

Museums / Organizations:

(Listed in alphabetical order)



Balboa Art Conservation Center

Come celebrate the season by making stamp art with Balboa Art Conservation Center! Using cochineal dye, guests of all ages will be able to combine science and art to make prints inspired by the History Center's Poinsettia Tree. Located in the San Diego History Center: 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Comic-Con Museum

Guests can participate in a FREE activity called "Paint and Take". Each guest (ages 5+) can choose a small miniature figure to paint and take home. Activity takes about 30 minutes per guest once seated. Minors must be accompanied by an adult. Supplies limited. Retail shop open. Museum exhibits closed.

Friday: 3pm-8pm & Saturday: 2pm-7pm

Fleet Science Center

The Fleet Science Center is on a mission to realize a San Diego where everyone is connected by the power of science to create a better future.

Bring the family to check out our interactive exhibits, including Pause| Play, which invites you to hit pause on your busy lives and recapture the nostalgia of play.

Friday & Saturday: 12pm-9pm (5pm-9pm FREE)

You can also join the Fleet Science Center for Don't Try this at Home! shows in the municipal gym.

A series of live shows that explore all the science that's too messy, too noisy and too hair-raising to do at home!

Japanese Friendship Garden and Museum

The Japanese Friendship Garden & Museum will have holiday decor for photo ops throughout the upper garden. Treat yourself to holiday-themed drinks such as hot chocolate, apple cider, and sake! Holiday crafts will be available in the Education Center for the entire family to create together.

Friday 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. (free admission after 3 p.m.)

Saturday 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. (free admission after 3 p.m.)

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Marston House Museum

The Marston House will be decorated for the holidays in the early 20th century style.

Museum Of US

Visit the Museum of Us and reflect on the diverse stories that define us all with exhibits about the human experience. Free admission from 5 pm - 9 pm on December 6th - 7th.

San Diego Air & Space Museum

Delight in the festive ambiance as the Museum's Pavilion transforms into a winter wonderland, adorned with holiday decor that will surely warm your heart. Admission is free for all during these special hours! 4:00 p.m. to 10 p.m. (Last admission is at 9:30 p.m. on both nights)

San Diego Museum of Art

Explore the San Diego Museum of Art for free during December Nights! Enter at the west side of the plaza near Panama 66 for food and drinks.

Open to the public from 5 pm to 9 pm

San Diego Automotive Museum

Our 1909 Harvester will be decked out for the holidays. Along with holiday trees, lights, and Santa! Santa will be seated in the car and it makes a great family photo. Pets are welcome to take pictures with Santa as well. Enter at the Southeast corner of the building.

Santa is available Friday 5:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Santa is available Saturday 5:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

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San Diego Natural History Museum

Holiday décor and festive music, the Pomerado Brass Quintet 5 PM to 6:30 PM. Visit exhibitions and get a sneak peek at the new Tom Deméré Paleontology Center. See T. REX in our giant screen for \$5/person and visit our rooftop for views of December Nights, delicious tacos from The Craft Taco, and grab a drink at the North Pole Hiway bar if 21+. Visit Gold Leaf at The Nat for a curated selection of unique gifts, holiday ornaments, and Nat-branded 150th anniversary merchandise. Admission is FREE from 3 PM to 9 PM (Last entry / Last order at 8:30 PM)

SD Model Railroad Museum

Holiday Fun at the Model Railroad Museum! Visit us for pictures with Santa, enjoy our Toy Trains Through the Decades winter exhibit, and see our Toy Train Gallery decked out for the holidays!
5pm - 9pm, free admission

Mingei International Museum

Come see Mingei's current exhibition, "Blue Gold: The Art and Science of Indigo"! "Blue Gold" presents indigo through stunning objects of creative expression and the astonishing study of a chemical reaction. Shop Mingei will be open for all of your holiday folk art goods and more! Craft Cafe will be open for warm goods, grab and go foods and tasty beverages!
5 pm to 9 pm

International Cottages

A group of 33 nations/cultural groups, will bring ethnic foods, beverages, and our famous "Spirit Garden" featuring various ethnic spirits to San Diego. There will be traditional song, dance and instrumental performances in dazzling ethnic costumes. Come and awake your senses with delectable flavors and inspiring sounds from exciting musical performances on the HPR International Lawn Stage.

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Institute of Contemporary Art, San Diego (ICA San Diego)

Join us for the ICA's annual Ceramics Sale inside our gallery surrounded by the colorful artwork of Nathalie Miebach. Stock up on this year's holiday gifts, or just find a treasure for yourself, ceramics include functional pottery, jewelry, and sculpture designed by local artmakers from the ICA's Ceramics Studio. Other gift ideas include ICA Membership and Class Gift Cards. Don't miss the interactive, Remote Pulse, by Rafael Lozano-Hemmer to feel your heartbeat and connect with others.

5-9pm. The ICA San Diego will be closed from 12-5pm and only open in the evening from 5-9pm. The ICA San Diego is free all year long, so if you miss us at December Nights, come back Thursday-Sunday from 12-5pm. The ICA will be open 12-5 on Sunday, December 8.

San Diego History Center

This year, we're thrilled to announce a stunning 15-foot live poinsettia tree that has been featured on TV, bringing holiday cheer to our community! Visitors will have the chance to take memorable photos at designated picture stations with this breathtaking centerpiece. In addition to the poinsettia tree, we're excited to unveil two new exhibits: La Neighbor and Aloha Vaquero. These exhibitions celebrate the rich tapestry of San Diego's diverse cultures and histories, offering unique insights and experiences for all ages. But that's not all! Join us for Taste San Diego, an exhibition dedicated to the craft brewing scene in our city. Attendees can learn about local brews from our knowledgeable beer docents, who will guide you through the fascinating world of San Diego craft beer. To enhance your experience, we'll also be selling a selection of local beer and wine, making it a perfect outing for enthusiasts and newcomers alike.

Come celebrate the spirit of San Diego with us! 5 pm to 9 pm.

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Timken Museum of Art

Glittering gems, swirls of colors, elaborate filigree, whimsical designs – it's the Jewels of the Season: Holidays at the Timken an annual tradition since 1988 featuring a collection of ornaments designed and handcrafted by local artists Florence Hord and Elizabeth Schlappi. Each ornament features semi-precious gems, sequins, stones and filigree collected by the two artists from around the world. Often compared to Fabergé eggs, over 1,000 ornaments are on display in the museum's foyer and grand holiday tree.

The Timken Museum has again partnered with grad students from SDSU's Theatre, Television, and Film department and the San Diego Model Railroad Museum to create a custom, multimedia installation which showcases the holiday treasures. The Timken will sparkle with decades of craftsmanship.

Free Admission Always. Saturday Hours: 4:00 pm - 9:00 pm

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San Diego Zoo

Skyfari is open both nights 7:00-10pm

Skyfari tickets (round trip - \$6.00 each)) are available for purchase.

The zoo closes to day guests at 5:00 pm. December Night guests will be able to enter our Zoofari Party Area Lounge free of charge 7 pm to 10 pm. Guests will enter the area near the Spanish Village entrance.

Food, desserts, and beverages are available including seasonal favorites on the Zoo's Front Street.

Shop for wildlife themed holiday gifts and apparel at the Zootique and Kids' Store