

childhood

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Growing up in Sacramento

A photograph of two young boys in a garden. The boy on the left is wearing a green shirt and has a tattoo of a corn cob on his shoulder. The boy on the right is wearing a bright green shirt and has tattoos of a broccoli and an eggplant on his shoulder. They are both smiling and looking towards the camera. The background shows a garden with wooden stakes and orange string.

School Gardens!

Parents Plant the Seed

**JAMIE OLIVER'S
Food Revolution**

**Mom for
Prom Queen**

Spring Break in San Diego

By Katie Atherton

San Diego isn't just for pro-surfers and the college set. This spring break we've planned an exciting four day getaway down to So Cal where you'll find plenty of kid-friendly activities that the whole family will enjoy. It's a whirlwind trip with plenty of swimming, sunshine, grown-up time, and yes—even Lego's!

Day One

When you get into town, you'll want (your children might say need) to rent a Chevrolet Camaro convertible at Alamo Rent A Car (Alamo.com). The kids will be thrilled cruising in a fast car, as you feel the wind in your hair in the warm San Diego sun. Oh, and this hot car won first place as Motor Trend's pick for top-down rental car.

Drive north 40 minutes to the coastal town of Carlsbad, home of Legoland (California.Legoland.com). Grab a bite to eat at a local favorite, Pizza Port (PizzaPort.com), and choose your hotel:

The Legoland Hotel (California.Legoland.com/Legoland-Hotel) will feel like Mecca for tiny Lego enthusiasts. The hotel is colorful, shiny, and one year new, which might explain why your friends haven't raved about it yet. Highlights are the themed-rooms with private sleep areas for kids and the disco elevator. As guests enter the elevator, lights pulsate in the ceiling to music, and a dance party begins!

West Inn and Suites (WestInnAndSuites.com) is an understated boutique hotel near Legoland, with enough amenities for kids to feel comfortable too. Pack a picnic, and take a hotel shuttle four blocks to Carlsbad's family-friendly beaches.

Day Two

Get an early start at Legoland (California.Legoland.com) and spend a half of a day enjoying the 60 kiddie rides, shows, and



A sea star delights a young visitor at the Birch Aquarium tide pools.

play areas, and seven tiny U.S. cities in Miniland USA.

The rest of the afternoon can be spent unwinding with an early dinner and pint at Stone Brewing World Bistro and Gardens (StoneBrew.com) in Escondido. With a one acre organic garden and koi pond for children to explore, a 12,000 foot dining space, and 32 craft and specialty beers on tap, the Stone Brewing World Bistro and Gardens has become a destination spot in its own right.



Regal grounds include a sand play area at the Grand Del Mar.

Day Three

To inspire future marine biologists, check out the low-key Birch Aquarium (Aquarium.Ucsd.edu), located at UC San Diego. The aquarium features more than 60 habitats of fish, and is home to creepy looking wolf eels and fish with giggle-inducing names, such as the "sarcastic fringehead." The outdoor touch tide pools fill children with wonder on a bluff overlooking the ocean.

For dinner, head to Coronado Island and catch the sunset while tasting the cioppino (fish stew) at the Sheerwater restaurant inside the Hotel Del Coronado (HotelDel.com). You can stay at this legendary hotel, or try one of these magnificent hotels:

Recently rated #1 hotel in the U.S. by TripAdvisor, "Grand" is an understatement at The Grand Del Mar (TheGrandDelMar.com). The pools will knock your socks off, with under water music, and a sand play area view of the 18 hole golf course on the edge of the Los Pequeños Canyon Preserve. Downstairs in the Explorers Club, kids will find a dedicated space for air hockey, video games, and crafts. Your youngsters might not give a hoot about tranquility and opulence, but they will enjoy cookies and milk after the beds have been turned down!

Paradise Point Resort and Spa (ParadisePoint.com) is one of the top ten family resorts in the world, and offers a full service marina, bike rentals, and five dining venues on this lush 44-acre island. Tell stories around a bonfire while eating s'mores on the beach, just steps from your plush bungalow.

Day Four

Who wants to see the panda cub, Xiao Liwu? You do! A mandatory family stop is the San Diego Zoo (SanDiegoZoo.org).



The Legoland Hotel lobby keeps kids busy while parents check in.

Give yourselves plenty of time to see the rare Giant Pandas along with all the other (over 4,000) animals in this lush, modern zoo.

To avoid dragging the kids to more attractions than they can handle, we've mixed big attractions with smaller escapes for downtime. There might be some broken hearts when the rental car is returned, but you will feel happy to know you've taken your minis on a trip they'll never forget. **ch**



Above, Life-size "Star Wars" models of R2-D2 and Chewbacca, next to two life-size kids.

Below, Aerial view of the island resort, Paradise Point Resort and Spa.

