

\$9.95

2023 COMMUNITY ALMANAC

# SAN DIEGO

EXPLORE  
THE REGION'S  
OPULENT  
OUTDOORS



# GASLAMP QUARTER

San Diego's 'new' downtown is historic heart of the city — just don't get 'stung'

The 16-block Gaslamp Quarter celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2017 as the historic heart of San Diego.

**History:** Alonzo Horton bought 800 acres of city-owned land in 1867, including the Gaslamp Quarter. He built a wharf at the foot of Fifth Avenue and the Horton House hotel on the site of today's US Grant Hotel across from Horton Plaza Park. A cleanup began in 1974 and restoration and trendy restaurants and nightclubs followed.

**How it got its name:** There never were any gaslamps in the Gaslamp Quarter but promoters thought it a more marketable name than the historically accurate "Stingaree." That was the nickname of the area south of Market Street where you could be "stung" as easily as by a stingray in San Diego Bay.

**Landmarks:** Every block contains historic sites. Some standouts include Old City Hall at the southwest corner of Fifth Avenue and G Street; the Louis Bank of Commerce Building at 837 Fifth; and the Gaslamp Museum at the Davis-Horton House (formerly the William Heath Davis House) at 410 Island Ave.

**Did you know?** In 1912 city officials faced two big problems, houses of ill repute ("solved" by giving prostitutes train tickets out of town), and a free-speech movement mounted by the Industrial Workers of the World, who were dispersed with firehoses.

**Things to do:** Gaslamp Quarter is known for its numerous restaurants, bars and nightclubs. Stroll along its pedestrian-friendly streets and see the historic Gaslamp Quarter sign on Fifth Avenue.



## CHECK IT OUT

1. American Comedy Co.
2. Balboa Theatre
3. Coin-Op Game Room
4. The Davis-Horton House
5. Horton Plaza Park

## PLACES TO EAT

1. Cafe Sevilla of San Diego
2. The Old Spaghetti Factory
3. La Puerta
4. Lavo
5. Lionfish Modern Coastal Cuisine
6. Rei Do Gado Brazilian Steakhouse
7. Rustic Root
8. Tin Fish Gaslamp

## PLACES TO DRINK

1. barleymash
2. Myst Lounge
3. The Nolen
4. Prohibition Lounge
5. The Topsy Crow
6. Trailer Park After Dark

## NIGHTCLUBS

1. Bang Bang
2. NOVA SD
3. Onyx Room Nightclub
4. Oxford Social Club
5. Parq Nightclub
6. Side Bar

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