

WELCOME TO SAN DIEGO!



Whether you're coming just for the AFC conference and golf tournament or planning on visiting before (or staying after) the conference - coming alone or with traveling companions – here is some information you may find helpful while planning your trip.

Anticipate coastal fog or what we locals call “June Gloom”. It may be completely gray and overcast the entire time, or it may only be overcast in the morning, burning off in the early afternoon. Even in overcast conditions, the temperatures shouldn't be too cool (somewhere between 60 and 74 degrees Fahrenheit) – but anything below 69 degrees and you'll hear locals complaining about the frigid weather. Layers are highly recommended, particularly in the evenings, when coastal breezes will make it seem much cooler than it really is.

Conference housing is on the USD campus, is within easy walking distance of our conference venue and is \$95/person/night inclusive of taxes and other charges. (San Diego Sales Tax is 8% and Room Tax is 10.5%, so you're already saving at least 18.5%!) However, if you're visiting the weekend before or after the conference, you may want to find a hotel for the weekend that is closer to the city or county areas of interest to you.

“Hotel Circle” is located in Mission Valley, which is pretty central to San Diego, but is not really close to any particular tourist attractions other than a couple of shopping malls - both Mission Valley and Fashion Valley (more on shopping later). Hotel Circle has a wide array of hotels from the Hilton to the Comfort Inn - I'd check on other sites such as Hotels.com or others for the best price – but this link will at least show you the hotels that are in the area. <http://www.hotelcircle.net/>

So, where else are hotels? Everywhere – so it sort of depends on what you plan to do while you're visiting!

Things to do in San Diego

(I tried to organize this by area, but everything is kind of woven together – dining, museums, shopping . . .)

Balboa Park – the world famous zoo, theaters, museums, gardens and conservatory as well as one of the world's largest pipe organs with free Sunday concerts. The only really good food in the park is the "Casa del Prado" which is very good. However, a pleasant walk across the Cabrillo Bridge to Fifth/Fourth and Laurel, you will find several wonderful restaurants. My favorite is an Italian place called "Cucina Urbana." (Or you can park near the restaurant and walk across the bridge to the park.) <http://www.balboapark.org/>



Downtown, Little Italy and the Waterfront - June will be well past whale watching season (November through February), but the waterfront still has several things of interest. Hornblower Bay and Dinner Cruises, fishing excursions, The Star of India (San Diego Maritime Museum – which is where we'll be Thursday night), the Midway Aircraft Carrier/Museum, and Seaport Village (shopping and dining). I can highly recommend the Fishmarket (in the shadow of the Midway) for food or drinks - there's a great upstairs deck with a nice view of the bay – great place for Bloody Mary's – or eat in the restaurant downstairs right out over the water on the back porch area. Reasonably priced and good food – try to go on off hours or you'll probably have to wait awhile.



Not far from the Waterfront is Little Italy, reflecting one chapter of San Diego's history. San Diego was once a major fishing port – primarily tuna - and the fishermen were primarily of Italian descent. Little Italy is several blocks of excellent restaurants, Italian delicatessens and boutique shops. I would recommend a walking tour – they are inexpensive and Anthony is a very good guide. <http://www.littleitalytours.com/>

And of course, if you choose the downtown area – don't forget the ballpark!! PETCO offers ballpark tours on days when there are evening games, too.

http://sandiego.padres.mlb.com/ticketing/singlegame.jsp?c_id=sd&y=2013&mlbkw=76Y17MU1-16B



Old Town – Considered the birthplace of California, Old Town is a State Historical Park and is a small section of town containing many of the original buildings from the settlement of San Diego. Some are furnished as living museums; others contain the general store or boutiques. Outside the park area are plenty of shops and great Mexican restaurants. Can you say Margarita??? There's also a legitimate theater:

<http://cygnettheatre.com/show/12-13/shakespeares-rj.html>

North County - If you head north to Carlsbad, you'll find the outlet center, a museum about making music (small but really worthwhile if you like music), and Legoland, where they just opened a fancy new hotel.

The Wild Animal Park – I think it was recently renamed the “Safari Park” - is a bit further inland (Escondido) and is part of the San Diego Zoo family. The enclosures are much, much larger and the animals are mixed together more naturally. I'm guessing that they just keep them well fed enough that the lions don't feel compelled to kill their food (!) There's a new "zip line" there – and plenty of educational opportunities and a nice tram and bus tour available. You're coming at a good time of year – it tends to get very hot inland, but should be pretty nice in June. (In fact, while the coast will probably be experiencing "June Gloom" the inland areas should actually have some pretty spectacular weather.) If you go to Escondido, then by all means stop by Stone Brewing Company. They have tours, crafted award winning beers, and a great restaurant with an outdoor garden where they grow the herbs used in the food.



<http://www.stonebrew.com/>

Shopping – in Mission Valley there are two major malls – Mission Valley Mall and Fashion Valley Mall. Mission Valley mall is like any suburban mall – Fashion Valley is the more upscale mall (with a Neiman Marcus, Nordstrom, Tiffany's, Godiva, etc.) There are two major outlet centers in the San Diego area – one is in the north in the City of Carlsbad near the flower fields, and the other is near the border called Las Americas Premium Outlets. It is shopping mecca.

<http://www.sandiego.org/articles/shopping/list-of-outlet-malls-and-shopping-centers-in-san-diego.aspx>

Downtown the major mall is called Horton Plaza – if you haven't been, it's worth a trip just to see the interesting architecture. It is an outdoor mall, one city block

square, like a Rubik's cube intended to keep you there shopping for the rest of your natural life. It's got eclectic design and details (Moorish influenced?) And it was a catalyst that helped to revitalize the downtown scene.

Beaches - And of course no trip to San Diego would be complete without the beaches!!! Remember that we'll probably have coastal fog. If you choose to come up Carlsbad way, I would recommend the following hotels: Best Western, Tamarack Beach Resort, and Carlsbad Inn.

http://visitcarlsbad.com/hotels?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=Carlsbad_National&utm_term=best_western_hotel_carlsbad&gclid=CKqHuNG2qrYCFQjhQgodnmgAiQ

Otherwise, Pacific Beach is known for it's hip beach culture and restaurants – actually drinking establishments – and lack of parking. Ocean Beach is the more laid-back “hippie” haunt with bead shops, head shops and . . . marijuana (medicinal)!

Hotel del Coronado - And last but not least, one of my favorite places in the world is the Hotel del Coronado. Expensive. But you can go spend an entire day without actually staying there – they have recorded, self-guided tours, several restaurants, beach access, shops and lots of historic photos lining the hallways showing all the movies that have been filmed there and the presidents who have stayed there, and of course, the Crown Room where legend has it that the Prince of Wales met Wallis Simpson, leading to his abdication of the British crown. The hotel design is also said to have influenced L. Frank Baum, author of “The Wizard of Oz.” <http://www.hoteldel.com/>



There's plenty more to do! If there's something in particular that interests you, feel free to contact me and I'll do what I can to point you in the right direction. I look forward to sharing San Diego with you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jolie Lucas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

AFC Secretary/Spring 2013 Conference Chair
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