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Fun Facts:

Agua Caliente

Agua Caliente in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is most known for its geothermally heated springs, but it's also popular with campers and lovers of rugged desert hiking.

<https://www.sdparks.org/content/sdparks/en/park-pages/AguaCaliente.html>

Alpine

A beautiful climate is one of Alpine's biggest attractions. Some people drawn to San Diego in the 1880s for its reputation as a health resort found their way to Alpine. One of them was a wealthy ivory importer named Benjamin Arnold, who moved to Alpine in 1887 with his wife Harriet and helped transform the stagecoach stop into a permanent town.

https://www.alpinehistory.org/brief_history_of_alpine.html

Banner

Banner City, just east of Julian, was founded in 1870 and served miners at several nearby gold mines with a hotel, two stores, three saloons, and stamping mills.

https://kids.kiddle.co/Banner,_California

Bonsall

Bonsall is home to the famous San Luis Rey Downs Training Center for thoroughbred racehorses and other equestrian facilities. Agriculture, horticulture, and vineyards thrive in Bonsall's Mediterranean-like climate.

<https://bonsallchamber.wildapricot.org>

Borrego Springs

Borrego Springs, a gateway to the stunning Anza Borrego Desert State Park, is one of the few designated International Dark Sky Communities in the world.

<https://www.borregospringschamber.com>

Boulder Oaks

Boulder Oaks Campground near Pine Valley in San Diego County's backcountry is the only equestrian site on the Descanso district. It offers 17 horse stables, 30 camp sites, and local access to the Pacific Crest Trail.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/cleveland/recarea/?recid=47412>

Campo

The Diegueno Indians called the Campo district "Milquatay" (Meel-ka tah-ee). The word in English means "Big Foot," which describes the general shape of the valley.

<https://www.psrn.org/about-us/campo/>

Cardiff-by-the-Sea

Cardiff in southern Encinitas is a popular beach area where two reefs offshore create excellent breaks for surfing. Cardiff, with many of its streets named after English towns, is home to the “Cardiff Kook” – a surfer statue that is both criticized and loved as a parody of California’s iconic sport.

<https://www.sandiego.org/explore/things-to-do/beaches-bays/cardiff-by-the-sea.aspx>

Carlsbad

Carlsbad’s seven miles of beaches, three protected lagoons, and other family-friendly attractions draw people from all over the world. The North County city was originally named after the 19th century European spa town Karlsbad (now called Karlovy Vary and situated in today’s Czech Republic), because of its famous mineral water.

<https://athomeincarlsbad.com/carlsbad-trivia/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carlsbad,_California

Chula Vista

Chula Vista is home to the year-round Olympic Training Center.

<https://www.sunshineretirementliving.com/5-fun-facts-chula-vista-california/>

Cleveland National Forest

Popular with hikers and campers, Cleveland National Forest in the San Diego backcountry encompasses 460,000 acres and is the southernmost U.S. National Forest in California. Created by former President Theodore Roosevelt on July 1, 1908, it is named for former President Grover Cleveland.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cleveland_National_Forest

Coronado

Billy Wilder’s classic 1959 comedy, “Some Like it Hot” starring Marilyn Monroe, Tony Curtis, and Jack Lemmon, was filmed at Coronado’s historic Hotel del Coronado.

<https://hoteldel.com/press/some-like-it-hot-filmed-at-hotel-del-coronado/>

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

This beautiful state park features pine, fir, and oak forests filled with meadows and streams. Cuyamaca Peak, with its 6,512-foot summit, is the second highest point in San Diego County. The summit of Hot Springs Mountain, four miles from the community of Warner Springs, is the highest, at 6,535 feet.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuyamaca_Rancho_State_Park
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hot_Springs_Mountain

Del Mar

Twentieth century crooner Bing Crosby loved horse racing and along with some Hollywood friends financed the construction of the Del Mar Racetrack. He recorded “Where the Turf Meets the Surf” to publicize the opening of the racetrack in 1937.

<https://www.delmartimes.net/sddmt-how-well-do-you-know-del-mar-take-this-quiz-2009dec31-story.html>

De Luz

An unincorporated community in San Diego County, De Luz is 6 miles northwest of Fallbrook and due west of Temecula. It lies at the southern end of the Santa Ana Mountains.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/De_Luz,_California

Descanso

Located east of Alpine and west of Pine Valley at the southern entrance to the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, the name of this mountain community is a Spanish word that means “rest from labor.”

https://kids.kiddle.co/Descanso,_California

El Cajon

The world famous Taylor Guitars, founded in 1974 by Bob Taylor and Kurt Listug in San Diego, is headquartered in El Cajon. The company employs more than 1,200 people and produces hundreds of guitars a day in its factory complexes in El Cajon and in Tecate in Baja California, Mexico.

<https://www.taylorguitars.com/about>

Encinitas

Named by Surfer Magazine one of the Top 10 surfing neighborhoods in the United States, Encinitas is also home to the Self-Realization Fellowship, founded in 1920 by spiritual teacher Paramahansa Yogananda. Yoga and meditation studios abound in this laid-back coastal community.

<http://bitesandiego.com/blog/10-fun-facts-about-encinitas-ca/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Self-Realization_Fellowship

Escondido

This Inland North County community is widely known for its spring and summer Friday night car show, “Cruisin’ Grand,” which showcases hot rods and historic cars lovingly restored by their owners. The city is also a destination for music and theater audiences at the California Center for the Arts.

<https://www.10-facts-about.com/Escondido/id/315>

Fallbrook

Known as the “Avocado Capital of the World,” this rural town in North County stages an annual Avocado Festival to celebrate the community’s agricultural heritage.

https://kids.kiddle.co/Fallbrook,_California

Imperial Beach

Known as “San Diego’s South Bay Playground,” Imperial Beach is the southernmost beach town in California and just five miles from the international border with Mexico. Imperial Beach is connected to Coronado via the Silver Strand, a narrow isthmus seven miles long.

<https://www.sandiego.org/explore/things-to-do/beaches-bays/imperial-beach.aspx>

Jacumba

The Kumeyaay people lived in the Jacumba area before European settlement, and they were probably attracted in part to the hot springs that dot the area and can be found all along the Peninsular Ranges of California.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacumba_Hot_Springs,_California

Jamul

In Tipai Kumeyaay, “jamul” means “foam or lather.”

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jamul,_California

Julian

A historic gold mining town about an hour drive east of San Diego, Julian is a popular spot for weekend visitors, many of whom come for the town’s Old West charm and famous Julian apple pies.

<https://visitjulian.com/historic-julian/>

La Jolla

When combined with San Diego, the La Jolla Playhouse and San Diego have sent more shows to Broadway than any other city in America, including New York City.

<https://www.lajolla.com/article/8-la-jolla-things-dont-know/>

La Mesa

La Mesa’s city slogan is “Jewel of the Hills” and its city flower is the bougainvillea (Barbara Karst Red).

<https://www.cityoflamesa.us/311/La-Mesa-Fast-Facts>

Lakeside

The city’s PRCA-sanctioned Lakeside Rodeo, usually in late April, draws more than 20,000 spectators to the city arena.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lakeside,_California

Lemon Grove

In 1931, Mexican-American parents in Lemon Grove successfully challenged a decision by the local school board to build a separate school for Mexican American students. The decision of the Superior Court for San Diego County in *Alvarez v. Lemon Grove* was the first successful lawsuit against school segregation.

<https://sandiegohistory.org/journal/1986/april/lemongrove/>

https://kids.kiddle.co/Lemon_Grove,_California

Leucadia

Three popular surf spots in this Encinitas beach neighborhood – Grandview, Beacon’s, and Stone Steps – can be accessed by well-maintained stairways that descend from Neptune Avenue to the beach below.

<https://www.sandiego.org/explore/things-to-do/beaches-bays/leucadia.aspx>

Mission Beach

Mission Beach boasts nearly two miles of beachfront, a popular boardwalk with shops and restaurants, and the boardwalk amusement park, Belmont Park, featuring the Giant Dipper Roller Coaster, originally built in 1925 but since restored.

<https://www.sandiego.org/explore/things-to-do/beaches-bays/mission-beach.aspx>

Mount Palomar

The region's popular mountaintop community is most known for its historic observatory, which houses the giant, 200-inch Hale Telescope. From 1949 to 1975, it was the largest optical telescope in the world. Today, operated by the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) in Pasadena, Palomar Observatory still produces valuable astronomical science.

<https://sites.astro.caltech.edu/palomar/homepage.html>

National City

The National City Mile of Cars is recognized as one of the first "auto malls" in the world.

https://kids.kiddle.co/National_City_California

Oak Grove

Located on State Route 79, 13 miles northwest of Warner Springs, Oak Grove is known for its Oak Grove Butterfield Stage Station. The station was built on the site of Camp Wright, a Union Army outpost during the Civil War.

https://kids.kiddle.co/Oak_Grove_Butterfield_Stage_Station

Oceanside

Parts of the 1986 movie, "Top Gun," about the elite Naval aviator training school, were filmed in Oceanside. The coastal city has had a long relationship with the military. U.S. Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton borders Oceanside to the north, and many active and retired Marine Corps personnel live in Oceanside.

<https://www.northcountyplumbing.com/10-facts-you-may-not-know-about-oceanside/>

Ocean Beach

Ocean Beach was once known as the Haight-Ashbury of San Diego because of its popularity with hippies in the 1960s, and the tumultuous era saw protest meetings, marches, picketing, and general rowdiness. With the 1970s came a mellowing of the area, with new food co-ops and free schools, and the laid back vibe continues today.

<https://obrag.org/2018/08/the-colorful-history-of-the-rowdies-radicals-and-ruffians-of-ocean-beach/>
<https://oceanbeachsandiego.com/history-ocean-beach>

Pacific Beach

The east-west streets in this popular beach neighborhood of San Diego - known for its active nightlife with college students and other young adults - are mostly named after precious stones. They include Agate, Turquoise, Sapphire, Tourmaline, Opal, and Garnet.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific_Beach,_San_Diego

Pauma Valley

The first general store serving Pauma Valley was operated by Philip Stedman Sparkman in the late 1800s. But Sparkman was most known as an ethnologist who studied Native American Luiseño culture and published a dictionary of the Luiseño language. His cultural study titled "The Culture of the Luiseño" was published after his death in 1907.

<https://www.vchistory.org/history-of-pauma-valley/>

Point Loma

Point Loma was discovered on Sept. 28, 1542 when Portuguese explorer Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo sailed up the coast from Mexico on an expedition to explore the west coast of what is now the United States, on behalf of the Spanish crown.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Point_Loma,_San_Diego

Poway

In 1870, Poway was home to the only post office between San Diego and San Bernardino. The post office served 20 families.

<https://poway.org/191/Historical-Marker-Program>

Rainbow

In the late 1800s, the area known as Vallecitos, or little valley, was renamed “Rainbow Valley” after James Peebles Marshall Rainbow, who bought land there.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rainbow,_California

Ramona

The unincorporated community north of Escondido, once named “Nuevo,” was renamed in 1894 after the fictional character, Ramona, created by Helen Hunt Jackson in her best seller, *Ramona*, about the life of a mixed-race Scottish-Native American orphan girl, who suffers racial discrimination and other hardships.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramona,_California

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramona>

Ranchita

The Ranchita Yeti, also known as Rancheti, is an 11-foot, 300-pound fiberglass statue built by local real estate broker Joe Rauh in 2007. The statue faces the Montezuma-Borrego Highway.

<https://www.roadsideamerica.com/tip/17186>

<https://californiathroughmylens.com/ranchita-yeti>

Rancho Bernardo

Rancho Bernardo is home to the oldest winery in the region. Bernardo Winery was established in 1889 and has been family-owned and operated for nearly a century.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rancho_Bernardo,_San_Diego

Rancho Santa Fe

Notable residents of this exclusive enclave north of San Diego have included Jenny Craig, founder of Jenny Craig, Inc.; Bill Gates, co-founder of Microsoft and a philanthropist; actor Bill Murray; and Ace Frehley, former guitarist for the rock band, Kiss.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rancho_Santa_Fe,_California

San Diego

Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve near La Jolla in North San Diego is one of the only homes of the rare Torrey Pine. The critically endangered species is found only in the reserve, in Del Mar to the north, and on Santa Rosa and San Miguel islands offshore Santa Barbara.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Torrey_pine

San Marcos

According to historical legend, in the late 1700s the San Luis Rey Mission flocks were robbed by a small group of Native Americans, who fled into the hills to the southeast. Spaniards pursuing them came across a fertile valley they named "Los Vallecitos de San Marcos, or "Little Valleys of Saint Mark" to honor the day of their discovery: April 25, St. Mark's Day.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Marcos,_California

Santa Ysabel

The Santa Ysabel Asistencia in Santa Ysabel is a Spanish Mission that dates back to 1818. But Santa Ysabel is at least equally famous for its popular Dudley's Bakery and Julian Pie Factory near the junction of Highway 78 and Highway 79.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santa_Ysabel,_California

San Ysidro

Immediately north of the international border with Mexico, San Ysidro is home to one of the busiest land border crossings in the world.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Ysidro,_San_Diego

Santee

This inland city, just 18 miles from the Pacific Ocean, is bisected by the San Diego River. The greenbelt along the river includes parks, trails, and more than 1,100 acres of natural riparian habitat.

https://kids.kiddle.co/Santee,_California

Solana Beach

The city's South Cedros area has been developed as an upscale design district that attracts artists, decorators, and antique dealers. The area is also home to Belly Up, a popular music venue that has attracted big acts from around the world.

https://www.ci.solana-beach.ca.us/index.asp?SEC=6BACDB03-96AC-47CC-9F5C-57082740FDAF&Type=B_BASIC

Spring Valley

Spring Valley, long the home of the Native American Kumeyaay people, is named for the natural spring located there.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spring_Valley,_San_Diego_County,_California

Tecate

An unincorporated community in the southeastern part of San Diego County, Tecate is directly adjacent to the Mexican city of Tecate, Baja California.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tecate,_California

Valley Center

Valley Center was originally called "Bear Valley" after the capture there of the largest California Grizzly Bear in history – weighing in at 2,200 pounds – in 1866.

<https://www.parkcirclelife.com/5-fun-facts-about-fascinating-valley-center/>
<https://www.vchistory.org/exhibits/grizzly-bear/>

Vista

This city's popular Vista Village is a revitalized town center that opened in 2003 and features the town's historic AVO Playhouse and also numerous restaurants, café's, craft breweries, shops, and other attractions.

<https://downtownvista.org/explore/retail-services>

Warner Springs

The Native American Cupeño people were long-time inhabitants of Warner Springs. The area's hot springs were "rediscovered" by Spanish explorers in 1795.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warner_Springs,_California