



Santa Barbara, CA



Santa Barbara, California, was 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. In the early 1900s, Santa Barbara was the premiere site for silent film studios.

In addition to El Presidio and the Mission, the Casa de la Guerra is another historic site in the city. Constructed in 1819, the building was once the home of the Presidio Comandante and now serves as a public museum.

City museums include the Santa Barbara Historical Museum, Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Casa Dolores Center for the Study of the Popular Arts of Mexico, Karpeles Manuscript Library, Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum, Carriage and Western Art Museum of Santa Barbara, Pierre Claeysens Veterans Museum and Library, and the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. The Reagan Ranch Center highlights the history and accomplishments of President Ronald Reagan.

Local performing arts organizations include 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, Santa Barbara Chamber Orchestra, Cascada de Flores, Santa Barbara Blues Society, Ballet Santa Barbara, Dramatic Women, Santa Barbara Master Chorale, Santa Barbara Music Club, Speaking of Stories, The Theatre Group at Santa Barbara City College, and Boxtales Theatre Company. These organizations, as well as the Community Arts Music Association and University of California, Santa Barbara Arts & Lectures, hold events and performances throughout the city in such venues as the Granada Theatre, Lobero Theatre, Center Stage Theater, The Marjorie Luke Theatre, Victoria Hall Theater, Historic Arlington Theatre, and the outdoor Santa Barbara Bowl.

Park features the "Kid's World" playground. Skater's Point is a skate park located along the waterfront. 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. Amenities at Shoreline Park, which is situated on the bluffs overlooking the beach and harbor, include a playground, walking paths, a Japanese garden, and access to the beach. The Douglas Family Preserve is a beachfront park where dogs are allowed off-leash.

The Santa Barbara Botanic Garden displays plants native to California. Ganna Walska Lotusland features rare plants and themed gardens. The Santa Barbara Zoo cares for rare and endangered animals. The Outdoors Santa Barbara Visitor Center shares information about the Channel Islands National Park, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, Los Padres National Forest, and the city of Santa Barbara.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Apartment buildings and mixed-use buildings, which have commercial activities on the street level and residential on upper floors, are being built in Santa Barbara's downtown area. 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. Apartment complexes have been constructed in some areas of this relatively flat neighborhood. Many of the larger homes in the Upper East neighborhood were constructed in various styles and have historical or architectural significance.

Some of the homes built in the new Bella Riviera community are set aside for employees of the Santa Barbara Cottage Health System, which owns the land.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Santa Barbara has 43 parks that include five beach parks. The city also has ball fields and courts, outdoor pools, a golf course, lawn bowling greens, a skate park, a gymnasium, and a bathhouse. Alameda

EDUCATION

Santa Barbara educates approximately 15,000 students in 11 elementary schools, two K-8 grade 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, a residential Christian college that offers undergraduate liberal arts degrees. Santa Barbara City College is a comprehensive community college. Bachelor's, associate's, and master's degrees in selected fields are available from Santa Barbara Business College. 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. Brooks Institute has undergraduate and master's degree programs in the visual arts. 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 with 408 acute care beds and a dedicated children's hospital. The hospital also offers a physical rehabilitation facility and a residential center for alcohol and chemical dependency treatment.

CITY STATS

2010

City Population	88,410
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	424,630
Per Capita Personal Income, Santa Barbara-Santa Maria-Goleta, CA, MSA	\$43,872