

SUMMER 2015 WHERESD.COM

San Diego

# Where

ROMANTIC  
DATE IDEAS  
FOR SUMMER

S.D.'S BOOMING  
CRAFT BEER BIZ

HIKING  
TRAILS FOR  
EVERY SPEED

## ON A ROLL

*The Culinary Spotlight Shines on  
San Diego's Diverse Sushi Eateries*



are also hiking trails, tidepools, a historical lighthouse, a bookstore and museum exhibits about conquistador Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, the founder of San Diego.

## Mission Beach and Pacific Beach

Two of San Diego's most popular beaches, Mission Beach and Pacific Beach form an unbroken band of sand that stretches for three miles, from the mouth of Mission Bay to the rocky points of La Jolla. Both are overflowing with restaurants, bars and boutiques.

South Mission Beach is home to serious beach volleyball and bayside basketball games. Farther north, check out the star attraction at the **Belmont Park** (see p. 67) amusement park: the Giant Dipper, a famously restored 1925 wooden roller coaster.

Another landmark dating back to 1925 is **Crystal Pier**, at the foot of Garnet Avenue in P.B. This 400-foot-long wooden pier is gated and lined with rental cottages. However, the pier is open to the public during the day and is always popular with fishermen.

The best way to experience this area is to walk along the boardwalk, where people-watching is not just encouraged; it's a must. If the nonstop parade of skateboarders, in-liners, bikers, joggers and walkers gets to be too much, walk across Mission Boulevard to the quieter bayside boardwalk. Garnet Avenue and Mission Boulevard form the backbone of this funky, retro retail district, which boasts dozens of small shops filled with surfing gear, swimsuits and casual wear. Begin the 10-block shopping stroll where the two main streets intersect, then head east.

First order of business: Find that perfect bikini. **SunSplash** (979 Garnet Ave.) can help,



Left to right: Beach Village at The Del; boats at Mission Bay; Sunset Cliffs in Ocean Beach.

with stylish swimwear and casual beachwear. For the rest of the outfit, try **The Fabulous Rag Boutique** (829 Garnet Ave.), a quaint shop on the main drag selling women's clothing in a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere. Farther up Garnet Avenue is **Rusty Spokes Vintage Bicycles** (1344 Garnet Ave.), which specializes in antique and classic cycles.

Heading south brings you to Mission Beach, home to popular bikini emporium **Pilar's Beachwear** (3790 Mission Blvd.).

## Mission Bay Park

**Mission Bay Park** is a 4,000-acre gathering spot for locals and visitors to enjoy outdoor

activities including running, biking, skating, kite-flying, sailing and boating.

Several sportfishing charters depart daily from Mission Bay, and a variety of watercraft can be rented from nearby shops. If you're feeling adventurous, try your hand at stand-up paddleboarding.

The west side of the bay is also home to several resort hotels and world-renowned **SeaWorld** (see p. 68). Don't miss the thrilling Shark Encounter and the Turtle Reef exhibition and ride. 🐠

For a map of these neighborhoods, see p. 77. For information about restaurants in this area, please see p. 59.



## GREAT FIND / backyard charm

➔ Casual and laid-back, **Backyard Kitchen & Tap** is not your average P.B. eatery. The modern yet rustic hotspot offers coastal American cuisine from Executive Chef James Nunn in an airy, indoor/outdoor space highlighted by plush booths, reclaimed wood and cozy fire pits. Pair the Baja shrimp ceviche (pictured) or the hamachi crudo (with crunchy radish shavings, micro basil, crispy shallots, Fresno chiles and sesame-Dijon vinaigrette) with an Endless Summer cocktail—made with the restaurant's signature house-made lemonade—for a tasty afternoon snack with an authentic backyard feel. 832 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach, 858.859.2593, backyardpb.com