life”, as well as our very way of “life”. (*San Diego is also the birthplace of “life” itself for naval aviation.*)
12. Glorifies the foremost inalienable right in the U.S. Declaration of Independence. (*“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are “Life”, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”*)
13. Promotes San Diego as an exciting, fun-filled tourist destination.
14. Appeals to San Diego’s physical attributes as a place with endless sunshine and a diverse beauty along the Pacific Ocean.
15. Symbolizes the San Diego “mindset” of warmth, optimism, unlimited possibilities, and being able to do anything, any time of the year.
16. Radiates the “vibrancy” and “excitement” of San Diego as seen by our revitalized Gaslamp District, downtown ballpark, rising skyline, and spectacular beaches, bays, and harbors.
17. Embodies the *Partners for Livable Communities* announcement of San Diego as one of the “Most Livable” cities in America, as well as the *Men’s Journal* featuring “The 50 Best Places to Live” with San Diego ranked #1.
18. Features San Diego as one of the most *bio-diverse* regions in the United States and the world, as well as one of the most environmentally friendly. (*Note the definition of “Bio” is “Life”.*)
19. Incorporates original, exciting, and complimentary visual “life” imagery that will be “emblematic” for San Diego, and possibly become “iconic” over time.
20. Capitalizes on a theme brilliant marketing minds around the world are embracing – “life”. (*The 2010 Shanghai World Expo theme was “Better City - Better Life”, the 2015 Milan World Expo theme is “Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life”, and the Milk Industry has just replaced its ultra-successful “Got Milk?” ad campaign with “Milk Life”. “Life” is being recognized as one of the most powerful and appealing global marketing messages.*)

The **City of Life** successfully accomplishes all of the above. Does any other concept come even close? The time has arrived for San Diego to stand tall on the world stage with a unique identity of its own.