Corona is located in southern California, southeast of Los Angeles, along the western edge of Southern California's Inland Empire region and bordering the Santa Ana Mountains. The original inhabitants of this region were the Luiseño (or Payomkowishum) and Gabrielino (or Tongva) Native Americans who were hunter-gatherers with well-established villages in the Corona area. Their future was forever altered when Spain colonized California in 1769 and later established the San Luis Rey and San Gabriel missions. Originally known as South Riverside, citizens voted to incorporate the town into the newly developed Riverside County in 1896 and changed the town’s name to Corona. Corona has been known as the “Circle City” because of Grand Boulevard, which circles the city’s historic downtown, and was once the “Lemon Capital of the World” after the establishment of the Corona Foothill Lemon Company in 1911.

Corona Heritage Park and Museum consists of the 5-acre heart of the 2,000 acres of lemon groves that once stood there. The primary buildings of the Corona Foothill Lemon Company have been preserved and are now a railroad museum, arts center, and performing arts studio. The mule shed is now a thrift store. The storage buildings have become entomological laboratories for developing and producing beneficial insects. The packing sheds are filled with commercial artists-in-residence and art educators. The Corona Heritage Museum occupies the building that was once the company store and contains curated local artifacts.

Sherman Indian Museum holds the archives of the Sherman Indian High School, an off-reservation boarding high school for Native Americans, with students from grades 9 through 12 coming from 76 federally recognized tribes from across the United States. The Sherman Indian Museum digitization project has more than 9,000 items available online and, at its completion, more than 13,000 items will be accessible. The Historic Civic Center Theater is home to the Off Broadway Corona Theater, which is a nonprofit regional theater company dedicated to enriching life through the experience of quality musical theatre.

**Neighborhoods**

The area encompassed by the Grand Boulevard contains many commercial establishments, the Corona Regional Medical Center, small- to medium-sized single-family homes, and apartment complexes. Most of the residential real estate is older and well established and was constructed between 1940 and 1969, with some residences built before 1940.

The many neighborhoods of Corona offer a variety of residential options. Some older, urban neighborhoods with small- and medium-sized houses, townhomes, and apartment complexes were built between 1940 and 1999. Suburban-style neighborhoods feature newer, large- and medium-sized, single-family homes that have been built since 2000. New gated communities of single-family homes, high-rise apartment buildings, and mobile homes are also available.

**Parks and Recreation**

Corona has 38 parks, with amenities that include a swimming pool and 2 splash zones; basketball, tennis, and volleyball courts; soccer, softball, and baseball fields; playgrounds; horseshoe pits; a skate park; covered shelters; picnic areas; barbecues; restrooms; and a dog park.

At almost 50 acres, Santana Park is the city’s largest park and offers the following amenities: barbecue facilities, covered shelter, picnic area, playground, restrooms, skate park, and soccer and softball fields. With 43.5 acres, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-accessible Butterfield Park is another of the city’s largest parks. It features a barbecue facility, covered shelter, picnic area, playground, restrooms, soccer and softball fields, and the city’s dog park.

At 26 acres, El Cerrito Sports Park offers a playground, basketball and tennis courts, and soccer and softball fields, as well as barbecue facilities, covered shelter, restrooms, and picnic area. In addition to the city’s swimming pool, City Park, another large park with 20.54 acres, has a skate park, playground, basketball and volleyball courts, soccer field, horseshoe pit, picnic area, barbecue facilities, restrooms, and a covered shelter. At 20.01 acres, Citrus Park is also ADA accessible and offers a splash pad, soccer and baseball fields, a playground, picnic area, and restrooms.

**Education**

The City of Corona has two dedicated school districts. Corona-Norco Unified School District consists of 31 elementary schools, 8 intermediate/middle schools, 5 comprehensive high schools, a middle college high school, and 3 alternative schools. The district serves more than 53,000 students in the diverse communities of Corona, Norco, and Eastvale. Alvord Unified School District educates nearly 20,000 students in the cities of Riverside and Corona and segments of unincorporated parts of Riverside County in its 14 elementary schools, 4 middle schools, and 5 high schools. Higher education is available at several colleges located near Corona. The University of California, Riverside, is a public research university that offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs at its 7 colleges, which include its School of Medicine. Affiliated with the Seventh-day Adventist Church, La Sierra University has bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degree programs. California Baptist University is a private Christian university with undergraduate and graduate programs, including a school of nursing. Norco College and Riverside City College are public community colleges.

**Health Care**

Corona is served by Corona Regional Medical Center, with 160 acute care beds and a 78-bed rehabilitation campus with behavioral health and skilled nursing programs. Desert Regional Medical Center, Eisenhower Medical Center, Hemet Global Medical Center, and John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital are also located in Riverside County.

**City Stats**

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<tr>
<td>City Population</td>
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*Photograph courtesy of City of Corona, CA.*