



# Santa Monica, California



Santa Monica, California, occupies only 8.3 square miles and is surrounded on three sides by the city of Los Angeles. The Pacific Ocean is on its fourth side.

Santa Monica is home to the Angels Attic, a museum of antique and contemporary dollhouses, miniatures, dolls, and toys; California Heritage Museum; Santa Monica Historical Society Museum, which is opening in a new location in 2010; Santa Monica Museum of Art; Santa Monica Museum of Flying, which is opening in 2010 and emphasizes Douglas aircrafts and the history of the Santa Monica Airport; and Santa Monica Pier Aquarium. In addition, the city has 40 public art installations and more than 64 landmarks and structures of merit. Among the landmarks are the Santa Monica Pier Carousel and Loeff Hippodrome located on the Santa Monica Pier, California's oldest pleasure pier, and Marion Davies Estate, North Guest House, now the Annenberg Community Beach House, which was built by William Randolph Hearst and was home to many 1930s Hollywood parties. Route 66 ends in Santa Monica, but the actual location is debated.

Theater performances are available at the Edgemar Center for the Arts, Magicopolis, Morgan-Wixson Theatre, Powerhouse Theatre, Santa Monica Playhouse, and The Eli and Edythe Broad Stage at the Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center. Santa Monica offers a wide variety of musical venues that range from street performances to clubs.

## SANTA MONICA NEIGHBORHOODS

Santa Monica's downtown, which is the center of transportation, commerce, and entertainment, has always included residential and mixed-use buildings. Approximately one third of all multifamily housing and almost all of the mixed-use units built between 1995 and 2005 are located in the downtown area.

Santa Monica's other residential neighborhoods have a range of housing types and styles. The North of Montana neighborhood is characterized by large lots and housing of great architectural variety and landscaped avenues. The Palisades Tract, the city's largest subdivision, is located in this neighborhood and is distinguished by its large, older homes surrounded by substantial yards and gardens. Courtyard apartments, a uniquely Southern Californian architectural type, are also available. Wilshire-Montana has the largest concentration of multifamily housing. Residential styles include an assortment of early 20th-century single-family homes and bungalows, duplexes, midcentury courtyards, and hotel-style apartments, as well as 21st-century homes and condominiums designed in many contemporary styles. Sunset Park, built during World War II to meet the demand from blue-collar and middle-class workers primarily at the Douglas Aircraft Company, is comprised of single-family homes with deep front setbacks oriented to tree-lined streets and a limited number of multifamily apartments. Ocean Park's housing ranges from older single-family homes, duplexes, and triplexes to 1970s-era multifamily developments. Many homes were built in the Craftsman, Mediterranean, and Modernist International styles. Santa Monica-University of California-Los Angeles Medical Center and Saint John's Health Center are located in the Mid-City neighborhood, which is made up of a large number of mid-20th-century apartments and more recent 21st-century contemporary Californian Spanish-Mediterranean and modern design styles. California bungalows and duplexes are also available.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

Santa Monica's open space includes 3.5 miles of the Santa Monica State Beach and 26 parks that feature ball fields and courts, playgrounds, meeting rooms, and off-leash dog areas. The famous Muscle Beach serves gymnasts, acrobats, and youth with an extensive gymnastics training area. Chess tables are available at Chess Park. A bike path, sand volleyball courts, and sports equipment rentals are accessible, as well.

The Santa Monica Pier has a full-service amusement park; the Trapeze School of New York, which offers a variety of trapeze classes; Loeff Hippodrome Carousel; an arcade; and the Santa Monica Pier Aquarium, which is located at beach level under the Carousel.

## EDUCATION

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District educates approximately 9,500 Santa Monica students at the elementary and secondary levels with 7 elementary schools, 2 middle schools, and 1 high school. The school district operates an alternative kindergarten through eighth-grade school, which offers project-based learning; an alternative high school; a dual-language immersion program; and a middle school with a science focus.

Several options for higher education are available in Santa Monica. Santa Monica College is a community college that offers more than 80 fields of study. The Art Institute of California-Los Angeles offers bachelor's and associate's degrees in the visual and culinary arts. The Frederick S. Pardee RAND Graduate School, associated with the RAND Corporation, offers a doctor's of philosophy degree in public policy. The Emperor's College of Traditional Oriental Medicine offers training in Oriental Medicine, acupuncture, herbal medicine, and Western sciences.

## HEALTH CARE

Santa Monica has two hospitals with a total of 536 licensed beds. In addition, the city is served by a 66-bed convalescent hospital.

### CITY STATS

2007

City Population	86,595
Metropolitan Statistical Area	12,784,612
Per Capita Personal Income, Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, CA (MSA)	\$42,278