

# 2024 Questers International Convention May 5-9, 2024, San Diego, CA

“MAKING CALIFORNIA MEMORIES”

## TOUR DESCRIPTIONS



Figure 1 Ghosts and Graveyards Tour

### Ghosts and Graveyard Tour - An Early Bird Adventure

Sunday 7-9pm

After a relaxing Sunday on arrival in San Diego, plan a fun evening out! We want to immerse you in Early California legends. What better way to start than a “Spirited” time on our Old Town Trolley tour “Ghosts and Gravestones”, a 90-minute tour filled with lore and legends. These stories of early San Diego will be shared by an entertaining guide. We promise this evening will be an interesting and maybe a bit spooky start to your San Diego memories!

Dress casually, wear comfortable shoes, bring a light jacket, and be prepared for some places with uneven. (and maybe scary) ground.



Figure 2 Point Loma Lighthouse

### Tour 1 Cabrillo National Monument and Fort Rosecrans Cemetery Monday 9am-4pm

Cabrillo National Monument is on the southernmost point of the Point Loma Peninsula. In 1542 Juan Rodriquez Cabrillo discovered the bay and port which is now known as San Diego Bay. He became the first European explorer to land on the West Coast of the United States. Discover the story of this 16th century exploration and the military importance of Point Loma. The National monument was established in 1913.

You will view an exhibit of Cabrillo's exploration, tour the Point Loma Light House, and spend time just gazing at the Navy ship activity far below in the Bay.

Leaving the lighthouse area, we will pass through Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery. Established in 1882, many internments date back to early California days and include sailors and soldiers killed when the USS Bennington exploded in San Diego harbor in 1905.

The beauty and historic significance of this area makes this tour especially fascinating and includes a box lunch.

## **Tour 2 Midway / Maritime Museum /Seaport Village**

**Monday 9am - 4pm**



*Figure 4 Star of India*

San Diego is the home of the US Navy's Pacific Fleet. This tour will immerse visitors in our country's naval history. Your tour starts at the Maritime Museum with a docent led tour of several historic ships including the Star of India, the world's oldest active sailing ship. With her iron hull built in 1863 she has circumnavigated the earth over 20 times. Other historic ships are included in your visit making naval history come alive! You will then board your trolley for a short trip to

Seaport Village where you can enjoy lunch on your own at your choice of restaurants.

There will be free time to explore shops before reboarding the trolley again for a ride to the nearby USS Midway.

USS Midway visitors will enter an historic floating city and will walk where 225,000 sailors served. The Midway was built in 1946 and was a vital Naval ship during the Cold War and Viet Nam War from 1965-1975 where the ship led in the evacuation of Saigon. It was decommissioned in 1991 and became a museum in 2004 hosting millions of visitors since. There are over 60 exhibits, 27 restored aircraft, and flight simulators. Most areas are handicapped accessible, and a self-guided audio tour is available following a docent presented introduction.



*Figure 5 USS Midway*

## **Tour 3 Old Town - Whaley House plus**

**Monday 9am-4pm**

Immerse yourself in this colorful area. Discover the sights, sounds and history of this birthplace of San Diego. Everywhere you turn is something to pique your interest. Start your adventure at the El Campo Santo cemetery, tour the Whaley House and visit the Mormon Battalion Historic Museum. You pay for lunch at the Historic Casa de Guadalajara. After lunch you will meet your guide for a walking tour of historic La Casa du Estudillo Adobe, view historic stagecoaches at the Seely Stable Museum, Immaculate Conception Church, and more in Old Town. Your tour includes time for interesting shopping, with lots of handmade crafts. Maybe even find that perfect shawl for the Fiesta.



#### **Tour 4 Balboa Park Museums with Lunch**

**Monday 9am-4pm**

Established in 1835, Balboa Park is one of the oldest established recreation areas in the country. It is a cultural center in San Diego. Covering 1200 acres, it's part of the center of the city and filled with rich historic heritage. It includes 17 unique Museums, Theaters, and restaurants, along with many gardens and the largest zoo in America. Balboa Park hosted the 1915-16 Panama-California Exposition celebrating the opening of the Panama Canal and touting San Diego as a port for ships traveling the West coast and beyond. The park also hosted the 1935-36 California Pacific International Exposition, which used many of the existing buildings from the first Exposition and built a few new ones showcasing San Diego and American achievements. Both events left beautiful architectural landmarks, many of which were declared National Historic Landmarks and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977 and 1978 respectively.

So a visit to Balboa Park is a must see. Consider visiting New York City and not visiting Central Park? Places to see during your visit are the Central Plaza de la Raza, Mingmei International Museum, Spanish Village Arts Center, the California Tower, a replica of the Old Globe Theater, Speckle's Organ Pavilion, a 100-Year-Old Carousel, The Museum of Us, and many more unique sites. Lunch is included with this tour. Wear your walking shoes.



*Figure 7 California Tower*



Figure 9 Old Globe Theater



Figure 8 Dorthea Laub Carousel

### Tour 5 & 7 Coronado Island and Hotel Del Coronado walk and tour Mon & Tues 9am-4pm

Your day begins with a short drive across the 2+ mile Coronado Bridge that opened in 1969 crossing over San Diego Bay to beautiful Coronado Island. The bridge offers an excellent view of San Diego skyline and the city of Coronado including the iconic red roof line of Hotel Del Coronado.

The city of Coronado offers charming shops and homes, and beautiful parks. The aroma of flowers, salt air, and evergreens make this place unique.

Our group will divide in half at the Coronado Historical Association office on picturesque Main Street. Group A will start with a one hour, 3/4-mile walking tour ending at the Hotel Del Coronado. The pace is comfortable but be sure to wear appropriate shoes. After meeting up with Group B you will have a light lunch at the famous Hotel Del before you depart for your



Figure 10 Hotel Del Coronado

docent-led tour of this legendary hotel built in 1888. Group B toured the hotel before lunch and now

begins their walking tour of Coronado neighborhoods.

The hotel is famous for attracting the rich and famous since it opened. In 1888 electricity was a novelty, but at the Hotel Del, Thomas Edison oversaw the installation of electric lights and power plant prior to the opening. A state-of-the-art sprinkler system was also installed since the hotel was of wood construction. There were even steam powered elevators!

Since the 1900's movie stars and movie makers have visited, and many movies have been filmed here like "Some Like it Hot". Stars ranging from Charlie Chaplin to Marilyn Monroe have starred in movies filmed at the Del! President Franklin Roosevelt and Eleanor were frequent guests and many other presidents have been guests too.





### Tour 6 Gaslamp Quarter/Chinese Cultural History Museum

Tues 9am-4pm

Located in the historic Gaslamp District, the **Davis-Horton House** is the oldest standing structure in downtown San Diego, dating to 1850. The House has been a barracks for military officers, home to San Diego founder Alonzo Horton, the 1st county hospital, a boarding house, an illegal distillery, a look-out for a German spy and more. A guided tour will help visitors imagine life in San Diego from 1850 to 1920. You will focus on the historical and architectural heritage of the Quarter during a one block walking tour for a close-up look at different styles. A light lunch will be served at the Horton Grand Hotel across the street, before heading to our last stop down the block at the Chinese Cultural History Museum. Being on the Pacific coast, San Diego attracted many Chinese immigrants who helped provide labor for building the city as we know it today. The museum many interesting exhibits. You will have the opportunity to participate in creating something beautiful using ancient Chinese techniques and traditions.



Figure 12 Chinese Historical Museum

### Tour 7 See Tour 5

Tues 9am-4pm

### Tour 8 Villa Montezuma and Marston House & Gardens with lunch

Tues 9am-4pm

Explore this magnificent example of Queen Ann architecture. This house was built in 1887 and is in the Sherman Heights neighborhood. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Jesse Shepard, a noted pianist, and composer was lured to relocate to San Diego where he hired architects to design this home for \$19,000 and another \$7000 for stained glass.



Figure 14 Villa Montezuma

There are many urban legends surrounding this house. For example: the stained-glass windows portray favorite authors and artists, Jesse Shepard died playing his piano, one owner was a notorious con artist, and the butler was hanged there! The Villa has a reputation for being haunted but it is really enchanted.

The Marston House is a historic house and museum. It is maintained by the Save Our Heritage Organization and is on the National Register of Historic Places. It was constructed starting in 1904. It is surrounded by 5 acres of beautiful lawns and flower gardens and is an example of Arts and Crafts architecture. George Marston was a noted conservationist and the head of Marston Department Stores. The house today looks much like it did in 1905 when the Marstons moved in. The beautiful grounds make this home a showplace. The gardens were laid out by noted landscape architect George Cooke. The tour showcases the changes in architecture from the 1880's to the early 1900's. You will have a box lunch with this tour.



Marston House and Gardens 1

## **Tour 9 Liberty Station Walking Tour /USS Recruit/Arts District w/lunch Tues 9am-4pm**

Liberty Station has a fascinating history. It began as the Naval Recruit Center where sailors trained starting in 1923. Franklin Roosevelt, as assistant Secretary of the Navy, saw the potential of the area as early as 1915 and a Naval Training Base was built. It was an important Training Center during the second World War. The base grew to three times its original size, accommodating as many as 33,000 recruits. Maybe you know a sailor who went through training here? In fact, the land-based USS Recruit, built to train sailors, is on static display.

In 1997 when the Cold War ended and there was a drawdown of troops, this base was closed leaving 550 acres, a golf course, and 300 buildings and barracks ready for new uses. Liberty Station repurposed much of the area into a thriving community of museums, art galleries (where local artists exhibit and sell), restaurants, and much more. Liberty Public Market, where we will have lunch on your own, is filled with aromas that make you want to sample all kinds of culinary delights. There is a lovely path along San Diego Bay to walk and reflect on the memory of small groups of recruits performing their early morning PT exercise! You can almost hear their chants as they run in unison! Your trip to Liberty Station is worth seeing how buildings can be restored and repurposed to modern use. This is a docent-led walking tour so wear comfortable walking shoes.



Figure 16 Liberty Station



Figure 15 USS Recruit

## **Tour 10 Mission San Diego de Alcalá' and Spanish Village with Lunch      Tues 9am-4pm**

Mission San Diego de Alcalá' was founded on July 16, 1769 by Junipero Serra. This mission is the first mission in California and marks the origin of Christianity in the American West. Native people around the Mission were of the Tipai-Ipai tribe. The native people attacked and burned the original building. The padres rebuilt the mission church in the form of a fort. The windows are striking and beautiful. Extra support of the Adobe walls helped it survive an earthquake in 1812. It has a bell wall supporting 5 bells. An interesting tour of the mission



Figure 17 Mission San Diego de Alcalá

will be led by docents. The mission history and how life at the mission changed the lives of native inhabitants plus the beautiful architecture highlight this tour.



Figure 18 Spanish Village

Visitors will then board their trolley and travel to the Spanish Village Art Center at Balboa Park. The Center was constructed in 1935 for the California Pacific International Exposition. Here you will find a colorful patio and many art galleries and active artist studios. Even watch a glass blowing exhibit. Pottery demonstrations are conducted on the patio.

There are some uneven surfaces so comfortable shoes should be worn. A box lunch is included on this tour.



Figure 19 Spirit of San Diego

## **Tour 11 & 13 Harbor Cruise – HALF-DAY Tues 1pm-4pm**

Celebrate the sights, sounds and stories of San Diego aboard a Flagship harbor tour. Cruise alongside playful sea lions, Navy ships, scenic skyline architecture, past historic landmarks and under the Coronado Bridge. An expert guide will entertain you

with local insights and panoramic views that connect San Diego's past, present and future. Bring a light jacket or sweater and wear comfortable shoes.

**Tour 12 Old Town exploring on your own HALF DAY**

**Wed 1:15-4:15**

Immerse yourself in this colorful area. Discover the sights, sounds and history of this birthplace of San Diego. Everywhere you turn is something to pique your interest. You can start your own tour at the Robinson-Rose visitor's Center. Grab a walking tour map of the district, everything is contained within a few blocks so you



*Figure 20 The Whaley House*

can spend your time absorbing early San Diego history, interesting shops, handmade crafts, living history exhibits or finding a unique treasure or antique. The Whaley House has docent led tours you may choose to take. Visit historic La Casa du Estudillo Adobe, view historic stagecoaches at the Seely Stable Museum, and more. Spend some quiet time exploring the El Campo Santo Cemetery. Lunch and tour tickets on your own.

**Tour 13 See Tour 11**

**Wed 1:15 – 4:15**

**Tour 14 USS Midway Tour – HALF DAY pm**

**Wed 1:15 – 4:15**

USS Midway visitors enter an historic floating city and will walk where 225,000 sailors served. The Midway was built in 1946 and was a vital Naval ship during the Cold War and Viet Nam War from 1965-1975 where areas are handicapped accessible, and a self-guided audio tour is available after a docent presented introduction.





the ship led in the evacuation of Saigon. It was decommissioned in 1991 and became a museum in 2004, hosting millions of visitors since. There are over 60 exhibits, flight simulators and 27 restored aircraft. Most

## **Tour 15 Firehouse Museum in San Diego – HALF DAY pm**

**Wed 1:15 – 4:15**



*Figure 23 Early Pumper Engine*

Venture into Little Italy and find the Firehouse Museum filled with vintage fire apparatus. An early aerial “hook and ladder” display and various memorabilia dating back 100 years, including fire buckets and a collection of helmets, show the evolution of fire protective equipment. Some of San Diego’s “hottest” moments are on photo display. This tour will also include highlights in the Little Italy section of San Diego.

*Figure 22 USS Midway*

## **ARMCHAIR A - Camp Pendleton Ranch House**

Located on the Camp Pendleton Marine Base, a two-hundred-year-old architectural gem can be found. The Santa Margarita Ranch House is registered and recognized as a National Historic Site. Surrounding the house is a beautiful Chapel, and stables. The Ranch House was built in its present form by Pio Pico, the last Mexican governor of Alta California. It is surrounded by land important to Native American culture for hundreds of years. The beautiful ranch house was built in the nineteenth century and served as the center of one of the largest ranchos in California until 1942 when it became part of the military base. It then became home to the Marine Commandant. In 2002 the USMC in cooperation with the National Park Service made this historic Adobe seismically safe and rehabilitated the buildings. The neighboring chapel was once a winery before lovely stained-glass windows were added. This tour will be available as an Armchair Event presented by a docent from the Camp Pendleton Historical Society, featuring an interesting photo tour of the ranch house, the Bunkhouse Museum, and the chapel.

## **ARMCHAIR B – Early San Diego and California History From Juan Cabrillo to Junipero Serra.**

From Missions to Midway. From Old Town San Diego to the Star of India. These are just a few of the many wonders that make San Diego one of the most historic and interesting cities in the entire state of California. Simply put, it was San Diego that initiated what would eventually become one of the largest and most dynamic states in the United States. Come and spend some time reliving much of the history of California, beginning with the study of San Diego, now the second largest city in the state. Hear stories of the building of the missions, relive memories of the accidental gold discovery, an event that would not just change California and the United States but the entire world. Learn little known tales of the building of the

Transcontinental Railroad, still referred to today as California's 2nd Gold Rush! Take a ride on this journey! It all started in San Diego. Welcome aboard!

**ARMCHAIR C – Yoga: What's it all about – What's in it for you? w/ Lunch**

What could be more fitting in beautiful San Diego than discovering the answers? The ancient holistic practice of yoga has been around for thousands of years, and you will learn information about simple tools that can truly be life altering. The multi-media presentation will share some history of yoga, different styles of yoga and the science behind therapeutic yoga. You will be able to engage in a few exercises right from your seats too.

**Bess Bardens Seminars**

This year the Seminars will be offered on two nights, so you don't have to miss a single fascinating program.

**Seminar A** Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about **Salt and Pepper** (But Were Afraid to Ask)

**Seminar B** What REALLY Tamed the Old West? **Barbed Wire!**

**Seminar C** History of Mission San Luis Rey

**Seminar D** Hitty the Traveling Wooden Doll