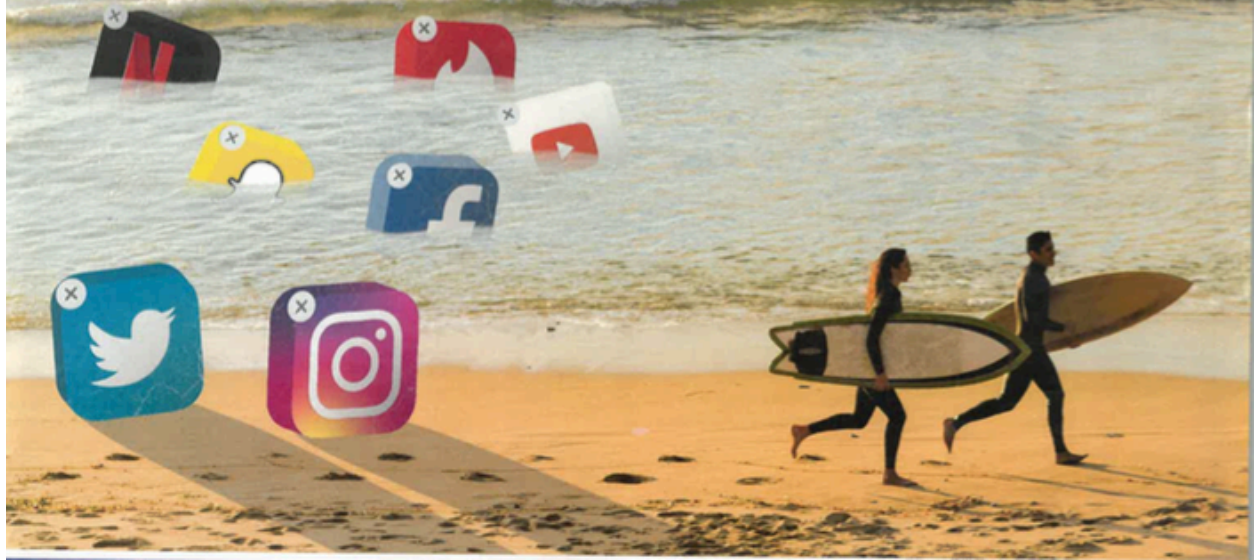


San Diego
CityBeat

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SUMMER GUIDE

Ditch the screens, apps and distractions, and enjoy San Diego IRL



Create playlist

From music festivals to concerts with a side of fried food, summer always sounds good

By Seth Combs

Let's just go ahead and admit it: We've all been at a concert, living in the moment and enjoying one of our favorite songs when someone pushes us aside so that they can record the scene on their phone. It just takes something out of the whole experience, right? What's more, we're probably all guilty of doing this ourselves. Capturing those moments is certainly nice, but what's even nicer is actually seeing the show, looking over at a friend and smiling and singing along together.



COURTESY OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR

SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR

And those moments are always in abundance come summertime in San Diego and many of them happen in Del Mar. First, there's the **San Diego County Fair** (sdfair.com), which happens at the Del Mar Fairgrounds (2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd.) from May 31 through July 4. I'm not discounting the myriad activities one can do at the Fair (not to mention the insane amount of fried concoctions at the food court), but it always has a pretty great lineup of concerts, many of which are free with admission (which ranges from free to \$20). Our picks for this year include Motown legend Smokey Robinson, pop-punkers Simple Plan and reggae icons The Wailers. That's not to mention the dozens of local acts playing such as Rebecca Jade, Cash'd Out and Little Hurricane. There's even a concert from Ryan Bradford's favorite artist, Pitbull (aka Mr. Worldwide, aka Mr. Everywhere, aka Mr. Bull).

Just a few weeks after the Fair ends, the **Del Mar Race-track** (dmtc.com) kicks off its season and while I'm not particularly keen on the actual races, I do like to head up on a Friday for one of their concerts. The lineup won't be announced until the end of May, but I expect there will be a Weezer concert in there. Hell, it's practically a San Diego tradition at this point.

I do, however, know the lineup of the annual **KAABOO Del Mar** (kaaboodelmar.com) music festival, which happens Sept. 13-15. As is always the case with KAABOO, the headliners leave something to be desired, but we do like to see names such as Duran Duran, Snoop Dogg and especially Wu-Tang Clan on the bill. \$339-plus for a three-day pass seems pretty steep, but hey, it's Wu-Tang!

Seeing at least one show at **Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay** (2241 Shelter Island Drive, humphreysconcerts.com) is customary, and this year's lineup is filled with a lot of '90s acts including Alanis Morissette, Guster, Jill Scott and Chris Issak.

And there's plenty of other cool musical experiences



COURTESY OF SAN DIEGO PRIDE

SAN DIEGO PRIDE FESTIVAL

throughout the summer. The **San Diego Symphony's Bay-side Summer Nights** series (sandiegosymphony.org) from June 28 through Sept. 1 (the not to miss show? The KSDS Jazz Orchestra's Miles Ahead: Miles Davis + J9 show on Aug. 22). The **San Diego Pride Festival** (sdpride.org) on July 13 and 14 will be headlined by Melissa Etheridge. The annual **Art Around Adams** is a great place to check out the best local bands including Normandie Wilson, Satanic Puppeteer Orchestra and The Sleepwalkers.

All of that is in addition to the hundreds of shows that take place every night in San Diego clubs and bars. So yeah, get out there and see some live music, but better yet, put the phone down and actually see it.

Play again?

From D&D sessions to cutthroat bar trivia, it's time to play games off the screen

By Marlee Drake

Let's face it: The million different remakes of Candy Crush flooding the App Store got stale years ago, and dropping \$60 for a game we're never going to have the time to finish just isn't worth it. It's time to venture out and find some new ways to game that don't require a screen.

Our *Game of Thrones* obsession is real, but waiting a full week between episodes drives us crazy. Plus, once the series ends, we'll still need a fantasy fix so it may be time to create our own adventure stories. **Game Empire** in Kearny Mesa (5037 Shawline St., gameempire.com) offers a weekly Dun-



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GAME EMPIRE

geons and Dragons night where dozens of players gather for exciting quests. They offer pre-made character sheets for new players to customize, so there's no need to worry about the game being inaccessible for those who've never taken a roll of the dice before. However, getting there early is key, as tables tend to fill up fast. Check it out at 6 p.m. on Thursdays.

Our phones can cause us to be disconnected from our friends, so what better way to reconnect IRL than by showing each other into lava at **Puzzalarium** in Hillcrest (3864 Fifth Ave., puzzalarium.com)? The Floor is Lava is a game. The goal? End the game with the fewest number of teammates burned alive. Players deceive, betray and shove their way to victory. It basically takes the classic childhood game of jumping around furniture and adds a Mafia-esque twist. The game takes teams of seven to 25 players and costs \$25-\$30 per person for three games of three rounds each. Nothing says summer like some lava and light revenge.

At **The Loma Club** in Point Loma (2960 Truxton Road, thelomachub.com), golf isn't some bougie sport. The club hosts a glow-in-the-dark golf game on May 11, as well as more games coming up in June and July. **Abnormal Beer Co.** will be providing craft brews, with on-course tastings included as part of the ticket. The Loma Club takes the usually calm and mild game of golf and cranks it up a notch for a night of fun with nine holes of glow golf. The event kicks off at 9 p.m. and tickets cost \$36 for members and \$40 for non-members.

Mindless game apps can leave us feeling glazed over and even braindead, so to get that mental workout our minds crave, try out trivia at **The Duck Dive** in Pacific Beach (4650 Mission Blvd. theduckdive.com). Sure, there are plenty of bar trivia nights, but we like this one because the bartenders design specialty cocktails to match the night's theme ("Bears, Beets, Battlestar Galactica" for *Battlestar Galactica* trivia and "That's What She Said" for *The Office* trivia night, for example).



COURTESY OF SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

"ESCAPE THE NAT"

Finally, when looking for trivia outside the bar scene, check out **Nat at Night** at the San Diego Natural History Museum in Balboa Park (1788 El Prado, sdnhm.org), which happens May 30 through Aug. 30. In addition to the cool exhibitions, the adult-friendly, after-hours events feature rooftop trivia with cocktails, as well as an "Escape the Nat" escape room with reservations.

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