



DISCOVER CALIFORNIA

Every year, millions of visitors flock to the Golden State to bask on its sun-drenched beaches and get a glimpse of Hollywood. But California's diversity is what truly makes it a sought-after destination for festive food, relaxation, and education. **By Dana Robinson**

ENJOY SILICON VALLEY'S PLAYGROUND

SAN JOSE EMBODIES the Silicon Valley lifestyle: Work hard and play even harder. For many, this means treating yourself to life's luxuries and exciting experiences while squeezing in some self-care.

Stay at Hotel Valencia Santana Row, a boutique hotel located on bustling Santana Row, also referred to as the

Rodeo Drive of Silicon Valley. While in your Spanish-influenced room, you'll be whisked away to another place and time. Make the most of the California sunshine at the rooftop bar.

Being on Santana Row also puts you in prime position for a shopping spree. High-end brands like Gucci, Kate Spade, Tommy Bahama, and Ted Baker London all call Santana Row home, making it easy to

elevate your style with a wardrobe upgrade.

In the mood to relax? Treat yourself to a massage or facial while you're in San Jose. Next door to Hotel Valencia Santana Row, a Burke Williams Spa offers a tranquil retreat with a wide array of treatments.

If you're more into clay pottery than clay masks, get your hands dirty by creating a one-of-a-kind souvenir at Higher Fire Clayspace and

The views from Mount Hamilton GrandView Restaurant are hard to beat.



A NEW WAY TO SAN JOSE



VISIT
SAN JOSE
CALIFORNIA

Located in Northern California and an hour from San Francisco, San Jose is the heart of Silicon Valley and your gateway to the greater Bay Area. Tap into San Jose's dynamic creative spirit with diverse arts and culture, a thriving maker scene, acclaimed dining and world-class shopping.

ENTER FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN A TRIP TO
SAN JOSE AT [SOUTHWESTMAG.COM/SWEEPSTAKES](https://southwestmag.com/sweepstakes).



Gallery. Choose from a variety of ceramic pieces to sculpt, and don't forget to stamp the San Jose trademark into your piece before you leave.

While your imagination is engaged, get inspired by other artists at the San Jose Museum of Art. This season, visitors can look forward to two exhibitions that feature works by prominent female artists. On view now, Catherine Wagner's *Paradox Observed* photography exhibition highlights the parallels of art and science (through August 18). Rina Banerjee's *Make Me a Summary of the World* opens May 16 and features her iconic mixed-medium, large-scale pieces, which explore identity, globalization, feminism, and climate

change (through October 6).

End your day with an epic meal. At the Mount Hamilton GrandView Restaurant, take in the views of Silicon Valley while enjoying handcrafted cocktails, an extensive California wine collection, and an unforgettable meal prepared with seasonal ingredients sourced from the eatery's nearby farm.

FEAST ON AUTHENTIC FLAVORS

UPSCALE STEAKHOUSES, charming sidewalk cafes, popular food trucks—California is known for its variety of fantastic culinary experiences. Chefs here often take inspiration from their neighbors to

the south in Mexico, and SOL Mexican Cocina puts its own spin on the coastal cuisine from the Mexican state of Baja California by emphasizing fresh flavors and colorful presentation.

The restaurant's flagship location, overlooking the waterfront in Newport Beach, turns 10 years old this year and welcomes guests to raise a glass in celebration. Choose from a curated selection of premium tequilas and mezcals or a rainbow assortment of specialty margaritas that are made with fresh-squeezed juices—think blackberry ginger, watermelon, and mango con chile. Spice lovers can indulge in more than two dozen salsas, made from scratch daily. From

Do your taste buds a favor and order the grilled agave-chile shrimp tacos at SOL Mexican Cocina.

SUMMER IS CALLING

MARGARITAS AT SUNSET,
FRESH SEAFOOD, BAJA TACOS
TAKE A TRIP TO SOL TONIGHT.



the lineup of specialty tacos, standouts include “Canarditas” Duck, a deep-fried duck leg with tequila-laced blackberry salsa cradled in a warm tortilla, and Taco Vampiro, a combination of serrano peppers, carne asada, and chipotle sauce. For a lighter but equally fiery option, try the Hot & Raw Tropical Ceviche, featuring habanero peppers, citrus fruits, and sweet potato and red beet chips. For dessert, there’s the churro “donut” or the inventive passion fruit crème brûlée with chocolate-pistachio cookies.

If you can’t make it to Newport Beach just yet, SOL Mexican Cocina also has a location in Playa Vista as well as a sister concept, solita Tacos & Margaritas, in Huntington Beach and Valencia. All locations offer lunch, dinner, weekend brunch, Taco & Tequila Tuesday, and happy hour specials (schedules vary by location).

RECEIVE A WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION

SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY was founded in 1851 in Northern California, a region now known for innovation and Silicon Valley. The university shares that same entrepreneurial spirit, offering a curriculum that blends high-tech innovation with social consciousness.

Undergraduate programs focus on business, engineering, and the arts and sciences, and offer more than 50 possible majors. Students can also further their education with graduate programs in six disciplines, including theology



and sustainable energy.

Set on 106 lush acres, the university is literally grounded in the Catholic tradition. Campus is centered around Mission Santa Clara de Asis, the eighth mission in a chain of 21 Franciscan missions established in part by Father Junipero Serra in the 1700s. Nearly every aspect of campus life incorporates Jesuit values, from community outreach and

cultural immersion programs to interfaith dinner discussions and ethics workshops for local teachers.

The university also supports a number of cultures and communities. These include Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano Aztlan-El Frente (supporting the Chicano/Latino community), Igwebuiké (supporting the black and Pan-African community), and the

A sculpture of St. Ignatius of Loyola adorns the lawn in front of Mission Santa Clara de Asis.

Silicon Valley's oldest incubator of ideas and ideals.

Santa Clara University. High-tech ingenuity and pioneering vision. Enduring Jesuit values and social consciousness. And a solid grounding in ethics. With your support, we will achieve our \$1 billion fundraising goal to advance our treasured University. Help us inspire the next generation of leaders innovating with a mission. Visit campaign.scu.edu to get started.

innovating
with a **MISSION**

The Campaign for Santa Clara University



Chinese Student Association.

The school has also racked up quite a few accolades. Ranked the No. 1 regional university in the West by *U.S. News & World Report*, SCU has among the best four-year graduation rates in the nation at 88 percent. And students who are ready to polish up their resumes and enter the workforce can feel confident knowing that PayScale ranked SCU in the top 15 universities for the earning potential of its graduates. The university even produced seven Fulbright Scholars in 2018.

LIVE THE ISLAND LIFE

ON A CLEAR DAY, you can see Catalina Island from some of the highest points in Los Angeles. The view makes it easy to imagine simply floating



across the scant 22 miles of Pacific Ocean to reach Avalon, the island's main resort town and a perfect place to unwind.

Floating may be out of the question (although you can take a helicopter!), but it's easy to hop aboard a boat for a quick ride from the coastal ports of Long Beach, San

Catalina Island is California's only island resort escape.

Pedro, Newport Beach, or Dana Point.

Although visitors can get a taste of the island's diverse activities on a day trip, Catalina is best explored on a multiday getaway. Revel in the coastal scenery, stay at a boutique hotel, and immerse yourself in the island culture.

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF CATALINA ISLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITORS BUREAU



So Close YET WORLDS AWAY

Just an hour from southern California's coast is an island treasure with miles of pristine beauty and a charming seaside village with friendly locals — Catalina Island. Here you'll find lodging options including hotel and rental cottages plus plenty of activities for everyone from the outdoor adventurer to the barefoot beachgoer. Escape to the extraordinary, visit CatalinaChamber.com.



Catalina Island is also a haven for adventure-seekers. Hikers trek the Trans-Catalina Trail, which traverses more than 30 miles of protected wilderness and is considered one of the most beautiful and challenging hikes in Southern California. Offshore, visitors can scuba dive, snorkel, or kayak to explore the kelp forests, marine life, and dramatic seascapes found in the Pacific Ocean.

SOAK UP FUN AT A BEACHFRONT PARK

SINCE THROWING OPEN its gates in 1925, Belmont Park has been a top destination for nostalgic fun at San Diego's Mission Beach. The historic beachfront amusement park, which sits 6 miles from San Diego International Airport, features more than 20 rides and attractions, including the Liberty Carousel that depicts events in San Diego's history. The park is also home to the Giant Dipper, a National Historic Landmark and one of the few remaining wooden roller coasters on the West Coast.

But Belmont isn't just for thrill-seekers. Boardwalk

The Giant Dipper roller coaster



SAN DIEGO'S ICONIC
BEACHFRONT
AMUSEMENT PARK

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and Attractions,
Gift Shops,
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- \$1,000 in Southwest Airlines® gift cards
- Two-night stay at Hotel Valencia Santana Row
- \$500 Santana Row gift card
- \$250 gift card to the acclaimed Mount Hamilton GrandView Restaurant
- \$100 in Uber credits
- Two tickets to the San Jose Museum of Art
- Gift certificate for a ceramics workshop for two at Higher Fire Clayspace and Gallery

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VISIT
SAN JOSE
CALIFORNIA

shopping and dining are big draws, too. There's a grab-and-go taco shop, a beachfront tiki bar, and a rooftop sushi restaurant with views of the ocean. Looking for a spot to post up and watch the big game? Make your way to Draft, a laid-back sports bar with a 31-foot TV screen and nearly 100 brews.

EXPLORE THE OUTDOORS

AWAITING DISCOVERY on San Diego's Point Loma Peninsula, Cabrillo National Monument is named after Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, the first European explorer to set foot on the West Coast. Today, the 144-acre park continues to be a place for exploration, serving as a home for cultural, historical, and natural resources.

Travel through three eras, starting your journey at the



visitor center to learn about Cabrillo's voyage in 1542. Then, tour the Old Point Loma Lighthouse, which was first lit in 1855, and continue your cliffside stroll among coastal defense systems from World War II. After soaking in the history, get your feet wet (literally) at the tidepools in the rocky intertidal zone. You can use the iNaturalist app to share your park discoveries

with other nature enthusiasts.

Scientists, park rangers, and their partners with the Cabrillo National Monument Foundation preserve the park by conducting research studies and inspiring thousands of local students during field trips. If people are not able to make it to the park, CNM officials bring the park to the people via community outreach events like festivals and school visits.

Cabrillo National Monument overlooks San Diego Bay.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY WILLIAM GRISWOLD

EXPLORE

SAN DIEGO'S ONLY NATIONAL PARK



Photo Courtesy of Bill Griswold



Photo Courtesy of Margaret Peck



Photo Courtesy of Bill Griswold

CABRILLO NATIONAL MONUMENT



Plan your visit today:
cnmf.org/visit-the-park

OPEN DAILY
9AM to 5PM

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