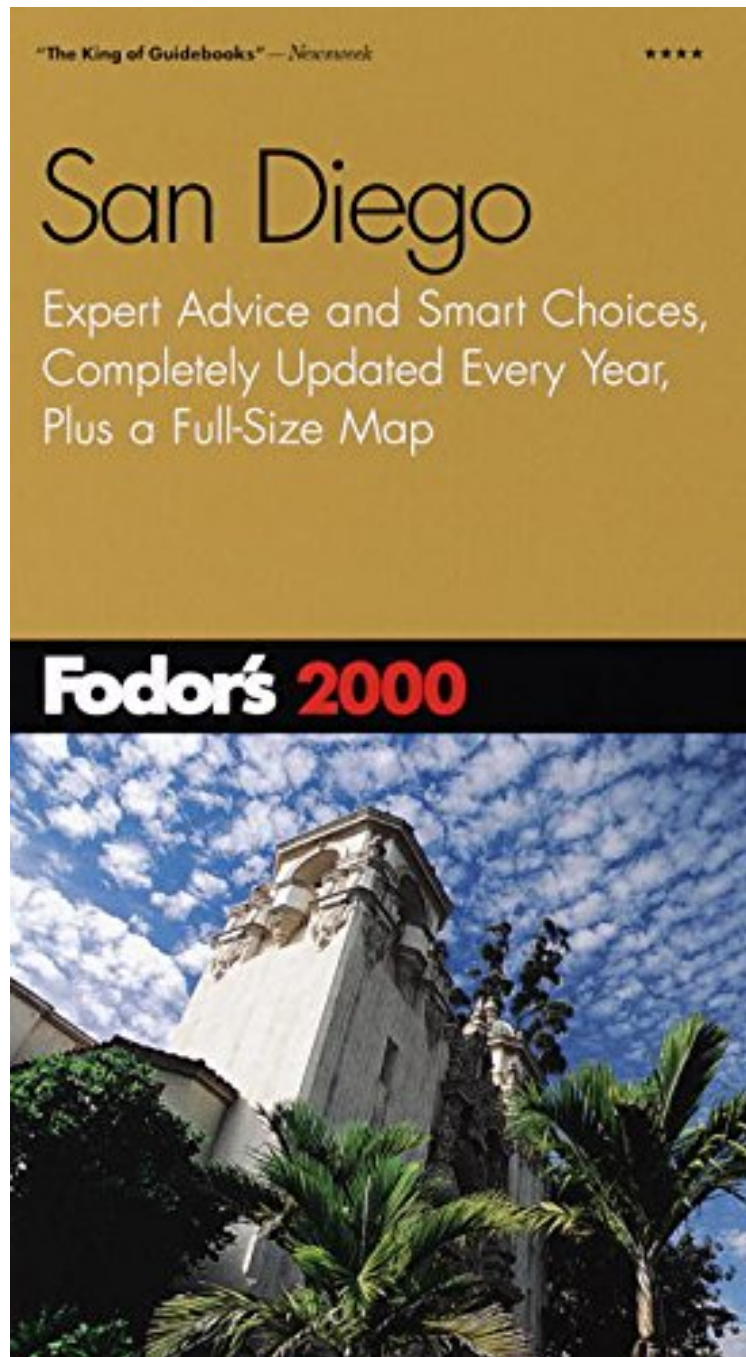


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From the Inside Flap+Description="Fodor's guides are always a pleasure." -The Chicago Tribune"Teeming with maps and loaded with addresses, phone numbers, and directions." -NewsdayExperienced and first-time travelers alike rely on Fodor's Gold Guides for rich, reliable coverage the world over.Updated each year and containing a foldout Rand McNally map, a Fodor's Gold Guide is an essential tool for any kind of traveler.If you only have room for one guide, this is the guide for you.Let the world's smartest guide enrich your tripVivid descriptions evoke what makes San Diego unique - Local experts show you the special places - Thorough updating keeps you on track - Practical information gives you the tools to explore - Easy-to-use format puts it all at your fingertipsChoose among many hotels and restaurants in all price categoriesStay in waterfront resorts, grand hotels, tile-roofed haciendas, wonderful inns, funky beachside motels - Dine in seafood standouts, local favorites for California cuisine, cantinas, trattorias,casual cafes - Check out hundreds of detailed reviews and learn what's special about each placeMix and match our itineraries and discover the unexpectedSavvy descriptions help you decide where to go and when - Driving and walking tours guide you to the Gaslamp Quarter, Old Town, Balboa Park, and Mission Bay, up the coast and out into the desert-Shop for antiques and one-of-a-kind treasures from Coronado to La Jolla - Find the best beaches and golfGo straight to the facts you need and find all that's newUseful maps and background information - How to get there and get around - When to go - What to pack - Insider guide to Tijuana and Baja - Costs, hours, and tips by the thousandsExcerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.Pleasures and PastimesBeachesThe coastline in and around San Diego encompasses some of the best beaches on the West Coast. Some are wide and sandy, others narrow and rocky; some are always crowded with athletes and sun-worshippers others seem created for solitary beachcombers and romantic pairs.Among the standouts are Imperial Beach, a classic southern California beach favored by surfers, swimmers and frisbee fliers; Silver Strand State Beach,relatively calm and family-friendly, and the underused North and Central portions of Municipal Beach on the isthmus of Coronado; Ocean Beach a.k.a. Dog Beach because of the number of canines found romping next to volleyball players and sunbathers; Mission Beach, which has a boardwalk popular with walkers, rollerbladers and bicyclists and La Jolla Cove, where tidal pools and cliff coves provide excitingdiversions for explorers; and Torrey Pines State Beach between La Jolla and Del Mar, one of the easiest and most comfortable beaches to visit in the area.Outdoor Activities and SportsAt least one stereotype of San Diego is true -- it is an active, outdoors-oriented community.People recreate here more than they spectate, and as a visitor it's hard not to join in. As you would expect, the emphasis is on fun in the sun and surf -- sailing, swimming, surfing, diving, and fishing head the list. Some favorite activities and the best places to enjoy them include scuba diving off La Jolla Cove, surfing at almost any of the beaches, golfing at Torrey Pines, La Costa or Rancho Bernardo, rollerblading at Mission Bay, and jet skiing at the Snug Harbor Marina in Carlsbad. But the San Diego area also contains vast open spaces -- mesas, plateaus, and oak-studded foothills which appeal to nature lovers, hikers and mountain bikers. ShoppingSan Diego's many shopping districts are a melange of self-contained megamalls, historic districts, homey villages, funky neighborhoods, and chic suburbs. Whimsical Horton Plaza, in the heart of center city, is the place to go for department stores, mall shops, and one-of-a-kind boutiques; the adjoining Gaslamp Quarter is chock full of art galleries, antiques shops, and specialty stores. Seaport Village on the waterfront is thick with theme shops and arts-and-crafts galleries. Coronado has a few blocks of fancy boutiques and galleries as well as Ferry Landing Marketplace, a waterfront shopping and dining center, Bazaar del Mundo in the historic Old Town district resembles a colorful Mexican marketplace, where you can browse in shops selling international goods, toys, souvenirs, and arts and crafts. Hillcrest

is the place to go for vintage clothing, furnishings, and accessories. La Jolla boasts a collection of trendy designer boutiques and galleries among Prospect Street and Girard Avenue. Discounted designer fashions can also be found at the recently opened Carlsbad Company Stores.