

2005

Pumpkin Patches & Scary Places in San Diego

Bates Nut Farm

Founded in 1921, this family-owned farm is one of the county's favorite pumpkin patches, complete with a petting corral, picnic spots, hayrides and pony rides. The old-fashioned country store has barrels of nuts, fudge and candy. "Life of a Pumpkin" tours are available weekdays from 9 a.m. to noon; reservations are required.

Oct. 1-31, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

15954 Woods Valley Road, Valley Center (760) 749-3333

Mountain Valley Ranch

Take a hayride, meet the farm animals and pick your pumpkin in the patch or in the barn, which has a collection of antique farm tools and a 1930 Model A.

Daily in October, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

842 Highway 78, Ramona (760) 788-8703

Pinery Pumpkin Patch Tours

Wander through these patches, or arrange a tour for your child. The tour includes one pumpkin, a tractor-pulled hayride, bottled water, orientation on how pumpkins are grown, coloring book, a walk through an 8-foot-tall living corn maze, and mingling with farm animals.

-Rancho Bernardo, 13421 Highland Valley Rd

Oct. 1-31, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

-Bonita, 5437 Bonita Road

Daily in October, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

(858) 566-7466

Pumpkin Central

Ghostly white, ghoulish blue and Cinderella perfect - there are hundreds of pumpkins and gourds under the big tent at this location, just across the street from the Del Mar Fairgrounds. An extensive costume shop has gear for the whole family, as well as harvest decorations. Carnival rides, games, snacks and a petting zoo.

Sept. 30-Oct. 31, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

1555 Jimmy Durante Blvd., Del Mar Fairgrounds

(888) 302-8733

Pumpkin Lane Safe Trick-or-Treat

Find candy, kids' games, crafts, music and row after row of spectacularly carved pumpkins.

Oct. 31, 5-8 p.m.

Coast Highway 101, Downtown Encinitas

(760) 943-1950

Pumpkin Station

This pumpkin theme park at the mall features hundreds of pumpkins — plus train and boat rides, swings, a petting zoo and giant, inflatable slides. Admission is free. Group tours are available at \$6.50 per person; reservations are suggested for the tours. Daily in October

Monday-Thursday 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday-Sunday 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

-Westfield Shopping Town, Mission Valley

1640 Camino Del Rio North at Mission Center Road

-Plaza Bonita Shopping Center

3030 Plaza Bonita Road, National City

Wholesome Heritage Farm

Pick your own from the patch at this family-owned farm — then stop and see the ostrich, emu, camels and more garden-variety barnyard animals. The farm stand has organic fruits and vegetables grown on the premises. Field trips and group tours are available. From Highway 15, exit Via Rancho Parkway, turn right on San Pasqual Road, and the farm is three miles down on the right.

Daily in October, noon-6 p.m.

Highway 78 and San Pasqual Road, Escondido

(760) 746-8822

Victoria's Gardens Pumpkin Patch

In the fall it's all about the pumpkins - and the corn maze, flower maze, barnyard animals, pony rides, hay rides, and fun jump. The farm stand has fruits and veggies from local growers.

Sept. 23-Nov. 23, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Fri & Sat until 9 p.m.

Wildcat Canyon & Willow Rd, Lakeside (619) 390-9571



Haunted Trail of Balboa Park

Take a walk on the dark and scary side with the "Haunted Trail of Balboa Park," Sept. 30 to Oct. 31. Wind your way along the trails at Marston Point, get spooked and roam Balboa Park after dark. Sept. 30 to Oct. 31

Ghost Tours at the Whaley House

Sun.-Thur. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. and Fri-Sat. 10 a.m.-11 p.m. during the months of September and October. October 31st 10 a.m. to midnight. For more information, call (619) 297-7511.

Ghosts and Gravestones Tours

Take a trolley tour of San Diego's haunted places, and take an after-dark tour of Villa Montezuma, home of famous spiritualist Jesse Shepard. Reservations are required. For more information, call San Diego Trolley Tours at (619) 298-8687.

Frightmare on Market Street

Spooky special effects get top billing at this classic Gaslamp Quarter haunted house. Sunday, Wednesday, Thursday, 7 to 11 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 6 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Haunted Hotel

The Haunted Hotel at 424 Market St. Sunday, Wednesday, Thursday, 7 to 11 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. Open Halloween 6 p.m. to 1 a.m.



Scream Zone

A haunted wonderland of ghouls, goblins and blood-curdling screams and spans more than 10 acres of terror. Sept. 30-Oct. 1, Oct. 7-9, 13-16 and 20-31. 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, 7 p.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday. For more info (858) 792-4252 or www.thescreamzone.com.

Mira Mesa Monster Manor

Enter the haunted manor in the parking lot of the Target Shopping Center. Light Fright, which takes place earlier in the day, is for children younger than 12. Night Haunt takes place after dark. Lite Frite: Noon to 4 pm Oct 22, 23, 29 and 30. Night Haunt: 7-10 pm Oct 14, 15, 21 and 22 and Oct. 27-31.

