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.

Parks and Recreation

Photograph courtesy of Turner Forte.

Santa Barbara, CA

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.

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2010</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City Population</td>
<td>88,410</td>
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<tr>
<td>Metropolitan Statistical Area Population</td>
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<tr>
<td>Per Capita Personal Income, Santa Barbara-Santa Maria-Goleta, CA, MSA</td>
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