

Santa Barbara: From The Mission To The Wharf



VISUAL TRAVEL TOURS

Maps Show You Where... We Show You Why!

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Tour Summary

Chumash Indians populated this area before the conquistador Ortega arrived in 1796. He must have thought he had found paradise itself! Known as the "American Riviera," Santa Barbara is beloved for its temperate weather - nearly 75 degrees year round - and for the sapphire ocean and caramel mountains that provide a spectacular natural backdrop. The red tile roofs and gleaming arches are symbols of the prevalent Spanish colonial architecture: here, of course, enhanced with the ubiquitous Santa Barbara charm! Come along on this three-mile walk that takes you from "The Queen of the Missions" to the historic, wood-planked Stearns Wharf.

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Welcome to Santa Barbara—The American Riviera





Please join me, Nancy Shobe, on a three-mile walking tour of downtown Santa Barbara.



We'll begin at our historic Santa Barbara Mission, known as the Queen of the Missions.



We'll continue our walk along Santa Barbara's main street, State Street, and end at the historic wood-planked Stearns Wharf, where white sandy beaches meet sapphire blue Pacific waters.



Before we begin, I'd love to give you a quick overview. Nearly everyone falls in love with this town, and it's no wonder why. Located about 100 miles north of Los Angeles on California's bucolic Central Coast, Santa Barbara has a year-round temperate Mediterranean climate. Nicknamed "The American Riviera" because of its proximity to the mountains and the sea, Santa Barbara evokes the

same feeling as the Italian Riviera. Beautiful architecture, lush botanicals, and stunning weather—these are all hallmarks of Santa Barbara.



Whether it's under the stars or the sun, Santa Barbara is all about the outdoors. Al fresco dining, outdoor adventures, and open-air patios are all part of the ambiance here. And our south-facing coastline, with its white sandy beaches, glistening Pacific waters, and brilliant sunsets, is something

you'll long remember. The only skyscrapers you'll find here are the palms that gently sway in the ocean breezes.



This is a medium-sized town of around 100,000 people. It sports a casual outdoorsy attitude, one that attracts not only the rich and famous interested in a luxurious, private getaway (surely you've heard of celebrities that vacation or own homes here - like Oprah, Oprah, and Oprah) but also the outdoor enthusiasts who revel in the close proximity of the mountains and the ocean.



Although Santa Barbara's brimming with a plethora of tourist activities, there are a few attractions just a drive or boat trip away that visitors love to see. Try the Channel Islands National Park, which is comprised of five islands and is nicknamed "The American Galapagos," or the Santa Barbara Wine Country located in Santa Ynez Valley.



Are your thoughts swimming with the many things you can do on your vacation to Santa Barbara? Yes, it's true: there's much to see here. But let's get started on our downtown walk from the Mission to the Wharf. All you need is a comfortable pair of shoes, suntan lotion, a good sun hat, and an attitude that says, "let's explore Santa Barbara."

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