

## LIVING IN SAN DIEGO'S NEIGHBORHOODS

San Diego is a city made up of many neighborhoods. Each neighborhood has a name and a separate village-like identity. The task facing each student is to decide which of the following areas is most suited to their taste. The descriptions given are for areas where most of our students choose to live.

For a map of San Diego's neighborhoods, please visit: <http://www.sandiego.gov/neighborhoods-map/>

**Here is a selection of neighborhoods near the California Western campus:**

### **Bankers Hill (5-10 minute walk)**

This area is immediately north of the school. It is an old residential neighborhood with many vintage apartment buildings, some brand new places, and some that have seen better days. Rents vary a great deal. The location is convenient. In some areas there is noise from the airport, though many are very well soundproofed. Most places offer only on-street parking. However, on the plus side, Banker's Hill allows for easy access to Balboa Park, Little Italy, Hillcrest, and Downtown. This area also boasts a variety of delis, markets, and small restaurants.

### **Cortez Hill (5-10 minute walk)**

This area is one of San Diego's oldest neighborhoods. Views from Cortez Hill include Balboa Park, the bay and the ocean. The proximity to school makes it very desirable to students. In addition, this is nice area surrounded by high-rise buildings and a multitude of condos. The apartments tend to be higher in price than some other downtown areas. However, if distance and price are your only concerns definitely look into Cortez Hill. There can be a lot of construction noise.

### **Downtown (5-10 minute walk)**

This area is adjacent and south of school. Primarily the central business district, but with several apartment buildings. Many of the newer apartments have gated parking and security. Downtown offers residents convenient grocery and shopping centers with Horton Plaza and a busy nightlife with the Gaslamp Quarter.

### **Hillcrest (5-10 minute drive)**

This area is just north of Banker's Hill. This residential area begins at Laurel Street. Housing is usually older homes, condos, and apartments, which are within walking distance of Balboa Park and University Drive. Rental rates are fairly high, although you can still find some good deals. Hillcrest also affords great shopping, services and three large hospitals. Parking can be a little tricky – check to see if your apartment comes with an off-street or assigned space. Approximately a 5 – 10 minute drive to school, or a simple bike ride.

### **Little Italy (5 – 10 minute walk)**

This is a great neighborhood for students as it is so close to school, less than a 5 –10 minute walk. There are lots of new condos and town homes that are being built. The prices tend to be on the higher side as the entire area has recently been revitalized providing residents with many essential amenities. In addition to unique cafes, galleries and specialty shops, Little Italy also offers numerous recreational areas and harbor views. With this unique cultural and communal atmosphere, residents do not feel as if they are downtown, but rather in a neighborhood of their own.

**Mission Hills (10 minute drive)**

This area is located just North of Little Italy and Northwest of Hillcrest. This community is primarily residential with good restaurants and shops. Although some rentals are pricey, one can still find some good deals. Many of our students live here. Could bike ride to school from here easily.

**North Park (10 minute drive)**

This community is located east of Hillcrest, beginning around Park Boulevard. North Park offers a lot of affordable housing, which can be found between El Cajon Boulevard and University Avenue, and south to Upas. However, some areas are better than others. It is best to view each place individually, as one block can make a difference. Some areas are definitely older, interspersed with brand-new condos. North Park provides residents with a large variety of dining and nightlife.

**University Heights, Normal Heights, Kensington (10-15 minute drive)**

This area is located along the southern edge of Mission Valley. A reasonable area with moderately priced housing mixed with expensive homes along the canyon. Adams Avenue, the main thoroughfare is known for its antique shops and bookstores. Residents enjoy the discovering the community's unique cultural and atmosphere. Similar to North Park, seedy/older mixed with newer apartments/homes.

**Pacific Beach/Mission Beach (20 minute drive)**

Pacific Beach, known for its college atmosphere, provides residents with a variety of clubs, restaurants, and nightlife. However, the main attraction is still the breathtaking ocean views and beach community. Prices range from moderate to expensive. One should also note that finding an apartment in the summer can be difficult as it's a big vacation spot. Many of the apartments are older, but not so bad inside. Parking can also be difficult close to the beach.

**La Jolla/University Town Center (UTC) (20 minute drive)**

This area can be expensive, but also boasts arguably the most beautiful climate and atmosphere in San Diego. In order to attract residents, the area has many new apartments, which are usually loaded with many new amenities. Traffic can be bad driving downtown and can take up to 40 minutes, depending on traffic. Beautiful beaches and expensive restaurants can be found in La Jolla. UTC has a large shopping mall and lots of places to eat.

**Point Loma, Ocean Beach, Loma Portal (15 minute drive)**

This area encompasses the peninsula north of San Diego Bay. Rentals here vary from moderately priced to expensive. Although the communities are similarly situated, each provides residents with its own unique appeal. For instance, Ocean Beach offers cottages and smaller apartments. Ocean Beach rewards the true beach lover with an ideal beach community; the main area of OB (as it's called) has a distinct "hippie" feel. In comparison, Point Loma can be somewhat expensive, and again along with Ocean Beach and Loma Portal can be affected by airplane noise. Point Loma also gives its residents escape from the bustling downtown, while offering restaurants specializing in the freshest seafood. Loma Portal also has many rentals and is fairly close to the beach. Dog Beach is located just north of Ocean Beach and is perfect for pet owners, as landlords tend to be more flexible about accepting pets..

**Mission Valley/Fashion Valley (10-15 minute drive)**

This area is east of Interstate 5. This is a centralized area with newer condominiums to rent. It is home to Qualcomm Stadium and two of the larger malls in San Diego. Many young professionals reside here. There is also trolley access to downtown from here, which makes life easy, since parking on campus can be avoided by riding the trolley.

**Mira Mesa/Sorrento Valley**

Quick transit ride from Coaster station in Sorrento Valley, lots of affordable houses/apartments to rent in Mira Mesa. Sorrento Valley housing tends to be a bit pricier, with a suburban feel and lots of shopping

and community/town benefits like public library. The Miramar College pool is open to community. Also includes small mall services, quiet canyons, and lots of hiking.

## **OUTSIDE THE SAN DIEGO CITY LIMITS**

### **La Mesa (20-30 minute drive)**

East of San Diego off I-8. This area offers moderately priced affordable apartments. Can be very hot in the summer. Some areas are accessible by the trolley line.

### **Coronado (15-20 minute drive)**

Coronado is a peninsula, which forms one side of the entrance to the San Diego Bay, consisting of North Island Naval Air Station to the north and a beautiful town to the south. This area offers mostly expensive rentals and million dollar homes. However, its relatively close proximity to school, yet beautiful, quiet community, makes Coronado an attractive area for all San Diego residents. The Coronado and Silver Strand beaches are beautiful, family-oriented beaches.

### **Chula Vista (20-25 minute drive)**

South of downtown and east of I-5. Some attractive affordable housing, definitely check out each place individually. Chula Vista is accessible by trolley – traffic going north on Interstate 5 in the mornings can be quite tricky.