

## 22 Killer Spots for Beer in San Diego

By Darlene Horn | April 4, 2016



Life is good for anyone living in San Diego — there's beautiful beaches, perfect weather and chill atmosphere, for starters. But if you're a beer lover, San Diego is a Shangri-la, as the county is home to more than 100 breweries, microbreweries and brewpubs. So much so that picking out just one place to grab a beer can overwhelm even the most decisive of drinkers. Rest assured, we're here to help by listing the San Diego breweries and bars to seek out depending on your drinking style, from a low-key drinker looking for the perfect dive bar to someone who wants a little sci-fi with their beer.



## Pizza and Beer Combo

Pizza and beer is a natural super-powered combo, and in San Diego, there are several premium places to indulge in both. Over at [Pizza Port](#) — with locations in Carlsbad, Ocean Beach and Solana Beach — diners will find chewy, hand-pressed 'za served alongside beer like the Strawberry Ale brewed by the shop. North Park's [Blind Lady Alehouse](#) may not make its own beer, but its wood-fired pizzas like the bianca de prosciutto deserve recognition and work with any of the 26 local brews such as Automatic Brewing Company and Almanac Beer Company available on tap. For deep-dish pizza, visit [Berkeley Pizza](#)'s Downtown or North Park locations; the craft beer selection may play second fiddle to eats, but the worthwhile beers from Mission Brewery and others make a worthy companion to its Chicago-style pies.



## Sci-Fi Imbiber

If you think the terms wormhole, intergalactic travel and sci-fi don't have a place in the beer world, think again. At [Intergalactic Brewing Company](#)'s Miramar tasting room, its beers incorporate sci-fi terminology, which means beer-drinking geeks can enjoy Brown Coat ale or That's No Moon triple IPA amongst like company. For comic book appeal, try [Modern Times Brewery](#) in Point Loma, which has pages upon pages of comic books posted on the wall featuring the likes of X-Men and other Marvel characters for your enjoyment while drinking special releases like Infinity Beach, a sour IPA with grapefruit zest.



## For Unconventional Beer Drinker

Drinkers searching for the unexpected will be pleasantly surprised by the concoctions brewed up by [Pure Project](#). Brews range from Milagro, a stout infused with coffee and vanilla, to the refreshing La Vie En Rose, a saison with hibiscus and honey. If you're up for a trip to Ramona, [ChuckAlek Independent Brewers](#) features interesting flavors like Dusseldorf Dowser, a crisp brew blending nutty notes into German-style beer. Over in North Park there's [Belching Beaver](#). With a name like that, you know that you'll be tasting some brews out of left field like the Peanut Butter Stout, a lightly sweet milk stout that tastes more like a dessert than a beer.



## For the Convoy Crowd

The Convoy District is host to a wealth of awesome Asian eats ranging from Japanese and Korean to Vietnamese and Taiwanese and everything in between. Beer, however, was seriously lacking until [Common Theory Public House](#) opened up a few years ago. It's similar to other beer-centric bars in the county offering some serious options on tap. The pub's cask list currently tops out at 32 and highlights local and regional brews like Legacy That Guava, Helms and Stumblefoot. In this stronghold of Asian cuisine, there's no other place like it.



## The Suburban Sipper

Living in the San Diego suburbs doesn't mean you can't have easy access to great beers. North County denizens have a multitude of breweries that are a hop, skip and jump away. If you live in Vista, [Aztec Brewing](#) is the way to go for its chipotle IPA. Other notable North County hot spots include San Marcos' [Lost Abbey](#) for a massive selection of 40 beers on tap and [Arcana](#) in Carlsbad. Those in East County should head to [Bolt Brewery](#) or [Helix Brewing](#) in La Mesa or travel further to Julian for [Nickel Beer Company](#) for limited release brews such as the Leap Year IPA. And south San Diegans will already know to turn to [Border X](#) specifically for its Abuelitas Stout or Blood Saison and any other beer needs.



## The Dive Bar Regular

Everyone needs a place to call their own. And [The High Dive](#) in the Bay Park area is flooded with regulars for its unpretentious atmosphere and not-to-miss featured craft beers like Wychwood Brewery. It's owned by Ingrid Alvarez (who's married Yuseff Cherney, the head brewmaster at Ballast Point), and she uses the space as a home base for her side project, Chicks For Beer. Other bars to hang your hat include [The Watering Hole](#) in Clairemont, a character-filled bar that serves local beers such as Stone along with other common domestic brews, and Pacific Beach's [Silver Fox Lounge](#) for its special \$2 beer of the month.



## Low-Gluten Drinker

Gluten-reduced options may be a new thing in the craft beer industry, but **Duck Foot** is ahead of its time by offering quaffable options that everyone, regardless of diet, will enjoy. Found in Miramar, the bright, modern tasting room offers flights of tasters and refillable growlers that can be topped off with smoked red ale, Belgian triple, chocolate peanut butter amber and more without fear of, ahem, biological repercussions.





## The Mainstreamer

Newbies to the scene or those looking not to deviate beyond the well-worn path will do well sticking with venerable [Karl Strauss](#) — an institution with eight locations that's been producing beer since the late 1980s (before there was even a local beer scene). Don't miss out on ordering Red Trolley Ale or Tower 10 IPA. If Karl Strauss is bit too mainstream, try visiting any [Stone](#) location. It's one of San Diego's premier breweries, best known for their Enjoy By IPA series, and it's been making waves around the world recently with its opening of a factory and tasting room in Berlin, Germany.