

# BEST TOURS IN SAN DIEGO

BY JULIE CARLSON

## Epicurean San Diego Food, Farm & Libations Tours

→ Spend a day “eating and drinking your way through San Diego by hopping on a brewery or winery tour” with **EPICUREAN SAN DIEGO FOOD, FARM AND LIBATION TOURS**. Munch on California seasonal dishes, gourmet BBQ, sustainable seafood, and high-end sandwiches at various farms, cafes, and coffee roasters. “We offer a full farm-to-fork meal on each one of our tours,” said Stephanie Parker, Tour Curator. “It is important for our guests to see the relationship the farmers and chefs have, so each restaurant that provides lunch, has a direct relationship with the farm we are visiting for the day.” See a behind-the-scenes glimpse of the city’s artisan scene like a local. Tours run from \$119-\$135 per person.

**(619) 289-9802**  
**www.epicureansandiego.com**



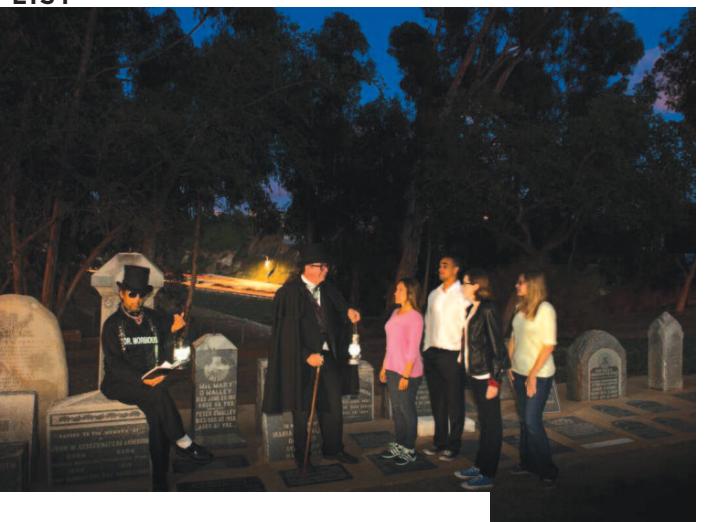
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COURTESY OF BISON ARCHIVES



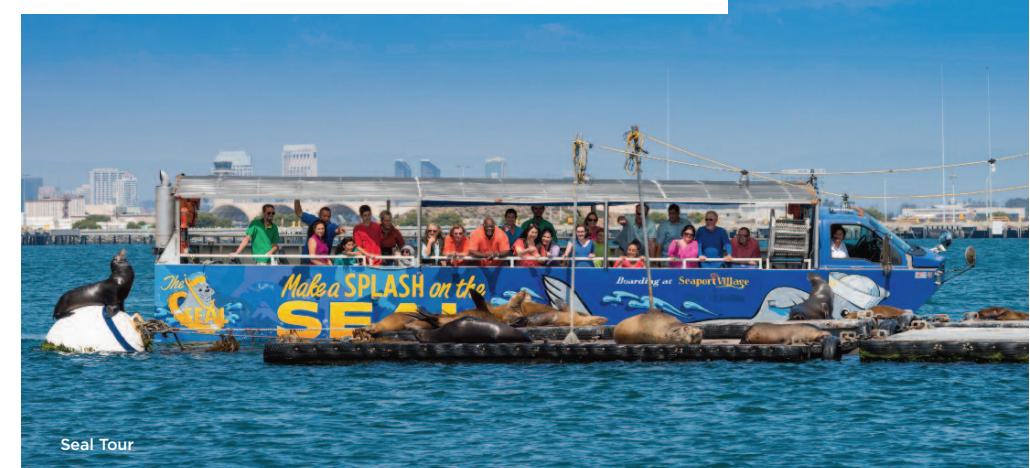
→  
 Ghosts &  
 Gravestones  
 Tour



## San Diego SEAL Tours

→ An entity of Historic Tours of America, **SAN DIEGO SEAL TOURS** is named in “tribute of the Navy SEALS stationed in the city” and for the sea lions of La Jolla. Catch a spectacular view of the sea lions by riding on a Hydra-Terra amphibious vehicle. The 90-minute tour departs from Seaport Village and the Embarcadero, taking visitors through the culturally rich streets of San Diego, then plunging into the San Diego Harbor. Learn about the history of the city and view famous points of interest. Tours are \$42 for adults, \$25 for children ages 4-12, and \$10 for children under 3. Online discounts are available. Historic Tours of America also features an Old Town Trolley Tour, a Ghosts & Gravestones Tour and a City Night Lights Tour.

**500 Kettner Blvd., San Diego, CA 92101**  
**(619) 298-8687**  
**www.sealtours.com** ↗



Seal Tour



→  
 Old  
 Town  
 Trolley  
 Tour

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## So Diego Tours

→ Famished after a day of sun and surf? "Foodies and picky eaters alike" see historical San Diego and its restaurants with **SO DIEGO TOURS** located in Little Italy. Their most popular tour experience is the Brothels, Bites and Booze Tour in the Gaslamp Quarter for \$50. "People love this tour because the history behind the Gaslamp Quarter is absolutely fascinating," said Rachel Welsh, Operations Manager. "People are all taken back when they learn how seedy this now vibrant and luxurious part of town once was. Also, we take them to a few local hot spots that offer a variety of flavors." The tour runs from 5:30-8 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday and 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

**2220 India Street, San Diego, CA 92101**  
**(619) 299-8687**  
**[www.sodiegotours.com](http://www.sodiegotours.com)**



## Bike and Kayak Tours

→ For sporty adventurers at heart, check out **BIKE & KAYAK TOURS**, the #1 ranked operator with the City of San Diego. For \$40 per person, guests can learn about the La Jolla ecological reserve and explore the sea cliff and caves through the Kayak and Snorkel Tour. Get an up-close look at sea lions, leopard sharks, rockfish, and other marine life. The 2.5-hour tour includes wetsuit, mask, snorkel, fins and kayak equipment. "At Bike and Kayak we focus on fun, safety and learning," says Nick Bauman, co-founder and CBO. "Each of our tour guides go through a rigorous training program to ensure that we can be remembered for the wonderful customer service that we want to be known for." The tour is open for swimmers ages 8 and up from March-October.

**2158 Avenida De La Playa, La Jolla, CA 92037**  
**(858) 454-1010**  
**[www.bikeandkayaktours.com](http://www.bikeandkayaktours.com)**



COURTESY OF SO DIEGO TOURS (5)



## The Gondola Company

→ Sip on wine or champagne while cruising along the canals and waterways on a gondola. **THE GONDOLA COMPANY** offers 50-minute private boat rides for couples and groups. Take in the breathtaking sights of San Diego and the changing colors of the sky with their Sunset Cruise package. Starting at \$115 for two people, the twilight gondola cruise includes Italian music, snugly blankets, ice buckets, glassware and wine opener. Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages are available for purchase as well as chocolate truffles, or BYOB and finger foods. Day cruises are also available on the weekends. During the summer months, a wine tasting cruise is offered for larger groups. "It's definitely a unique experience," says Sean Jamieson, owner. "And it saves you from having a passport and traveling to Italy. It's by far the most romantic thing you can do in San Diego."

**503 Grand Caribe Causeway, Coronado, CA 92118**  
**(619) 429-6317**  
**[www.gondolacompany.com](http://www.gondolacompany.com)**



## Murder n' Mayhem

→ Murder n' Mayhem is not your traditional sightseeing tour. The family-friendly company provides scavenger hunts around popular San Diego destinations for mystery and puzzle enthusiasts. For \$25 per person, guests are guided through the city streets by a band of pirates as you hunt for clues in the Who Dunnit? Seaport Village Tour or team up with a detective agency to solve the case in the popular Who Dunnit? Gaslamp Quarter Tour. Wear a good pair of walking shoes as the tours last between 1.5 and 2 hours. **MURDER N' MAYHEM** also offers a \$10 credit toward any menu or bar item at nearby Henry's Pub with the purchase of a Gaslamp Quarter Tour ticket. ♦

**(706)-372-1642**  
**[www.murdernymayhem.com](http://www.murdernymayhem.com)**

