



# SECRET SAN DIEGO™

There's a lot to show off about our city—water sports! craft beer! taquerias on every block!—but San Diego holds a few cards up her sleeves. We unearthed some of the city's most hush-hush spots, from hidden ocean caves and urban beekeeping farms to tucked-away archery ranges and off-menu, must-try bites.

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# OUTDOORS

## SKATE UNDER A FREEWAY

A few blocks from Acoustic Ales Brewing in Middletown, under Pacific Highway, is a subterranean skate park filled with fast bowls, slick rails, and an old-school vibe. Hand-built in the late '90s by a group of local skaters, the Washington Street Skatepark (purportedly one of the best in Southern California) is home to street art, tiled mosaics, and a BBQ, too. Run and maintained by skaters, the nonprofit park is free and open from sunrise to sunset; look for it where Pacific Highway crosses over Washington Street.



## HIT A BULL'S-EYE AT BALBOA

Under Cabrillo Bridge sits the little-known, 28-acre Rube Powell Archery Range inside Balboa Park, offering a spot to fire unlimited arrows for just \$2. Only the second of its kind in Southern California, the range features a practice area, plus 40 targets scattered throughout a canyon. Outlaws and Robin Hood wannabes will find the entrance at the southwest side of the Alcazar Garden parking lot.

## SWIM INTO A CAVE

Get ready to take your water sporting up a few thrilling notches. Tucked beneath sandstone cliffs is a clandestine sea cave—but you'll have to swim for it. Head to the southern end of Luscomb's Point, located parallel to Sunset Cliffs Boulevard between Hill and Monaco streets, and swim south until you see a narrow passage on your left (closer to Monaco Street). Then you're between a rock and a beautiful place.

## SPOT DOLPHINS TRAINED BY THE NAVY

Unless you have access to Naval Base Point Loma, chances are you haven't seen the temporary enclosure of

dolphins and sea lions being trained as part of the Navy's Marine Mammal Program. The dolphins' sonar abilities and the sea lions' vision and hearing make them extremely effective at detecting sea mines and other potentially harmful underwater objects. Jump in a boat or SUP through the channel between Liberty Station and Tom Ham's Lighthouse to get a peek. Or walk along the south side of the Harbor Drive Pedestrian Bridge between Spanish Landing Park and Liberty Station. And look down!



## MARVEL AT ONSHORE BOATHOUSES

Despite a location near the ocean, the 1920s boathouses moored along Third Street in Encinitas have never been to sea. Built by nautical engineer (and early recycling champion) Miles Kellogg, *SS Encinitas* and *SS Moonlight* were crafted using timber salvaged from the once-famous Moonlight Beach Dance Hall and Bathhouse. Pegged as North County landmarks, the boats come complete with mariner's wheels, porthole windows, and deck-top cabins.

# OUTDOORS

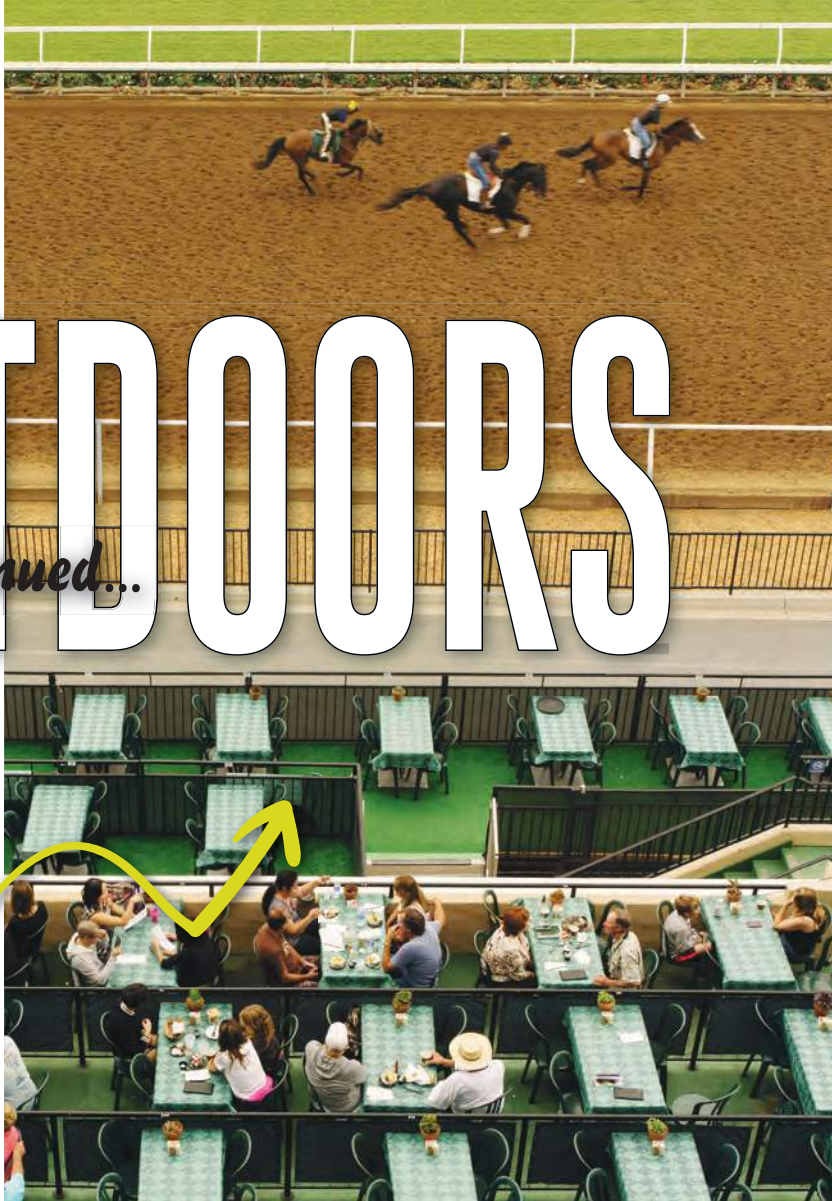
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## WITNESS A TRIPLE CROWN WINNER WORKING OUT

It's a little-known fact that you can go to the Del Mar Racetrack any morning (6 a.m.–10 a.m.) and catch hundreds of top thoroughbred horses in the middle of their morning workouts. On one such recent workout, Triple Crown champion American Pharoah clocked 1:11 for six furlongs (three-quarters of a mile). Who needs coffee when you can get a morning rush like that? The workouts are free, but parking is \$10. If you spend \$25 on breakfast at the Clubhouse Terrace Restaurant, they'll take the parking fee off your bill. [dmtc.com](http://dmtc.com)

## GET TO KNOW THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES

Urban beekeeping is alive and well in gardens and rooftops around San Diego, thanks to honey farmer on a mission Hilary Kearney. While her hives might be installed at undisclosed locations, she's bringing bees back to the 'burbs in a



big way. Make a beeline for her homegrown apiary in north Clairemont, where you can take an introductory beekeeping class, pick up delicious Girl Next Door Honey, or learn about the Host a Hive program and give some bees a private home of their own. [girlnextdoorhoney.com](http://girlnextdoorhoney.com)

## PAY YOUR RESPECTS TO A COMMUNITY MASCOT

In a quiet section of Presidio Park lies a memorial to Lucy, a white fallow deer that escaped the San Diego Zoo in the

mid-'60s and lived happily in the area for a decade. When the deer was reportedly hit by a car along I-8, the grief-stricken community erected a memorial at her burial site composed of three large stones, a concrete watering hole, a bench, and a plaque reading: "Bliss in solitude beneath this tree, formless, silent, spirit free." To find it, park in the canyon area lot accessible from Taylor Street and walk down the trail heading southeast.

## TAKE IT INSIDE

### PAY TO SPEND A NIGHT WITHOUT TV

Built as the home of one of San Diego's earliest pioneers in the 1800s, the Cosmopolitan Hotel & Restaurant in Old Town features Victorian-style bedrooms and dining rooms, 19th-century furnishings, and 10 guest rooms, void of TVs and telephones. Here's to a little peace and quiet. 2660 Calhoun Street, Old Town

### EXPLORE AN OFFBEAT MUSEUM

The Old Town Model Railroad Depot is an ode to the history and charm of train travel. Beyond interactive exhibits, model engines, and memorabilia, the Depot has a 1950s-era city display, with buildings, a zoo, and more. Entry is free but donations are welcome. 2415 San Diego Avenue, Old Town



JIM SCHWARTMAN



# ART

## DISCOVER AN ENCHANTED FOREST

No longer confined to the realms of Middle-earth, talking trees can be found in San Diego, too. Well, at UC San Diego anyway, where they come alive with the sound of quacking ducks, Navajo chants, and a poem about scabs. Inconspicuously clad in lead plates, Terry Allen's 1986 art installation *Trees* comprises three salvaged eucalyptus trees, two of which speak and sing while one remains respectfully silent. Look for the silent one by the Geisel Library (because *shhhhhh!*) and listen for the musical and literary trees within the adjacent eucalyptus grove, nicknamed the Enchanted Forest.

## LEAVE YOUR MARK AT NEPTUNE'S PORTAL

The colorful antenna-sprouting object dubbed Neptune's Portal is part art installation, part social experiment, and encourages inquisitive passersby to peer into a cleverly concealed camera that sits inside a glass mosaic flower. Hit the red record button and leave a video message for posterity. Anecdotes, greetings, songs—all are welcome by guardian and portal creator Jack Lampl, who uploads each to [neptunesportal.tv](http://neptunesportal.tv). 678 Neptune Avenue, Leucadia

