

THE Movie Buff



Hilton
Hotels of San Diego

movie buff *noun*

a person that can quote lines from many films, knows when “hollywood hour” is, and can tell you what other movies that actor has been in without looking it up on IMDB.

With several military bases, beautiful beaches, unique architecture, and ideal weather, San Diego has been one of Hollywood’s favorite places to film their blockbusters. Explore the city and the iconic backdrops of some of your favorite films.



IF YOU HAVE ONE HOUR

- Head to the Hotel del Coronado on Coronado Island to immerse yourself into the backdrop of the 1959 classic, Some Like It Hot.

IF YOU HAVE ONE DAY

- Start your day with breakfast at a local eatery in Banker’s Hill and take a photo at the spot where Charlie chases Maverick down in her Porsche in Top Gun.
- Head to the Hotel del Coronado to walk around the historical and picturesque landmark.
- Take a stroll around Balboa Park, where movies like Citizen Kane, Traffic, and Anchorman all filmed.
- End your day with a concert at the Sports Arena (Pechanga Arena) and feel like William Miller in Almost Famous.

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LIBERTY STATION 2 Hours

Formerly the home of the Naval Training Center San Diego, Liberty Station has a rich history in military tradition and an ideal filming location for Top Gun. In 2000, the City of San Diego gained ownership and has converted the space into a center for commerce, history, and arts. Enjoy some delicious eats, local crafts, and entertainment at this historic district.

Liberty Station – libertystation.com
Movie/TV Reference: Top Gun

KANSAS CITY BBQ 1 Hour

Take a step into the famous “Great Balls of Fire” scene Top Gun and enjoy delicious southern-inspired barbeque at Kansas City BBQ.

600 W Harbor Dr – kcbba.net
Movie/TV Reference: Top Gun

OCEAN BEACH 2 Hours

A quintessential 1970’s beach town that Cameron Crowe, screenwriter, director, and former San Diegan, drew inspiration from and eventually used as a filming location for his movie, Almost Famous.

Ocean Beach, CA – oceanbeachsandiego.com
Movie/TV Reference: Almost Famous

BALBOA PARK 2 Hours

Beautiful architecture, fountains, ponds, and lush landscape make Balboa Park one of the most photogenic places in San Diego. In it’s over 100 year history, the scenic backgrounds found throughout the park have been used in many films.

Balboa Park – balboapark.org
Movie/TV Reference: Citizen Kane, Traffic, Anchorman

SPORTS (PECHANGA) ARENA Time Varies

Built in 1966 by a local football hero, Robert Breitbard, the Sports Arena has been the host stage to top touring musical acts like Led Zeppelin, Jimi Hendrix, Elvis Presley, Queen, Bob Marley and the Wailers, Heart, and many more. The venue helped inspire and was later used as a location in the movie, Almost Famous.

3500 Sports Arena Blvd – pechangaarenasd.com
Movie/TV Reference: Almost Famous

Estimated times for activity are listed next to each experience

 = Experience has a cost associated with it

CABRILLO NATIONAL MONUMENT 2 Hours

The Cabrillo National Monument holds a rich history of San Diego and offers a great vantage point to see the entire military footprint in San Diego, spanning the submarine, surface ship and aviation hubs. The monument is home to the Old Point Loma Lighthouse and beautiful tide pools at low tide. It’s no surprise this location was one of many in San Diego used in the movie, Top Gun.

1800 Cabrillo Memorial Dr – nps.gov
Movie/TV Reference: Top Gun

SEAWORLD 4 Hours

Ron Burgundy, in Anchorman 2, tried his hand at working at SeaWorld. With local San Diegans as extras, this scene was filmed at Dolphin Stadium. Catch a show there daily!

500 SeaWorld Dr – seaworld.com/san-diego
Movie/TV Reference: Anchorman 2

CORONADO ISLAND & HOTEL DEL CORONADO 2 Hours

Coronado Island is known for attracting world dignitaries and Hollywood elite, so it is fitting that the sandy beaches and iconic landmarks have been the backdrop to many films. The Hotel del Coronado is notably used as the main film location for Billy Wilder’s Some Like it Hot featuring Marilyn Monroe.

Coronado – coronado.ca.us
Movie/TV Reference: Some Like It Hot, Top Gun, Top Gun: Maverick, The Stunt Man, My Blue Heaven

MIRAMAR AIR STATION 2 Hours

While the Miramar Air Station, MCAS Miramar, is not accessible to the public, the nearby Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum is. Plus, if you are you are near the area, you can watch fighter jets overhead daily.

4203 Anderson Ave – flyingleathernecks.org
Movie/TV Reference: Top Gun

BANKERS HILL 15 minutes

Check out the notable hill where Charlie confronts Maverick in her Porsche in Top Gun. While in the area, grab a bite at one of the local eateries.

West Laurel & Union St.
Movie/TV Reference: Top Gun