



Santa Barbara County

Includes ➔

Santa Barbara.....	310
Santa Barbara	
Wine Country.....	326
Los Olivos.....	332
Solvang.....	333
Montecito.....	337
Carpinteria.....	338
Ojai.....	339
Ventura.....	341
Channel Islands	
National Park.....	343

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Lark (p322)
- ➔ Lure Fish House (p342)
- ➔ Santa Barbara Shellfish Company (p321)
- ➔ Succulent Café (p335)
- ➔ Lucky Penny (p320)

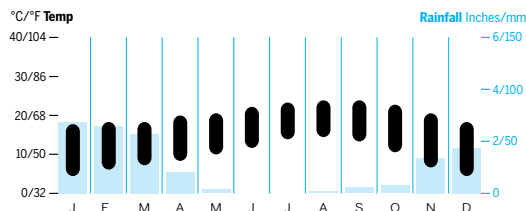
Best Places to Stay

- ➔ El Encanto (p319)
- ➔ Inn of the Spanish Garden (p319)
- ➔ Santa Barbara Auto Camp (p318)
- ➔ Blue Iguana Inn (p340)
- ➔ Hamlet Inn (p335)

Why Go?

Frankly put, this area is damn pleasant to putter around. Low-slung between lofty mountains and the shimmering Pacific, chic Santa Barbara's red-tiled roofs, white stucco buildings and Mediterranean vibe give credence to its claim of being the 'American Riviera.' It's a surprisingly bewitching place to loll on the beach, eat and drink extraordinarily well, shop a bit and push all your cares off to another day. The city's car-free campaign has brought electric shuttle buses, urban bike trails and earth-friendly wine tours. Mother Nature returns the love with hiking, biking, surfing, kayaking, scuba diving and camping opportunities galore, from off-shore Channel Islands National Park to arty Ojai, surrounded by hot springs. Meanwhile, winemaking is booming in the bucolic Santa Ynez Mountains, where over a hundred wineries vie for your attention. But if all you want to do is relax, no worries – plenty of sunny beaches await.

When to Go Santa Barbara



Apr Balmy temperatures, fewer tourists than in summer. Wild-flowers bloom on Channel Islands.

Jun Summer vacation and beach season begin. Summer Solstice Celebration parade.

Oct Sunny blue skies and smaller crowds. Wine Country harvest festivities.



Santa Barbara County Highlights

- 1 Strolling **Stearns Wharf** (p311), then lazing on Santa Barbara's cinematic **beaches**.
- 2 Ambling between wine-tasting rooms, hip bars, art galleries and shops in Santa Barbara's **Funk Zone** (p322).
- 3 Exploring Spanish-colonial historic sites, such as **Mission Santa Barbara** (p310).
- 4 Eyeing panoramic views atop the *Vertigo*-esque clock tower of the **Santa Barbara County Courthouse** (p311).
- 5 Pedaling past vineyards and organic farms through the **Santa Ynez Valley** (p331).
- 6 Following the **Foxen Canyon Wine Trail** (p329) to taste top-rated pinot noir.
- 7 Kayaking sea caves and watching whales in **Channel Islands National Park** (p343).
- 8 Rejuvenating your body and soul in new-agey **Ojai** (p339).
- 9 Eating *ableskivers* (panacke popovers) by a kitschy windmill in the Danish village of **Solvang** (p333).