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Cities around the world are being modernized everyday, but almost all of them have an area where history and culture have been preserved and left unchanged. San Diego is one such city, a place where, despite its chic and modern commercial centers, and natural areas like pristine beaches and parks, contains an area that is so history rich and culturally significant that it has been preserved. This area is called Old Town, the best destination for tourists looking to get a historical experience.

Old Town is known to many as the birthplace of California, because it is the place where the very first Spanish settlement in the state was founded. 21 missions led by Father Juniper Serra were founded in the area in 1769, built on a hillside overlooking the place we now know as Old Town San Diego. This move effectively turned it into the hub of the colonization of the state near [North Park real estate](#).

The region was also designated as San Diego County's seat in 1850, the year when California state joined the rest of the country, though in 1860 this all changed when Alonzo Horton began promoting the area we will know as Downtown San Diego. Eventually, the locals, their businesses and homes, and even the local government, moved to Downtown, leaving Old Town's population dwindling. But in 1868, Old Town was given new life when the Department of Parks and Recreation of California deemed the area a state historic park, saving its rich culture and history.

Nowadays Old Town is the perfect place to go to for people who want a more cultural and historic experience of San Diego, far from modern glitz and glamour. Inside Old Town people will find attractions like Heritage Park, home to authentically restored houses like the haunted Whaley House, the Little Adobe Chapel which is the first church in the area, and Mason Street School, the first one room school in the city. These are just a few of the sights you can discover in Old Town.

Tourists and locals alike can choose to visit and pass by, or stay for a while in the many inns and hotels found in the city, which range from the small and simple, to the large and chic. If you love history and culture, Old Town is the place to be. Visit it the next time you make your way to San Diego!

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