



DISCOVER



1. Petco Park—home to the San Diego Padres—was a game changer for the East Village.
2. Cuban-influenced bar Fairweather.
3. Rare Form's take on the New York-style pastrami sandwich.
4. Harbor Drive Pedestrian Bridge provides easy access to Petco Park.
5. Bean Bar.



A PERFECT DAY IN

# SAN DIEGO'S EAST VILLAGE

There's something for everyone—baseball fans, beer lovers, and bibliophiles—in this thriving downtown hood. *By Archana Ram*

## All-American fun

The East Village owes much of its revitalization to **Petco Park**. The Padres' home stadium opened in 2004, but in the past few years, it has attracted hot new restaurants—not only in the surrounding area, but *inside*

it as well. Cruising the concession stands is akin to a citywide food crawl. Cheer on slugger Matt Kemp and the home team, and sample Hodad's burgers, Lucha Libre tacos, Phil's BBQ, and Baked Bear ice cream sandwiches. Stone Brewing Co. and

Ballast Point's Draft taproom provide the requisite game-day beer. *100 Park Blvd.; padres.mlb.com/sd/ballpark.*

## Unexpected venues

Since its relocation to the East Village in 2013, **The San Diego**

**Central Library** has amassed a diverse résumé that goes way beyond the book. The nine-story design gem, capped by an intricate latticework dome and rooftop gardens, includes an art gallery and well-curated gift shop and offers free arts



GETTING HERE

The East Village is 4 miles southeast of San Diego International Airport and 1 mile from the Gaslamp Quarter, just off I-5.

and crafts classes and concerts. Two blocks down, a vacant lot was transformed last year into the **Quartyard**, an urban park composed of a beer garden, coffee shop, dog park, night markets, and more. Four blocks away, **Silo in Makers Quarter**, a 25,000-square-foot community event space, hosts everything from craft-beer tastings to plays. *Library: 330 Park Blvd.; sandiegolibrary.org. Quartyard: 1102 Market St.; quartyardsd.com. Silo: 753 15th St.; makersquarter.com.*

SoCal's jolt

Notoriously laid-back San Diego is finally embracing the artisanal coffee trend, and two East Village shops are at the center of the buzz. **Bean Bar** is committed to educating customers, and a seat at the cafe's slow bar is your ticket to learning about the pour process firsthand from a barista. Local

favorite **Coffee & Tea Collective**, meanwhile, recently joined forces with trendy **Juice Saves** to champion coffee, cold-pressed juice, and healthy eats in one shared space. Claim a seat at the natural-wood table with your laptop (there's free Wi-Fi) and you can comfortably cruise through breakfast, snack, and lunch time. *Bean Bar: 1068 K St.; sdbeanbar.com. Coffee & Tea and Juice Saves: 631 Ninth Ave.; coffeeandteacollective.com; godblessjuice.com.*

Pasta and pastrami

Last year, three new eateries turned the East Village into a bona fide dining destination. The always packed **Bottega Americano** specializes in traditional Italian fare, such as velvety soft gnocchi, which you can enjoy at one of the marble-topped tables lit by copper pendant lamps. Nearby, **Rare Form** puts a gourmet spin on deli sandwiches, with hefty specialties like Rare Form 44, an ode to the New York-style pastrami sandwich, on your choice of bread or waffles. In a sprawling indoor-outdoor space, **Halcyon** and **Stella Public House** combine multiple foodie delights under one roof. The former focuses on coffee, cocktails, and tableside-roasted s'mores; the latter features a "farm-to-pizza" menu and craft beers. *Bottega: \$\$\$; 1195 Island Ave.; bottegaamericano.com. Rare Form: \$;*



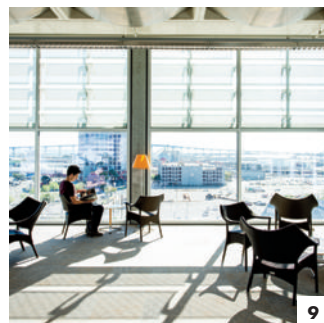
6



7



8



9

6. The San Diego Central Library. 7. Flower power: a Pololu Punch cocktail, at Fairweather. 8. Rare Form is outfitted like a collegiate library, with banker's lamps dotting each table. 9. A sunny reading space in the Central Library.

*793 J St.; godblessrareform.com. Halcyon and Stella: \$ and \$\$; 1429 Island; halcyoneastvillage.com; stellapublichousesd.com.*

Suds and spirits

Housed in the 1894 Wonder Bread building, **Mission Brewery** is ground zero for beer lovers. Retaining much of its industrial style, the warehouse has a diverse beer lineup (Belgians, Germans, IPAs, and beer

cocktails) along with games of cornhole and shuffleboard. If your tastes lean more cocktail than craft beer, head to Cuban-influenced **Fairweather**, a rooftop bar overlooking Petco Park. The focus is on sunny-weather drinks—margaritas, mai tais, and mojitos—and top-notch ingredients. *Mission Brewery: 1441 L St.; missionbrewery.com. Fairweather: 793 J St.; godblessrareform.com.*

THE LOCAL LOWDOWN

*"The East Village has become a creative hub for makers and doers. They're trying to make it a cultural center."*

—DAVID LOEWENSTEIN, COO OF DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT FIRM RAD LAB