

FEATURE I

Harry Lovero, *Orchard Valley Golf Course*

San Diego



Next month the Golf Industry Show will travel to beautiful San Diego (pronounced: saen di'eigou), named after San Diego de Alcalá (St. Didicus). It is California's second largest city and the eighth largest in the United States. San Diego boasts a citywide population of nearly 1.3 million and more than 3 million residents countywide. Within its 4,200 sq. mile borders, San Diego County encompasses 18 incorporated cities and numerous other charming neighborhoods and communities, including downtown's historic Gaslamp Quarter, Little Italy, Coronado, LaJolla, Del Mar, Carlsbad, Escondido, La Mesa, Hillcrest, Barrio Logan, and Chula Vista just to name a few.

San Diego enjoys beautiful weather year round with an average daily temperature of 70.5°, so comfortable lightweight clothes are an excellent choice. In the evening throughout the year, temperatures do cool off, so a sweater or jacket is a good idea. Keep in mind that temperature extremes are found in the diverse terrain of the region, so if you are going to be visiting the desert or mountain areas, bring along appropriate clothing to get the most out of your trip.

There are 70 miles of pristine beaches and a dazzling array of excellent family attractions. Popular destinations include the world famous San Diego Zoo and Wild Animal Park, Sea World San Diego, and LEGOLAND California. San Diego offers an expansive variety of things to see and do, appealing to guests of all ages.

In San Diego's East County, the terrain varies from gentle foothills to mile-high mountains. From the historic mining town of Julian, down to the 600,000-acre Anza Borrego Desert State Park, it offers nature-conscious visitors endless opportunities to hike, camp, fish, observe wildlife, and much more. In San Diego's North County, the agricultural community produces quantities of flowers and produce. Wine growers are also making a mark by growing and harvesting quality grapes that become excellent wines. These are served in restaurants and resorts throughout the area. To the west are 70 miles of Pacific Ocean coastline, which supports year-round outdoor recreation, such as surfing, boating, sailing and swimming. To the south, it's a completely different country – Mexico – featuring its own

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cultural offerings in various towns along the border and coastline, including Tijuana, Rosarito, and Ensenada.

San Diego County also features 93 golf courses in every conceivable setting from mountains to desert to ocean. It is no wonder that *Golf Digest* named San Diego one of the Top 50 golf destinations in the world. Perhaps the most famous is La Jolla's Torrey Pines Golf Course, designed by Rees Jones and home to January's annual Buick Invitational. Some of San Diego's best and most beautiful courses are north of downtown, such as Madera's and Mt. Woodson. Several other famed golf course designers have made their mark on San Diego's landscape. Tom Fazio created unique bunkers for the Grand Golf Club, spread over 7,000 yards of greens at the Grand Del Mar Resort. Arnold Palmer's masterpiece at the Four Seasons Resort Aviara has been cited by golf publications as one of the best resort courses in America.

Gary Roger Baird preserved the backcountry's natural environment while designing Barona Creek Golf Club, and Gary Player has created a course within a working ranch at Steele Canyon.

Within walking distance of the San Diego Convention Center is the USS Midway Museum. Explore a historic U.S. Navy aircraft carrier from boiler to bridge! Experience the thrill of life at sea and imagine the sea spray on a flight deck filled with restored aircraft. It is all aboard the USS Midway in downtown San Diego. Admission includes a self-guided audio tour narrated by USS Midway sailors, 60 exhibits, and 25 restored aircraft.

San Diego's many charms are hard to resist and you will soon discover why many attendees "come for the convention and stay for the vacation." **-OC**



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