



Destination Fact Sheet

OVERVIEW

Located just 45 minutes north of San Diego, Carlsbad embodies the Southern California lifestyle. Carlsbad is the ultimate coastal destination in which to unwind for an unforgettable escape, with abundant access to seven miles of pristine beaches and ample outdoor recreation including surfing, biking and hiking trails, as well as championship-caliber golf courses. Attractions including LEGOLAND®, the Museum of Making Music, and the iconic Flower Fields make Carlsbad an ideal family travel destination. Foodies can explore this vibrant culinary and brewing destination while those looking to relax can enjoy Carlsbad's many spas. Today, Carlsbad continues its legacy as a seaside oasis with opulent spa resorts and numerous day spas catering to various preferences and budgets. From luxurious options to budget-friendly accommodations, Carlsbad is home to acclaimed resorts and hotels, all with a commitment to sustainability. When you are in Carlsbad, simply put...it's all good.

ATTRACTIONS

Opportunities for excitement, enrichment and education abound in Carlsbad, from thrilling excursions to opportunities for insightful cultural exploration. Located near Carlsbad hotels, restaurants and the beach, the following attractions offer unforgettable ways to fill an itinerary for any sun-soaked Carlsbad stay:

- **LEGOLAND® California Resort:** Spanning 128 acres, LEGOLAND® California Resort is filled with more than 60 kid-powered, kid-tastic rides, shows and attractions all built for fun and geared for families with children between the ages of 2 - 12. Inside LEGOLAND®, enter a world of knights and princesses to conquer the Dragon Coaster; kids can drive their own cars at the Driving School and enjoy character meet and greets, live shows and 4D movie experiences abound at one of the best theme parks in California for children and families. LEGOLAND® is also home to the LEGOLAND® Water Park and SEA LIFE® Aquarium—making it the perfect place to explore over 2-3 days. In 2024, LEGOLAND® California Resort will celebrate 25 years of awesome play with new attractions, entertainment and experiences for guests. Next spring, the park will debut a **NEW** land, Dino Valley, with three rides, and an interactive zone with a reimagined Dino Dig space with costume character meet and greets. Families will also get to experience North America's first-ever LEGO® World Parade, exclusively at LEGOLAND® California Resort.
- **The Flower Fields at Carlsbad Ranch®:** For over sixty years, the rolling hills of Carlsbad have been home to a 55-acre rainbow of Giant Tecolote Ranunculus. The Flower Fields at Carlsbad Ranch®, blooming March-May and open to the public, are set on a hillside overlooking the

striking Southern California coastline. The Flower Fields feature various spring activities and events such as sunset wine tasting, Flower Flow Yoga, flower workshops, concerts and more. [The Flower Fields Foundation](#) provides support to The Flower Fields of Carlsbad Ranch for hands-on educational programs for children, charitable grants for low-income schools, an increase in learning environments and special tours for family members of all ages.

- **Museum of Making Music:** The Museum of Making Music is a cultural destination dedicated to the enduring relationship between people, instruments and music. Through interactive exhibits in five galleries, the museum showcases the evolution of musical instruments from the late 19th century to today. The museum also hosts a variety of concerts and hands-on workshops, providing a dynamic introduction to the history of American music products.
- **Carlsbad Food Tours:** Embark on a culinary journey through Carlsbad Village. Tours provide a local foodie perspective, highlighting Carlsbad Village's laid-back SoCal vibe and culinary delights. During the three-hour walking tour, participants are led by knowledgeable guides and guests can sample treats from unique eateries and specialty shops. This "Taste of Carlsbad" offers a classic overview of local history through food and wine offerings.

View a comprehensive list of Carlsbad's various attractions [here](#).

HOTELS

Experience Carlsbad's coastal charm through a collection of hotels and resorts that cater to every traveler's preferences. Indulge in relaxation at one of the many acclaimed award-winning resorts such as Omni La Costa Resort & Spa, Park Hyatt Aviara, Cape Rey Carlsbad Beach, among others, for a luxurious vacation experience. Those seeking modern comforts and sunset views should consider the eclectic Beach Terrace Inn, while the family-friendly Best Western Plus Beach View Lodge is an excellent option. Carlsbad by the Sea Resort is centrally located for convenient access to top attractions while the newly renovated Carlsbad Inn Beach Resort is steps from the beach. Near the famous Flower Fields and the Carlsbad Premium Outlets, enjoy The Cassara Carlsbad or be steps away (with your own private entrance to LEGOLAND® California) when staying at the Westin Carlsbad Resort or the Sheraton Carlsbad Resort. Many hotels and resorts also offer expansive event spaces, breakout rooms, elegant ballrooms and advanced audio/video technology perfect for weddings and events, making Carlsbad an ideal destination for both leisure and business travelers.

Explore lodging near the beach, luxury resorts, budget-friendly hotels and more, [here](#).

BEACHES

Nestled along seven miles of pristine coastline, Carlsbad's beaches offer a sun-soaked respite for swimming, surfing, paddle boarding and bird watching. Carlsbad's beaches offer an array of experiences for all including Tamarack State Beach, ideal for walks and stunning sunsets; South Carlsbad State Beach, perfect for oceanfront camping; and the renowned surfing spot, South Ponto Beach.

Explore a full list of Carlsbad beaches [here](#).

GOLF

With some of the best courses in the country and year-round weather, this beautiful beach town is the perfect place for players of all skill levels to tee up a few rounds on Carlsbad's greens. Carlsbad is home

to top golf destinations Omni La Costa Resort & Spa, Park Hyatt Aviara (with its own Topgolf Swing Suite), The Crossings at Carlsbad and Rancho Carlsbad Golf. Aside from its numerous golf courses, Carlsbad boasts academies and clubs where players of all ages can receive comprehensive lessons. Carlsbad is also home to top golf brands corporate offices including TaylorMade, Callaway Golf and Titleist. As of 2024, Omni La Costa Resort & Spa will be hosting the Division I men's and women's golf championship through 2026.

View additional information about Carlsbad golf courses and experiences [here](#).

ARTS & CULTURE

From galleries and museums to popular annual events and more, Carlsbad offers arts and cultural experiences to suit a variety of interests. Throughout the year, the destination hosts notable events such as the biannual Carlsbad Village Street Faire, a massive street fair with over 900 vendors, international cuisines and musical performances as well as the Carlsbad ArtWalk, which showcases fine art, live music, art for kids and live art. For a year-round cultural immersion, the Museum of Making Music introduces a unique experience with vintage instruments, interactive displays and workshops. The New Village Arts Theatre, founded by graduates of New York's Actors Studio Drama School, is now in its sixteenth season of producing plays.

Additional arts & culture experiences [here](#).

CULINARY

Carlsbad's upscale beachy atmosphere, perfect weather and diverse culinary scene draws visitors seeking new experiences. Standouts include the Michelin-starred Jeune et Jolie, Michelin Bib Gourmand Campfire and Park Hyatt Aviara's Ember & Rye by celebrity Chef Richard Blais. Carlsbad Village offers myriad options to fit a variety of tastes and budgets and overflowing with flavor including local favorites for fish tacos, seafood, sushi, Mexican and the newest offerings for Himayian cuisine. Make sure to save room for ice cream and gelato. Carlsbad features eight breweries, three of which (Pure Project, Barrel Republic and Pizza Port) are all within walking distance from one another in Carlsbad Village. In an iconic building in Carlsbad, visitors will find the Windmill Food Hall, the place to be for the best from local vendors, plus craft beer selections, creative cocktails and an atmosphere fit for the whole family. Annual culinary events like Oktoberfest and the Taste of Carlsbad Village celebrate the destination's traditional and innovative culinary offerings. Carlsbad Food Tours which takes place throughout Carlsbad Village and offers a sampling of the city's best culinary delights.

Carlsbad restaurants and culinary experiences [here](#).

SPA & WELLNESS

In 1882, Carlsbad's founding father, John Frazier, tapped a mineral spring, sparking the opening of the first mineral water bath spa and beginning Carlsbad's reputation as a body therapy destination. The popularity of healing water led to the emergence of hotels, businesses and new homes. Today, Carlsbad continues its legacy as a seaside oasis with luxurious spa resorts and numerous day spas catering to various preferences and budgets. A few options include the brand new Miraval Life in Balance Spa at the Park Hyatt Aviara, the immersive wellness experience at the Omni La Costa Resort & Spa, the Cape Rey Carlsbad Beach's Ocean Crest Spa that offers an extensive menu of treatments and The Westin

Carlsbad's Ocean Pearl Spa which offers various treatments inspired by the sea. Beyond traditional spas, Carlsbad is the perfect place to embark on a wellness reset; it's a destination that embraces a full mind-body health and wellness journey.

A full list of spa & wellness experiences in Carlsbad [here](#).

OUTDOOR

The destination's mild year-round weather attracts athletes, adventure seekers and nature enthusiasts alike. With a varied natural landscape featuring coastal sand and surf, rolling inland hills, protected lagoon habitats and well-designed parks and trails, Carlsbad offers non-stop opportunities for outdoor recreation. With 50+ miles of scenic trails and seven miles of stunning coastline to enjoy, travelers and locals alike enjoy biking, surfing, birdwatching, rock hunting and more. Carlsbad is also home to three lagoons (Batiqitos Lagoon, Agua Hedionda Lagoon and Buena Vista Lagoon—the only freshwater lagoon in all of Southern California) covering more than 1,000 acres and including nature preserves, hiking trails, kayaking at California Watersports, ECO Tours at Agua Hedionda Discovery Center and more, taking in some of the most beautiful views in California.

Additional outdoor experiences in Carlsbad [here](#).

TRANSPORTATION

In September 2023, Carlsbad announced the launch of Carlsbad Good Ride, a free transportation program in partnership with Circuit, an on-demand electric car service, that makes travel throughout Carlsbad a breeze. The pilot program, which runs through August 31, 2024, is designed to provide free rides to key points of interest in Carlsbad. Visitors can quickly and easily book rides through the Circuit app. The partnership between Visit Carlsbad and Circuit helps visitors seamlessly get from their accommodations to dining and retail experiences throughout the city, as well as attractions including Carlsbad Village and local retail shops, LEGOLAND® California Resort, beaches, museums and more.

<https://visitcarlsbad.com/plan-your-trip/carlsbad-good-ride/>

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