

Choose-Your-Own-Adventure San Diego Trolley Line Food & Drink Crawl

BY [MICHELLE STANSBURY](#) | DECEMBER 06, 2018



When I lived downtown, I took the trolley regularly to get to Old Town for Taco Tuesday, to (the former) Qualcomm Stadium, Fashion Valley Mall, and the San Ysidro border for Tijuana day trips. Now that I'm at the beach, with the nearest trolley station five miles away, I usually look to my ride share app when I don't want to drive.

But recently, I've rediscovered my appreciation for the bright red trolleys, as I explore local bars and restaurants along the route in neighborhoods I might not otherwise find myself in, like burgeoning downtown La Mesa.

Riding the trolley means you can reduce your carbon footprint and have that second (or third) cocktail without worrying about driving. So, grab a \$5 all-day trolley pass and spend the day eating and drinking your way around San Diego.



Photo 1: Farmer's Table

Photo 2: Farmer's Table

START YOUR DAY *DOWNTOWN OR IN LA MESA*

Bloody Mary's & Brunch

La Mesa Trolley Stop (Orange Line: La Mesa Boulevard Station)

One block away from the La Mesa Boulevard station is Farmer's Table, a fantastic breakfast spot with over-the-top pitchers of Bloody Mary's topped with the likes of bacon-wrapped hot dogs or roast chicken. They will make you glad you aren't driving.

If you have a sweet tooth, try the Tiramisu French Toast, made with coffee-soaked ladyfingers and a rum-mascarpone cheese spread. Your best bet for a

savory option is the Short Rib Benedict with creamy lemongrass polenta and rosemary hollandaise. Farmer's Table gets a lot of their ingredients locally – their bread is from Charlie's Best Bread and their eggs are from Eben-Haezer Poultry Ranch in Ramona, for example.

[Farmer's Table](#)

8141 La Mesa Boulevard, La Mesa

Hours: Sunday to Thursday, 8am– 3pm & 4pm–9pm; Friday to Saturday, 8am–3pm & 4pm–10pm

WALK IT OFF in Mission Valley (Green Line: Rio Vista and/or Fashion Valley)

Take the Orange Line towards Santee to Grossmont where you can catch the Green Line towards 12th & Imperial. Get off at the Rio Vista stop for a walk around the fountain or along the San Diego River. Alternatively, go two stops further to the Fashion Valley Stop to shop while you walk. Jump back on the 12th & Imperial bound green line.



Photo 1: Spill the Beans

Photo 2: Spill the Beans

Coffee & Bagels

Downtown/Gas Lamp Trolley Stop (Orange & Blue Line: Park & Market)

Start your day with coffee and a bagel at Spill the Beans, near the Park & Market stop on both the blue and orange trolley lines.

Spill the Beans has, hands down, the best bagels in San Diego. While other bagel makers try to imitate a New York bagel, Spill the Beans has created a distinctly California bagel. The light and fluffy bagels are made addictive by house-made cream cheeses. Try inventive flavors like wasabi, ginger, and soy or caramelized shallot and chive. My favorite combo is the roasted garlic and herb bagel with the decadent white truffle Parmesan cream cheese. Pair it with the One Trick Pony latte that adds a house-made cinnamon syrup to Dark Horse cold brew to jump start your day.

[Spill the Beans](#)

555 Market Street, Downtown San Diego

Hours: Monday to Thursday, 6am-6pm; Friday, 6am-7pm; Saturday to Sunday, 7am-7pm