

Balboa Park Custom Tours 2026

Overview

Enjoy a **private tour of Balboa Park** provided by one of our **expert guides**! Choose from one of our standard tour offerings listed below or fully customize your tour to fit your group's special interests. Our outdoor walking tours are **60 - 90 minutes** in length and take place throughout the historic heart of Balboa Park.

Tours are available **7 days a week**, 9:30 AM and 4:30 PM.

Please note that tours with **1-40 participants** must be scheduled at least **two weeks in advance**. Tours with **more than 40 participants** must be scheduled at least **one month in advance**.

Key Information

Tour Offerings

- **Balboa Park Women's History:** This tour highlights the historical and contemporary women who have left an impact on the park. Please note that this tour must be booked through the [San Diego History Center](#).
- **Botanical Building:** Join one of our horticultural experts to learn about this world-famous building and its beautiful plants.
- **Horticulture/Gardens of Balboa Park:** Learn about Balboa Park's diverse flora while exploring its many stunning gardens.
- **General Tour:** This tour provides a broad overview of the park's rich history.
- **Custom Tour:** Mix any of the topics above for a fully custom tour!

Pricing

- Groups of **1 to 15 people**: \$30 per person (minimum of \$60)
- Groups of **16 to 40 people**: \$25 per person
- Groups of **more than 40 people**: Contact us for pricing
- **Youth** ages 6 to 17: \$20 per person
- **Children** 5 and under: Free
- **University Groups**: Contact us for pricing

We provide **1 tour guide per 15 participants**. Tours with children require **1 chaperone per 10 youth/child participants**. Chaperones within our required ratio (1:10) can join the tour at no additional cost. Any additional chaperones are welcome to join at our regular tour rate.

Reservations

Please fill out our **Balboa Park Custom Tour Inquiry Form** to begin scheduling your tour. A member of our team will review your submission within 72 hours and follow-up with a **Tour Reservation Form** to be filled out and returned to us.

What We Need to Know:

- **Date and time** of your tour
- **Number of participants**
- **Primary contact** information (name, phone, email)
- **Tour type**
- **Additional information** including accessibility concerns, special needs, or other requests

Payment

Payment can be made via check or credit card. Please note, groups paying via check are still required to have a card on file.

Payment is requested **at least 2 weeks** before your scheduled tour date. Reservations made with less than 7 days notice require payment via card at time of reservation. There are **NO REFUNDS** within 7 days of your scheduled tour date. Tours canceled more than 7 days prior, will incur a **\$20 cancelation fee**.

Check Payment:

- Make check payable to **Forever Balboa Park** and mail to:

Forever Balboa Park

ATTN: Tours

1549 El Prado, Suite 1

San Diego, CA 92101-1699

- As a reminder, you are still **required to have a card on file**. Please contact our tours team at the phone number listed below.

Card:

- Call (619) 331-1980 so a member of our team can process your payment over the phone.

Day-Of Logistics

Unless otherwise stated, tours will begin outside of the Balboa Park Visitors Center & Gift Shop (1549 El Prado). Larger groups arriving by bus will start at a different location. Your tour will begin promptly at your scheduled time. We highly recommend arriving early to give yourself enough time to park and get situated.

Paid parking is in effect at Balboa Park as of 1/5/2026. 3 hours of free parking is available at the Lower Inspiration Point Lot. From here visitors can take a free tram that will stop outside the Visitors Center. Further information about parking can be found at <https://www.sandiego.gov/parking/balboapark>.

Visitor Maps and Guides to Balboa Park will be provided.

Contact Us

Email: tours@balboapark.org

Phone: (619) 331-1980

Thank you for your interest in Balboa Park and our Tours!

Funds raised through our tour program directly support the work of Forever Balboa Park, the nonprofit conservancy dedicated to the care and enhancement of Balboa Park.

