

FAMILY GETAWAY GUIDE

Hotel del Coronado

An Island of Gentility

If you want the ambiance of the Eastern seaboard without the five-hour transcontinental flight, the Hotel del Coronado might be your cup of tea. Built in 1888, this gracious, 700-room historic landmark is located on 33 beachfront acres across the bay from San Diego. The facilities include two pools, spa, tennis courts, 28 shops and four restaurants—from the casual Del Deli to the elegant Prince of Wales. Steeped in tradition (even the lobby computers are hidden to maintain the 19th-Century feel), the rooms in the main building are filled with architectural treats like high ceilings and period mouldings, while the modern seven-story Ocean Towers cater to more contemporary tastes (and to those who want air conditioning).

From now until Labor Day, families can take advantage of the Summer Play activities. For kids ages 4 to 12, supervised camp from 1 to 4 p.m. each day (\$17 fee, \$10 each additional child) includes swimming, sandcastle building, crafts and games, with children from about age 7 also participating in group sailing, tennis and (for ages 13 and older) wind surfing.

Four nights per week, parents can go out while the kids enjoy their own evening of entertainment (ages 6 to 12; \$12 fee, \$6 each additional child). The 25-member recreation staff—the majority of whom are UCSD students majoring in physical education or recreation—“is very focused and brings lots of creativity to the program,” says director of activities Garry Phillips. “Our biggest compliment,” says Phillips, “is when the parents come to pick up the kids—and the kids don’t want to leave.”

Room rates start at \$149 per night; suites from \$275.

—Vivien Santana Hughes

