



# Santa Barbara, CA



**S**anta Barbara, California, is located between the coast and the Santa Ynez Mountains. The city developed around El Presidio de Santa Bárbara, a military fortress built by the Spanish in 1782, and the Mission Santa Barbara, which was established by the Spanish Franciscans in 1786.

El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park preserves the site of the last of four military outposts built by the Spanish along the coast of Alta California; two buildings of the original presidio have been restored, others have been reconstructed, and archaeological excavations and additional reconstructions are continuing. In addition to El Presidio and the Mission, the Casa de la Guerra, an adobe residence constructed between 1818 and 1828 by José de la Guerra y Noriega, the fifth comandante of the Presidio, now serves as a historic house museum.

Santa Barbara is home to many museums, including the Santa Barbara Historical Museum, Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Casa Dolores Center for the Study of the Popular Arts of Mexico, Karpeles Manuscript Library, Carriage and Western Art Museum of Santa Barbara, Pierre Claeysens Veterans Museum and Library, and the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History and its Natural History Sea Center. MOXI, The Wolf Museum of Exploration + Innovation, which opened in 2017, is devoted to science, technology, and the arts, with a focus on interactive exhibits.

The Reagan Ranch Center highlights the history and accomplishments of President Ronald Reagan.

The Santa Barbara Symphony, State Street Ballet, Opera Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara Choral Society, Out of the Box Theatre Company, Camerata Pacifica, Santa Barbara Quire of Voyces, Cascada de Flores, Santa Barbara Blues Society, Ensemble Theatre Company, Santa Barbara Master Chorale, Santa Barbara Music Club, The Theatre Group at Santa Barbara City College, and Boxtales Theatre Company provide many opportunities to enjoy theater and musical performances. Local performing arts venues include the Granada Theatre, Lobero Theatre, Center Stage Theater, The Marjorie Luke Theatre, New Vic, Historic Arlington Theatre, and the outdoor Santa Barbara Bowl.

## Neighborhoods

Santa Barbara's downtown area offers apartment and mixed-use buildings, which have commercial activities on the street level and residential on upper floors. West Downtown, one of the city's oldest residential neighborhoods, has some architecturally important homes, many of which have been converted into low-density apartments.

Known for its resemblance to the slopes along the Mediterranean coasts of France and Italy, the Riviera neighborhood features larger single-family homes with views of the surrounding landscape. In contrast to the relatively steep terrain of the Riviera, the Mesa (Spanish for "table") is a flat bench of elevated land fronting the ocean. Residential development in the Mesa began in the 1920s, but most single-family home development began after World War II. The San Roque neighborhood features custom single-family homes constructed after 1925 in a blend of architectural styles, including Spanish Colonial, English Tudor, French Normandy, California Redwood, Italian, and American Colonial. Many of the larger homes in the Upper East neighborhood were constructed in various styles and have historical or architectural significance.

Townhomes, villas, and cottages in Craftsman and Spanish styles are available in the new Bella Riviera community; most are set aside for employees of the Santa Barbara Cottage Health System, which owns the land.

## Parks and Recreation

Santa Barbara has 60 parks and sports facilities totaling 1,808 acres, including five beach parks. The city also has 22 playgrounds, 24 volleyball courts, 33 tennis and pickleball courts, ball fields, four swimming and wading pools, a golf course, lawn bowling greens, a skate park, a gymnasium, and a bathhouse.

Alameda Park features the Kid's World playground, an 8,000-square-foot playground with a castle, swings, and slides. The Oak Park area of Mission Creek hosts various cultural festivals and has tennis courts, playgrounds, a dance floor, a wading pool, and horseshoe pits. The Douglas Family Preserve

is a beachfront park where dogs are allowed off leash. Nestled high in the foothills, the 35-acre Skofield Park boasts grassy meadows, walking and hiking trails, and numerous native shade trees. The Santa Barbara Zoo cares for 146 species of mammals, reptiles, birds, and insects.

The city is home to several gardens. Alice Keck Park Memorial Garden features a large botanical collection of 75 different tree and plant species, koi pond, sensory garden with audio posts and interpretive Braille signs, low water-use demonstration garden, walking paths, and a gazebo. The 78-acre Santa Barbara Botanic Garden displays plants native to California. Ganna Walska Lotusland contains rare plants and 21 themed gardens on its 37-acre property.

The 25-acre Chase Palm Park features fountains; a lagoon; a carousel; a playground with a shipwreck theme; a soccer field; and a bike path/walkway from Stearns Wharf to East Beach, which is the site of the Santa Barbara Arts and Crafts Show. The Great Meadow Stage is home to Concerts in the Park, a free summer concert series.

At 15 acres, Shoreline Park overlooks the beach and harbor and offers a playground, large grassy areas, walking paths, views of the Channel Islands and whale watching, a sister-city Japanese garden, and a stairway to the beach.

Located off the Santa Barbara coast, Channel Islands National Park encompasses five islands and their ocean environment and offers opportunities for activities such as hiking, camping, snorkeling, kayaking, and birdwatching.

## Education

Santa Barbara educates approximately 15,000 students in 12 elementary schools, four junior high schools, three high schools, and two alternative high schools.

Higher education is available at the University of California, Santa Barbara, a comprehensive public university that offers undergraduate and graduate degrees, and Westmont College, an interdenominational Christian liberal arts college in Montecito near Santa Barbara. Santa Barbara City College is a comprehensive public community college that offers associate's degree and certificate programs as well as transfer programs that provide the first two years of study toward a baccalaureate degree. Antioch University Santa Barbara offers working adults the opportunity to earn undergraduate or graduate degrees. Fielding Graduate University provides graduate education in clinical psychology and related fields primarily through distance education programs. The Santa Barbara & Ventura Colleges of Law prepares students for the practice of law.

## Health Care

Santa Barbara is served by the Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital, a 519-bed acute care teaching hospital that includes Cottage Children's Medical Center and Cottage Rehabilitation Hospital. Goleta Valley Cottage Hospital, with 52 licensed beds, and Santa Ynez Valley Cottage Hospital, with 11 licensed beds, are also located in Santa Barbara County.

## City Stats

2018

City Population	91,350
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	446,527
Per Capita Personal Income, Santa Maria-Santa Barbara, CA (MSA)	\$62,690