

San Diego Windsurfing Site Guide



Site Name: J-Street

Location: Southeast San Diego Bay, just North of Chula Vista Marina

Skill Level Rating: Beginner (light wind days, West winds blow onshore), Intermediate & Advanced (during medium-high wind days associated with storm systems)

Typical Sailing Conditions: J Street is best when the wind direction is from the south or southwest. This typically happens on the front end of incoming storm systems. One of the best features of J Street is its incredibly long reach - you can blast for over a mile across the Bay before making a jibe. In short, if the Weather Channel says its blowing south to southwest better than 14 knots, J Street is a good bet for fun!

Wind: The wind ranges from typical San Diego conditions (calm!) to up to 30 knots when storm fronts blow through. Best conditions are the south to southwest winds associated with arriving or passing storm systems. As frontal systems pass and higher winds clock around from the west to northwest, the site can get some wicked chop, and most folks leave for another sailing spot. J Street also gets lighter 6-14 knot onshore thermal winds from the west or northwest during summer months.

Water: Water temp typically varies between 60 - 72 degrees. It is typically a couple of degrees warmer than the reported ocean temperature; this is probably due to site being at the shallow end of San Diego Bay. Often a shorty wetsuit is all that is needed. If you're sailing during one of the storm events, it can get pretty chilly so bring your steamer. Like most of San Diego sailing sites, water quality suffers during and after storm events due to polluted storm water runoff. Unfortunately, the best wind conditions usually come just before, during, and after storm events.

Boards & Sails: Most regulars sail when winds allow use of boards ranging from 265 to 295 cm. Larger sailors often use both 300 to 328 cm boards up to 22 knots. Chop and swell from 1-2 feet occur with winds higher than 18 knots, bring your smaller board(s) for these conditions! A few of the regulars here use custom boards that slice right through the chop. As always, it's a good idea to pack your "San Diego sail" (7.0-8.5) for typical conditions. It is pretty typical for people to sail an 8.5 here up to about 16 knots. The

storm systems will bring 5.0 - 6.5 conditions, and on rare occasions even 4.0 - 4.5 sails come out when it really blows from the south!

Water and Sailing Conditions: During low tide, the water can be quite shallow, especially on the West end of the bay near the Coronado Cays. When winds get above 12 knots, South San Diego Bay gets a slight swell or chop condition - this makes it different than sailing Mission Bay. Sailing in, around, and over the swell, or chop hopping can liven up your J-Street sailing session! It's a good idea to keep upwind here, especially when it blows strong from the south. The South Bay boatyard is just North of the Bayside Park launch area. If you get too far downwind, it can be difficult to get around the Boatyard's launch jetties and property fence line, both of which jut out into the Bay. As you move North on the Bayside Park launch area, there are increasing numbers of sharp rocks (and a few stingrays to boot). The "walk of shame" can be long and arduous if you end up downwind.

Rigging and Launching Notes. There is a great grass-covered rigging and launch area at Bayside Park. A few launch further south, however, it seems most everyone launches at Bayside Park. The shoreline is pretty clean, with only a few rocks (much better than Hilton Point on Mission Bay). Some sailors prefer to go bootie-less here but others may want to stick with foot protection. Shuffle your feet when launching, a couple of guys have learned the hard way about stingrays which frequent the area!

Other Notes: Bayside Park has a bathroom, drinking fountain, and a shower located next to the rigging area.

Parking and Fees: There are about 40 free park spots right next to the Bayside Park rig and launch area. There is usually plenty of parking except weekends after noon - families like to picnic here

Directions to Site: Take Interstate 5 to the E-Street offramp and head south on Bay Blvd W. Go through the stoplight, you will pass a couple of hotels and restaurants on your left. At the next stop sign, take a right onto Lagoon Drive. Lagoon bears left onto Marina Parkway. Then take a right on G Street at the stop sign. Take a left on Sandpiper Way, then a right on Bayside Parkway. Go straight ahead, you will see the sign for "Bayside Park". Take a right, the Bayside Park launch area will be on your left.