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# SAN DIEGO STYLE



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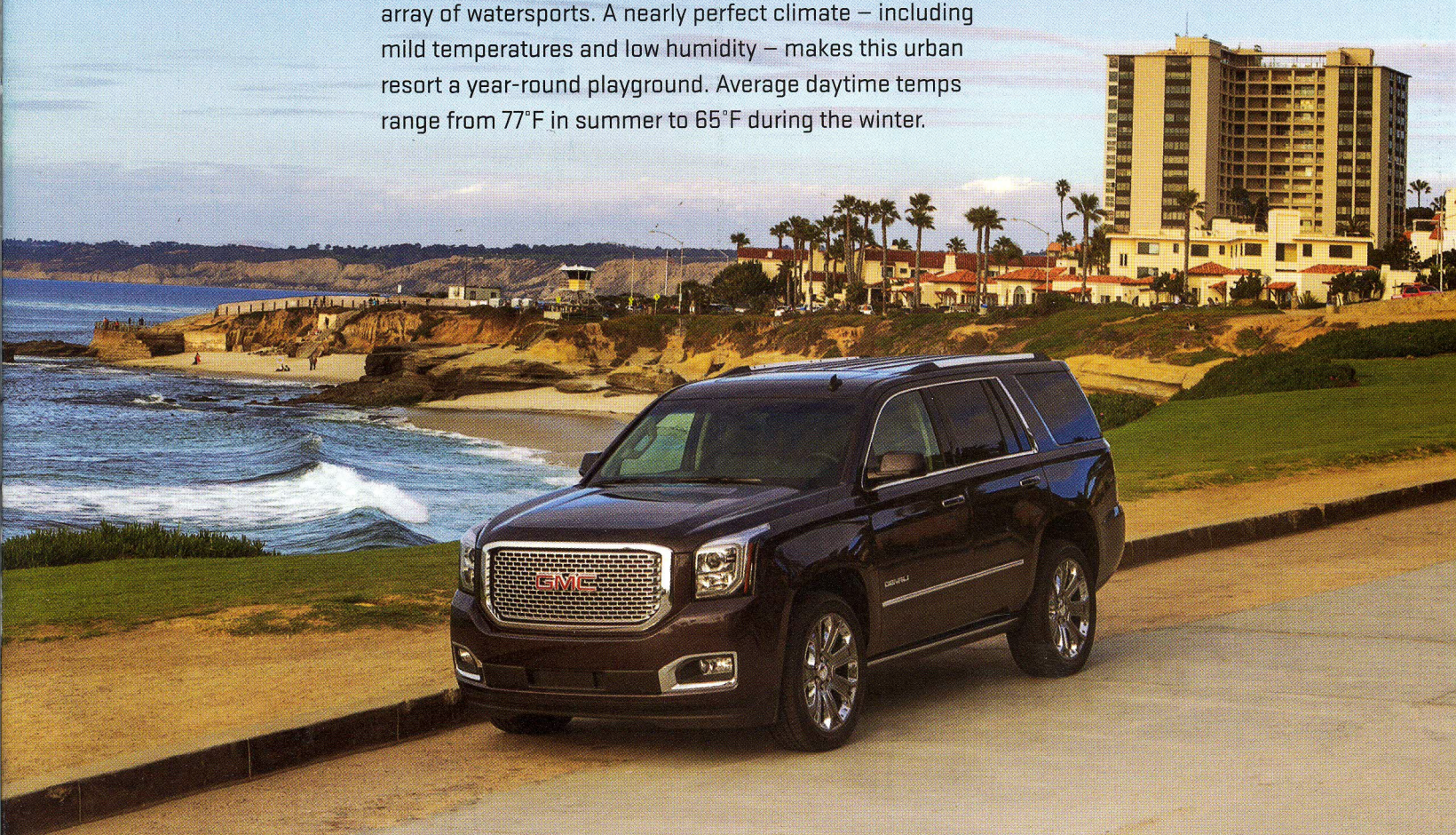


# BOLD BEAUTY

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All-New 2015  
Yukon Denali  
visits San Diego

**SAN DIEGO HAS EARNED ITS REPUTATION AS A TOP-NOTCH VACATION SPOT.** Located on the southwest end of America's Sun Belt, the city has a serious side (think bio-tech and high-tech industries) but is best known for offering myriad ways to have fun. These include beautiful beaches, great golf courses, and a wide array of watersports. A nearly perfect climate – including mild temperatures and low humidity – makes this urban resort a year-round playground. Average daytime temps range from 77°F in summer to 65°F during the winter.







**FUN IN THE SUN** (clockwise from top left): Yukon Denali takes in the scenery at Embarcadero Park. The La Valencia Hotel offers luxury inside and out along with enticing dining at Café la Rue. The USS Midway Museum, complete with outside sculptures, is nearby The Fish Market restaurant.





**SAN DIEGO'S SCENIC DRIVE**

San Diego's 59-mile scenic drive provides a great overview of the city's highlights. Start at the Embarcadero Park that runs along San Diego Bay and provides a breathtaking view of the water and the naval air station on the northern tip of the Coronado peninsula. This expansive base is the home port of two aircraft carriers along with fixed- and rotary-wing squadrons. When the ships are in port, they are visible from North Harbor Drive.

In contrast to these state-of-the-art vessels, it's fun to visit the nearby USS Midway Museum. One of America's longest-serving aircraft carriers, the decommissioned *Midway* offers a chance to experience life in a floating city, complete with 29 restored aircraft.

Not surprisingly, San Diego is also a great place to enjoy seafood. Near the Midway Museum, The Fish Market offers some of the city's best restaurant fare as well as a memorable view of San Diego Bay. Visitors can pick up a map of the scenic drive at the International Visitor Information Center downtown on North Harbor Drive near Broadway. Go to [sandiego.org](http://sandiego.org) to learn more.

**VIEW FROM LA JOLLA**

After driving around Harbor Island, Shelter Island and Point Loma, the scenic drive will take you to the top of Mount Soledad in La Jolla, San Diego's favorite coastal neighborhood. This vantage point provides a nearly 360° view of San Diego County – from the ocean in the west to the mountains in the east and from Mexico in the south to a string of coastal cities to the north. La Jolla has been called "one of America's happiest seaside towns," and neither residents nor visitors would disagree.

If it's time to stretch your legs, pick up a booklet at the La Jolla Historical Society office and take a self-guided walking tour, including The Bishop's School, St. James Church, the Grande Colonial hotel, and La Valencia Hotel.

"La V," as it's known these days, has been a La Jolla landmark since 1926. The hotel's Spanish colonial architecture, classy ambience, and beautiful guestrooms have earned it a reputation as one of the world's best hotels. If you stay here, you'll have a choice of 112 Vintage Rooms, Classic Suites, and Villas. Families usually opt for the connecting rooms in the three-story West Wing. Honeymooners splurge on one of the 16





spacious villa rooms or suites that come with fireplaces and panoramic outlooks. Guests enjoy the ocean-view pool, leafy patios with mosaic tile fountains and fire pits, THE MED restaurant serving innovative farm-to-table cuisine, and the chic bistro Café la Rue.

Lest you think that La Jolla is living in the past, walk on over to the Karl Strauss Brewing Company, located a long block from La V. You'll find an on-site microbrewery, tours and a menu of West Coast pub fare. Craft beer lovers worldwide know that San Diego is at the epicenter of the American microbrew explosion.

You also won't want to miss the postcard-perfect La Jolla Cove, which is part of the 6,000-acre San Diego-La Jolla Underwater Park. This marine sanctuary is a great place for swimming, snorkeling and sunbathing. Watch out for bright orange Garibaldi – California's state fish. The Cove and the nearby Children's Pool are popular hangouts for harbor seals, sea lions, and flocks of pelicans. The rookery is the only mainland harbor seal colony in Southern California and visitors come from all over to catch the activity during pupping season (December to May).

Nearby, La Jolla Shores Beach is the best place for scuba diving, kayaking, surfing, and stand-up paddle boarding. Not sure how to catch a wave? Let the talented instructors at Surf Diva give you some tips. This legendary institution was the world's first surf school for women and girls. In recent years, by popular demand, Surf Diva has also begun helping boys and men to learn how to surf.

Golfers will want to head to the famous Torrey Pines Golf Course. It's challenging to get a tee time on the two championship courses, but anyone can practice their swing on the driving range. If you want to play a round, secure a tee time well in advance. The Lodge at Torrey Pines is a stunning luxury hotel overlooking the golf course, and guests are guaranteed starting times. Another great reason for staying at the Craftsman-style gem: Chef Jeff Jackson's renowned meals made with locally sourced ingredients.

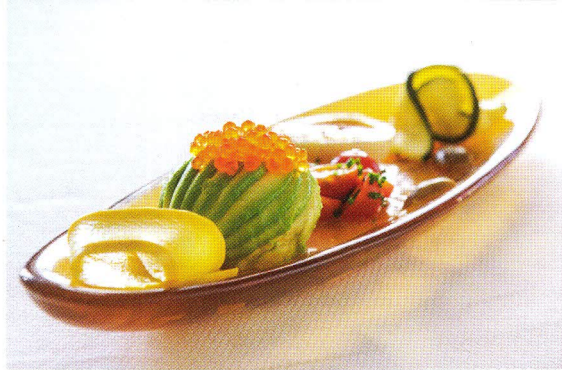
#### **EXPLORE BALBOA PARK**

From La Jolla, drive south through the beach-front communities of Pacific Beach and Mission Beach. Next stop: San Diego's Balboa Park, home of 15 museums, stunning plantings, the Old Globe Theatre, and the San Diego Zoo. Many

With its great weather, miles of sandy beaches and major attractions, San Diego is known worldwide as one of the best tourist destinations.







**MORE FUN** (clockwise from left): Balboa Park is home to theaters, museums and more. The Lodge at Torrey Pines offers luxurious accommodations as well as renowned meals courtesy of Chef Jeff Jackson. Of course, beaches and boating are part of the lifestyle and the Gaslamp Quarter offers other diversions.





## DESTINATION | SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

buildings in the 1,400-acre park are Spanish Colonial Revival architecture, constructed for the Panama-California Exposition (1915-16), and used for the California-Pacific International Exposition in 1935.

The San Diego Zoo covers more than 100 acres and houses about 4,000 rare and endangered animals. Of these, giant pandas, koalas, polar bears and lowland gorillas are some of the favorites. Almost all of the animals are housed in moated enclosures that resemble their natural habitats. The zoo also has a botanical collection of more than 700,000 exotic plants.

### CRUISE TO CORONADO

Next, fasten your seatbelt and head over the two-mile-long bridge that connects San Diego to the laid-back community of Coronado. Here you'll find the Hotel del Coronado located on 28 oceanfront acres. Built in 1888, the turreted icon is often referred to as one of the top hotels in the world. Some Hotel del Coronado guest rooms are in the Victorian-era building, while others are located in the Ocean Towers and California Cabana and have a more tropical feel. A variety of different-size suites are also available. The cottages and villas at Beach Village are the premier lodging.

Although the Hotel del Coronado gets more attention, its nearby neighbor Glorietta Bay Inn also enjoys a loyal following. The boutique hotel includes 11 rooms in the historic Spreckels Mansion (1908), an additional 89 contemporary rooms and also offers a pool and spa.

In contrast to the hotels, Leroy's Kitchen + Lounge is Coronado's hip, farm-to-table restaurant, where the globally influenced menu is under the direction of talented Chef JC Colon. (Think sports bar meets fine food.)

Learn more at [sandiego.org](http://sandiego.org). ■

*Award-winning writer Elizabeth Hansen lives in La Jolla, California, and writes about her hometown on her blog [LaJollaTravelInformation.com](http://LaJollaTravelInformation.com). On [AuthenticLuxuryTravel.net](http://AuthenticLuxuryTravel.net), Hansen helps readers find ways to connect with local cultures wherever they travel. She is also the travel editor of *Ranch & Coast*, San Diego's Ultimate Lifestyle Magazine.*

**ENJOY THE SIGHTS** (clockwise from left): Within Balboa Park, the San Diego Zoo includes many exotic inhabitants. San Diego offers beautiful views around every corner. The iconic Hotel del Coronado is often referred to as one of the world's top hotels.

