TCC 2014 Restaurant Guide

San Diego offers a wide variety of options. At higher end places, reservations are recommended. Typically they can be made online, the restaurant webpage usually providing a link to OpenTable for the purpose. If OpenTable indicates the restaurant is booked for the time you want, don't give up. You can still call and may get a table.

San Diego is car country, I'm afraid, and there is no getting around it. Theoretically, some areas like University City and La Jolla Shores are within walking distance of TCC, but be careful about hidden constants in these feasibility results. There aren't really restaurants within practical walking distance of Atkinson hall or the Estancia (besides campus eateries and the Estancia restaurants).

Beware that some places are closed on Mondays! Check before you go.

Restaurant-dense areas

If you are looking for locations with a density of restaurants, here are some options:

- **Downtown La Jolla.** Drive, or ask your cab to take you, to Prospect Street. The street is pretty long. There are plenty of good choices on it and also more on the side streets. See below for some specific choices in this area.

- **La Jolla Shores.** Head to Avenida De La Playa and then walk around. There is a handful of decent restaurants here. This is the area close to the La Jolla Shores hotel where some of you may be staying. This is one of the closest restaurant areas to UCSD, although downtown La Jolla is only a step further. **Piatti** is a local Italian favorite.

- **Kearny Mesa.** This is the center for Asian (Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Thai, Japanese) restaurants. The bulk are on Convoy Street, in strip malls for several blocks on both sides of the intersection with Balboa Avenue. **Phong Trang** is good value, classic Vietnamese, while **China Max** is the same for Chinese.

- **Old Town.** This offers classic Mexican eateries in a colorful, albeit somewhat touristy, location. Bars are handy. You could head to San Diego Ave and Harney St and then explore. Casa Guadalajara at the North entrance of old town offers typical fare and Margaritas in a lively atmosphere.

- **Hillcrest.** Head to the intersection of 5th Avenue and University Avenue and explore. Italian, Japanese, Indian, Thai.

- **Downtown San Diego.** Head to 4th Avenue and E St and explore. The area is dotted with restaurants of all types.

Restaurants

- On campus, **Zanzibar** is one of the better choices. Salads, sandwiches, coffee and wine. The fish tacos are good. There is an assortment of fast-food joints in
the Price Center that are safely ignored.

- **George’s at the Cove** in Downtown La Jolla has good food and nice views. **George’s California Modern**, downstairs, is their higher end. The **Ocean Terrace** is outdoor and more informal.

- In Downtown La Jolla, **Nine-Ten** and **Amaya La Jolla** are consistently good. **Roppongi** is a hip, popular fusion place.

- **Eddie V** in Downtown La Jolla and **Truluck’s** in University City are regarded as very good for seafood. They have many locations so watch out to pick the local ones on the website. **Jake’s** in Del Mar is similarly regarded.

- The Aventine area in University City is quite close and besides Truluck’s includes **Fleming’s Steakhouse** and the popular, hip **Café Japengo**. A little further are **Seasons 52** in UTC Mall and **Roy’s Pacific Rim cuisine**.

- North county boasts some of the top dining places in beautiful locations, including **Addison** (often regarded as San Diego’s best restaurant), **Morada**, **Veladora** and **Amaya at the Grand Del Mar**. I have heard good things about **Paon**.

- **Sushi Ota** is one of the top sushi places, although Sushiologists will refer you to **Shirahama** or **Kaito**. A solid, acceptable and closer Japanese restaurant is **Bluefin Fusion**.

- **8 Elements** is what Indian locals currently talk about for the cuisine of that country. **Sipz** is a nice vegetarian restaurant.

- **Le Bambou**, one of my personal favorites, is a Vietnamese-French restaurant with reasonable prices and well-prepared food.

**Beer!**

A perhaps not well-known fact is that San Diego is famous for craft beer, with a thriving beer culture and a host of breweries, as indicated in this [NY Times Article](https://www.nytimes.com). San Diego has been called the [Craft Beer Capital of America](https://www.craftbeer.com). Some websites with guides for beer enthusiasts include the [Beer Guide for San Diego](https://www.beerreviewweb.com), the [San Diego Brewers Guild](https://www.sdbrewersguild.org), and a [guide to San Diego microbreweries](https://www.sandiegomagazine.com). One of the special beers pioneered in San Diego is **Double India Pale Ale**.