

Free And Low Cost Outing Ideas:

Head to San Diego's many **beaches**, all free to the public. Play in the sand, collect seashells, or just bask in the sun, but don't forget to take sunscreen. Remember that the youth are not permitted to go swimming while on outings with a CASA. The official guide to San Diego Beaches: <http://www.sandiego.org/what-to-do/beaches.aspx>

Visit downtown San Diego's **Seaport Village** for hours of free entertainment, leisurely strolling, and window shopping. Special events and general information found at: <http://www.seaportvillage.com/>

Stroll through the 16½-block historic **Gaslamp Quarter** in downtown San Diego. See the renovated turn-of-the-century Victorian architecture and window shop at art galleries, boutiques, specialty shops, and more.

Fly a kite along the grassy field in the Tecolote Shores at Mission Bay Park or play at the playground. Here, away from trees and overhead wires, friends and family gather to launch colorful kites into the bay breezes. More information at: <http://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/parks/regional/missionbay/tecoloteshores.shtml>

Enjoy free **organ concerts** at 2:00 p.m. most Sundays at the Spreckels Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park. Check the website <https://www.spreckelsorgan.org/> to confirm details. The Organ Pavilion features one of world's largest outdoor pipe organs, a San Diego landmark since 1914.

Visit **Old Town** and witness the living legacy of San Diego history. Check the website for parking map and special events: <http://www.oldtownsandiego.org/>

Visit the **U.S. Olympic Training Center** in Chula Vista for a free tour of the 150-acre facility. Check the website for special events: <http://www.teamusa.org/>. Tours offered from Visitor Center at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday. Self-guided tours available daily between 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Stargaze outside the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center in Balboa Park on the first Wednesday of every month or at Mission Trails campground the second Friday of every month. Check website for details: <https://sdaa.org/sdaa-events/>. The San Diego Astronomy Association sets up huge telescopes that offer a great view of the night sky.

Enjoy fun **puppet shows** in Balboa Park – admission to the puppet theatre is \$5 per person. Children under 2 are free. Check website for hours and special events: <http://www.balboaparkpuppets.com/>

Step back in time with a stop in **Julian**, a century-old gold mining town in the Cuyamaca Mountains. Pick up a free map at the Chamber of Commerce for a self-guided walking tour of the area's historic sites.

Visit **Mission Trails Regional Park** to explore the cultural, historical, and recreational aspects of San Diego. Check out the website for hours, special events, and free hiking trail maps: <https://mtrp.org/>.

Stroll through **Balboa Park** and marvel at its beautiful Spanish Colonial Revival architecture. Also, take advantage of Free Tuesday! <http://www.balboapark.org>

Drive to the top of **Mt. Soledad** in La Jolla for breathtaking, 360-degree views of San Diego, including the gently curving La Jolla coastline and Mission Bay. Information and driving directions can be found at: <http://www.soledadmemorial.com/about/memorial-location/>

Spectacular views of San Diego's East County communities also await guests at the top of **Mt. Helix Park**. Information and driving directions can be found at <http://www.mthelixpark.org/>.

Take a scenic walk along **The Big Bay**; 27 miles of waterfront featuring bayside parks, marinas, hundreds of shops and restaurants, and miles of promenades and bikeways, the Big Bay appeals to all ages and interests. Check website for special events: <https://www.portofsandiego.org/events>

San Diego Waterfront Park – great way to cool off and play in the water, then walk along the bay front and look at all the boats. Information on the Waterfront Park can be found at: <https://www.sdparcs.org/content/sdparcs/en/park-pages/Waterfront.html>

Free Bowling! Two games per day per child, shoe rental included at most venues. To find out which bowling alleys are taking part in this summer program and to register kids, go to: https://www.kidsbowlfree.com/center.php?alley_id=5799

Botanic Garden – Whether you still call the place the “Quail Botanic Garden” or go with “The San Diego Botanic Gardens,” admission is \$10 for youth 3-17. More information at: <https://sdbg.org/>

Watch **bike races at the Velodrome**. Tucked away in Morley Field, Balboa Park, the Velodrome is home to some serious fixed-gear bike races. Races are at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays – spectators are free. For more information, go to: <https://www.sdvelodrome.com/tnr>

Hike Mt. Woodson. Although a slightly more challenging hike, let's face it, you can never have enough pictures of your case child standing on Potato Chip Rock. More information and free trail guide at: <https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/california/potato-chip-rock-via-mt-woodson-trail>

California Surf Museum – Get schooled on the origins of surfing. More information at: <http://surfmuseum.org/>

Coronado Summer Concert Series – Enjoy free music at Spreckels Park on summer Sunday evenings. More information at: <https://coronadoconcert.com/coronado-concert-schedule/>

Free **Summer Concerts** – San Diego offers free concerts all over the city for just about any kind of music lover. Check out <http://www.sandiego.org/articles/music/free-concerts-value-entertainment.aspx> for more information. Concerts include:

1. **Del Mar Foundation Twilight Concert Series** Join the great Del Mar tradition where families and visitors gather by the Powerhouse to socialize, picnic and enjoy music together as the sun sets over the ocean.
2. **La Jolla Concerts By the Sea** Every Sunday afternoon from 2-4 p.m., La Jolla Cove is filled with live music, friends, families and fresh ocean breezes! Enjoy the ocean view and summer sun!
3. **Point Loma Summer Concert Series** Spend your Friday nights at Point Loma Park, enjoying the fresh air and live music! Bring your friends, family and a picnic and enjoy the summer concerts in July and August from 5:30-8:30 p.m.
4. **Seaport Village Concerts** Alongside four miles of tree-lined paths you'll find bands, singers, dancers and magicians. There's something for every age.
5. **Summer Organ Festival** Twilight in the Park concerts are held every Tuesday thru Thursday at 6:15 p.m. at the largest outdoor organ pavilion on the West Coast right in the heart of Balboa Park.
6. **Summerfest Under the Stars** In August, the La Jolla Music Society presents a special concert at Ellen Browning Scripps Park in La Jolla featuring Summerfest artists. Arrive early and bring a sweater!
7. **University Heights Summer in the Park** New and longtime favorite bands perform at historic Trolley Barn Park. Pack a picnic and enjoy live music every Friday!

El Cajon Car Festival Every week, there's a different theme – cars range from antique, to muscle cars and everything in-between. More information at: <http://www.cajonclassiccruise.org/>

San Diego Firehouse Museum Great day out for kids or all shapes and sizes! Admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children/seniors. Limited parking is available – more information at <http://www.sandiegofirehousemuseum.com/index.html>

San Diego Police Museum Explore the history of San Diego Law Enforcement. Entrance is Admission is \$3.00 per adult while youth under 18 it is free– more information at: <http://www.sdpolicemuseum.com/THE-MUSEUM.html>

San Diego Old Town Harney Street Market This Artisans market is held every Saturday and Sunday except when there are special events. A large variety of artisans display their work here. More information available at: <https://www.oldtownsandiego.org/harnevystreetmarket/>

San Diego La Jolla Open Aire Market Listen to live music as you and your case child wander around one of the most diverse farmer's markets in San Diego. More information at: <https://lajollabythesea.com/listings/la-jolla-open-aire-market/>

Seeley Stable Museum a replica of the Yuma/San Diego stage stop that burned down—along with the rest of Old Town—in the fire of 1872. It has a wide collection of vintage transportation vehicles on display. Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily; Free admission. More information at: [http://www.letsgoseeit.com/index/county/sd/san diego/loc06/seeley.htm](http://www.letsgoseeit.com/index/county/sd/san_diego/loc06/seeley.htm)

Mason Street School visitors can sit at the desks in the one room schoolhouse, or read about its long history on the plaques that cover the walls. See how many lashes a student would have received in the mid- to late-1800s for telling a lie or for wearing long fingernails. Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. More information at: [http://www.letsgoseeit.com/index/county/sd/san diego/loc10/mason.htm](http://www.letsgoseeit.com/index/county/sd/san_diego/loc10/mason.htm)

UCSD Art Walk. Explore the campus at UCSD while taking in sculptures and soaking in campus culture. Watch a short video at <http://stuartcollection.ucsd.edu/> that explains each sculpture then download the free map at <http://stuartcollection.ucsd.edu/map/>. Campus is free and parking is free at the weekend. A fun way to spark a conversation about college.