

## **30 Cost-Friendly Ways to Experience Coronado**

### **1. Spend the day on a bike**

There are a number of places to rent bikes on the island that offer a variety of models including beach cruisers, surreys, tandems, and children's tag-alongs. Coronado holds the honor of being a silver level bike community; an award given by The League of American Bicyclists. Once you've got wheels it is easy to enjoy all corners of Coronado. A favorite bike ride starts at the Ferry Landing along the San Diego Bay. The bike path curves by Tidelands Park and takes you underneath the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge and along the golf course to Glorietta Bay. Move west to the Hotel Del Coronado, then ride the length of the beach or just roam the residential streets on a self-guided tour of the unique homes and beautiful front yards. There is plenty to see and no need for a car. If you are looking for a bit of a challenge, try to bike the Bayshore Bikeway through Coronado, down The Strand and into Imperial Beach and Chula Vista.

### **2. Have a picnic in the park**

Stop by a local eatery for some 'take-out' food then settle down for the afternoon in one of Coronado's many parks. Spreckels, Tidelands, and Glorietta Bay parks offer great views and play structures for the kids; while Sunset Park and the Coronado Cays Park have ample open space for games of soccer, softball, tennis, or volleyball. Sunset Park is just a stone's throw away from Dog Beach while Bayview Park delivers on its promise with a gorgeous view of The Bay and the San Diego skyline from its secluded location off of First Avenue.

### **3. Make it a day of golf**

The year-round public Coronado Golf Course is a must play all year round public golf facility. The course measures 6,590 yards and is par 72. Coronado not only offers a great golfing experience, but an incomparable view of the San Diego Bay and the Coronado Bridge is omnipresent as you play. The weather always "on par" and the Coronado Bayside Grill is open to the public for breakfast, lunch and dinner and has a sought after happy hour.

### **4. Have a Coronado café experience**

Take a morning stroll down Orange Avenue and stop for coffee or breakfast at one of the many sidewalk cafes. There are options from First Avenue to the other end of Orange Avenue at the Hotel Del. A perfect start to your day.

### **5. Get in the water**

Coronado offers a variety of aquatic rentals. Grab a board and get a surf lesson or join a kayak tour, there is even a night tour with glowing kayaks. You can learn to paddle board or rent a boat or gondola to enjoy the bay with the whole family. Rentals are available near Glorietta Bay Park, the Ferry Landing, or Loews Coronado Bay Resort. Like to fish? Hook up for a sport fishing trip at Seaforth Rentals on Glorietta Bay.

## **6. Enjoy a concert in the park**

Every year in Coronado there is a summer concert series in Spreckels Park. Each Sunday, at approximately 5:00pm, the band takes to the bandstand on the center historic gazebo. Each series has a wide variety of performers from classic cover bands to the United States Marine Corps Band. Residents and visitors alike gather on the grass to enjoy an evening of music with family and friends. The park fills every week so everyone kindly leaves their furry friends and frisbees at home. Kids can enjoy the playground too!

## **7. Have a bonfire on the beach**

Coronado's North Beach has 8 - 5'x5' fire pits open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis. The area is great for large gatherings, family bonfires, or romantic evenings on the beach. Enjoy a day in the ocean and stake your claim at a fire ring for the evening. The Coronado Municipal Code also allows portable barbecues on the beach as long as you stay a safe distance from any grass or landscaping and remember to dispose of all coals in one of the permanent fire rings or receptacles. Start rehearsing your best ghost stories and don't forget the s'mores.

## **8. Catch a show**

Live performances are held most nights at both the Lamb's Players Theatre and the Coronado Playhouse. Both venues receive rave reviews. Coronado also has an award-winning performing arts school called CoSA that offers great opportunity. Or catch a movie at our historic Village Theater. Even if you don't have time for a show, ask to see the one-of-a-kind murals in each of the theaters within the newly renovated Village Theater at 820 Orange Avenue.

## **9. Witness a grunion run**

Have you ever heard of a grunion run? These fascinating fish live only along the central Pacific Coast and actually lay their eggs on land! During summer high tides, thousands of fish make their way onto the beach late at night. You must have a fishing license to take any fish off the beach, but watching is an adventure and it is certainly a spectacle worth seeing. Check out the schedule <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/grunionschedule.asp>.

## **10. Take a ferry ride**

Catch the Coronado Ferry at the Ferry Landing to San Diego's Embarcadero or Convention Center. Enjoy the Maritime Museum, the USS Midway Museum, and waterfront activities. While you are off the island, be sure to catch a Padres game or take a spin on the carousel at Seaport Village. Ferry rides back to Coronado depart every hour from two locations.

### **11. Roam the Ferry Landing**

The Ferry Landing is a great place to spend time with its diverse shopping, recreational opportunities, and dining options. Shop for fun souvenirs or find unique items at a boutique. You can enjoy seafood, Italian food, pizza, or BBQ with a bay front view. Don't forget to treat yourself to some ice cream, coffee or a gourmet cupcake as you sit on the water's edge and enjoy the view and maritime activities. Work off the meal with a bike ride or kayaking—both can be rented at the Ferry Landing.

### **12. Visit the Public Library**

The Coronado Public Library is a great resource and can offer an escape from the heat or crowds. There is plenty of quiet space and free WIFI if you need to get some work done on your visit. The children's library is located near the front door and there is a separate teen library which puts on organized activities on Wednesday afternoons. Children's story hours for various age groups are held biweekly and a different children's craft project is offered every month. The murals on the back wall of the lobby tell a bit of Coronado history and the children's library features a Wizard of Oz exhibit and panels.

### **13. Visit Star Park**

Star Park is situated in the middle of the traffic circle next to the Hotel Del, downtown business district, and the beaches. Just a short block from the Visitor Center, Star Park is home to war memorials and the historic home of L. Frank Baum, author of The Wizard of Oz. Baum was passionate about Coronado and some say the Emerald City was inspired by Coronado. You can relax with a book or enjoy your lunch on the grass in the shade of magnificent Magnolia trees.

### **14. Admire unique architecture**

Coronado Island is filled with impressive homes you don't want to miss. From modern mansions along Ocean Avenue to historic gems tucked away in the quiet residential streets. Pick up a copy of Architectural Gems in The Museum Store at 1100 Orange Avenue and go on a self-guided tour of Coronado's historic homes or just wander at your leisure and pick out your favorite.

### **15. Go for a scenic drive**

Take a drive down the Silver Strand along California's Scenic Route 75. Enjoy being surrounded by nature with The San Diego Bay on one side and the Pacific Ocean on the other, certainly a site worth seeing. You may even catch a glimpse of some Navy SEAL training. Make a day of it by stopping at the park in the Coronado Cays for a game of soccer, have lunch at the Loews, or relax on the Silver Strand State Beach, consider joining a guided walking or renting a kayak at the Crown Cove Aquatic Center.

## **16. Enjoy the City of Coronado Community Recreation Center**

The Coronado Community Recreation Center offers fun options for everyone. You can swim at the Aquatic Center, climb the Rock Wall, enjoy tennis, work out in the Fitness Room or play basketball in the Gymnasium. The Boathouse offers rentals of stand-up paddleboards and kayaks as well as lessons. The center offers pricing options for extended periods or just one day.

## **17. Sunbathe in the dunes**

Had enough hustle and bustle? Take a book to the beach and soak up the sun and sea air at the Unites States #1 beach. You can blend into the crowd or find a secluded spot in the sand dunes near the rocks lining the beach. Don't forget the sunscreen!

## **18. Enjoy a gondola ride**

Indulge in all the magic and tradition of Venice right here in San Diego as you gently cruise in a private gondola through the enchanting canals of the Coronado Cays. You can make it a romantic adventure for two, bring a party of up to six, or even hire a fleet of Gondolas to accommodate a large group. Cruises are available weekdays 3pm to midnight and weekends 11am to midnight. Don't forget to make reservations.

## **19. Go on a nature hike**

The bay side of the Silver Strand boasts some of the last remaining natural coastal sage-scrub environment in Southern California. Hiking trails allow visitors an opportunity to experience the unique ecology and installations along the way which offer an educational opportunity. The trail provides highlights San Diego Bay and the wildlife. Be sure to check out the *Wing Deck*, built over the bay to be the perfect vantage point for observing the wide variety of shore birds, including Egrets, Herons, Pelicans, Least Terns, and Osprey.

## **20. Go lawn bowling at twilight**

The Coronado Lawn Bowling Club hosts *Twilight Open Bowling* every Thursday evening in the summer at the Coronado Bowling Green at the corner of 7th and D Ave. behind the Coronado Senior Center. Arrive between 6:00 PM and sunset, receive instruction then start playing immediately with other beginning bowlers. No reservations and no fees, just show up in flat soled shoes and have a great time. The Coronado Lawn Bowling Club will provide the equipment and will host each open bowling evening with appetizers and beverages.

## **21. Do yoga on the beach**

Start your day off by clearing your mind and getting your body moving with a beautiful view. There are a few instructors that offer morning yoga classes on Coronado beaches. You can make it a group activity or sneak away for a little ‘me time,’ but don’t miss out on the ocean breeze, the sound of the crashing waves, and the sparkle of the early morning sun on the water. An awesome way to wake up!

## **22. Make it a date night**

Coronado offers a wide variety of quality restaurant, high-end eateries, and live music. Enjoy seafood, prime stake house fare, Italian food and an evening piano bar, a burger at a brewery, sushi on a street side patio, or get pizza with a bay view. Coronado also has a unique under-the-radar nightlife. There are a number of bars and restaurants open late along Orange Avenue. The streets remain fairly quiet, but don’t let that fool you!

## **23. Watch the crowds at Centennial Park**

Some of the best views in town can be found on one of many benches at this park at the northeast end of Orange Avenue. A magnificent rose garden awaits as do several small beaches and a tribute to the Coronado-San Diego Pedestrian and Bike Ferry.

## **24. Go out for ice cream**

Who can resist a good old fashioned ice cream outing? Go for an afternoon or evening stroll for a frozen treat. Ice cream, gelato, or frozen yogurt can be found at the Ferry Landing, Downtown, or at the Hotel Del.

## **25. Visit the Museum**

The Coronado Historical Association maintains the Coronado Museum of History in the Downtown District inside to the Visitor Center. Enhance your visit and learn about Coronado’s intriguing past including: the Hotel Del, Tent City, the city’s long-standing relationship with the military, the Wizard of Oz, and Coronado’s connection with Hollywood. It is a great place to get acquainted with this historic town. Got kids – ask for the museum scavenger hunt, a favorite for kids 8 and up.

## **26. Take a Tour**

Become acquainted with Coronado and its history. You can take a historic walking tour of the Hotel Del or explore the entire city with a guide on foot or by Segway. You can also explore the San Diego Bay on a harbor tour, bike, paddleboard or kayak. There is a tour for everyone; and whatever you choose it is sure to get you excited about fascinating historic Coronado.

### **27. Dine with a View**

Some of the best aspects of Coronado are the gorgeous views and the relaxed, easy-going atmosphere. Enjoying a leisurely meal with a spectacular ocean view at the Hotel Del Coronado, or bay views at Bluewater Boathouse, Lowes Coronado or one of many options at The Coronado Ferry Landing.

### **28. Collect Seashells**

Visitors are welcome to collect seashells on Coronado beaches and there are plenty to discover. It is a great activity to do with the kids or if you are looking for some time alone. Walk along the shore and see what unique treasures you can find. After you can get crafty and create something with your collection to remember your trip.

### **29. Take in a Sunset**

Sunsets in Coronado never fail to be a gorgeous sight. There is nothing like relaxing on the beach after a long day and watching the sun sink into the Pacific Ocean.

### **30. Take a Selfie on a Photo Scavenger Hunt**

Coronado is the perfect place for a scavenger hunt because it is easy to get around and there are plenty of historic buildings, landmarks, and hidden gems. Explore the Island and see if you can stump your friends. You can even ask the ambassadors in the Coronado Visitor Center for a public art brochure. Don't forget to have everyone take a selfie with Elvis...if you can find him!