

SAN DIEGO PRESERVES...THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF THE LAND AND SEA

San Diego is one of the most biologically rich counties in the United States, sheltering more endangered plants and animals than any other county in the nation.

The three national wildlife preserves at the southern end of San Diego Bay make for one of the most biologically diverse settings in the entire state.

- Tijuana Estuary National Wildlife Refuge on our nation's border boasts 2,500 acres
- South Bay National Wildlife Refuge at the base of Silver Strand encompasses a remarkable 4,000 acres
- Sweetwater National Wildlife Refuge, which is home to the Living Coast Discovery Center, includes 316 acres

In addition, the Otay National Wildlife Refuge, consisting of 44,000 acres, is a few miles east of the bay area and includes many opportunities for hiking, biking and more.

Together, these four preserves protect more than 50,000 acres of habitat in its natural state. Come see the true beauty San Diego has to offer ...and support the eco-friendly movement working to preserve our resources by visiting these unique destinations.



The 78-acre Otay Lakes Park

offers beautiful views of the Otay Lakes and campgrounds. Enjoy the native plant demonstration garden or the famous bird watching grounds, home to some of Otay Lakes' endangered birds.

SAN DIEGO'S SILVER LINING

The buzz of San Diego Bay never stops with the continuous hustle and bustle of naval ships, luxury cruise lines and pleasure sail boats, but one hidden secret lies just outside the busy bay. On the outskirts of Coronado Island lies a seven-mile stretch of sand that separates the Pacific Ocean from the bay and attracts both tourists and locals alike, and more birds than can be counted.

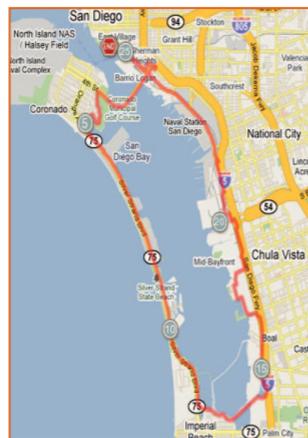


The mild climate of Silver Strand State Beach

makes a perfect resting spot for Bayshore bikers. Take advantage of surf lessons, camping, swimming, boating and water-skiing.

BAYSHORE BIKEWAY

Circling San Diego Bay lies a 24-mile bikeway with spectacular views of the waterfront, looping through the South Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The sparkling cities of Imperial Beach, Coronado, National City, Chula Vista and San Diego work together in conjunction with the Port of San Diego to protect the rare birds of Southern California's coastal marshes and now one can bike through these unique settings.



Start your trip at any point along the loop.

Parking is available at the Ferry Landing, just south of Orange Ave. in Coronado, and off Highway 75/Palm Avenue on 13th Street in Imperial Beach. For a complete circle around the bay, take in the scenic ride on the Coronado Ferry that ushers you back to the San Diego side.



UNSPOILED TERRITORY

Get the exotic feel of Mexico as you ride horseback on the San Diego beaches. Border Field State Park is located on the southwest corner of the U.S., 15 miles south of San Diego. Trails traversing the park are perfect for horseback riding and those on Monument Mesa allow vistas of Las Playas de Tijuana, the divide between the U.S. and Mexico. Feel free to bring a picnic lunch and enjoy this vantage point, also perfect for bird, whale and dolphin watching.

Just six miles north of Border Field State Park is the Tijuana Estuary Visitors Center—where one can find trail maps and plenty of information on the surrounding natural sloughs. The center offers readings, videos and items found around the estuary including bird feathers and nests. While you're there, enjoy the three-mile walkway and don't be afraid to ask the rangers any and all questions about the wildlife.



"Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better."

-Albert Einstein

WHALES, DOLPHINS, SHARKS, OH MY!



Along the pier of Imperial Beach you will find the colorful history of surfing that marks the beginning of one of California's favorite pastimes.

This colorful landmark also is one of the best spots to watch whales and dolphins in their natural habitat. So grab a homemade pretzel or some of San Diego's famous fish tacos and breathe in the scenery at the base of the pier.

On the other side of San Diego Bay lies one of South Bay's hidden treasures. The Living Coast Discovery Center in Chula Vista has preserved the wildlife of the San Diego Bay, which serves as home to many endangered species. The center has made it easier for San Diegans and visitors alike to interact with native wildlife and become educated on coastal resource conservation.



The Living Coast Discovery Center has spectacular exhibits including a turtle lagoon, shorebird aviary, raptor row, native plant gardens and the ever so popular shark & ray interactive exhibit. From stingrays to leopard sharks, and pelicans to eagles, you can't help but be taken aback by the plethora of wildlife protected in their secluded piece of San Diego Bay.

FREE WALKS & TALKS!



You don't have to spend money to become educated on the natural beauty of San Diego, just visit any of the free weekly events offered by the Tijuana Estuary!

Also, the Tijuana Estuary holds a speaker series every 3rd Saturday of the month at 10 am. Guest speakers engage the audience in topics related to the history and education of the Tijuana Estuary and its watershed.

Take Note:

Bird Walks:

1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday of every month at 3 pm

Nature Walks:

2nd and 4th Saturdays of every month at 11 am

Learn more about the Silver Strand's fragile plants, animals, birds, mudflats and sand dunes during a fun and interactive tour that appeals to all ages, followed by an optional restoration project. The tour begins at Loews Coronado Bay Resort every Saturday and Sunday from 9:30 to 11:30am. No charge but reservations are required at (619) 424-4000 ext. 6300.

Thank you to the Port of San Diego, AT&T, South County Economic Development Council and j.simms agency for producing this brochure on behalf of businesses in San Diego's South County.

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