



DAY TRIP

1. Scout@Quarters D roosts in the former naval commander's home.
2. Craft beers on tap at Stone Brewing's bistro
3. Con Pane's sandwiches rank with San Diego's best.
4. Pencils frame a mirror at Scout@Quarters D.
5. Lavender truffles: a Chi Chocolat specialty



WHY YOU'LL LOVE

# LIBERTY STATION, CA

San Diego's former naval training center is now a great place to grab a beer, taste a truffle, and see Wonder Women. *By Casey Hatfield*

## It's craft-brewing paradise

Liberty Station's relaxed, retro feel—80 acres of mostly 1920s buildings set amid broad lawns—lured craft-brewing pioneer Stone to choose it for its second [Stone Brewing World](#)

**Bistro & Gardens.** Like the original Escondido location, this is a one-stop shop for food and fun: There's a brewery, a bocce ball court, a half-acre garden, and an outdoor theater. The big difference is the space itself—a handsome salmon-colored

building that typifies Liberty Station's Spanish colonial revival architecture. The restaurant's main dining room occupies the former mess hall; its menu concentrates on upscale brewery fare like a duck taco trio with Stone Levitation Ale

barbecue sauce. As for the brews, check out the small-batch seasonal beers or the perennial favorite, hoppy Stone IPA, which helped put San Diego on the world's beer map. \$\$\$; 2816 Historic Decatur Rd.; [stonelibertystation.com](#). →

## Travel



### GETTING HERE

Liberty Station is located due west of San Diego International Airport; from I-5, it's reachable via Rosecrans St. (from the north) or N. Harbor Dr. (from downtown).

## It knows you need chocolate

The owner of **Chi Chocolat**, Jesse Brown, can rattle off chocolate's finer points with practiced passion. For one thing, he says, it's a health food: "Chocolate has more antioxidants than blueberries and açai berries." Now that you've gotten medical permission, you can savor guilt-free the truffles of Brown and his wife, Tess. Two good choices: the bourbon-infused Joaquin and a cardamom chocolate bonbon that shows Brown's love for chocolate's savory side. He mixes a mean mocha too—a combo of local Caffè Calabria espresso and couverture chocolate. 2690 Historic Decatur Rd.; [chichocolat.net](http://chichocolat.net).

## It loves art

The neighborhood's cultural side is growing: A good way to

take in the scene is on the first Friday of every month, when you can join **Friday Night Liberty**, an art walk on which galleries and shops offer free wine, snacks, and live music. One standout along the way is **Casa Valencia Galería Baja**, the only gallery in San Diego exclusively featuring art from Baja, along with mosaics from gallery owner Aida Valencia. Stop in, too, at the **Women's Museum of California**, which celebrates the women of California and the West. This summer's exhibit, *Wonder Women: On Paper and Off*, features modern comic art. 2730 Historic Decatur Rd. **Friday Night Liberty:** [ntlibertystation.com](http://ntlibertystation.com). **Valencia Galería Baja:** [valenciagallery.com](http://valenciagallery.com). **Women's Museum of California:** \$5 donation suggested; [womensmuseumca.org](http://womensmuseumca.org).

## You can order an incredible sandwich

What makes the turkey Cobb at **Con Pane** so tasty? Classic but perfectly chosen ingredients such as roast turkey, applewood-smoked bacon, local avocado, and house-roasted Roma tomatoes, all sandwiched between two slices of Con Pane's sublime bread. Loaves are all baked daily: They include a hearty multigrain and a French *pain au levain*, but our top choice is the earthy rosemary olive oil (take note, it



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6. Graceful barracks now host galleries. 7. Con Pane has a winning way with bread. 8. Bocce players bowl at Stone Brewing. 9. Stone Brewing's menu includes quail knots with Asian slaw.



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tends to sell out early). Here at breakfast time? The decadent brioche cinnamon roll is worth the calories. \$; 2750 Dewey Rd.; (619) 224-4344.

## You'll shop in style

Located in the old naval commander's quarters, **Scout@Quarters D** feels more like a private home than a retail space. The design store's well-chosen offerings include

vintage maps and antiques as well as furniture, from arts and crafts to contemporary. Don't leave without a stroll through the home's 1-acre garden, which is filled with citrus trees and offers views of the city skyline. And check out the beloved marquee from the old Hotel San Diego, salvaged after the downtown landmark was demolished in 2006. 2675 Rosecrans St.; [scout-home.com](http://scout-home.com).

### THE LOCAL LOWDOWN

"Going to Liberty Station is like going back in time. It's open and green and bucolic. Everything slows down."

—GREG KOCH, STONE BREWING