

25+ FREE THINGS TO DO IN SAN DIEGO

by Sally Gary, author of the new 9th Ed. of "The \$Best Freebies, Bargains, Deals & Steals in San Diego"

Sally Gary is the author of the new *\$Best Freebies, Bargains, Deals & Steals In San Diego, 9th Edition*, a 345-page book filled with money-saving resources including 161 pages of shopping (factory outlets, wholesale, discount, resale shops, auctions, household, plumbers, more!) 35 pages of free & bargain things to do, 11 pages of cultural events for less, 12 pages of restaurants for less, great seafood finds, happy hours, bargain Sunday brunches, plus how to raise quick cash, health, medical & legal bargains, plus Bonus: 19 pages of free & bargain travel! From fabulous deluxe bargains to cheap deals and freebies, she's got it all down.

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VISIT BALBOA PARK You could spend many memorable days in the spectacularly beautiful Balboa Park without spending a single cent. The park has over 1100 acres of gorgeous ornamental Spanish revival architecture (the Museum of Art and the huge Organ Pavilion are breathtaking), an incredible array of massive trees, colorful seasonal flowers in bloom, and lush tropical and formal gardens. Rare and unusual fauna span the hills and canyons of the park. On weekends, there are street musicians to entertain you while you sit and "people watch." You can participate in sports, have a picnic on the endless green lawns, go on a guided walking tour, or participate in educational activities. Pick up a park map and schedule of activities at the Information Center in the Casa de Balboa (near the Space Center). Call (619) 239-0512 for recording of hours of operation and directions to park. In addition to the above, there is **FREE ADMISSION** to museums to see the *permanent collections* (no traveling exhibits) on certain Tuesdays every month, as follows.

FREE ON THE FIRST TUESDAY

- 1) Museum of Natural History:** exhibits from the natural environment of our planet with emphasis on the plant and animal life in the Southwest; Desert Diorama; gems, minerals and crystals; Shore Ecology Diorama; dinosaurs, Antarctica; traveling exhibits; free on 1st Tues., 9:30am-4:30pm; half-price Thursdays, 4:30pm-6:30pm; (619) 232-3821.
- 2) Model Railroad Museum:** The world's largest operating model railroad exhibit with four permanent model railroads and alternating toy train displays. Hands on exhibits and railroad artifacts; free on 1st Tues., 11am-4pm; (619) 696-0199.
- 3) Science Center of Reuben H. Fleet Center:** a "hands-on" science center with over 50 exhibits; free on 1st Tues., 9:30am-6pm; (619) 238-1233.
- 4) Centro Cultural de la Raza:** a multi-disciplinary arts and cultural organization with exhibits and events that promote native American, Mexican and Chicano cultures; gallery hours: Wednesday through Sunday, 12 noon- 5 PM; free; (619) 235-9050.)

FREE ON THE SECOND TUESDAY

- 5) Museum of Photographic Arts:** contemporary and historic photographic exhibits of nationally and internationally known photographers; free on 2nd Tues., 10am-5pm; (619) 239-5262.
- 6) Museum of San Diego History:** local history and American cultural history from 1850 to present; free on 2nd Tues., 10am-4:30pm; (619) 232-6203.
- 7) Veterans Memorial & Museum:** Located in the old Chapel at Naval Hospital, 2115 Park Blvd, (619) 239-2001.

FREE ON THE THIRD TUESDAY

- 8) Museum of Man:** an anthropological museum with emphasis on American Indians, Pre-Columbian Mayas, and Early Man. Permanent exhibits include "Life Cycles and Ceremonies" and Egyptian artifacts;

free on 3rd Tues., 10am-4:30pm; (619) 239-2001. **9) San Diego Museum of Art:** elegant collection of Italian Renaissance and Spanish Old Masters, American Art, 19th century European paintings and 20th century paintings and sculpture, and the Frederick R. Weisman Gallery for California Art; free on 3rd Tues., 10am-4:30pm ;(619) 232-7931. **10) Japanese Friendship Garden:** Small Japanese meditation garden in the Zen style with bamboo and rock surroundings. Includes an Exhibit House with Japanese cultural displays. Free the 3rd Tues., 10am-4pm; (619) 232-2780. **11) Mingei International Folk Art Museum:** The arts of people from all cultures around the world. **12) San Diego Art Institute:** New exhibitions of works by San Diego artists opens every 6 weeks. Gift shop, jewelry. 10am-4:30pm; (619) 236-0011

FREE ON THE FOURTH TUESDAY

13) Aerospace Museum: originals and replicas of historic planes and spacecraft. Highlights include a replica "Spirit of St. Louis," an A-12 Blackbird, WWII SPDA and an F4 Phantom. Includes the International Hall of Fame with portraits and plaques honoring aviation heroes; free on 4th Tues., 10am-4:30pm; (619) 234-8291. **14) Automotive Museum:** 50+ automobiles make up the museum's core collection, featuring historic, elegant, luxurious and power motor vehicles from a bygone era to present. Traveling exhibits; free on 4th Tues., 10am-4:30pm; (619) 231-2886. **15) San Diego Hall of Champions Sports Museum:** showcases over 40 sports, making the museum one of three multi-sports museums in the nation; free on 2nd Tues., 10am-4:30pm; (619) 234-2544. **16) Hall of Nations film** at the House of Pacific Relations (see below) is free the 4th Tuesday, 11:30-3pm with continuous films.

ALWAYS FREE IN BALBOA PARK

17) The House of Pacific Relations: Open house with cultural displays, outdoor entertainment and refreshments on Sunday afternoons, March-October. Also open the fourth Tuesday, with free Hall of Nation's films. Free when open, Sun., 12:30pm-4:30pm, international ethnic clubs; (619) 292-8592. **18) The Timken Gallery:** features the Putnam Foundation collection of Old Masters from Spanish, French, Venetian, Flemish and American schools and a world famous collection of Russian icons; free daily, 10-4:30pm Tues-Sat, 1:30-4:30pm Sun.; (619) 239-5548. **19) Spanish Village Art Center:** 41 studios feature works of local artists for display and sale; 11am-4pm daily, free; (619) 233-9050. **20) the Botanical Building:** redwood lath building containing rare tropical and subtropical plants. Exhibits are changed seasonally. Picturesquely framed by flower beds and a lily pond; free, Fri.-Wed., 10am-4pm; (619) 234-8901. **21) Free concerts** at the gorgeous Spreckles Organ Pavilion in Balboa

Park, Sundays at 2 PM, 52 weeks a year. Free concerts on Mondays evenings at 8 PM from June through August. Twilight concerts from late June through August from 6:15-7:15 PM on Tues., Wed. and Thurs.. **22) Free walking tours,** Sat. 10am, (619) 235-1131

MORE FREEBIES

23) Admission to the **San Diego Zoo** for children the whole month of October. **24) Wild Animal Park** is free on Founder's Day, the *second Wednesday* in May, (760) 738-5021, and children are admitted free the whole month of October. **25) Serra Museum,** at Presidio Park, with exhibits and artifacts from the American Indian, Spanish mission and Mexican periods of California history. Free the second Tuesday of the month, (619) 297-3258. **26) Free bus tour of downtown:** 10-12noon on the 1st & 3rd Saturdays. See and hear about the 8 downtown neighborhoods, (619), 235-2222. **27) Drive the "59-Mile Scenic Drive:"** Start at the foot of Broadway, downtown, and continue up Harbor Drive to Shelter Island, Point Loma, Sunset Cliffs, Mission Bay, Pacific Beach, La Jolla, Old Town, Balboa Park and more. (Follow the blue and yellow "Scenic Drive" signs with a white seagull, located every quarter mile.) Great places to stop for photos. **28) Salk Institute** for Biological Sciences: half-hour free guided tour of Louis Kahn's famous architectural work, M-F at noon; Nobel Prize winners labor inside, (858) 453-4100x1200. **29)** Take in the **great view** from the top floor at the Hyatt Regency, Harbor Drive at Market Street. **30) Museum of Contemporary Art,** downtown at 1100 Kettner is free the first Thursday eve w/music, \$3 donation. The La Jolla Museum at 700 Prospect, is free from 5-7pm every Thursday as is their location at 1100 Kettner. Over 4000 works created after 1950. **31) Walkabout International,** 100+ walks a month at various levels (half-pace, brisk, etc) all over the county. Trips, more. Walkabout-int.org (619) 231-7463. **32) Old Town Trolley Tour** (GREAT!) Free to San Diego residents with purchase of another ticket. Fun, 8 stops, guaranteed! Free Seal tours, too on their amphibious boat. Oldowntrolley.com **33) Free tickets to TV tapings,** Jay Leno, and many more, nbc.com/tickets; tvtickets.com **34)** Free computer classes, beginning to certificate programs, sewing, chef program, more, free. sdce.edu.

For more fabulous free & bargain things to do in San Diego, plus shopping, factory outlets, discount & liquidation stores, resale, restaurants, happy hours, bargain travel, free rent, birthday freebies, cultural events for less, half-price theater tickets, health/legal deals, how to \$raise quick cash, free classes, free \$\$\$ for college, resources galore & much more, check the 350 page book: "The \$Best Deals, Steals, Freebies & Bargains In San Diego." See ordering info above or visit www.sallygary.com