SAN DIEGO DIPLOMACY COUNCIL



International Visitor Leadership Program
U.S. Department of State

fhi360

The Quad: Ports and Securing Critical Infrastructure

An Inter-Regional Project

San Diego, California
November 7 – November 10, 2026

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Australia	**Rick BURGESS** Regional Director – Top End Northern Territory Department of the Chief Minister & Cabinet
Australia	**Benjamin COLE** Chief Security Officer, Fremantle Ports and Chair, Ports Australia Security Committee
Australia	**Daniel HELEY** Director of Local and Commercial Ports Department of Transport and Planning Victorian Government
India	**Urbi DAS** Assistant Professor Department of International Relations Jadavpur University
India	**Sidh KAVEDIA** Economics Researcher Isaac Centre for Public Policy
India	**Pranav NARAYAN** Maritime Consultant for Policy & Infrastructure Black Brix
Japan	**Tomoya KAWASAKI** Associate Professor Department of Systems Innovation Graduate School of Engineering The University of Tokyo
Japan	**Takuma Matsuda** Professor, Faculty of Economics Kanagawa University
Japan	**Teiji NAKAMURA** President Sawayama & Co., Ltd.
Accompanied by:	**Brittany LYNK** Interpreter
	Ameer SHAHID Interpreter

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2101 L Street NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20037

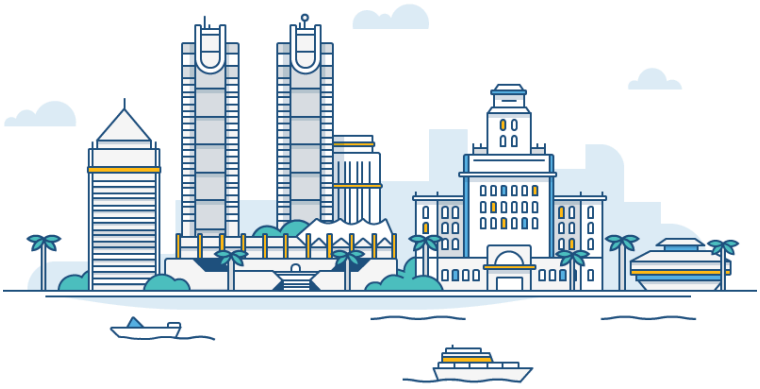
Local Program by
San Diego Diplomacy Council
1011 Camino del Río S Suite 210
San Diego, CA 92108
(619) 289-8456
www.SanDiegoDiplomacy.org

In case of an emergency, please contact
Jess Mull
Program Officer
(619) 322-5113

Accommodation
Bahia Resort Hotel
998 W Mission Bay Drive
San Diego, CA 92109
(858) 539-8725

Local Transportation
Sureride Inc.
(619) 517-5283
www.surerideinc.com

Welcome to San Diego!



We hope you enjoy your visit to San Diego and that this professional exchange program, coordinated by the **San Diego Diplomacy Council**, positively impacts your understanding of American culture and society.

Join our social media networks to stay connected!
During your stay, share photos and/or stories about your experiences!

Website:
www.sandiegodiplomacy.org

LinkedIn:
@ San Diego Diplomacy Council

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/SD.Diplomacy

Instagram
@sd_diplomacy

You are a member of a lifelong community of over 15,000 individuals across the globe! Join our Alumni group to keep updated on international opportunities and stay in touch with fellow alumni!
www.facebook.com/groups/SDDCExchangeProgramAlumni

Before your visit, we recommend downloading Maps.me. This is a free app that allows you to use maps without an internet connection.

Your Program at a Glance

Saturday, November 7	Sunday, November 8	Monday, November 9	Tuesday, November 10
2:00 PM Arrival in San Diego	**11:00 AM - 1:00 PM** Harbor Cruise and Maritime Museum of San Diego	**8:00 -11:30 AM** Naval Information Warfare Center (NIWC) **12:00 - 1:30 PM** Lunch **3:00 - 4:30PM** Port of San Diego	**6:00 AM** Departure to Honolulu, HI Alaska Airlines flight 815

Saturday, November 7

2:00 PM

Arrival to San Diego

Welcome to San Diego! We hope you have a pleasant stay in our beautiful city. We welcome your thoughts and comments about our program, your trip, and your overall impression of your experience in the United States.

♡ SDDC Programming Team

Check in at the Bahia Resort Hotel

Please take a moment to check into your hotel. You will have the rest of the day to settle in and explore. We recommend exploring Liberty Station, Ocean Beach, Shelter Island, or Mission Bay, which have many fantastic restaurant options. See options below.

Recommended Restaurants Near Hotel

Mission Beach (5 to 10 minute walk or drive):

Draft South Mission – 3105 Ocean Front Walk

Casual beachfront spot serving upscale bar food, burgers, and craft beer.

La Playa Taco Shop – 3973 Mission Blvd

No-frills, quick Mexican food with delicious carne asada fries and burritos.

Belmont Park Area (5-minute walk):

Cannonball – 3105 Ocean Front Walk

Trendy rooftop sushi bar with panoramic ocean views. Great for sunset dining.

Beach House Tequila + Taqueria – 3125 Ocean Front Walk

Open-air venue right on the beach, serving tacos, tequila cocktails, and live music.

Sweet Shoppe Belmont Park – 3146 Mission Blvd

Fun candy shop with ice cream, fudge, and sweet treats. Great for a quick dessert stroll.

Pacific Beach (7 to 15 minute drive):

The Fishery – 5040 Cass St

Upscale seafood restaurant with a fish market vibe, featuring locally sourced catches.
Pacific Beach AleHouse – 721 Grand Ave
Popular rooftop brewery with a menu of burgers, tacos, and house brews.
Better Buzz Coffee – 1909 Garnet Ave
Trendy local café with strong coffee, acai bowls, and a good place to unwind.
Mr. Shawarma - 1050 Garnet Ave ste B
The go-to Mediterranean stop with slow-roasted shawarma, dripping flavor, and late-night energy.

Ocean Beach (10-minute drive)
OB Noodle House – 2218 Cable St
Lively local spot known for pho, Asian fusion plates, and strong cocktails. A community favorite!
Hodad's – 5010 Newport Ave
World-famous burger joint featured on TV; expect lines, but it's worth the wait.
The Joint – 4902 Newport Ave
Tapas, sushi, and sake under one roof — a unique mix in a laid-back setting.

Sunday, November 8

Please coordinate with liaisons for rideshares.

10:00 AM **Please meet in the lobby for rideshares to the activity.**

10:30 AM **Check in and boarding for bay cruise.**

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM **Historic Bay Cruise and Maritime Museum of San Diego**

Your visit will begin with a unique 45-minute Historic Bay Cruise aboard the 1914 Pilot. Built locally in San Diego at a small yard, the Pilot spent her entire career navigating the waters of San Diego Bay and its approaches. For generations, harbor pilots relied on the Pilot to brave all weather conditions, guiding incoming merchant ships that brought cargoes and passengers vital to the growth of San Diego's urban seaport. Restored by the Maritime Museum of San Diego and relaunched in 2002, the Pilot invites you aboard for a 45-minute bay tour, where you can explore the rich history of San Diego Bay from the deck of this historic vessel.

Following your bay cruise, you will have time to explore the exhibitions and historic ships of the Maritime Museum of San Diego, a world-renowned floating museum established in 1948 to preserve and showcase 500 years of seafaring history.

1:00 PM **Please board rideshares for transportation to lunch.**

Monday, November 9

Chauffeur: LUIS 619-675-8892

7:30 AM **Please meet in the lobby to board the bus for transportation for the first meeting.** *Visitor note: Please bring your passports.*

8:00 – 11:30 AM **Naval Information Warfare Center Pacific (NIWC Pacific)**

Meeting Location: 4301 Pacific Hwy, San Diego, CA 92110

NIWC Pacific, headquartered in San Diego, is the U.S. Navy's lead organization for developing and deploying information warfare systems that enable secure communications, cyber defense, and real-time decision-making across the fleet. NIWC Pacific's portfolio includes tactical networks, unmanned maritime systems, and advanced cybersecurity tools designed to protect critical infrastructure against state and non-state threats. NIWC Pacific is also deeply involved in developing technologies that underpin integrated deterrence strategies in the Indo-Pacific. Their work represents the forefront of maritime cybersecurity innovation and the convergence of data, networks, and combat readiness.

Meeting Focus: Examine how cyber and information warfare capabilities protect critical infrastructure, enable secure naval operations, and counter emerging threats in the maritime environment.

11:45 AM **Please board the bus for transportation to lunch.**

12:00 – 2:00 PM **Lunch in La Jolla**

2:30 PM **Please board the bus from lunch to transportation to your next meeting.**

3:00 – 4:30 PM **Port of San Diego's Harbor Police Department (HPD)**

Meeting Location: 3165 Pacific Highway San Diego, CA 92101

The Port of San Diego is an economic engine, a steward of San Diego Bay and the surrounding tidelands, and a provider of community services and public safety. The Port of San Diego is a self-supporting public-benefit corporation established in 1962 by an act of the California State Legislature. The U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics has ranked the Port of San Diego as one of America's top 30 U.S. containership ports, bringing in nearly 3,000,000 metric tons. The Port of San Diego has the heaviest lift capacity on the U.S. West Coast thanks to its electric cranes that have a total lift capacity of 400 MT. Additionally, the Port of San Diego offers a Foreign Trade Zone, approved by U.S. Customs and Border

Protection and the City of San Diego, where foreign and domestic merchandise can be offloaded onto U.S. soil.

Meeting focus: During a tour of the port's two main terminals, learn about port operations with a focus on exports and imports, use of a Foreign-Trade Zone (FTZ) site, and how the port contributes to the international trade landscape, particularly as a gateway from the United States into Asia Pacific.

4:45 PM **Please board the bus for transportation to your hotel.**

Tuesday, November 10

6:00 AM **Depart hotel for San Diego International Airport**
Alaska Airlines flight 815

Chauffeur: AL 619-600-2866

"We hope you have enjoyed your visit to San Diego. Please let us know if you have any questions or comments about your visit. Be sure to stay in touch with those you met here in San Diego by visiting our website at www.SanDiegoDiplomacy.org and by staying connected with us on social media! Have a safe, enjoyable trip."

- SDDC Programming Team

Suggested Cultural Activities

San Diego Zoo
www.sandiegozoo.org
Price: $65 for one Adult Ticket purchased online in advance; $67 at the ticket counter
The 100-acre (40-hectare) Zoo is home to over 3,700 rare and endangered animals representing more than 650 species and subspecies, and a prominent botanical collection with more than 700,000 exotic plants.

Farmers Markets
Tuesday—Coronado, Wednesday—Ocean Beach, Thursday—Linda Vista and North Park, Friday—La Mesa and Imperial Beach, Saturday—Little Italy and Del Mar; always free! Enjoy foods from all over the world, arts/crafts/jewelry, live music, local produce and goods.

Harbor Cruise
www.sdhe.com
Price: $32 for one Adult Ticket for a one-hour narrated tour (south bay or north bay routes); $37 for a full bay two-hour narrated tour which covers it all: ships of the Maritime Museum, Harbor and Shelter Islands, North Island Naval Air Station, the Submarine Base, as well as the Coronado Bridge, and more. The full bay tour is about 25 miles in length. Accessibility: The tour begins and ends at the same location downtown along Broadway Pier.

USS Midway Museum
www.midway.org
Price: $42 for one Adult General Admission Ticket ($1 discount when purchased online).
Visitors to the USS Midway Museum enter a floating city at sea and walk in the footsteps of 225,000 Midway sailors who served the U.S. Guests can spend the day exploring more than 60 exhibits with a collection of 30 restored aircraft. The self-guided audio tour, narrated by Midway sailors, brings the carrier's history to life.

Balboa Park
www.balboapark.org
Home to 17 major museums and cultural institutions, renowned performing arts venues, beautiful gardens and the San Diego Zoo, Balboa Park has an ever-changing calendar of museum exhibitions, plays, musicals, concerts, and classes—all in the beautiful and timeless setting of this must-see San Diego attraction.

SeaWorld San Diego
www.seaworldparks.com/en/seaworld-sandiego
Price: $99.99 for one Adult Ticket (discounted to $69.99 when purchased online in advance for a specific date)
Come celebrate the wonders of the sea at SeaWorld San Diego. Experience the Orca Encounter, Dolphin Days, and Sea Lions Live shows and thrilling rides like Electric Eel, Manta, and Journey To Atlantis. Feed and touch dolphins and get up close to beluga whales, polar bears, sharks and penguins.

Naturalist-Guided Whale Watching Boat Rides
Go whale watching in San Diego with an ocean expert from Birch Aquarium at Scripps. Amazing views, listen to whale and dolphin sounds, and guaranteed whale sightings. Reservations required. (619) 234-4111. Times 9:45 am - 1:15 pm and 1:30 pm - 5:00 pm. Tickets cost approximately $38 weekdays and $43 weekends. Whale Watching in San Diego

Old Town Harney Street Market
10:00 am – 4:30 pm, Saturdays and Sundays
San Diego's largest weekly Artisan Market featuring handmade works from local artisans. The market includes such items as jewelry, photography, pottery, clothing, paintings, hand-painted glass, and more. https://www.oldtownsandiego.org/old-town-events/?mc_id=31980

Hiking Options
Torrey Pines
Location: 12600 N Torrey Pines Rd, La Jolla, CA 92037
Here are a number of trails you can take within the Torrey Pines hike, including ones that lead down towards the ocean! All of the trails include beautiful views of the Pacific Ocean.
https://torreypine.org/home-2-2/reserveinfo/trails/

Bayside Trail
Length: 2.4 miles
This trail has a beautiful view of San Diego's Downtown, Coronado, and Tijuana.
https://www.nps.gov/cabr/learn/bayside-trail.htm

Coastal Trail
Length: 1 mile

On this trail, there are a few steep slopes but in general it is known to be easy/moderate. There is also access to the tidepools where if you take the time you'll be able to find small crabs and other small ocean animals!
https://www.nps.gov/cabr/learn/coastal-trail.htm