

Old Town and Balboa Park



Fun Food for Kids lists places to eat in the areas your family will want to explore in San Diego. No trip to San Diego is complete without an afternoon in Old Town, with its mariachi bands and 19th century buildings. We tip you off to the spots where you can watch fresh tortillas made by hand, suck on candy sticks in an old-fashioned general store, or eat Mexican food in patio restaurants surrounded by flowers. Over in Balboa Park, we steer you to cafes for a quick bite, and memorable eating experiences, from the Japanese Friendship Garden to dining at the zoo. Wherever you find yourself, whatever you're in the mood for, here's the list of family-friendly meals and treats in Old Town and Balboa Park.

You can also look up fun food by categories, to choose what your family likes:

- Breakfast
- Bakery
- Juices
- Deli
- Pizza and pasta
- Hamburgers and hot dogs
- "Homecooking"
- Ice cream - Sweets
- Mexican
- Seafood
- Italian
- Japanese

Each fun food listing is labeled so that you'll know right away which ones are good for snacks, where to get food to-go, where to find a quick bite or a sit-down restaurant, or where to splurge to make dining out a special occasion:

- **Treats/Snacks** (bakeries, juice bars, ice cream shops)
- **To go** (where to get things for picnics)
- **Quick food** (counter service, food courts)
- **Simple dining** (casual, family-style restaurants)
- **Splurge dining** (something special: you may pay extra, but you get a great view, setting or food)

When you go to a sit-down restaurant, kids' menus are a bonus – food for little kids and a price break too. Restaurants with kids' menus have a "fork and knife" icon: ☒

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■ Old Town

Plaza del Pasado

Casa de Reyes

Simple dining



Mexican favorites, fajitas, burritos, tacos, quesadillas, tostadas, watch tortillas being made, patio dining

Sun. - Thurs. 10:00am - 9:00pm, Fri. and Sat. 10:00am - 9:30pm

**** Calhoun St.

La Panaderia

Treats/snacks

Churros, pan dulce (pastries), cookies, Mexican hot chocolate, candies

Sun. - Thurs. 10:00am - 9:00pm, Fri. and Sat. 10:00am - 9:30pm

**** Calhoun St.

Jolly Boy Restaurant

Simple - Splurge dining



Mexican favorites, seafood, vegetarian dishes, patio dining

Fri. - Sun. 11:00am - 10:00pm

**** Wallace St.

Around Old Town Plaza

Cosmopolitan Restaurant

Simple dining



Mexican favorites, tacos, quesadillas, enchiladas, patio dining

Sun. - Thurs. 10:00am - 9:00pm, Fri. and Sat. 10:00am - 9:30pm

**** Calhoun St.

Alvarado Provisions

Treats/snacks

Sarsaparilla, cream soda, licorice, old fashioned candies, lemon drops, chocolates, rock candy

10:00am - 6:00pm daily

**** Calhoun St.

El Fandango Restaurant

Simple dining



Taquito, nachos, tamales, carnitas

8:00am - 9:30pm daily

**** Calhoun St.

Cousin's Candy Shop

Snacks/treats

Chocolate chews, fudge, hard candies, salt water taffy, licorice, jelly beans

Mon. - Wed. 10:00am - 7:00pm, Thurs. and Fri. 10:00am - 9:00pm,

Sat. 10:00am - 6:00pm, Sun. 11:00am - 5:00pm

**** San Diego Ave.

La Pinata Mexican Restaurant

Simple dining



Fish tacos, enchiladas, carnitas, carne asada, taquitos

Sun. - Thurs. 11:00am - 9:00pm, Fri. and Sat. 11:00am - 9:30pm

**** Juan St.

Casa Guadalajara

Simple dining



Carne asada, Mexican chicken dishes, tacos

Sun. - Thurs. 11:00am - 10:00pm, Fri. and Sat. 11:00am - 11:00pm

**** Taylor St.

Old Town Esplanade - San Diego Ave.

O'Hungry's Café

Simple dining

Hamburgers, pasta

8:00am - 10:00pm daily

**** San Diego Ave.

Living Room Coffeehouse

Quick food/To go



Breakfast, sandwiches, pizza, pasta

7:00am - 10:30pm daily

**** San Diego Ave.

The Alamo

Quick food

Mexican food, tacos, burritos, juices

Mon. - Fri. 10:00am - 9:00pm, Sat. and Sun. 9:00am - 10:00pm

**** San Diego Ave.

Old Town Mexican Café

Simple dining



Breakfast, Mexican favorites, watch them making fresh tortillas!

7:00am - Midnight daily

**** San Diego Ave.

Café Coyote

Simple dining

Breakfast, enchiladas, tacos, patio dining

Sun. - Thurs. 7:30am - 10:00pm, Fri. and Sat. 7:30am - 10:30pm

**** San Diego Ave.

Zocalo Grill

Simple - Splurge dining

Mediterranean dishes, seafood, pizza, sandwiches

Sun. - Thurs. 11:30am - 10:00pm, Fri. and Sat. 11:30am - 11:00pm

**** San Diego Ave.

SAMPLE COPY

Café Pacifica

Splurge dining



Grilled fresh fish, pasta dishes, soups and salads

5:00pm - 10:00pm daily

**** San Diego Ave.

Jack & Giulios

Simple dining



Pizza and pasta, patio dining

Lunch 11:30am - 2:30pm daily, Sun. - Thurs. 5:00pm - 9:30pm, Fri. and Sat. 5:00pm - 10:30pm

**** San Diego Ave.

Korky's Ice Cream

Snacks/treats

All kinds of ice cream

7:00am - 10:00pm daily

**** San Diego Ave.

Rancho La Lena

Simple dining

Mexican dishes, Sunday brunch, all you can eat

Sun. - Fri. 8:00am - 10:00pm, Fri. and Sat. 8:00am - 11:00pm

**** San Diego Ave.

El Agave

Simple dining

Soups, seafood, chicken, beef dishes, "Mexican nouvelle cuisine," patio dining

11:00am - 10:00pm daily

**** San Diego Ave.

Old Town Liquor and Deli

To go

Sandwiches

Mon. - Sat. 7:00am - 10:00pm, Sun. 8:00am - 10:00pm

**** San Diego Ave.

Congress St.

Bertas Latin American Restaurant

Simple dining

South American dishes

Sun. - Sat. 11:00am - 10:00pm, closed Mon.

**** Twiggs St. (at Congress St.)

Rockin' Baja Lobster

Simple dining



"Screamin' Shrimp," Baja-style seafood, quesadillas, tacos

Sun. - Thurs. 11:30am - 9:30pm, Fri. and Sat. 11:30am - 10:30pm

**** Twiggs St.

Made In San Diego Chocolates

Treats/snacks

Delicious hand made truffles, baked goods

Mon. - Sat. 8:00am - 4:00pm, Sun. 9:00am - 4:00pm

**** Mason St. (at Congress St.)

Pizza Bella

Simple dining

Traditional pizza, deep dish pizza, pasta

Mon. - Sat. 11:00am - 2:00pm, 5:00pm - 10:00pm, Sun. 11:00am - 2:00pm, 4:00pm - 10:00pm

**** Congress St.

Harney St.

Harney Sushi

Simple dining

Sushi

Mon. - Fri. 11:30am - 2:00pm, 5:00pm - 10:00pm, Sat. and Sun. 5:00pm - 10:00pm

**** Harney St.

Acapulco Mexican Restaurant

Simple dining



Tostadas, tacos, enchiladas, burritos

Sun. - Thurs. 6:30am - 9:00pm, Fri. and Sat. 6:30am - 10:00pm

**** Juan St. - Hacienda Hotel (at Harney St.)

■ **Balboa Park**

Albert's Restaurant

Simple dining ☒ (415) 555-0000
 Seafood, pizza, pasta, sandwiches
 Mon. - Fri. 11:00am - 2:30pm, Sat. and Sun. 11:00am - 3:30pm
 ****Diego Zoo

Village Grill

Quick food
 Sandwiches, hamburgers, tacos, quesadillas, ice cream
 Mon. - Fri. 9:00am - 4:00pm, Sat. and Sun. 9:00am - 4:30pm
 **** Old Globe Way

Galileo's Café

Quick food
 Sandwiches, ice cream, pizza, pasta
 Mon. Tues. and Thurs. 9:30am - 5:00pm, Wed. 9:30am - 7:00pm, Fri.
 and Sat. 9:30am - 8:00pm Sun. 9:30am - 6:00pm
 ****en H. Fleet Science Center

Prado Restaurant

Splurge dining ☒ (415) 555-0000
 Right in Balboa park, superb setting, Latin and Italian dishes
 Mon. - Fri. 11:30am - 3:00pm lunch, Sat. and Sun. 11:00am - 3:00pm
 lunch, Tues. - Thurs. 5:00pm - 9:00pm dinner, Fri. and Sat. 5:00pm -
 9:00pm dinner, Sun. 4:00pm - 8:00pm dinner
 ****oa Park - House of Hospitality

Café in the Park

Quick food
 Peanut and jelly sandwiches, cheese sandwiches, pastries, deli
 Mon. 9:00am - 2:30pm, Tues. - Fri. 9:00am - 4:00pm, Sat. and Sun.
 9:00 - 4:30pm
 **** de Balboa

Tea Pavilion

Snacks/treats
 Tea, sushi, Japanese noodles, snacks
 Summer hours 10:00am - 7:00pm or 8:00pm, Winter hours 10:00am -
 5:30pm
 ****nese Friendship Garden

Time Out Café

Quick food
 Soup and sandwiches (named for famous athletes)
 10:00am - 4:00pm daily
 **** of Champions Sports Museum - 2131 Pan American Plaza

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■ **Breakfast**

Perry's Café

Simple dining
6:00am - 2:00pm daily
**** Pacific Hwy.

Rancho La Lena

Simple dining
Sun. - Fri. 8:00am - 10:00pm, Fri. and Sat. 8:00am - 11:00pm
**** San Diego Ave.

Café Coyote

Simple dining
Sun. - Thurs. 7:30am - 10:00pm, Fri. and Sat. 7:30am - 10:30pm
**** San Diego Ave.

Old Town Mexican Café

Simple dining ⊗
7:00am - Midnight daily
**** San Diego Ave.

Living Room Coffeehouse

Quick food/To go ⊗
7:00am - 10:30pm daily
**** San Diego Ave.

■ **Bakery**

La Panaderia

Treats/snacks
Sun. - Thurs. 10:00am - 9:00pm, Fri. and Sat. 10:00am - 9:30pm
**** Calhoun St.

Living Room Coffeehouse

Quick food/To go ⊗
7:00am - 10:30pm daily
**** San Diego Ave.

■ **Ice Cream and Sweets**

Village Grill

Quick food
Mon. - Fri. 9:00am - 4:00pm, Sat. and Sun. 9:00am - 4:30pm
**** Old Globe Way

Galileo's Café

Quick food
Mon. Tues. and Thurs. 9:30am - 5:00pm, Wed. 9:30am - 7:00pm, Fri. and Sat. 9:30am - 8:00pm Sun. 9:30am - 6:00pm
****en H. Fleet Science Center

Alvarado Provisions

Treats/snacks
10:00am - 6:00pm daily
**** Calhoun St.

Made In San Diego Chocolates

Treats/snacks
Mon. - Sat. 8:00am - 4:00pm, Sun. 9:00am - 4:00pm
**** Mason St. (at Congress St.)

Korky's Ice Cream

Snacks/treats
7:00am - 10:00pm daily
**** San Diego Ave.

Cousin's Candy Shop

Snacks/treats
Mon. - Wed. 10:00am - 7:00pm, Thurs. and Fri. 10:00am - 9:00pm, Sat. 10:00am - 6:00pm, Sun. 11:00am - 5:00pm
**** San Diego Ave.

■ **Deli**

Galileo's Café

Quick food
Mon. Tues. and Thurs. 9:30am - 5:00pm, Wed. 9:30am - 7:00pm, Fri. and Sat. 9:30am - 8:00pm Sun. 9:30am - 6:00pm
****en H. Fleet Science Center

Café in the Park

Quick food
Mon. 9:00am - 2:30pm, Tues. - Fri. 9:00am - 4:00pm, Sat. and Sun. 9:00 - 4:30pm
**** de Balboa

Time Out Café

Quick food
10:00am - 4:00pm daily
**** of Champions Sports Museum - 2131 Pan American Plaza

Old Town Liquor and Deli

To go
Mon. - Sat. 7:00am - 10:00pm, Sun. 8:00am - 10:00pm
**** San Diego Ave.

SAMPLE COPY

■ Mexican

Rockin' Baja Lobster

Simple dining ☒
 Sun. - Thurs. 11:30am - 9:30pm, Fri. and Sat. 11:30am - 10:30pm
 **** Twiggs St.

Acapulco Mexican Restaurant

Simple dining ☒
 Sun. - Thurs. 6:30am - 9:00pm, Fri. and Sat. 6:30am - 10:00pm
 **** Juan St. - Hacienda Hotel (at Harney St.)

El Agave

Simple dining
 11:00am - 10:00pm daily
 **** San Diego Ave.

Rancho La Lena

Simple dining
 Sun. - Fri. 8:00am - 10:00pm, Fri. and Sat. 8:00am - 11:00pm
 **** San Diego Ave.

Café Coyote

Simple dining
 Sun. - Thurs. 7:30am - 10:00pm, Fri. and Sat. 7:30am - 10:30pm
 **** San Diego Ave.

Old Town Mexican Café

Simple dining ☒
 7:00am - Midnight daily
 **** San Diego Ave.

The Alamo

Quick food
 Mon. - Fri. 10:00am - 9:00pm, Sat. and Sun. 9:00am - 10:00pm
 **** San Diego Ave.

Cosmopolitan Restaurant

Simple dining ☒
 Sun. - Thurs. 10:00am - 9:00pm, Fri. and Sat. 10:00am - 9:30pm
 **** Calhoun St.

El Fandango Restaurant

Simple dining ☒
 8:00am - 9:30pm daily
 **** Calhoun St.

La Pinata Mexican Restaurant

Simple dining ☒
 Sun. - Thurs. 11:00am - 9:00pm, Fri. and Sat. 11:00am - 9:30pm
 **** Juan St.

Casa Guadalajara

Simple dining ☒
 Sun. - Thurs. 11:00am - 10:00pm, Fri. and Sat. 11:00am - 11:00pm
 **** Taylor St.

Casa de Reyes

Simple dining ☒
 Sun. - Thurs. 10:00am - 9:00pm, Fri. and Sat. 10:00am - 9:30pm
 **** Calhoun St.

■ Seafood

Café Pacifica

Splurge dining ☒
 5:00pm - 10:00pm daily
 **** San Diego Ave.

Zocalo Grill

Simple - Splurge dining
 Sun. - Thurs. 11:30am - 10:00pm, Fri. and Sat. 11:30am - 11:00pm
 **** San Diego Ave.

Jolly Boy Restaurant

Simple - Splurge dining ☒
 Fri. - Sun. 11:00am - 10:00pm
 **** Wallace St.

■ Italian

Prado Restaurant

Splurge dining ☒ (415) 555-0000
 Mon. - Fri. 11:30am - 3:00pm lunch, Sat. and Sun. 11:00am - 3:00pm lunch, Tues. - Thurs. 5:00pm - 9:00pm dinner, Fri. and Sat. 5:00pm - 9:00pm dinner, Sun. 4:00pm - 8:00pm dinner
 ****oa Park - House of Hospitality

Jack & Giulios

Simple dining ☒
 Lunch 11:30am - 2:30pm daily, Sun. - Thurs. 5:00pm - 9:30pm, Fri. and Sat. 5:00pm - 10:30pm
 **** San Diego Ave.

■ **Pizza and Pasta**

Albert's Restaurant

Simple dining ☒ (415) 555-0000
 Mon. - Fri. 11:00am - 2:30pm, Sat. and Sun. 11:00am - 3:30pm
 **** Diego Zoo

Pizza Bella

Simple dining
 Mon. - Sat. 11:00am - 2:00pm, 5:00pm - 10:00pm, Sun. 11:00am - 2:00pm, 4:00pm - 10:00pm
 **** Congress St.

■ **“Homecooking”**

Perry's Café

Simple dining
 6:00am - 2:00pm daily
 **** Pacific Hwy.

O'Hungry's Café

Simple dining
 8:00am - 10:00pm daily
 **** San Diego Ave.

■ **Japanese**

Tea Pavilion

Snacks/treats
 Summer hours 10:00am - 7:00pm or 8:00pm, Winter hours 10:00am - 5:30pm
 **** nese Friendship Garden

Harney Sushi

Simple dining
 Mon. - Fri. 11:30am - 2:00pm, 5:00pm - 10:00pm, Sat. and Sun. 5:00pm - 10:00pm
 **** Harney St.

■ **Hamburgers and Hot Dogs**

Village Grill

Quick food
 Mon. - Fri. 9:00am - 4:00pm, Sat. and Sun. 9:00am - 4:30pm
 **** Old Globe Way

■ **Juices**

The Alamo

Quick food
 Mon. - Fri. 10:00am - 9:00pm, Sat. and Sun. 9:00am - 10:00pm
 **** San Diego Ave.

SAMPLE COPY