

Santa
Barbara, CA



Welcome to The Coral Group STUDENT GUIDE

Dear new student,

We are so looking forward to having you as part of our Coral Group community. In this guide you will find important student information, recommendations, tips, and many things to know about Santa Barbara and its surrounding areas.

Our goal is to provide a *safe, comfortable and reliable*

housing experience. We warmly welcome students of all nationalities. All our properties are located in safe family neighborhoods downtown Santa Barbara, close to our center and about 10-20 minutes by bike or bus to SBCC.

The Coral Group company is not only locally owned and operated, we take pride in being available, helpful

and resourceful in serving the students in our housing. Looking forward to welcoming you very soon and sharing with you the beautiful, sweet city of Santa Barbara.

Mia Willson
Director/Coral Group
Owner

Al & Linda Meskimen
Property Owners

Recommendations for successful communal living:

Since you will be sharing a home with other students and some also sharing a room, the following instructions are our recommendations for successful communal living while in our housing:

1. Students are expected to look after the **cleanliness** of their own bedroom and/or bathroom. It is important to remember that although this is your own space, this is also part of your housemates' space as well and must be kept in a clean condition for all to enjoy. The Coral Group cleaners will clean your apartment/house/studio every two weeks and will clean the bathrooms, kitchens, floors and will make beds only. Students will be responsible for dusting, washing dishes and any other cleaning necessary. Trash must be taken out regularly, as leaving trash out will attract bugs. California is known to have many bugs including: ants, cockroaches, spiders, worms etc. If the trash is left inside the apartments, the bugs will come looking for food. It is vital you make a schedule for taking the trash out. For issues with bug infestations, any need to hire exterminators will be deducted from student deposits.

2. A very common universal issue among young people is **WASHING DISHES**. It is required to wash your dishes after every use. This way the kitchen is left clean for the next person using it. The cleaners will not clean your dishes. So, please make sure to keep the kitchen as clean as you would appreciate finding it yourself.

3. In American culture, like in many other cultures, the entire family participate in '**chores**' of some kind. Students should expect to share in the responsibilities of the overall tidiness of the home. For example, the cleaning of the livingroom, bathroom, dining room (especially after meals) should be a communal effort. We will help you get into a routine together, and assign each other duties, so that communal living will be at its finest!

4. **Quiet time** is from 10:00pm - 8:00am. By law in downtown Santa Barbara the quiet time is 10:00pm. Neighbors who hear loud music, yelling etc can call the police to report a noise violation. Students must respect the home during any late hours (after 10pm) and must be willing to return home as quietly as possible so as not to disturb the other students.

5. Drinking is only legal in the United States for individuals older than **21 years**. If under age students are caught drinking alcohol in public or outside homes, the fine is around \$500 and classes are required as part of the fine. I know... it stinks, but that is the law in the US.

6. Students who **smoke** must always and *only* smoke outside. Please discuss with Mia Willson which is the best place to smoke. Cigarettes must be disposed of in a can with water at all times. For anyone smoking inside the apartments the minimum fee is \$350.

7. Any **damages** to the property (walls, linens, kitchenware, furniture etc.) must be reported to a Coral Group representative as soon as possible. We absolutely understand accidents! When you inform us right away, we can help you with any costs incurred. However, any damages that

eventually proves to be the student's fault must be repaired to its original state and cost must be entirely covered by the student. The Coral Group is not responsible for any damage done to property, any personal items or physical persons while residing under our agreement. It is important to purchase personal insurance for personal items in case of damage, loss or theft. The Coral Group is at no time responsible for damages, loss or theft of any kind that may occur while living in our housing.

8. **Communication** is extremely important when living with others. Students must be able to communicate honestly, openly and without fear of judgement at all times. Communicating your needs and levels of comfort are always important- if you do not tell them, they will not know! If you are having a situation with a housemate that you are not able to deal with on your own, or are not comfortable dealing with, please let us know and we can assist you in dealing with the problem. Our goal is for everyone to feel able to communicate their needs as well as find common ground in order to live together successfully.

9. You may have **friends** that are visiting and want to stay with you at your house. You are allowed guests **7 days** per semester maximum **ONLY** if you first speak with your housemates and all are comfortable with the guest in the home. After 5 days, your guests will need to pay \$15 per day for utilities, mainly water usage. We have a blow up bed we offer our guests, so let us know and you can borrow the bed, sheets and pillow for your visiting friends. Please check in with Olga, Crystal or Mia when you have guests staying at the properties so we can expect to see a new face in our community.

Recommendations for successful communal living cont'd:

10. **Showers** must not exceed 10 minutes as water in Santa Barbara is very expensive. Also, you want to save enough hot water for your housemates. Your rent per month includes all utilities including water. Because of the drought in California and the incredible price of water, if any apartment is overusing water, there will be an additional charge. Please be mindful of your water consumption. Please remember personal toiletries must be purchased on your own.

11. You will be given a set of **keys** upon your arrival. Please do not lose these keys and return to management when you depart. Replacement keys cost \$25 if you lose yours.

12. Palm Tree House will have high speed internet service. Your network and password:

Casa Ortega2
531wortega

Using several devices at once, downloading movies will slow the internet usage for others on the same property. Please be mindful when using several devices at one time. It is illegal to download any music or movies from illegal sources on the internet. Our internet carrier, COX, will turn our internet completely off if you illegally download any material. It can take up to one week to get COX to turn the internet service back on.

**PLEASE DO NOT
DOWNLOAD ILLEGAL
MATERIAL FROM THE
INTERNET.**

13. All housing has cable TV with many channels.

14. Our **Coral Group Community** is about 115 Independent Living students and about 40 host family students. We offer events our students are always invited to attend including: SUP in the Santa Barbara Harbor, Mountain Hikes, RV Life, Grocery Shopping with Dan, Outlet Shopping in Camarillo, Beach BBQs, Halloween Pumpkin Carving Contest etc. Please like us on Facebook to sign up for these events.

Pumpkin Carving Contest



Camarillo Outlet Shopping



Hikes



SUP in Santa Barbara Harbor



Beach BBQ's



Santa Barbara American Riviera

Santa Barbara is located about 90 miles (145 km) north of [Los Angeles](#), along the pacific coast.

This stretch of coast along California has been nicknamed the "American Riviera" because its geography is similar climate to that of the French and Italian Riviervas. The city is a picturesque part of Southern California. It boasts a mild climate, relaxed beach side city atmosphere which all make for a perfect setting for a successful time abroad.

There are many great and diverse things to do in our city, many of which promote a healthy and culturally aware lifestyle.

A few popular activities among local people and tourists visiting our community!

- [Santa Barbara Beaches](#)
- [Santa Barbara Hikes](#)
- [Surfing](#)
- [Wine tasting](#)
- [Walking tour](#)
- [Santa Barbara International Film Festival](#)
- [Santa Barbara Festivals](#)



Soakin' up the sun.

- [Old Spanish Days](#)
- [Concerts at the SB Bowl](#)
- [Farmer's Market](#)

The cost of living is fairly reasonable for most international visitors. There are a variety of restaurants, cafe's and supermarkets from where to purchase food. When eating out for lunch, your meal may cost somewhere between \$6.00 (SBCC Cafeteria), \$10.00 (Sandwich Deli), or \$12-18.00 (Local Restaurant). Students can save money by socializing at local events or by using [Groupon](#) or Living Social discounts!

Goleta The Goodland

Located 7 miles (or 11.26 Kilometers) from Santa Barbara is a city named [Goleta](#), nicknamed "Goleta, The Goodland" by those born and raised in the area. This area is considered part of the urban area of Santa Barbara. It is home to the University of California, Santa Barbara UCSB, and Santa Barbara Municipal Airport.

Carpinteria Safe, Quiet, Charming

[Carpinteria](#) is a small oceanside city located in southeastern Santa Barbara County. The city is quiet, safe, very charming. It is located about 10-15 miles from downtown Santa Barbara.

Everything is a short walk to the heart of the city, Linden Avenue, which offers a variety of boutiques, restaurants, grocery markets and a movie theater.

Carpinteria's local beaches are considered some of the safest in the country and are home to the world renowned 'Rincon Point' popular

Visit Santa Barbara's Farmer's Market!

Delicious local produce is available during the week in the area for students who like to enjoy fresh fruits, vegetables, among other things!



Surrounding the area are beautiful mountain ranges, beaches and a shopping center where you can find a movie theater and some local shops. Visit [UCSB for lectures or concerts](#) and even the "[Butterfly Forest](#)" - only in Goleta!

among surfers. Carpinteria City Beach is recognized as one of the safest and cleanest beaches in California and one the top 20 swimming beaches in America.

Students can enjoy Carpinteria's very own [First Friday](#) by visiting local establishments and socializing with the local people.

Santa Barbara County, Carpinteria being the main contributor, produces the third most Avocados in North America. [The Avocado Festival](#) began in 1986 to celebrate and share this delicious green fruit!

What to know about where we live

Since you are attending SBCC, a bus pass is included in your tuition costs. This allows you to ride the bus for free with a student ID card. You may decide to buy a car so please let us know so we can possibly assign you a parking spot. It is illegal to drive any vehicle without current auto insurance, registration and valid driver's license. Please visit the [Department of Motor Vehicles](#) for more information.

Keeping our city clean is important to people in Santa Barbara. Disposing of trash is illegal if done so improperly. [Littering](#) can result in a fine.

Smoking is not common among Santa Barbara's local community so it is most important to throw cigarettes in the trash and smoke in designated places only.

Buying, selling, using drugs is illegal and prohibited at all times and this includes marijuana.

Friendliness and eye contact is important when living in our community. Eye contact is a sign that there is an understanding of what a person is saying and is a sign of respect. Local people are very friendly and chatty so don't be surprised if you get into a conversation with a total stranger. Nonetheless, always be safe of who you interact with and never give anyone your personal information.

When dining out, leaving a 'tip' is the customer's way of

showing that they appreciated and were happy with the service.

Working in the service industry is a common way for local people to earn their living. Tips are usually between 15-20 % of the total bill.

If you have any more questions about Santa Barbara, please visit- <http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/>

Places of interest and where to find them

[Where to eat!?](#) The city of Santa Barbara is full of boutique restaurants always offering the latest in culinary trends.

[Bank of America](#) or [Chase Bank](#) are available in Santa Barbara for your banking needs. The Coral Group recommends opening up a bank account at [Chase](#). With an American bank account you can pay rent online for free. It is easy to set up an account and our contact Saul Gonzalez is very helpful to our students and can be reached at saul.gonzalez@chase.com.

[Best Buy](#) and [The Apple Store](#) are available for any of your electronic and computer needs.

Taxis are in abundance in the city of Santa Barbara. It is important to be safe and avoid taking taxi's alone. Taxis can be very expensive. Also popular with our students is [Uber](#), a share ride service that is typically cheaper and easier to use than taxis.

[Spectrum Club](#) and [24 hour fitness gym](#) are among the popular gym facilities in our city. SBCC also has a gym free for students if

you are enrolled in at least one physical education class.

[Trader Joes](#) is a great, healthy and fairly inexpensive grocery store in the area. Also [Ralph's](#) is a one stop shop for groceries.

[Amtrak Train](#) in Santa Barbara is available for extended trips by train. [Greyhound](#) is available for bus trips.

During your stay, you may have to visit the doctor or hospital. All students are required to have travel medical insurance. Medical expenses are entirely your responsibility. In you need to see a doctor, the [Med Center](#), [Urgent Care](#) and [Cottage Hospital](#) are public health care facilities you can visit. SBCC has a nurse on-site available for you as well. In many cases, if your medical insurance company does not provide a billing address within the United States, students will be required to pay entirely upfront for the services provided. You must follow up with your insurance for any reimbursement.

A few things we suggest you see and do in Santa Barbara!

- [Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History](#)
- [Santa Barbara Museum of Art](#)
- [Santa Barbara Historical Museum](#)
- [Stearns Wharf](#)
- [Santa Barbara Zoo](#)
- [Santa Barbara Botanic Garden](#)
- [Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum](#)
- [Santa Barbara Historical Mission](#)
- [Santa Barbara Courthouse](#)



Let the good times roll!

Preparing for your time in Santa Barbara:

While preparing for your upcoming semester, the following are some things we suggest for a smooth beginning and end to your housing experience:

Before arriving in Santa Barbara, you will want to make sure you've done the following:

- Send flight and arrival information to The Coral Group (due 2 weeks before arrival).
- Finalize any payments with The Coral Group.
- Remember to pack at least one bath towel, as we do not provide bath towels for students. Once you are in Santa Barbara you can purchase additional towels.
- Make copies of passport, I-20 and travel insurance. Also, make sure to send us copies of your I-20, visa and passport for your files. This is required.
- Contact us for any last minute questions.
- Check the local weather to make sure appropriate clothing items are packed. Hot weather months are typically from June - October. November - February gets cooler and cooler. March - May can be the coldest and rainiest months of the year.

During your first couple weeks in your home:

- Make sure you have contacted your family.
- Ask us any initial questions about food, transportation, and household issues. Get to know your housemates, now is the time!

- Familiarize yourself with the neighborhood and SBCC.
- Take a trip to the grocery store so you are able to buy some personal food items. Cantwell's Market, Ralph's and Trader Joes are located near our housing.
- A trip to CVS (drugstore/pharmacy) may be necessary for toiletries or supplies.
- Visit [SBCC](#) for any last minute questions about your classes.

During the last week in your home:

- Make sure you have informed us of your departure plans.
- Please sign up for your checkout with your Student Manager.
- Leave your living space as you found it in order to get your deposit back. We will be assisting you in the cleaning process.
- Finalize any last payments with The Coral Group.
- Return your keys.
- If moving to another location, please leave your new address with us so we can forward your mail.
- Inform the bank, the post office and other businesses of your new mailing address so your mail is sent correctly.
- It is never a good-bye, but a See You Later!

The Coral Group Fees

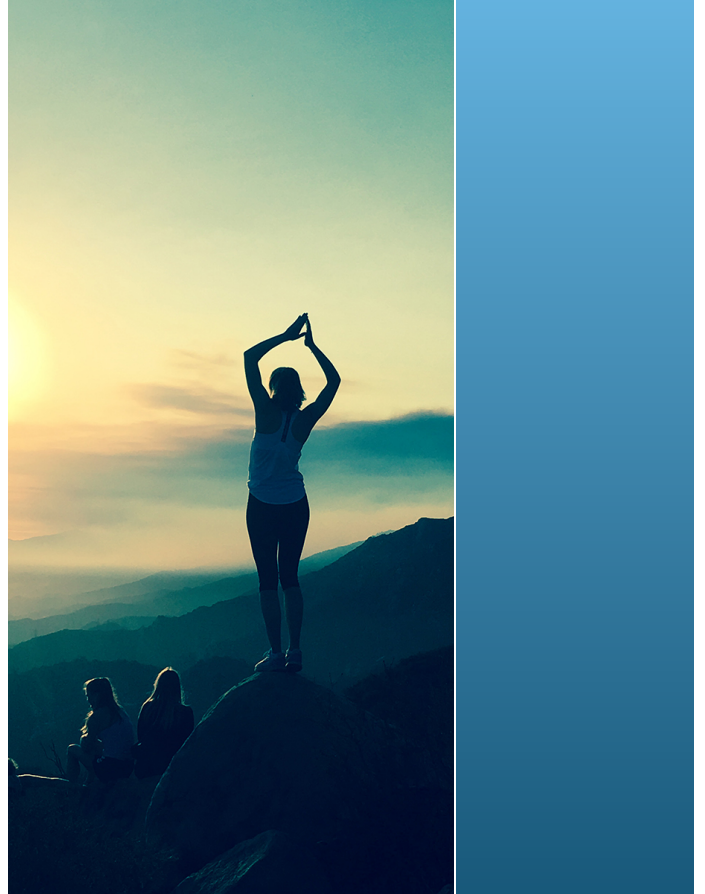
And what they mean...

- **Application fee:** is a non-refundable application fee once students are confirmed in our housing.
- **DEPOSIT:** \$1000 deposit is required to move in. It is returned by check the day students move out given all is left as it was found. Any damages will be deducted from the deposit. If apartments are not left in a clean condition, deposits are wired back to your home country at a fee of \$45 and any deducted damages. There is a mandatory cleaning fee of \$55 deducted from all deposits at check out or \$100 if check out list is not completed.
- **Damages/Missing items:** If there are damaged or missing items at checkout, we will deduct inventory costs from the deposit. Typically, we replace all pans each semester so new students have new cooking items when they arrive. The average amount deducted for each student each semester is around \$18.
- **\$40 Linen fee:** is included in the initial invoice or is deducted from your deposit and includes a brand new set of sheets or duvet cover upon arrival.
- **First month and a half rent:** is required along with the deposit to confirm housing. Semesters leases are 5.5 months minimum.
- **Late rent fee:** is a late charge for all rents paid after the 1st of the month. Per the lease contract, each day late is \$25, unless paid by the third day of the month. 10 days before rents are due, students will get email reminders.
- **Smoking/Party fees:** There is a \$350 smoking fee for students who smoke inside. There is \$150 party fee for any students found to be at a party at The Coral Group properties after 10pm and/or over 15 people inside.

Please let us know if you have questions about any fees.

Important Phone Numbers to remember

Mia Willson: **805.637.1741**
Crystal Lindsay Student Manager:
805.881.8411
Olga RA for Palm Tree House:
805.617.5578
Al Meskimen/Owner: **805.252.5320**
Linda Meskimen/Owner: **805.455.6112**
SBCC International Office: **805.703.4040**
Emergency/Police: **911**
On Call Service: **805.637.1741**



Rent is due on or before the first day of each month. You will receive an email 10 days prior to remind you rent is due. You may pay in cash, bank deposit or by local check. Also, you may pay online at [RentMoola](#) with your credit card or ATM. You may also use [TRANSFERWISE](#) to transfer payment. International bank transfers are not recommended as there is an additional \$15 fee. Rent will be due and delivered to the main office at 1233 Bath Street, 93101.

SUNDAY, JULY 1, 2018
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2018
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2018
MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2018
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2018
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2018

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2019
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2019
FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2019
MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2019
WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2019
SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2019

Looking forward to welcoming you soon!