

**A GUIDE TO RIDES AND
DRIVES IN SANTA
BARBARA AND VICINITY**

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A Guide to Rides and Drives in Santa Barbara and Vicinity by E. M. Heath & W. W. Osborne

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PREFACE

WHO is not surprised to learn that a hundred years ago the valley embracing Santa Barbara and its surroundings held more inhabitants than it does now? Peaceful, joyous people, fond of music and dancing,—fond of home, and not easily induced to wander,—surrounded by fiercer and more warlike tribes, who occasionally descended upon them, they still pursued their Arcadian existence, made shelters for themselves of the boughs of trees, gathered nuts and berries and the roots of nutritious herbs, offered up song and dance to their gods, and loved their native place. The genius of the place has been ever the same—who has been here but would return?—but of the thousands of those gentle savages how many remain?

At the centennial celebration, in 1886, an effort was made to bring together the remnant. Two tottering old men were found to bear the portrait of the beloved missionary, Junipero Serra; and perhaps a dozen came to join in the high mass and return

PREFACE

thanks for—what? The extinction of their race! the loss of their birthright! Heaven forbid that such thoughts should have come to them! that they, in their humility, should not have given thanks for truths brought to them more precious than lands or houses!

Since then two alien races have left their impress upon the land, and in the strong, fierce light of civilization its dusky children have vanished like vapor before the sun. Now the land laughs with plenty; fruitful trees from every clime grow side by side with its native oaks; the flowers ask but to grow and bloom; gardens spring up at the touch of the hand—and still there is room within the borders of this Happy Valley for all, the sick and well, the old and young,—and Santa Barbara bids them welcome.

CONTENTS

	Page		Page
Arroyo Burro Trail	39	Light House	20
Beach and Plaza	14	La Cumbre Trail	30
Bath House	15	Lewis Cañon	32
Country Club	10	Mission, The	11
Churches	15	Miradero	21
Chinatown	19	Montecito	23
Cottage Hospital	21	Miramar	25
Cemeteries	22	Mountain Drive	28
Crocker Ranch	25	Mission Ridge Road	29
Cooper's Ranch	35	Mission Cañon	29
Carpinteria	26	Map, City-	50
Casitas Pass	36	Map, Rides-Drives	51
Cold Stream Cañon		Nat. History Rooms	16
Trails	38	Public Library	16
County Trail	39	Painted Caves	32
Cost of Living in		Refugio Road	41
Santa Barbara	44	Ridge Trail	41
De la Guerra House	18	Santa Barbara Club	10
Dinsmore Cañon	34	Street Cars	14
English Walnuts	22	Schools	16
Forest Reserve	26	Spanish Town	17
Flora of the Country	45	San Ysidro	24
Goleta Road	31	Summerland	26
Gaviota Pass	41	Smith's Cañon	33
Hotels	10	Sycamore Cañon	34
Hope Ranch	21	San Marcos Pass	34
Heminway's Cañon	33	Street Guide	50
Hollister Ranch	36	Tecolote Ranch	36

THE TOWN AND ITS VICINITY

IN general situation the town of Santa Barbara lies between the foothills of the Santa Ynez range and the ocean, sheltered on the seaside by a high table-land called the Mesa. Stretching from the curving shore of the bay up to the Mission Heights, the houses are scattered over a large area. The permanent population is between 8,000 and 10,000 persons, but this number is greatly increased during the winter season by a large number of Eastern visitors.

The social life of the place is charming, summer and winter, as Santa Barbara draws upon the best social element in every part of the country; we might almost say the world. Santa Barbara is a village in summer, but partakes somewhat of the attributes of a city in the winter; the larger number of visitors frequenting the place between the months of December and June, and during this period, chiefly from the first of January to the last of April, making a short season of gayety for the town. The few visitors who remain for a summer are repaid by finding a delightful climate and charming scenery, subdued in coloring, but much admired by artists who enjoy the soft tints of cameo and violet, with infinite variety of browns and blues in mountain and sea.

There are several social, literary and art clubs, also musical organizations, professional and amateur.

The Santa Barbara Club, one of the largest social organizations in the city, has a handsome club house at the corner of Figueroa and Chapala streets.

The Country Club, embracing women as well as men, has its club house in Montecito, beautifully situated on the Coast Drive.

Santa Barbara, as the county seat, has a courthouse, with regular court sessions, and a handsome hall of records; also a jail. It holds horticultural fairs in the spring, in which much interest is manifested by the townspeople; and there are agricultural fairs and horseraces in the autumn.

State street, which runs from the pier straight through the middle of the town for a distance of two miles, is handsomely paved and partly lined with fine blocks of stores. Here is congregated most of the business of the place; here centers the life of the town and surrounding country. On it are four banks, and fine grocery stores, good dry goods stores, shops where can be bought the carved leather work of Spanish manufacture, and book stores, supplemented by an excellent public library. The drug stores are also good, and there are some of the finest livery stables in the state. There are a number of curio stores and Chinese shops of the better sort, several most delightful Japanese art rooms, and an "art woodwork" shop, containing a beautiful display of polished native woods. There is a thriving woman's exchange; and photograph galleries which have produced some notable artistic work in a scenic way.

There are several hotels. One of the largest on the coast is the Potter, which



was erected in 1902, with accommodations for 1,000 guests. It is situated on the ocean front, and is a marvel of luxury and comfort. The Arlington, on State street, a mile from the beach, is the pioneer tourist hotel of Southern California. It has accommodations for 500 guests, and all the appointments are thoroughly comfortable and up-to-date.

There are a number of smaller hotels, and throughout the town are excellent boarding-houses, with ample accommodations for the usual amount of winter travel.

The city has finely graded and sewered streets, and is constantly undertaking important public improvements, not pleasant perhaps in their processes, but eminently desirable in their results. Through the dry months of the summer most of the streets of the town and two of the principal country roads are kept well watered, making it possible to take long drives with comfort and pleasure; while the boulevard, fronting the ocean, and the beach, are resorts few places can offer.

Some points of interest to visitors will be taken up with more detail, in the hope that their designation may prove of service to those unacquainted with this vicinity.

THE MISSION of Santa Barbara is the principal point of historical interest. It is situated on a height, whence it may be seen from almost any point in town, and it commands a superb view of mountains and sea. The date of its first founding has been variously and loosely given; but, accepting as authority Father O'Keefe's ab-

stract of manuscripts belonging to the Mission, we find it stated that the holy cross was first raised on the Mission site on Santa Barbara's day, December 4, 1786, and the first mass was celebrated on the 15th of that month. Building began in the following spring. The present building, of stone, was not begun until 1815, replacing a large one partially destroyed by the earthquake of 1812, which had cracked and rendered it unsafe.

The Mission consists of church, monastery, cemetery, and gardens. It belongs to the Franciscan order, and the friars connected with it do the necessary work of the place. They are exceedingly courteous to visitors, although it has been found expedient to protect themselves, in a certain degree, since travel has brought so many tourists to their doors. Their hours for receiving visitors are between 8 and 11:30 a.m., and from 2 to 5 p.m., week days; Sundays, from 3 to 3:45 p.m. only. But the church is open from 6 in the morning till 5 in the afternoon. Services on Sunday consist of early mass at 5:15 and again at 6 a.m., high mass at 9 a.m., and benediction at 3 p.m. During week days mass is celebrated at 5:15 and 5:30 a.m.

The church itself is about one hundred and seventy feet long, by forty feet wide, and twenty-eight feet high. The walls are built of cubes of cut sandstone, nearly six feet through, and are strengthened by solid stone buttresses at each angle and along the sides, making it the strongest mission and best preserved in California. The façade is bold and simple, supported