



From left to right: Dive Bar, Margarita from Zocalo, Sacramento skyline, Ginger Elizabeth Chocolates

true sacramento

Sacramento's Mediterranean climate brings bright-blue skies, warm days and river-fueled evening breezes this time of year. It's the perfect season to explore the region's natural beauty by day and enjoy an al fresco meal at night.

THREAD COUNT

The **Sheraton Grand Sacramento's** lobby is a former public market designed by famed architect Julia Morgan and built in 1923. The rooms underwent a recent \$5 million renovation (1230 J St, 916-447-1700).

For a romantic getaway, try the **Amber House Bed & Breakfast**, a combination of a 1905 Craftsman bungalow

and an 1895 Dutch Colonial revival house in the heart of Midtown (1315 22nd St, 916-444-8085).

FOOD FIX

At the chic **L Wine Lounge and Urban Kitchen**, the L burger, made from lamb, pork sausage and beef, and the pomegranate-glazed lamb ribs are always on the menu (1801 L St, 916-443-6970).

Zocalo serves margaritas made with Persian limes, agave nectar and blue agave tequila, plus pan-Mexican dishes such as tacos de cazuela and pescado en molé Amarillo (1801 Capitol Ave, 916-441-0303).

Ginger Elizabeth Chocolates makes exquisite chocolates—the summer menu of handcrafted ice creams and sorbets only adds to its popularity (1801 L St, 916-706-1738).

NIGHT OUT

Dive Bar is all about the sea. Hence the saltwater tank suspended over the bar, complete with mermaid or merman swimming with tropical fish in an ersatz shipwreck scene (1016 K St, 916-737-5999).

District 30 brings world-renowned DJs to its space with state-of-the-art lighting and sound and VIP booths that attract an upscale crowd from the mayor to pro hoops players (1022 K St, 916-737-5770).

Mix Downtown's sophisticated small plates menu, rooftop patio with fire pits and a DJ that spins top-40 tunes and dance hits after 9:30 p.m. make this upscale lounge appeal equally to the happy-hour and club crowds (1525 L St, 916-442-8899).

DON'T MISS


Bike, walk or run the 32-mile **American River bike trail** and you

may spot a wild turkey on this protected patch of raw space in the middle of the city.

During Memorial Day weekend, 70,000 people turn the streets of Old Town into an outdoor dance party during the **Sacramento Jazz Festival and Jubilee**.

STONE'S THROW

Cool off at **Lake Natoma**, 19 miles east. Its flat water is perfect for kayaking, canoes and stand-up paddleboards.

At **Folsom's historic district** nearby, you can learn about the city's Gold Rush-era roots on totems posted along Sutter Street. 

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Freelance travel writer Joanna Corman fell in love with Sacramento, but made the mistake of leaving. She's since moved back.