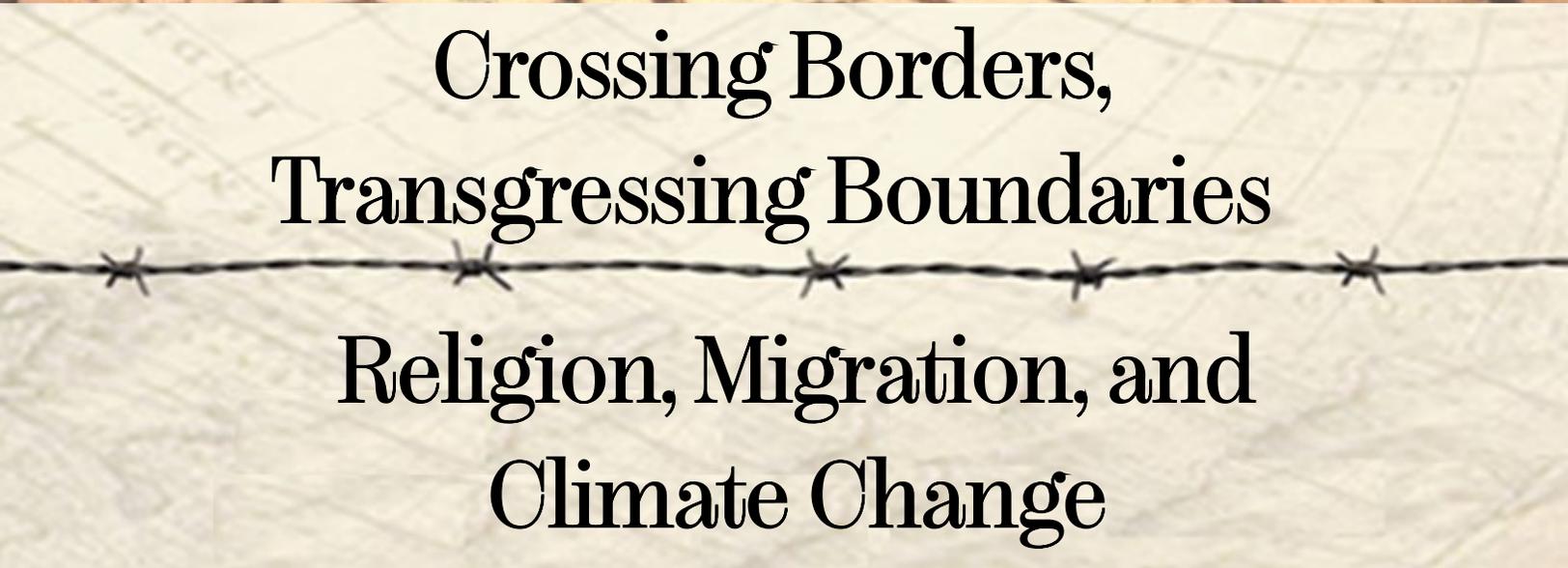


International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture

Welcome Packet



Crossing Borders,
Transgressing Boundaries

Religion, Migration, and
Climate Change

ISSRNC President's Welcome

Dear ISSRNC Conference Participants,

It's a great pleasure to welcome you to Santa Barbara and UCSB!

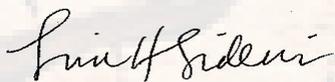
The last few years have felt like an onslaught: the shock of the first Trump Administration, a global pandemic; outrage and civil unrest in response to George Floyd's murder, a violent insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. Now, in the midst of Trump 2.0, we face unprecedented attacks on human rights, the free press, and on universities themselves. Many of us feel an acute need for solidarity and collective thought and action to safeguard the values we hold dear, as scholars and as human beings.

When this year's conference themes were initially conceived, we could not have fully anticipated how timely they would become. Climate-driven wildfires have recently ravaged large swaths of Southern California, bequeathing a legacy of toxic soils and waters, and a worsening housing crisis. Populations of migrating Western monarch butterflies are in free-fall, while politicians slash environmental regulations and undermine climate policy. Spiritually-inflected conspiracies about health and disease leave us vulnerable to cross-species viruses and future pandemics. Hardening of borders and scapegoating of migrants are intensifying daily, both in the U.S. and abroad. Meanwhile, billionaire technocrats, armed with fringe ideologies and ever-more sophisticated tools of artificial intelligence, are dismantling democracy in real time.

As interdisciplinary scholars, we understand that these are not separate emergencies; they are deeply and inextricably interconnected. The work we do to connect the dots between these escalating crises has never been more critical. In the timeliness of our 2025 conference theme, then, we see clearly the enormous relevance of our work. And where there is relevance there is hope. We convene in this beautiful spot—a coastal community whose own environmental disaster, half a century ago, catalyzed a nation-wide environmental movement—with renewed commitment to engaged, interdisciplinary scholarship that understands our planetary crises as a complex whole.

This year marks our twelfth conference and nearly two decades of this unique scholarly community. In tumultuous times, we remain steadfast in our commitment to thinking across disciplines—borders and boundaries—bringing our diverse intellectual approaches, methodologies, and ways of knowing to bear on the most important issues of our day. I am grateful for the work of the ISSRNC Board of Directors and the Conference Planning Committee, and for the support of many individuals, institutions, and academic units at UCSB. I look forward to celebrating the fruits of this collaborative labor with you over the next few days, and beyond.

With gratitude,



Lisa H. Sideris
ISSRNC President

Arriving in Santa Barbara

Flight or Train

The SBA airport is located approximately two miles from campus, while the Amtrack Station is about ten miles away. No matter where you arrive, there will be several options available to help you reach your destination on campus.

Taxi

Green Taxi Airport Transit runs regularly by the airport. You can hail a taxi there, visit their [website](#), or call/text (805) 687-5555 to book a ride. We recommend that you choose this option if you are arriving late or departing early from the airport.

Santa Barbara Checker Cab services all of Santa Barbara county. You can book a ride on their [website](#), or call (805) 966-6666 to book a ride. We recommend that you choose this option if you are traveling from the Amtrack Station.

Rideshare

Santa Barbara does have rideshare options (Uber/Lyft) available but wait times can sometimes be long, especially on weekends. For drop off at the campus dorms, we recommend mapping to Manzanita Village Loop, or to De Anza Resource Center.

Bus

From the airport or train station (“transit center”) you can take MTD Bus #11 to campus and get off at the “North Hall” stop. Bus fare can be purchased on board via contactless payment (credit card, mobile wallet, or smart device). Passes can also be purchased in advance either in person or by mail: see the [MTD website](#).

Driving and On-Campus Parking

For those who will be driving or commuting to UCSB, a valid parking permit is required at all times. All ISSRNC conference attendees should park in Lot 22, which is marked on the map on pg. 6. You can purchase daily or weekly parking permits from the kiosk in the parking structure.

Accommodations and Meals

Checking In For Your Stay

Dorm Rooms

For those who registered for accommodations in the dorm rooms, you will be staying in [Manzanita Village](#). You will need to check in and pick up your keys at [De Anza Resource Center](#) when you arrive. The front desk at the Center is open 24/7, so guests can check in at any time. Check out for those staying in the dorm rooms is 12:00pm on the day of your scheduled departure. Towels and bed linens will be provided.

Club and Guest House

For those who registered for accommodations in the [Club and Guest House](#), you can check in at the Hotel Reception Desk located at the entrance off Ocean Road. Check in begins at 3:00pm on the day of your arrival, and check out is 11:00am on the day of your departure.

Please note that any charges incurred by the ISSRNC for damages, missing items, lost keys, late checkouts, or any other fees at the dorm rooms or the Club will be billed directly to the respective individual(s) assigned to the room in question.

Provided Meals and Meal Plan

ISSRNC + SAR Opening Reception | Monday 23 June, 5:00 – 7:00pm

On Monday evening, the ISSRNC will co-host a reception with the Society for the Anthropology of Religion. Light fare and drinks (beer and wine) will be provided. Reception attendance is limited to those who registered in advance.

ISSRNC Conference Banquet | Wednesday 25 June, 6:00 – 9:00pm

On Wednesday evening, the ISSRNC will host our conference Banquet and Awards Ceremony. Banquet attendance is limited to those who registered in advance.

Meal Plan

For those who registered for dorm room accommodations, your dorm package includes a meal plan with scheduled times for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. All meals covered by the meal plan will be served at one of the on campus dining halls. When you pick up your name badge at conference check in, it will include a Mini Meal Schedule which includes details about your specific meal package. Your Manzanita Village room keys are your entry ticket into the Dining Commons.

Other Options

Those who are not registered for the dorm room and meal package may also purchase food during designated meal times at the dining commons. Meals are \$15 each and can be paid for at the door via contactless payment. There are also a number of other dining options available on campus and in Isla Vista (IV), which is walking distance from campus. For more dining options in IV and in the greater Santa Barbara area, see pages 12–13.

Field Trip Information



On Friday, 27 June, ISSRNC conference attendees who have purchased advance tickets will go to Santa Cruz Island, which is part of Channel Islands National Park. Participation is limited to those who purchased tickets in advance. All field trip attendees will be asked to sign a liability waiver when they check in for the conference.

For those who are attending, please note that this will be an all-day trip. The bus will depart campus at 7:00am sharp. We will arrive in Ventura Harbor by 8:00am and check in for our 9:00am boat to the island. It will take approximately one hour to reach the island. Once we arrive, participants will make their way to the picnic area where we will learn from Matthew Vestuto, the tribal chairman of the Barbareño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians (Chumash). Lunch is provided and participants will have the opportunity to explore the island. Participants need to return to the dock by 4:00pm, and the boat leaves the island promptly at 4:30pm. We will arrive back in Ventura Harbor by 5:30pm, and will be back to campus by 6:30pm.

We recommend that all participants bring a jacket for the boat ride, as well as sun protection and a hat. Expect sun exposed conditions. The temperature will likely be in the mid-70s on the island, but it may be chilly on the boat ride and in the morning/evening. Participants can bring a small backpack or carry-on bag and should plan to bring their own water. You may also bring additional food, but please note that no single use plastics (bags/bottles/etc.) are allowed on the boat or on the island. Food and beverages will also be available for purchase on the boat. Although the channel is typically calm in late June, those who experience motion sickness should plan accordingly.

Maps

UCSB Interactive Campus Map

We recommend that conference participants use the UCSB Interactive Map or Google Maps to get around on campus.

Conference lodging and meeting spaces are highlighted on the map below.

Accommodations and Dining

[The Club and Guest House—Campus Hotel and Banquet Location](#)

[De Anza Resource Center at Manzanita Village—Dorm Room Check In](#)

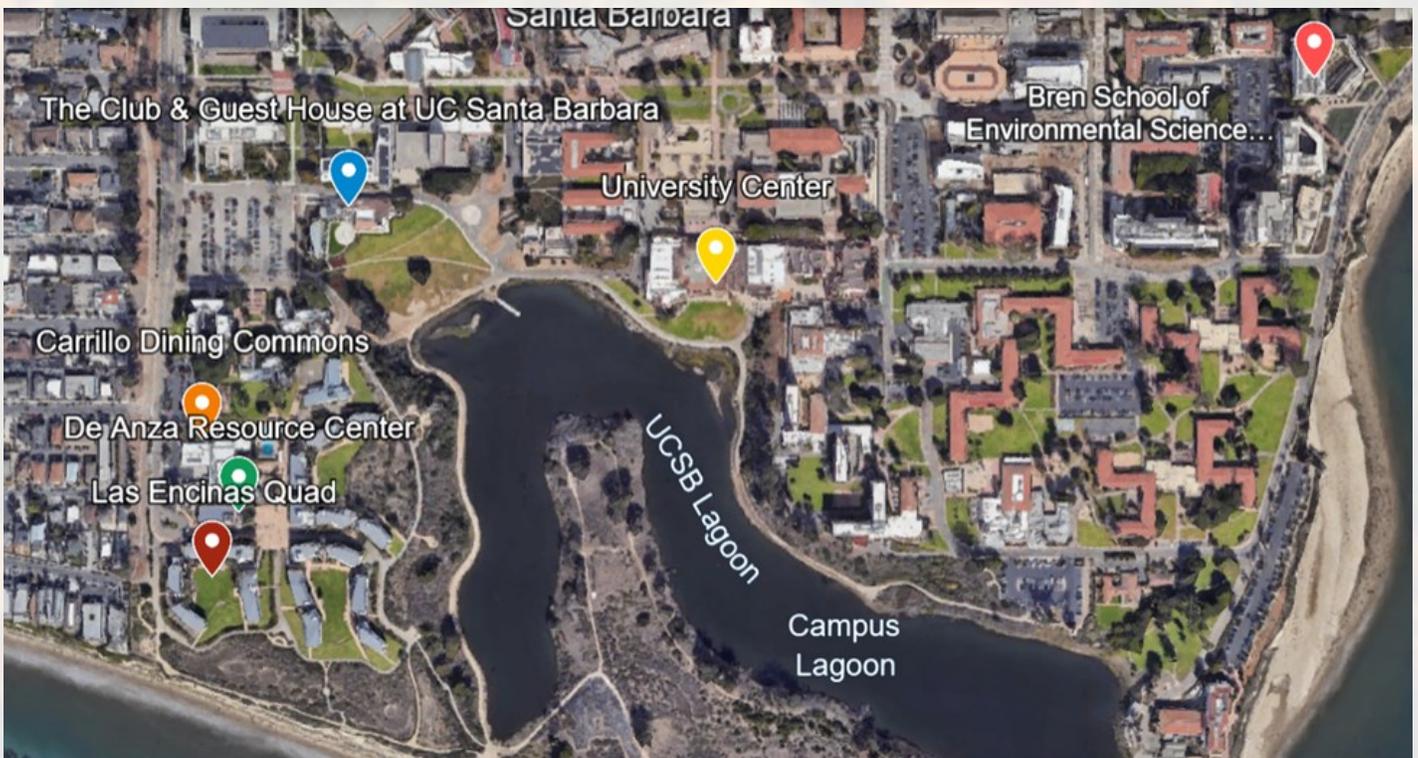
[Carrillo Dining Commons—Campus Dining Hall](#)

Sessions and Events

[Bren Hall—Rob Albro Keynote Location](#)

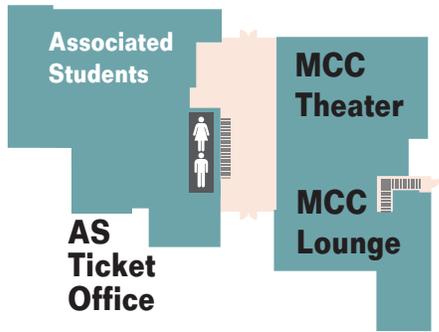
[University Center—Panel Sessions Location](#)

[Las Encinas Quad—Reception Location](#)



University Center Floor Plan

MAIN LEVEL



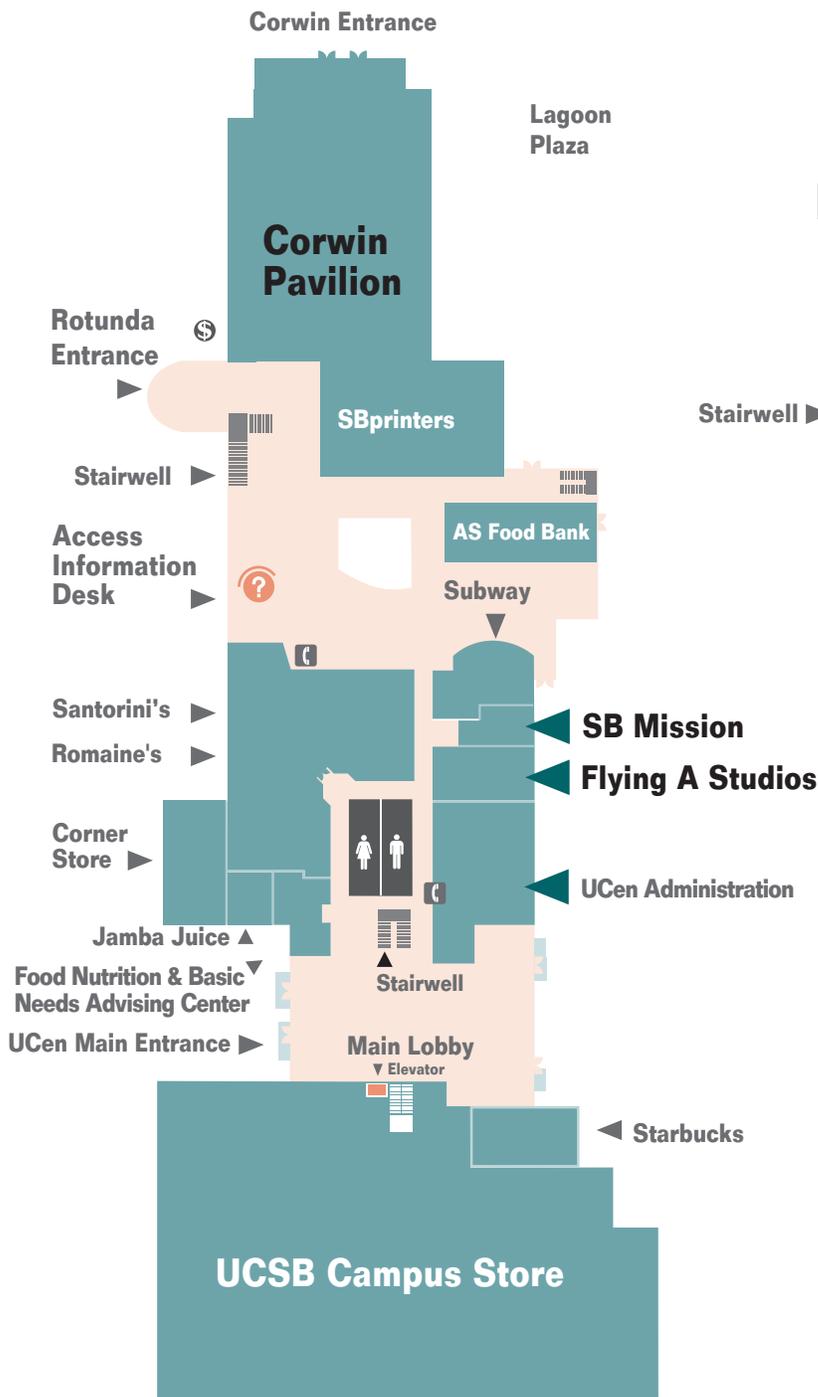
MEETING ROOMS

MAIN LEVEL

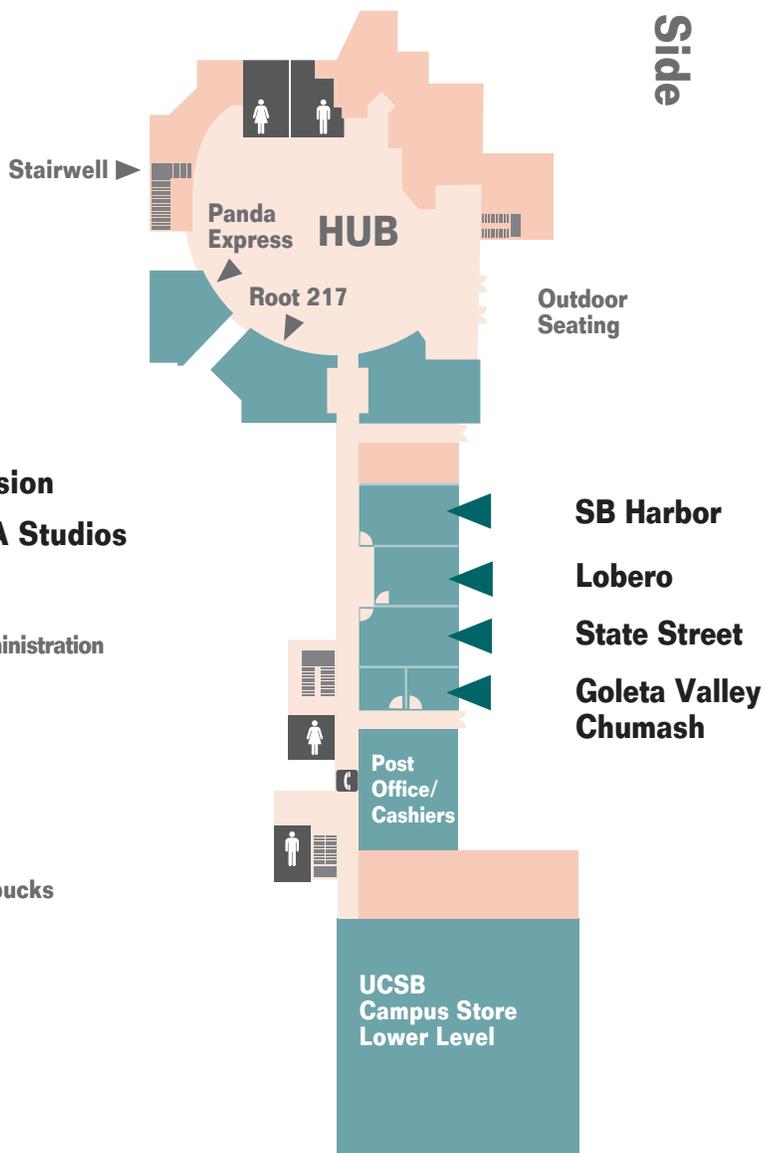
SB Mission
Flying A Studios

LOWER LEVEL

SB Harbor
Lobero
State Street
Goleta Valley
Chumash



LOWER LEVEL



Lagoon Side

UCSB Lagoon Trails

Great for bird watching, marine wildlife sightings, and beach access.

Roundtrip time from Manzanita Village:

UCSB Labyrinth	20 minutes
Campus Point	30 minutes
Small Loop Trail	40 minutes
Beach Access	40 minutes

Lagoon Loop Trail 75 minutes

****Notes****

Small Loop Trail has some steep grades, places with thick foliage, and may be muddy on the lagoon side.

Bluffs are undercut by erosion and unstable. Please abide by posted warnings and do not go beyond fenced areas.

The trail is mostly dirt/gravel and there are places that are steep. Good, non-slip footwear is recommended.

The North and West sides of the Lagoon Loop Trail are ADA accessible and mostly flat between MV and the Stairs (marked on map). The Southwest side of the Lagoon Loop to Campus Point Lookout (including the Labyrinth) is ADA accessible but does have some fairly steep hills (marked on map).



Guest Resources

Pharmaceutical and Medical Needs

CVS Pharmacy | Open 8am – 10pm | [\(805\) 562-1480](tel:(805)562-1480)
7030 Hollister Avenue, Goleta, CA 93117

Cottage Urgent Care - Goleta | Open 8am – 8pm | [\(805\) 324-9270](tel:(805)324-9270)
7070 Hollister Ave #103, Goleta, CA 93117

Goleta Valley Cottage Hospital | Open 24 hours | [\(805\) 967-3411](tel:(805)967-3411)
Cottage Hospital, 351 South Patterson Avenue Goleta Valley, Santa Barbara, CA 93111
** In the event of an emergency, please call 911.

Prayer and Meditation Spaces

[UCSB Mindfulness and Meditation Resources](#)

UCSB Labyrinth

Located on the lagoon island via a path southeast of Manzanita Village, located on the southwest portion of the campus (see map above).

Gender Neutral Bathrooms

[UCSB Gender Neutral Bathrooms](#)

Lactation Spaces

UCSB Library | Ocean Side, 2nd Floor, Room 2549

University Center | 2nd Floor | Mamava Pod

Attractions Near Campus

UCSB Lagoon Loop Trails

The on-campus loop trail around the lagoon is great for bird watching, marine wildlife sightings, and beach access. See Lagoon Loop Trail Map.

UCSB to [Coal Oil Point Nature Reserve](#) and Sands Beach

Coal Oil Point Nature Reserve and Sands Beach are located about 1.5 miles away from campus and can be reached on foot. From campus, you will walk down Del Playa Drive until you reach the edge of Isla Vista. There, you can walk out onto a trail that follows the bluffs out to Coal Oil Point, or you can take the stairs down to the beach. When the tide goes out, you can find tide pools which are home to a number of marine species. Just past Coal Oil Point is Sands Beach, where you can find habitat restoration areas for the threatened Snowy Plover. The beach offers stunning views of the coastline and is a great spot to watch the sunset.

Guest Resources - Hiking

Santa Barbara has a variety of hiking trails to offer for those who want to get outdoors. If you do plan to hike while you are here, please bear in mind that this is a dry Mediterranean climate. Temperatures can vary throughout the day by more than thirty degrees, so plan accordingly and dress in layers. Most of the trails are fairly steep with loose rock and gravel, so footwear with good traction is recommended. Ample water and sun protection are also recommended due to the high UV index. Please also note that Santa Barbara is home to a diverse variety of wildlife, including mountain lions, bears, and rattlesnakes, which you should be on the lookout for as you hike.

Lizard's Mouth (Santa Barbara) – Easy (1 – 2 hours)

Wander through the boulder fields at Lizard's Mouth and easily reach some stunning views of the California coastline. The walk is about 1 mile roundtrip and has only about 50 feet (15m) of elevation gain.

Montecito Hot Springs (Santa Barbara) – Easy – Moderate (1 – 2 hours)

Montecito Hot Springs is a popular hiking destination for tourists and offers mineral rich hot springs that you can dip into at the top of the trail. The hike up to the springs is relatively easy, with a few steep sections. The up and back trail is approximately 2.5 miles roundtrip, with about 700 ft (~200m) of elevation gain.

Inspiration Point (Santa Barbara) – Moderate (2 – 3 hours)

Inspiration Point is one of the most popular trails in Santa Barbara. The 3.4-mile roundtrip trail has almost 1000ft (~300m) of elevation gains and offers a spectacular ocean viewpoint at the summit.

The Playground (Santa Barbara) – Moderate (2 – 3 hours)

The Playground is part of the Santa Ynez range and is known for its unique rock formations and towers. The area will be of interest to those who want to spend time exploring the rock fields and is a great spot for scrambling and bouldering. The hike down to The Playground takes about 30 minutes, and then you can spend as much time as you desire exploring the area.

Gaviota Trails (Santa Barbara/Lompoc) – Easy to Difficult (1 – 5 hours)

Gaviota Peak is located in the northern part of Santa Barbara County. There are several different trails in the area including the 6-mile main up-and-back trail (Gaviota Peak), the 6.5-mile loop (Tresspass Trail), and the shorter, 1-mile hike to Gaviota Hot Springs.

Rattlesnake Canyon (Santa Barbara) – Difficult (5 hours)

Rattlesnake Canyon is also a popular Santa Barbara hiking destination. The 4.4 mile out and back trail offers a variety of different landscapes and has 1300ft (~400m) of elevation gain. It is a well-maintained trail which is steep in places (the last part is the steepest!) and also includes a water crossing.

Jesusita Trail (Santa Barbara) – Very Difficult (7 – 8 hours)

Jesusita Trail connects to the Inspiration Point trail and is one of the more difficult trails in Santa Barbara. The full trail is 10.6 miles to Arlington Peak with almost 4000ft (~1200m) of elevation gain. Portions of the trail are very steep and there are sections that require scrambling.

Guest Resources

Local Attractions and Day Trips

Chumash Painted Cave State Historic Park

Kayaking, Paddleboarding, and Surfing at Santa Barbara Harbor

SB Sailing Center – Kayak Rentals start at \$12/hour | SUP Rentals start at \$18/hour

Paddle Sports Center – Lessons available; Kayak Rentals start at \$20/hour | SUP Rentals start at \$30/hour | Surfboard Rentals start at \$10/hour

Santa Barbara Mission and Rose Garden

Open daily, 9:30am – 5:00pm. Tickets required for admission.

Santa Barbara Botanical Garden

Open daily, 10:00am – 5:00pm. Tickets required for admission.

Museums in Santa Barbara

Santa Ynez Chumash Museum and Cultural Center

Open Thursday – Sunday, 10:00am – 5:00pm. Tickets required for admission.

Wine Tasting and Tours

Wine Tasting in Santa Barbara

Wine Tasting in Santa Ynez

Guest Resources—Dining

On Campus

In addition to the Dining Commons, there are a number of on campus options for food.

Coral Tree Café – Offers coffee, breakfast, and lunch.

Open Monday – Friday, 7:30am – 3:30pm

Courtyard Café – Offers coffee, bakery items, house made tacos.

Open Monday – Friday 8:00am – 4:30pm

Summit Café – Offers coffee, bakery items, and grab-and-go lunch options.

Open Monday – Thursday, 8:00am – 8:00pm, Friday 8:00am – 4:00pm

University Center – The University Center, where our panel sessions will be held, offers several dining options. Please note that the Starbucks will be closed for renovations during our conference.

Near Campus

In addition to the on-campus food options, there are also a number of restaurants located in nearby Isla Vista, which is walking distance from the dorm rooms and campus hotel. We have included below a list of our recommendations for the best spots to visit while you are in town.

Coffee

CAJÉ Coffee

Roasters IV Drip

Old Town Coffee

Breakfast

IV Bagel Café

Zocalo

Sweet Treats

IV Drip

Spudnuts

Donuts

Lunch and Dinner

Elubia's Kitchen

The Ellwood – Located at Goleta

Beach Pier Freebirds

Hummus Republic

IV Pizza Pub

Super Cuca's

Woodstock's

Zocalo

Juices and Smoothies

Blenders

Oakberry Acai Bowls and Smoothies

Guest Resources—Dining

Santa Barbara Dining

Coffee and Tea

[Dune](#)

[Handlebar](#)

[Vices and Spices](#)

Breakfast/Brunch

[Boathouse at Hendry's Beach](#)

[Bree'osh](#)

[Goat Tree Café](#)

[Jeannine's](#)

[Scarlet Begonia](#)

Cocktail Bars

[The Good Lion](#)

[The Imperial](#)

[Rodeo Room](#)

Sweet Treats

[Lilac](#) – Gluten Free Bakery

[McConnell's Ice Cream](#)

Lunch and Dinner

[Alcazar](#) – Tapas Bar

[Anchor Rose](#) – Seafood

[Arigato](#) – Sushi

[Blue Owl](#) – Asian Inspired Cuisine

[Ca'Dario](#) – Italian Inspired Cuisine

[Carlitos Café y Cantina](#) – Mexican Inspired Cuisine

[Corazón Comedor](#) – Mexican Inspired Cuisine

[Corner Tap](#) – Bar and Eatery

[The Cruisery](#) – Pub Food | Beer | Cocktails

[East Beach Tacos](#)

[Jane](#) – American Style Cuisine

[La Paloma](#) – Californio Style Cuisine

[Los Agaves](#) – Mexican Inspired Cuisine

[Milk and Honey](#) – Tapas Bar

[Public Market](#) – Food Hall

[Rascal's](#) – Vegan Restaurant

[Sama Sama](#) – Southeast Asian Cuisine

[Zaytoon](#) – Lebanese Cuisine

Wi-Fi and Social Media

UCSB Wireless Internet Connections

Option 1: eduroam

Eduroam provides secure, worldwide roaming access for visiting faculty and students from participating institutions. You can easily gain secure network access using your home institution credentials (username and password).

Option 2: UCSB Guest Connection Instructions

Campus visitors not from a participating institution should use the UCSB Wireless Web, which now features self-registration for UC Santa Barbara guests on the Wireless Web login page! Once you register, you'll receive an SMS/text-message-provided password, which gives you a seven-day connection.

1. On the device, make sure you have Wi-Fi turned on.
2. Open a web browser and go to <https://clearpass.noc.ucsb.edu>
3. From this screen, please select Guest Registration.
5. Fill in the registration information and click Register. You can enter in a valid email address OR mobile phone number.
6. You will then receive an SMS/text message with a username and password to login.
7. On the UCSB Wireless Web Login screen, fill in the username and password that you received via text or email and select Accept Network Policy and Login.

You're now connected to the UCSB Wireless Network. Your username and password will be valid for 7 days, and you will not have to go through the registration process again. Need additional help? Access 24/7 live chat, create a case with the UCSB IT service desk (<https://ucsb.service-now.com/it>), or call 805-893-5000.

ISSRNC Social Media

We encourage all participants to like and follow us on social media and to post actively during the conference using the hashtag #ISSRNC2025. Click the icons below to be directed to our social media accounts.

