

TOP TACOS, FANCY ICE CREAM, WHAT'S NEW AT THE ZOO AND MORE BEACH CITY FUN

SAN DIEGO

OFFICIAL 2019 SPRING & SUMMER
VISITOR GUIDE



**Top
Historic
Sights!**

San Diego
commemorates
250 years in
a big way

SOARING INTO Summer

125 THINGS TO SEE, SIP,
TASTE AND LOVE

San Diego
Happiness
is calling

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
San Diego
MAGAZINE



MEXICAN FOOD

Welcome to
our wonderful
world of
Mexican cuisine

FAST CASUAL

At **Las Cuatros Milpas** in Barrio Logan, a third-generation family serves up rolled tacos, tamales, burritos and chorizo with eggs. Grilled rib eye and sautéed shrimp surf 'n' turf or golden fried Maine lobster tail in brown butter over pinto beans with crispy rice noodles are just two of many innovative choices at **City Tacos** in North Park, La Mesa and Encinitas. A line snakes through the parking lot at **Nine Seas Seafood**, a South Park food truck where devotees sip the complimentary fish soup while waiting for the famed fish tacos. **The Taco Stand** is popping up all over town—in La Jolla, downtown, Encinitas, North Park—since locals love the made-to-order tortillas, scratch salsas and guac, high-quality meats, cold beers and Mexican ice pops. **Medina**, North Park's refined fast-casual eatery, blends Baja and Moroccan cooking and favors wines from Mexico's Valle de Guadalupe.

OLD-SCHOOL TRADITIONAL

For authentic Mexican flavors and the city's finest chilaquiles, make your way to **Cocina 35**. At the Old Town mainstay **Casa Guadalajara**, savor street tacos cradled in fresh tortillas while the mariachis serenade you, or enjoy birdbath-size margaritas, great Mexican folk art and traditional fare at sister restaurants **Casa de Bandini** in

Carlsbad or **Casa Sol y Mar** in Del Mar Highlands. **El Indio**, a family-owned San Diego staple, has been dishing out excellent Mexican cuisine for close to 80 years, and it wins props for inventing the taquito. Established 1930, the airy and bright **En Fuego Cantina and Bar** packs the house during their Del Mar Happy Hour for \$5 margaritas, or drop in for dinner and try the enchiladas, tamales, tostadas and sizzling fajitas.

MODERN MEXICAN

At The Headquarters downtown, **Puesto** wows with its floor-to-ceiling graffiti art and new-wave street food. Imagine rib-eye asada for two and a tricked-out margarita cart. La Jolla Shores' **Galaxy Taco** stands out for their upmarket tacos in heirloom blue corn tortillas; their bimonthly guest chefs create the best versions. Flash interior design complements elegant Mexican cuisine, hand-shaken margaritas and rare tequilas at **Javier's** in the Westfield UTC mall. **Top Chef** alum Angelo Sosa helms the new Encinitas hot spot **Death by Tequila**, where his thoughtful farm-to-table fare mixes Baja and Asian flavors. Don't miss the ahi crudo or melt-in-your-mouth octopus. The East Village's **Lola 55** has taco fans buzzing about the Insanely Spicy Smoked Fish taco with local catch, jalapeño, bacon and at-your-own-risk Carolina Reaper salsa.

Old Town's Best Tequila and Mezcal Spots

TAHONA

Located next to the historic Cemetery of El Campo Santo, San Diego's best mezcal bar and tasting room has 120 choices and delish Oaxacan cuisine.
TAHONABAR.COM

CAFÉ COYOTE

This Old Town institution sports over 100 selections of tequila to pair with their authentic Mexican food.
CAFECOYOTEOLDTOWN.COM

EL AGAVE TEQUILERIA

This local legend has its own tequila museum and the biggest collection in the US, with over 2,000 bottles of rare and unique agave spirits, many presented in stunning bottles.
ELAGAVE.COM