

# berkeley neighborhoods & nearby east bay communities



## BERKELEY NEIGHBORHOODS

**SOUTHSIDE:** A bustling, student-oriented area adjacent to south campus. Bookstores, record stores, cafes and restaurants abound. Telegraph Avenue is a main feature with its colorful street vendors. Student housing is relatively plentiful in Southside.

**ELMWOOD:** Just to the south of Southside is the Elmwood district, which can be found by following College Avenue away from campus. Elmwood is a charming mix of small apartment complexes and large homes. Gift shopping is a delight, and there are many restaurants featuring international cuisine. There is also a popular movie theater.

**CLAREMONT:** A neighborhood consisting primarily of grand, expensive homes and few rentals. The typical Claremont rental might be an “in-law” apartment in someone’s house, or a room in a private home. The Claremont area is generally characterized as the area surrounding the Claremont Resort and Hotel.

**SOUTH BERKELEY:** West of the Southside, Elmwood and Claremont districts and south of Dwight Way is an area generally known as South Berkeley. This area, in addition to West Berkeley and the Westbrae neighborhoods, is where the most affordable housing is likely to be found. Small, single-family bungalows, duplexes and fourplexes are featured on the tree-lined streets. Cute cafes, antique shops and the Ashby BART station with its weekend flea market in the parking lot are part of the South Berkeley scene.

**DOWNTOWN BERKELEY:** While “downtown” can be found just a block from the West Entrance of campus, continue a few more blocks westward and you will find tree-lined streets with a mix of apartments and houses. Many students live in this area and enjoy its convenience to downtown BART, movies, restaurants and the campus.

**WEST BERKELEY:** South of University Avenue and west of Sacramento Street is the area known as West Berkeley. Modest single-family homes are interspersed with apartment buildings, and the neighborhood is dotted with Victorian farmhouses that were the original dwellings in the area.

**WESTBRAE :** A quiet, residential neighborhood just north and west of the North Berkeley BART station, the Westbrae area consists of small homes, duplexes and fourplexes. A highlight is a specialty produce store that attracts shoppers from all over Berkeley. Easy access to BART and the campus makes this a popular area. Tennis, jogging track, pool and playground are nearby at the local middle school and are open to the public.

**OCEANVIEW:** The outlet stores, specialty shops and restaurants along the popular Fourth Street area make this formerly sleepy place of small homes and light industry into a bustling, lively street scene.

**NORTHSIDE:** This area directly north of campus is a contrast to the bustling Southside area. Quiet by comparison, Northside boasts several student coops and charming apartment buildings interspersed with large, single family homes. The main street is Euclid Avenue, which features a small grocery store and shops and restaurants.

**NORTH BERKELEY AND THOUSAND OAKS:** If you hear the term “gourmet ghetto,” it’s referring to this North Berkeley area of north Shattuck Avenue. Here you’ll find gourmet food shops and, of course, the famous restaurant, Chez Panisse, among others. Thousand Oaks continues the North Berkeley theme through the Solano Tunnel and down Solano Avenue with many restaurants, cafes and bookstores frequented by local residents. This is a popular area for young and old.

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**NORTH BERKELEY HILLS:** The Berkeley Hills, north of Northside and east of North Berkeley and Thousand Oaks, is an area of winding, hilly streets and stately homes with bay views. This is one of the most expensive areas for housing and is bordered by Tilden Park, an enormous stretch of Regional Park. Buses serve this area during the day and early evening, but the steep terrain and lack of nearby shops most often require a car for getting around.

## **OAKLAND: A Selection of Areas**

*This metropolis stretches to the south of Berkeley and offers a variety of neighborhoods that are extremely commutable to campus by bus, bike or BART. Oakland features a major “Chinatown” area and an attractive waterfront with shops, restaurants and movie theater in Jack London Square. There is also ferry service to San Francisco. Popular Oakland neighborhoods for students are:*

**ROCKRIDGE:** One of the most popular Oakland neighborhoods, Rockridge features the convenience of a BART station with trains that go directly to San Francisco and buses and bicycle routes that lead directly to the UC Berkeley campus. Bookstores, gourmet shops, flower stands and bakeries characterize this neighborhood. Houses and apartments tend to be expensive to rent due to the desirability and accessibility of the area.

## **NORTH OAKLAND, PIEDMONT AVENUE AND LAKE MERRITT:**

These three popular areas contain a lot of rental apartments and houses and some of the most attractive and affordable housing in the East Bay Area. Much of North Oakland is easily accessible to campus, either by a short bicycle ride or a longish walk for avid walkers. The Piedmont Avenue area is attractive with its many shops, restaurants and movie theater. Lake Merritt is a gem in the middle of downtown Oakland, with its jogging paths and surrounding parks.

## **THE CITIES OF EMERYVILLE, ALBANY, KENSINGTON and EL CERRITO**

**EMERYVILLE:** Emeryville has recently emerged as a major area for shopping and entertainment. Outdoor shopping malls, a major Cineplex, a jazz club and new apartment housing have made Emeryville come alive in the past decade or so. The city runs free shuttle buses to BART stations and around town.

**ALBANY:** Albany is a small city to the north and west of Berkeley. This is a town of mostly owner-occupied, small, single-family houses and some rentals. It is also home to a large complex of University-owned Family Student Housing. Solano Avenue, with its movie theaters and many shops and restaurants, travels through Albany and into the Thousand Oaks neighborhood of Berkeley. Albany is a quick bus or bicycle ride to campus.

**KENSINGTON:** Just to the north of the North Berkeley hills lies the small community of Kensington with its many homes similar to the homes in the Berkeley Hills. Students may find “in-law” type apartments, shared housing or room rentals in Kensington, and much of Kensington is an easy commute by bus, either on The Arlington or Colusa Avenue. There is a small grocery store and other shops on The Arlington.

**EL CERRITO:** El Cerrito is to the north of Albany and conveniently situated for commuting. El Cerrito South, with its focus around the El Cerrito Plaza and BART station, is two BART stops from campus. There are many affordable apartments in this quiet, clean, small town.