Creativity around every corner. From the fine arts -- including classical, contemporary and folk art -- to science and natural history, San Diego’s museum and galleries world offers an abundance of experiences. Wherever your interest may lie, you’re sure to find a collection that will provide you with deeper insight, engagement and inspiration.

Known as the Smithsonian of the West, Balboa Park is the largest urban park with cultural institutions in the United States and an international destination for arts, science and culture. With 17 museums and more than 10 performance spaces, you can plan a route or just let serendipity guide you. The San Diego Museum of Art, Timken Museum, Mingei Museum, San Diego Art Institute and Museum of Photographic Arts will be at the top of anyone’s list, but lesser-known gems can be found at the San Diego History Center, which has an extensive collection of early 20th century plein air painters; at the Japanese Friendship Garden, where the Inamori Pavilion shows contemporary art inspired by Japanese culture; and at the San Diego Natural History Museum, which recently unveiled their collection of A.R. Valentien’s “plant portraits,” meticulous illustrations of California wildflowers. It’s no wonder USA Today has called San Diego “One of America’s most creative cities.”

San Diego is also home to two Tony® Award-winning theaters, historic sites, public art, music venues, dance performances, film festivals, galleries, missions and much more to explore.

San Diego has an energetic art scene with a diverse range of influences — from Spanish and Mexican roots, to a long tradition of seafaring, through current strengths in science and technology. The University of California, San Diego, is world-renowned for its scientific and engineering achievements, and innovation is everywhere. On the campus you’ll find the La Jolla Playhouse, a Tony Award-winning theater; the Stuart Collection of site-specific sculptures; and ArtPower, producer of cutting-edge music, film and dance. A notable landmark is the futuristic Geisel Library, designed by William Pereira, and a short walk away is the Salk Institute, Louis Kahn’s serene architectural masterpiece.