



**2018 Conchologists of America Convention
August 29- September 2, 2018**



Field Trips and Activities

1. General Information on San Diego. During August the temperature should range from 74° to 80° F near the coast, with night time lows from 68° to 72° F. Temperatures are warmer inland. Rain along the coast is rare and winds should be light. A wind breaker or sweater is ideal if out at night or in cool conference rooms.

Hotel: The Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina is located across the road from the airport on Harbor Island, 1380 Harbor Island Dr., San Diego, CA, 92101. Their shuttle will pick you up once your baggage is in hand. There are walking and jogging paths along the Bay area adjacent to the hotel. The area code for the hotel and downtown San Diego is 619. The northern half of San Diego is 858 and beach communities north of Del Mar are 760. Call 1-877-734-2726 for hotel reservations (**Use Code COA when booking**).

Dress: Very casual at all social events in San Diego, except perhaps for the most expensive restaurants.

Sun: Although it is not hot, UV light is still an issue; bring sun screen and a hat for outdoor activities.

Insects: Not really an issue. It is too dry much of the year for mosquitos and other pesky insects near the coast.

Mexico: If you are thinking of going to Mexico, even for a day trip, a Passport is required. It can take 30 minutes to a few hours to cross the border back into the U.S. If you go, inform a friend and check current State Department warnings. Car Rental companies do not allow you to drive into Mexico. It is a wise idea to purchase a day policy of Mexican automobile insurance if you intend to drive your own vehicle into Mexico.

2. COA Field Trips.

Monday 27 August. San Diego Zoo and Botanic Collection. Depart Hotel at 9:00 am. The zoo is one of the best in the world. Zoo bus drivers provide an informative tour. Afterwards visit the large hippo underwater viewing pool, Tiger River, Africa Rocks and many more large displays in a natural setting. The zoo offers viewing of California condors to humming birds, aardvarks to zebra, with pandas in between. Have lunch on your own at any of the numerous on-site restaurants. Take the aerial tram, or use the kangaroo bus to hop on and off. There are a couple of shops that sell books, artifacts and outdoor clothing for both children and adults. Depart zoo at 2:15 pm. Cost includes: round trip transportation, entry fees, tour bus, kangaroo bus, and the aerial. Cost \$75.

Monday 27 August. U.S.S. Midway Aircraft Carrier/Maritime museum/Sea Port Village all in close proximity. Depart Hotel at 9:15 a.m. **Visit the USS Midway**, take time to explore this famed aircraft carrier, including access to 29 carefully restored aircraft on the flight deck and 60 exhibits. The aircraft carrier and museum are one of the highest rated attractions by visitors. **Visit the Maritime ship collection and museum.** They have old functional sailing ships to US and Russian submarines and an outstanding museum. **Sea Port Village**, shopping, views, shell shop, and restaurants for lunch. Select and do what fits your interests. For more details and entry fees see 'On your own Activities' items 5-7. Cost is only for round trip transportation \$25.

Tuesday 28 August. Balboa Park. Depart hotel at 9:00 am. Balboa Park was constructed 100 years ago for the Pan American Exposition with beautiful Spanish architecture. **Museums** (17) including: Fleet Science Center, Natural History Museum, Air & Space (with an SR 71 Black Bird), Automotive, Model Train, Art and Human Culture. **Attractions:** 10 gardens from Japanese to rose and cactus; large reflecting pool and botanic building; Spanish Village; and numerous places to relax and eat. A favorite lunch and dinner place is the El Prado restaurant with both inside and outdoor seating. Note: Museum entry costs are not included. If you plan to visit multiple museums, you can purchase a Museum Pass for the day or week with various options. You don't have to go to museums to enjoy the park. Depart Park at 2:15 pm. Round trip transportation \$25.

Tuesday 28 August. Scripps Aquarium and downtown La Jolla. Depart hotel at 9:15 am. Visit the Scripps Aquarium and marine education center for approximately 2 hours. Travel to downtown La Jolla; shop, eat lunch, walk down to the beach; approximately 2 hours. The vehicle will stay with you, so if the group shortens their time at one location, they will have more at the next. Cost \$65 and includes round trip transportation and entry to aquarium (minimum 10 people).

Tuesday 28 August. Dinner Cruise on San Diego Bay. Join us for a cruise and dinner this evening on San Diego Bay. Depart hotel at 6:15 pm and return to hotel approximately 10:30 pm. Dinner selection is fish, chicken, short ribs, or vegetarian. Salad, dessert and a glass of champagne are included. Evening temperatures should be in the mid to low 70s. Bring a wind Breaker. Cost \$110 and includes transportation, cost for Cruise, dinner and tip.

3. Transportation. Car rentals and Ride Share are readily available. The hotel has a \$35 daily self-parking fee. Across the street from the main hotel is a \$10 per day parking with in/out privileges. I would only get a rental car if you plan to visit locations a notable distance from the hotel. Day rates are available. Four people will bring the cost down significantly for a rental and you travel on your own schedule. Cabs or various ride share groups such as **Lift** or **Uber** are available and would be ideal for going to Old Town or out to a restaurant. **Old Town Trolley** has a city tour a trip to Hotel del Coronado, plus a seal boat trip. Please note that the trolley does pick up at the hotel.

4. Restaurants. Good food is not expensive in San Diego; lunches at most places are \$10-15 and dinners are around \$15-25. You can spend a lot more when you move from casual to upper end steak houses and alcohol. You can search hundreds of restaurants on line by checking "San Diego Restaurants" or simply type in the restaurant name. The menu with prices, directions, phone numbers, and customer evaluations for food and service are provided on these websites.

Restaurants near the Hotel on Harbor Island are listed below (one "\$" is equivalent to about \$10; Delis are not listed).

Transportation may be required, please check location with respect to hotel.

1. **The Sheraton** has numerous restaurants in the hotel.
2. **Boat House** (Casual) 2040 Harbor Island Drive (619) 291-8011. \$\$ with a view
3. **Tom Ham's Light House** (Casual) 2150 Harbor Island Drive (619) 291-9110. \$\$\$ with a view
4. **Island Prime** (Steak) 880 Harbor Island Drive (619) 298-6802. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$ with a view
5. **Sea Level** 880 Harbor Island Drive (Casual) (619) 298-6802. \$\$ - \$\$\$ with a view
6. **Costerra** 880 Harbor Island Drive (Casual) (619) 814-1300. \$\$ - \$\$\$ with a view
West of airport.
7. **Point Loma Sea Food** (very casual) 2805 Emerson St. (619) 223-1109. Located next to fishing boat docks. Order inside and then find your spot to eat. Not open late call. \$ - \$\$
8. **The Brigantine** (casual) 2725 Shelter Island Dr. (619) 224-2871. \$\$ - \$\$\$
9. **Pizza Nova** 5050 N. Harbor Dr. (619)-225-0268. Casual by the water, less than 10 minute drive. \$\$
East of airport.
10. **Blue Water** (very casual Rated in top 10) 3667 India Street (619) 224-2871. A small place; check hours for evenings. \$ - \$\$\$
11. **Historic Old Town.** Starts three blocks before San Diego Ave. dead ends into Historic Old San Diego, there is an excellent collections of shops and Mexican restaurants. Visit the Old Town **Model Railroad Depot**, 2415 San Diego Ave (619) 299-9015. Entry is **free** but a \$5 donation is always appreciated. Ask for a card that gets you free appetizer at the best Mexican restaurant next door (**Coyote Café**, 2461 San Diego Ave. (619) 291-HOWL) with indoor/outdoor seating. Another classic is **Old Town Mexican Café** (2489 San Diego Ave. (619) 287-4330) also very good, but indoor seating only. Both are open for lunch and dinner. Lots of various shops along the way. At the north end of San Diego Ave. is the historic Old Town and entry is free, some historic structures have a small charge and are quite informative, others are free. More restaurants and shops at the north end of the Historic area. The entire area is quite compact and rather flat for easy walking. Combine lunch or dinner with a visit to the area.
12. **Little Italy.** Located on India Street mostly between Ash and Laurel streets. Indoor/outdoor lunch and dinner. Check a few menus and prices, then decide; great selection. \$ - \$\$\$
13. **Gas Lamp District.** All types of food/beverages. Too busy for me. Indoor/outdoor wide range of prices.
14. **Fish Market.** (Casual +) 750 N. Harbor Drive (619) 232-3474. Lunch/Dinner. Has nice bay view and next to U.S.S. Midway plus Shopping and other restaurants at Sea Port Village. Come early, walk around enjoy the maritime area and select a lunch or dinner. \$\$ - \$\$\$

5. **"On-your-Own" Activities. (Things to see and do)** Military ID and Senior discounts may be available. You can check all of these locations on line.

1. **La Jolla.** 30 minute drive or longer. Beautiful beaches, shopping and restaurants.
2. **Birch Aquarium.** 2300 Expedition Way, La Jolla. (858) 534-3474. 9:00 am to 5:00 pm daily. Cost \$16. 30 minutes or longer from hotel if you go direct. About 10 minutes north of downtown La Jolla. If you rent a car for the day, combine it with activities in La Jolla and possibly Torrey Pines Nature Reserve.

3. **Sea World.** 500 Sea World Drive. (800) 257-4268. Travel time 15 minutes, Open 10:00 am to 10:00 pm cost \$70-90 plus parking.
4. **Cabrillo National Monument.** 1800 Cabrillo Memorial Dr. (619) 557-5450. Tip of Point Loma, Travel time 15-20 minutes. View of San Diego, Mountains, Mexico and Islands on clear days. Chance to see marine mammals. Free entry with any National Parks Gold Series Pass. Otherwise there is a charge. Gold cards can be purchased at the entrance.
5. ***Maritime Museum and Ships.** 1492 N. Harbor Drive. (619) 234-9153. Cost about \$18. Travel time 10 minutes. A wonderful collection of sailing ships, U.S. and Russian submarines, great museum and much more. Open 9:00 am to 8:00 pm daily. Additional cost if you wish to sail San Diego Bay on the sailing ship, The Californian.
6. ***U.S.S . Midway Aircraft Carrier and Museum.** 910 N. Harbor Drive. (619) 544- 9600. Cost \$23. Travel time 10-12 minutes. Open 10:00 am 4:00 pm closes at 5:00 pm. One of the two highest rated attractions by visitors.
7. ***Sea Port Village.** 849 West Harbor Drive. Shopping, Shell Shop, restaurants, very near to destinations 5 & 6.
8. **Hotel Del Coronado.** 1500 Orange Ave. Coronado (619) 435-6611. Across the Bay from San Diego, this grand hotel is the second largest wooden structure in the U.S. and is located on the beach. The historic information on the ground floor is amazing. There are various restaurants at the hotel with a broad price range. A lunch on the deck is reasonably priced. Alternatively, you can walk one to two blocks into the community and there are a large number of good places to eat. If you leave the shops and walk into the residential area, the diversity of plants and gardens are very nice.
*** These three locations are within 5-10 walking distance from each other.**

6. **Outdoor Activities.** Water temperature during a typical August is 72° to 74° F, shallow bays and coves can be warmer. Most water activities and equipment rentals are just north on Mission Bay.

1. **Torrey Pines Nature Reserve.** 12600 N. Torrey Pines Road. (858) 755-2063. Travel time 30 minutes. See the rare Torrey Pine, enjoy the great hiking and view as well as the natural history gift shop. Cost per car depends on the day. 7:15 am to 8:00 pm. No entry fee if you park outside the reserve and walk in. Shore line hikes are easy, hiking up and down the tall bluffs require you to be physically fit. Bring a hat and watch for snakes.
2. **Fishing.** Game fish on ½ day boats in August should include Yellowfin tuna, Bluefin tuna (these fish range for 25 to 100+ pounds), Yellow Tail (like an amber jack) Dorado, and White sea bass. Bottom fishing is for bass, rock fish, halibut *etc.* Fishing from a Public Pier *does not* require a California Fishing License. Fishing from the shore, Jetty, or water vehicle *requires a fishing license.* Suggest fishing in the morning.
H & M Landing has local trips with various options and a high customer satisfaction rating. (619) 222-1144. The ½ day price is \$77 that includes a rental pole and your California Fishing License in the cost. Travel time 10 minutes. 2803 Emerson St. It's right next to Point Loma Sea Food so after fishing ... you should go there for lunch.
3. **Ocean Swimming.** Ventura cove (Mission Bay) and La Jolla shores. Sand entry possible with little or no surf. **Snorkeling;** Mission bay Jetty (rocky entry) dive on an incoming tide. La Jolla shores at the south end, less surf, potential for clear water and interesting fish. **Scuba;** La Jolla Cove, There are many good shore locations but you must know how to deal with surf and rocky entries. Boat Diving, about \$95 for a two tank dive (they supply the tanks you rent or bring your gear). Three tank dives to Coronado Islands are about \$140 and it's a full day (bring passport). You must have your certification card and wetsuits will be needed. West coast dive operators do not provide an underwater guide. Visibility depends on currents, the size of the swell and surf. Always have an UW compass and pay attention to the currents and waves.
4. **Shell collecting.** To take a live shell or a dead shell with a hermit crab in it requires a California Fishing license (people have been ticketed for the hermit crab). Collecting dead-empty shells does not require a fishing license. Sandy beaches at Ocean, Mission, and Pacific beaches can be productive in the morning, same for La Jolla and Torrey Pine beaches. San Diego has various marine preserves and state marine protected areas. It is not clear if you can take dead shells in these areas. Not sure you are in a protected area? Ask a lifeguard. Ocean, Mission, Pacific, and parts of Torrey Pine beaches are not in marine protected areas, neither are most of Mission Bay beaches.
5. **Golf.** The Balboa Park Golf course is the closest. 2000 Visalia Row. (619) 522-6590. Call for green fees, rentals and tee times. The famous Torrey Pines golf course is open to the public and is a well-known PGS tour location. 1148 N. Torrey Pines Road. (858) 452 -3226. Call for information.
6. **Jogging/Walking.** Harbor Island Drive next to the hotel would be an ideal location. There is little traffic and a nice flat path along the edge of the water.

The San Diego Shell Club wishes all of the attendees of the 2018 COA Conference a wonderful and safe visit to our city.