

# The Sydney Morning Herald

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## CHECK-IN

### ONE & ONLY SAN DIEGO

BY ROB MCFARLAND

#### THE ONE NEIGHBOURHOOD

Once an insubrious part of the city, North Park has had a hipster makeover and is now the coolest 'hood in town with quirky shops, breweries, galleries, restaurants and bars. Check out the steak and cheese burrito at Breakfast Republic, the banana bread cold brew at Holsem Coffee (trust us) and the authentic Mexican wares at Artelexia. See [explorenorthpark.com](http://explorenorthpark.com)

#### THE ONE HOTEL

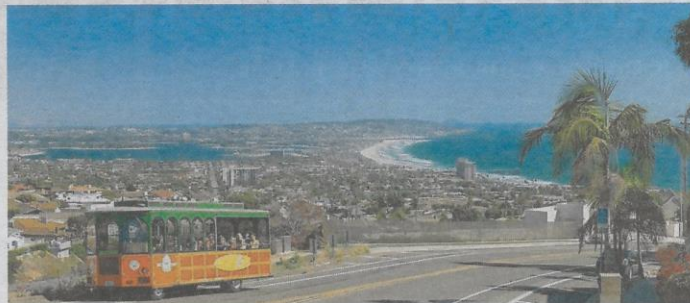
Taking full advantage of its waterfront location overlooking San Diego Bay, the InterContinental San Diego offers sigh-inducing views from its 400 luxuriously appointed rooms. The best bit? The hotel is walking distance from the lively neighbourhoods of Little Italy and the Gaslamp Quarter. See [intercontinentalsandiego.com](http://intercontinentalsandiego.com)

#### THE ONE BAR

Bringing a welcome dose of sophistication to the city's theme park-ish Old Town, Tahona specialises in mezcal, tequila's smoky sibling from the Oaxaca region of south-east Mexico. Enjoy it in a cocktail such as the appropriately fiendish Diablito (Little Devil). See [tahonabar.com](http://tahonabar.com)

#### THE ONE RESTAURANT

Mexican food rarely gets the acclaim it deserves. Puesto aims to change that. Utilising fresh, locally sourced ingredients,



Mission Beach in San Diego genuinely does have something for everyone.

this innovative eatery has elevated the humble taco to gourmet status. Standouts include the filet mignon taco with spicy pistachio salsa and the smoked tuna taco with manzano corn sauce. See [eatpuesto.com](http://eatpuesto.com)

#### THE ONE DISH

The tiramisu French toast at Farmer's Table is a decadent, retirement-threatening stack of rum- and coffee-infused toast filled with mascarpone cheese. It has more kilojoules than a cruise buffet, but damn it's good. See [myfarmerstable.com](http://myfarmerstable.com)

#### THE ONE CULTURAL HUB

As the United States' largest urban cultural park, Balboa Park gets most of San Diego's cultural kudos. But make sure you also

check out Liberty Station, a former naval training centre that's now a thriving complex of galleries, restaurants, workshops and dance studios. Watch a contemporary ballet performance or eat at one of two Michelin Bib Gourmand-awarded restaurants (El Jardin and Solare). See [libertystation.com](http://libertystation.com)

#### THE ONE BEACH

A 15-minute drive from downtown, Mission Beach genuinely does have something for everyone. Great surfing and a vast swathe of sandy beach? Tick. A three-kilometre boardwalk for jogging, biking and skating? Tick. Laidback cafes and beach bars for a sundowner? Tick. A family-friendly amusement park? Tick. Lively cocktail bars and a happening nightclub scene? Tick. See [sandiego.org](http://sandiego.org)

#### THE ONE TOUR

You can't come to San Diego without exploring its bay and Flagship Cruises offers the widest range of harbour tours, thrill rides and dinner cruises. The south harbour itinerary passes the USS Midway aircraft carrier (now a museum) and the city's imposing flotilla of navy vessels. The north harbour loop skirts downtown and the entrance to the Pacific. See [flagshipsd.com](http://flagshipsd.com)

#### THE ONE VIEW

Spanish explorer Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo made history in 1542 when he became the first European to set foot on the west coast of the United States. The place where he clambered ashore was the tip of Point Loma, the protective peninsula that forms one side of San Diego Bay. In addition to a monument and a small, informative museum, the point offers sweeping views of the bay, the Pacific Ocean and – on a clear day – Mexico. See [nps.gov/cabr](http://nps.gov/cabr)

#### ONE MORE THING

Don't visit San Diego without popping over the border to Tijuana in Mexico. It's only a 45-minute trolley ride and local tour operator Turista Libre will change your perceptions about this much-maligned city. See [turistalibre.com](http://turistalibre.com)

Rob McFarland was a guest of United Airlines ([united.com](http://united.com)) and San Diego Tourism ([sandiego.org](http://sandiego.org)).