

EVENTS

Spring and summer celebrated down south

San Diego's newest trip-planning resource lists upcoming events and provides insider tips such as off-the-beaten path experiences. One can find trip ideas from the list of 50 Free Things and tips on how to enjoy San Diego on \$100 a day. You can also create your ideal trip using the Perfect Day Itinerary tool. All are at www.SanDiego.org/choosehappy.

APRIL

April 18, 20th Anniversary EarthFair 2010: Set in Balboa Park, the celebration of planet Earth features a children's parade, exhibits, music and earth-friendly food. www.earthdayweb.org.

April 18, Fallbrook Avocado Festival: Since 1962, tens of thousands of avocado lovers have converged each year in Fallbrook, in San Diego's North County, to sample avocados, check out the crazy cooking contest entries, buy funky avocado-themed gifts and enjoy bands and beer gardens.

April 22 — May 9, 65th annual Del Mar National Horse Show: One of the most prestigious horse shows in Southern California offers more than \$300,000 in prize money and attracts more than 3,000 horses to the equestrian complex at the Del Mar Fairgrounds in coastal Del Mar. www.sdfair.com/horseshow.

April 23-25, 46th annual Lakeside Rodeo: Bareback bronco rides, calf roping and other traditional rodeo competitions, along with food and crafts, bring the Wild West to life in the San Diego East County town of Lakeside. www.lakesiderodeo.com.

April 24-25, Adams Avenue Roots Festival: Visitors enjoy vintage blues, folk, Appalachian, country, bluegrass and Celtic music performed by roots artists on seven outdoor stages. Held at Adams Park in University Heights, the free-admission event includes a beer garden, food and crafts. <http://adamsaveonline.com>.

April 24-25, ArtWalk: This free visual and performing arts celebration takes place in downtown San Diego's colorful Little Italy neighborhood and is the largest art event in San Diego. www.missionfederalartwalk.org.



ARTWALK

Courtesy of the San Diego CVB

MAY

May 1-2, 27th annual Old Town San Diego Fiesta Cinco de Mayo: A celebration of Mexican culture, the fiesta is held in Old Town, the birthplace of San Diego, with music, food and entertainment for the entire family. www.fiestacincodemayo.com.

May 14-16, Major League Baseball — Padres vs. Dodgers: Come check out the Padres as they take on the Dodgers at Petco Park in downtown San Diego. Fans can grab dinner in the Gaslamp Quarter and then head over to the stadium, which offers views of San Diego Bay. <http://sandiego.padres.mlb.com>.

May 23, 17th annual Sicilian Festival: The music, dance, culture and cuisine of Sicily come to the streets of downtown San Diego's Little Italy neighborhood with four performance stages, a parade of costumed dancers and musicians. www.sicilianfesta.com.

JUNE

June, Legoland Water Park: The world's first Lego-themed water park will open in Carlsbad. The 5½-acre facility will offer splash-filled interactive fun for the entire family. www.legolandwaterpark.com.

June 6, Rock 'n' Roll Marathon: It's a 26.2-mile race and block party all in one. The marathon begins at Balboa Park and finishes at SeaWorld on Mission Bay. Live music and cheer squads line the route, and a post-race party and headliner concert celebrate everyone's victory. <http://san-diego.competitor.com>



ROCK 'N' ROLL MARATHON

June 11 — July 5, San Diego County Fair: The annual county fair features outlandish foods, garden shows, livestock tents and a midway complete with carnival rides and concerts held throughout the beautiful Del Mar Fairgrounds in oceanfront Del Mar. www.sdfair.com.

June 12 — Sept. 26, Old Globe Theatre's Summer Shakespeare Festival: Three

dynamic Shakespeare productions are performed in nightly rotation at the outdoor Lowell Davies Festival Theatre in Balboa Park. <http://theoldglobe.org>.

June 18 — Aug. 29, SeaWorld's Summer Nights: Special evening entertainment and fireworks are featured on weekends starting on May 29, but as of June 18, the program is held nightly, along with extended evening hours at SeaWorld San Diego on Mission Bay. www.seaworld.com.



SEAWORLD

June 19 — Sept. 5, African Summer Festival at Wild Animal Park: This festival will celebrate Africa with music and activities. Among the entertainment scheduled are African acrobats. Extended hours are featured. www.sandiegozoo.org.

June 26-27, La Jolla Festival of the Arts: Held on the University of California, San Diego campus in La Jolla, the event includes award-winning artists, gourmet cuisine, contemporary music and entertainment. www.lajollaartfestival.org.

June 26 — Sept. 6, San Diego Zoo's Nighttime Zoo: Nighttime Zoo provides visitors a different perspective on the San Diego Zoo. The summertime event offers special performances

from artists, but usually the animals steal the show. The gates are open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Guests may remain on the grounds until 9 p.m. www.sandiegozoo.org.

June 26 — Sept. 5, San Diego Symphony Summer Pops season: Summer performances are held under the stars in downtown San Diego along San Diego Bay. Some nights include fireworks. www.sandiegosymphony.com.