

# Community Information

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## Atherton

Atherton located in southern San Mateo County, just a short drive from Palo Alto and Stanford University lies the prestigious town of Atherton. Named after Faxon Atherton, a rich hide and tallow trader from Chile who bought over 600 acres and built the first mansion in the area, Atherton is rich in history and unique in its character

Beginning on the flatlands and moving westward to the hills, Atherton features beautiful heritage trees and elegant gardens. It is still a "plain of oaks" and residents like it that way. There are 49 miles of roads in Atherton and about 2500 households with no industry or business in the town. Residents shop in nearby Menlo Park, Redwood City and Palo Alto.

Students attend either one of the several private schools in town or schools in the Menlo Park/Las Lomas elementary districts and the Sequoia Union High district. The high school, Menlo-Atherton High, is one of the highest scoring schools in the peninsula and it is supported strongly by the community through bonds.

Atherton has gorgeous views everywhere. On the flatlands, you can enjoy an abundance native live oak, white oaks, bay trees, redwood trees, cedars, pines and other ornamental trees. In the hills you can see the bay. Commuting to Silicon Valley and Stanford is easy via freeway or CalTrain.

Traffic is strictly regulated, and it is the police department's policy to respond to each and every call. This makes Atherton an excellent location for families who can afford it.

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## Belmont

Belmont is a tranquil community built primarily on the hills overlooking San Francisco Bay and the coastal range. The small, but busy, downtown has easy access to freeway and rail transportation and is a mix of locally owned shops and commercial shopping. The population of 25,000 works in San Mateo County with only 17% commuting elsewhere. There are excellent private and public schools with exceptionally high-test scores and several community colleges in the adjacent towns. Belmont has a rich heritage of fine homes from the turn of the twentieth century and enjoys the security of a very low crime rate less than one-fifth the national average.

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## Brisbane

Located in the northern part of San Mateo County, Brisbane has the unique advantage of being near the metropolitan downtown San Francisco while enjoying the serenity of the peninsula. It is near the International Airport, rail transportation and two major freeway arteries. The population of 3,000 is comprised of a large percentage of apartment and condominium dwellers that hold jobs outside the City of Brisbane.

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## Burlingame

Burlingame, the "City of Trees" boasts 18,000 public trees on its 5.5 square miles. This upscale community of 28,000 enjoys a very high standard of living including trendy shops, high-quality hotels, and extensive commercial operations. Located near the San Francisco International Airport and on the bay, Burlingame offers warm hospitality, great shopping, fine dining, and year-round outdoor recreation in a beautiful setting. With an exceptionally low crime rate and superior public and private schools scoring in the upper 5% of the nation, this charming community ranks among one of the most desirable places to live in the Western United States.

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## Campbell

Almost surrounded by San Jose, Campbell is located close to Silicon Valley Industries and is home to many high tech firms. At one time famous for its prunes, Campbell celebrates its heritage with an annual Prune Festival and has named one of its major shopping malls "The Prune Yard."

One of Santa Clara County's older suburbs, Campbell has many long-time residents who know each other. A town prides itself on being sophisticated yet retaining a small-town atmosphere.

Schools rank well above the 50th percentile with some in the 90s. Community support is strong with at least two bonds having been passed in recent years for improvements. Crime rates are low to average.

A more or less middle-class town, Campbell's homes are mostly three bedroom. There are many restaurants and plenty of shopping. The downtown has been nicely upgraded and includes many small shops and coffee houses.

Residents enjoy a 30-acre community center with gyms, auditorium, track and tennis, as well as a year-round pool and fourteen parks. There is a pleasant bike trail along a local creek, which will take you into Los Gatos. Balmy Santa Clara Valley with average temperatures add to the enjoyment with winter lows around 50° and summer averages around 80°.

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## Carmel

Carmel appears to many as a sleepy little town hidden along California's central coast. However, it is far from that! When one gets behind the scenes, one finds a buzzing cosmopolitan community with a vast selection of things to do. Life can be very full here. This page is dedicated to alerting you to a few of the many choices available in this "big small town."

There are many different neighborhoods in the greater Carmel "area of influence." The most famous of these is Carmel By The Sea, the one-square-mile incorporated city area, where its 5700 residents take great pride in the "village" quality of their town. It boasts the fact that there is no mail delivery, no street lights outside the shopping district, streets are likely to be built around trees and have no curbs or sidewalks.

The village has only about 2,700 households, 60% of which are owners occupying their own homes. The average age of Carmelites within the village is around 54 years and the median household income is said to be just over \$70,000.

The greater Carmel area of influence is another matter. It includes all of Carmel outside the city limits, north to Carmel Woods, across Highway 1 to the east, and south to include the Meadows on the other side of the Carmel River. Here the average age is said to drop to around 50 years and the median income increases to over \$90,000.

A big draw to many greater Carmel residents is the opportunity to own a home situated on a hillside, with a view of either the mountains or the ocean, and to have some open space surrounding them. Yet they are within a few minutes drive of all the same shops, galleries and restaurants, which are the pride of the village people.

Just a few miles south of Carmel on Highway One is the beautiful South Coast area, which includes the Highlands--often referred to as the Carmel Riviera. Here is where the mountains meet the sea in some of the most picturesque landscapes imaginable.

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## Carmel Valley

For a taste of the country lifestyle, Carmel Valley is the ideal place to live. It stretches east of Carmel from Highway 1 through over 15 miles of beautiful rolling hills along the path of the Carmel River. As one travels further out Carmel Valley Road, the main thoroughfare serving this long stretch of residential hideaways, the living gets more rural by the mile.

Folks who like the convenience of the vast array of peninsula conveniences will choose to live within the first few miles of the valley's mouth where a high concentration of retail and commercial services are located. Those leaning toward a more laid-back lifestyle will likely prefer locating closer to Carmel Valley Village, 12-miles out and away from the hustle and bustle.

This charming valley village is a quiet little country town only three blocks long stretched out along Carmel Valley Road. It has all one needs to live a comfortable life in the country if that is the lifestyle of choice. Horses abound from about mid-valley to the far reaches of its upper end, with unlimited riding trails heading off into the Los Padres Mountains.

The greater Carmel area of influence is another matter. It includes all of Carmel outside the city limits, north to Carmel Woods, across Highway 1 to the east, and south to include the Meadows on the other side of the Carmel River. Here the average age is said to drop to around 50 years and the median income increases to over \$90,000.

Homes vary in price across the board, and there are likely to be a lot to choose from due to the valley's large geographical area. One-acre zoning is predominant throughout the valley, with exceptions in subdivisions that were developed early on. It includes some of the finest golf courses in the area, including Quail Lodge and Carmel Valley Ranch, and one of the largest parks in Monterey County, Garland Ranch.

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## Colma

With a population of only 1,300, the Town of Colma is most famous for its many national and private cemeteries. Nestled on the eastern side of the coastal range only a few miles south of San Francisco, Colma serves as the gateway to the peninsula. It is flanked by highway 101, I-280, commuter rail and is only three miles from the International Airport. Only slightly over half of the residences in Colma live in single-family detached units and only 5% work in Colma.

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## Cupertino

Cupertino is world-renowned for the quality of its schools, which score very high. Many schools have won state and national recognition for academic excellence. Computer education is outstanding in this district.

Vice President Al Gore once visited the city's Monta Vista High School and Homestead High was honored at a White House ceremony. Community and business support is very strong for education in Cupertino.

Close to the heart of Silicon Valley, Cupertino offers a short commute to most high tech firms, including the headquarters for both Tandem Computers and Apple Computer.

Cupertino is an attractive city, rising from flatlands to hills. It has a wide variety of housing choices. Homes in the hills are more expensive, ranging as high as \$1 million-plus in price. Those on lower ground are more moderately priced.

While schools receive most of the attention in Cupertino, recreational activities are plentiful as well. The city itself offers over 200 activities from painting to karate and the soccer leagues draw over 1,000 children. The after-school music program and Shakespeare for the Kids are popular. Family's can enjoys 13 parks, a nature preserve, and a racquet club as well as bowling and ice-skating. The local Junior College, De Anza, offers many classes for the community.

Residents enjoy the city events such as the arts and wine festival, Heritage parade and De Anza Days under pleasant skies with winter average temperatures of around 50° and summer averages around 80°.

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## Daly City

Daly City, the gateway to peninsula, it's one of the older cities in San Mateo County and consists of older established neighborhoods, newer developments, and some planned developments with outstanding city and ocean views. Numerous shopping and restaurant options exist in Daly City. With its close proximity to San Francisco and a centrally located Bart station and another nearby in Colma, Daly City offers an excellent location for commuting to downtown San Francisco, the airport (SFO), the peninsula or Silicone Valley.

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## El Granada

El Granada "the jewel of the coast," is a small, picturesque community on the Pacific Ocean side of the Coastal Range. With about 5,000 inhabitants, it is blessed with spectacular ocean beaches and unobstructed views of the migrating Gray whales and other sea mammals who make their homes along the San Mateo County Coast. Away form the hustle and bustle of the "other side of the mountain," El Granada is accessible by scenic Highway 1 just a few miles north of the city of Half Moon Bay. El Granada and the Princeton Harbor area are home to some of the finest restaurants and beaches on the coast. The world famous "Mavericks" surf spot is close by. The schools are excellent, in the top 8% in the nation, and citizen participation is at a very high level in this peaceful, small town.

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## Foster City

Foster City is located in California's San Mateo County halfway down a peninsula that juts up between San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean. A very water-oriented community, Foster City has 223 acres of waterways, 13 miles of shoreline and 12 residential islands. Residents can often be seen enjoying peaceful views from their backyard decks.

Most of the homes in Foster City were built in the last 30 years. One of the few master-planned cities in the San Francisco Bay Area, Foster City has a nice mix of homes-from small town homes to elegant custom estates on the water.

Both the San Mateo-Foster City district and the San Mateo Union High District serve schools in Foster City. Students in all schools score quite high in standardized testing with scores that range from the 70th percentile all the way up to the 90th percentile.

There are many employment opportunities in and around Foster City with a good number of biotech firms located in the area. Visa has chosen Foster City as its headquarters, bringing over 900 jobs to the area. For those who commute to San Francisco, it is a 21-mile drive to the north.

Residents of Foster City never have to commute to find recreation. There is plenty of it right here. Nineteen parks are within the city limits and there is a nine-hole golf course with a new driving range. Boating and wind surfing are popular pastimes and there is a fishing pier that extends into the Bay. In the summer, swimming is available in Foster City's many lagoons.

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## Half Moon Bay

Half Moon Bay is a small town right on the Pacific Ocean in California's San Mateo County. One of the county's oldest communities, Half Moon Bay was, and is still largely, a farm community. Major crops in Half Moon Bay are strawflowers, artichokes, cabbage, and sprouts. Although Half Moon Bay is home to a very popular annual Pumpkin Festival, pumpkins do not rank as one of the area's big agricultural assets.

If you like the ocean, Half Moon Bay is the town for you. Most homes are within a few blocks of the Pacific and are built on flat land. There are older homes east of the highway and country club estates in the south section of town as well as everything in between in the center. You can find something for everyone in Half Moon Bay and the prices are very reasonable.

Schools in Half Moon Bay are very good and enjoy much support from the community. Some schools have bilingual programs. The elementary schools have been renovated, there is a new middle school and the high school has been expanded. Test scores reflect the area's interest in education with most coming in above the 50th percentile.

Many residents of Half Moon Bay commute to work to San Francisco (about 47 minutes), San Mateo (about 24 minutes) or Palo Alto (approximately 35 minutes). The brave even travel as far as Silicon Valley (almost an hour's drive away). After work, however, Half Moon Bay really stands out. There is whale watching and surfing, fishing and horseback riding, golf and fine dining. Half Moon Bay also has a state beach.

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## Los Altos

Los Altos is one of Santa Clara County's most prestigious towns. It is located in the northern end of the county, just 10 minutes from Palo Alto and Stanford University. With a quaint and charming downtown, Los Altos features many first-class restaurants, bakeries, art galleries and boutiques.

Possessing a country atmosphere, many of the streets in this city are lined with tall trees and are without sidewalks. It is a peaceful yet upscale feeling. The town slopes gently toward San Francisco Bay and sports many homes on large lots of 1/4 acre or more.

School rankings in Los Altos are very high and crime ratings are among the lowest in the state. High school seniors have many higher educational opportunities nearby including Foothill Junior College and Stanford University. After graduating college, there are a multitude of employment opportunities within a short commute including many Silicon Valley firms like Intel, Apple Computer and Hewlett-Packard.

After work and school, residents can enjoy a variety of recreational opportunities. There are 10 parks in Los Altos and many youth activities, including baseball, soccer, drama and dance. The library has been expanded and there is a yearly Festival of Lights Parade as well as an annual Pet Parade, both of which are very popular. Temperatures in Los Altos are Bay Area mild with the wintertime averages around 58-60° and summertime averages hovering around 75-80°.

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## Los Gatos/Monte Ser.

Flat lands rise to wooded and open hills in this city where there are a mix of many different types of homes. From beautifully restored Victorians to brand new homes, majestic hillside estates to townhomes and condominiums, Los Gatos has something for everyone.

Recreational opportunities are abundant in Los Gatos. The beach at Santa Cruz is just over the hill and right in town is Vasona Lake-the perfect location for a walk or picnic. Combined with adjacent Oak Meadow Park, there are over 400 acres of open space in this location. Los Gatos has a golf course and two local swim and racquet clubs, as well as the Los Gatos Athletic Association, which keeps runners busy with track and field events. The quaint down town area is one of the finest for shopping and restaurants.

Schools are among the best in the state. Los Gatos High has received national honors for its programs. Fisher School has a computer lab-arcade, which was set up by Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak. Parents strongly support their schools and it shows.

Los Gatos is just a short distance from the heart of Silicon Valley and its many employment opportunities. High tech jobs are numerous.

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### Marina/ Former Fort Ord

Situated on rolling hills with an elevation that ranges from about to 400 feet above sea level offering a striking panoramic view of the bay and peninsula skyline.

Incorporated in 1975, Marina is the youngest of the Monterey Peninsula's cities. Situated in a coastal area with gently rolling hills, it is home to a unique state beach and beautiful parks and recreation facilities.

### Menlo Park

At the turn of the 20th century, Menlo Park was a summer home location for wealthy San Francisco professionals. Many large homes remain from that era with huge oak trees and other lush vegetation. Today Menlo Park is an upscale community, primarily residential, with a number of private prep schools, colleges and an excellent public school system. A complete selection of shops and stores is available downtown along with many fine restaurants. Located at the southern-most end of San Mateo County, the population of 35,000, which includes West Menlo Park, enjoys one of the nation's lowest crime rates. Although most of the homes are valued well above the Peninsula average, there are affordable areas in Menlo Park.

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### Millbrae



Millbrae is located in the northern part of California's San Mateo County just northwest of the San Francisco International Airport. Millbrae is on the San Francisco Bay and ascends into the hills

Incorporated in 1948, Millbrae experienced a boom in housing construction after World War II. It is, and has always been, a middle-to upper middle class town with attractive, well-kept homes. Homes in the hills often have decks for taking advantage of the beautiful views. Those nearer the highway are smaller and more affordable.

Schools in Millbrae are excellent with academic rankings in the 40th to 90th percentile. Elementary schools are all connected to the Internet and four of them offer day care for working parents. The schools receive a lot of support from both parents and the business community and show the result of that care.

Millbrae has easy access to two freeways and is right next to a major airport, making it a city that is easy to commute from. Millbrae is also served by Cal Train, which goes to Silicon Valley and by SamTrans for local bus transportation.

After school and work, residents have easy access to many recreational opportunities. There are ten parks in Millbrae, one with a PAR course. Green Hills Country Club is in the middle of town and, on the western side is Crystal Springs Reservoir where hiking is popular. The annual Arts and Wine Festival in Millbrae is a popular event and draws over 100,000 visitors.

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## Montara

Montara is a community of about 3,000 hugging the cliffs of the Pacific Ocean between Pacifica and Half Moon Bay on the San Mateo County Coast. There are necessity businesses and a few specialty shops and a few fine restaurants. Most of the housing has been built within the past 25 years and a large number have ocean views. The town is accessible by scenic Highway 1. Montara is in the Cabrillo Unified School District, which ranks in the upper 20% of national test scores. Access to beautiful beaches, fine ocean view homes and a woodsy almost rural setting make this close knit community a wonderful place to call home. For the horse enthusiast, the back of Montara in the Sunshine Valley area is horse stables and miles of riding trails.

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## Monterey

In one sense, like Carmel, there are two Monterey's. Residents refer to Old Monterey and New Monterey. Old Monterey is the area, which boasts a history dating back to the founding of the city by the Spanish explorer Gaspar de Portola in 1770. It is home to all the grand historical buildings, as well as some of the

oldest homes on the Central Coast. It is indeed an historic community with its downtown district, several large hotels, the Monterey Conference Center, and famous Fisherman's Wharf.

New Monterey stretches from the Presidio of Monterey (which houses the Defense Language Institute) to the Pacific Grove City limit, and includes historic Cannery Row. New Monterey grew into being as the home of the many cannery workers that lived and worked here-the Spanish, Portuguese and Italian immigrants who developed the once-prosperous fishing industry.

With its population of about 33,000, Monterey boasts nearly 13,000 households and an average income of over \$66,000. The average age of its residents is around 35 years. Nearly 3,000 of the households claim to have lived in their present homes for more than 11 years.

There are no new housing subdivisions in the city of Monterey, so home sales are almost solely previously owned properties. Since more than 8,000 of these homes range from 30 to over 100 years old, they often have a special character and charm. Most of them have been upgraded over the years retaining much of their original style. Newer homes can be found in greater Monterey, located in unincorporated areas adjacent to the city.

One of these areas is spread along the Monterey-Salinas corridor (Highway 68) from Bay Ridge to San Benancio Canyon. Here one can find a mix of country living and hill top views. Sunshine is a regular feature here just about any time of year. It's particularly well suited for Salinas's commuters who want to live the Monterey Peninsula lifestyle.

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### **Moss Beach**

Moss Beach is a beautiful community on a point overlooking the Pacific Ocean. The relatively affluent population of 3,100 live in homes most of which are under twenty years old. The "quiet life" surrounded by spectacular views, walking and bicycle trails, crashing surf and exciting beaches seem to be the objective of the inhabitants. Access to the town is limited to Highway 1, the coastal highway between Pacifica and Half Moon Bay. The weather is typically cooler, and frequently overcast. Moss Beach is home to Fitzgerald Marine Reserve -- a beautiful beach of tide pools and reef formations where you can explore and observe marine life. Locals and visitors are drawn to the Moss Beach Distillery. A fine restaurant overlooking the crashing surfs. On a sunny day, order a bucket of "steamers" a bottle of wine and sit outside with a blanket and enjoy the peace of the coastal lifestyle.

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### **Mountain View**

Mountain View is located at the southern tip of the San Francisco Bay. The city is home to some of the top computer and electronic firms. Its most striking feature is the NASA-Ames Research Center. With a population of over 70,000, housing is a blend of single-family and rental properties, which makes it a logical choice for single business people. Mountain View is home to the Shoreline Amphitheater and sports a newly revamped downtown and Chinatown section. Its elementary schools are ranked in the top 10% in the state and there are many parks and recreational areas.

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## Pacific Grove

Pacific Grove (or "P-G" as the locals call it) likes to refer to itself as America's Last Home Town-a real sleeper as California towns go. It prides itself on the fact that it is a community of families, which retains a small town atmosphere and where housing is largely comprised of older, and often smaller, homes with "character."

PG is also referred to as Butterfly Town U.S.A. because of the huge population of Monarch butterflies, which make its home there during the winter months. The city is bounded on all sides by neighboring Monterey, Pebble Beach and the Pacific Ocean, and as such has no space for its 17,000 population to expand.

Founded in 1875 by California Methodists, Pacific Grove boasts some of the most spectacular shoreline on the peninsula, with walking and riding paths stretching along the shore for miles. Its original Methodist creators as plots for tent cabins divided its smaller lots, as PG was originally a religious campground.

It also prides itself on the fact that it has a large number of beautiful Victorian-era homes, some turned into popular bed-and-breakfast establishments. Many of the early homes have small plaques attached, which provide the viewer with the name of the original owner and the date of construction.

The city lists around 7,500 housing units, most of which are single-family dwellings. The average income is around \$60,000 and the median age is slightly above 40 years.

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## Pacifica

Pacifica means "peace" in Spanish. However, Pacifica's name was the product of a contest held in 1957 to find a name for the newly incorporated coastal city. Pacifica is one of the youngest communities in San Mateo County and yet its Spanish origins make it one of the oldest.

It is the most beautiful hidden coastal town in all of the San Francisco Bay Area. It has enchanting hillsides and beaches, a lovely 18-hole golf course, and protected hillsides with spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean. Pacifica is a residential community with quick access to San Francisco and Peninsula business centers. Its 40,000 inhabitants enjoy excellent schools and a very low crime rate. There are many neighborhood shopping centers and several fine restaurants in the area. Beachcombing, the fishing pier and access to mountain hiking and biking trails give Pacifica several options for outdoor activities.

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## Palo Alto

Palo Alto is located at the north end of Santa Clara County, just a short drive from San Francisco International Airport.

One of Santa Clara County's most prestigious addresses, Palo Alto is home to Stanford University. The San Francisco Chronicle for good cause named it. Palo Alto has tree-lined streets, gorgeous homes and a low crime rate. The schools score very high on standardized testing with many students taking advanced classes. Palo Alto High School won an Excellence in Education Award and was honored at the White House.

Because of its excellent location, Palo Alto residents generally have a very good commute to work. With companies such as Hewlett-Packard, Syntex and Varian located within the city, many people work right in town. For those who commute to other Silicon Valley towns, there are two freeways, Cal Train and a short drive to San Francisco International Airport.

After work, recreational opportunities abound. There are 30 parks in Palo Alto, including a 1400-acre park in the Santa Cruz Mountains reserved solely for Palo Alto residents. Many cultural events are held at Stanford University as well as major college football and basketball. Palo Alto has a number of excellent restaurants and upscale coffee shops as well as many youth activities and enrichment opportunities.

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## Pebble Beach

An unincorporated, gated community bordered by Carmel to the south, Pacific Grove to the north, Monterey to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west, Pebble Beach is well known throughout the world for its beauty, its golf courses, the grandeur of many of its residences and its fabled 17-Mile Drive.

Although it is not incorporated as a city, Pebble Beach has its own Community Services District to provide most of the traditional city public works services. Roads within "the forest," as Pebble Beach is often called, are owned and maintained by the Pebble Beach Company, the original land owner and current owner/operator of most of the golf courses and all the lodges within its bounds.

There is no "downtown" area of Pebble Beach, only a convenience store, bank and gas station near The Lodge at Pebble Beach. Residents do most of their routine shopping outside, but seem to like it that way. On numerous occasions, they have voted down efforts to create a city government to run their affairs.

Pebble Beach residents tend to be long-timers, with an average length of residence of slightly more than 12 years. Almost half of the forest's 2,500 plus housing units were built between 1950 and 1970.

Median age is close to 52 years, second only to Carmel, and household income is over \$130,000, the highest in the country. Pebble Beach is generally considered an area for the wealthy, but few people realize the abundance of homes surrounding the Monterey Peninsula Country Club on the north portion of the forest, which follow more affordable pricing trends.

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## Portola Valley

Portola Valley is a rural residential community at the southwestern end of San Mateo County. It covers the heavily wooded hills of the Santa Cruz Mountains and contains upscale homes and estates. Protected from the winds and fog that characterize most of the bay area, the climate is nearly perfect. Stanford University is nearby and residents have quick access to I-280 and the extensive business areas of Menlo Park and Palo Alto. Excellent schools and low crime along with the natural beauty of the area attract the affluent families of the Lower Peninsula and Silicone Valley.

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## Redwood City

Redwood City is located in California's San Mateo County about twelve miles south of the San Francisco Airport and ten miles north of Palo Alto.

Incorporated in 1868, Redwood City is the county seat of San Mateo County and its third most populated city. Diverse and with a variety of housing styles, Redwood City offers everything from cottages to castles. The older sections of Redwood City sports charming smaller homes while the newer neighborhoods, including Redwood Shores and Emerald Lake, offer beautiful upscale living with views of San Francisco Bay.

Four different districts serve schools in Redwood City. Many of the schools in Redwood City have been renovated and some have technology-computer centers. There are magnet schools available as well as bilingual programs at Redwood City elementary schools. Some elementary schools offer after school care. With a variety of resources available and class sizes being reduced, students tend to score very well in testing with scores ranging from the mid to upper percentiles. For higher education, residents can attend Cañada College, situated right on the city's border.

Employment opportunities in and around Redwood City are vast. There are a number of high-tech firms in Redwood Shores with Oracle and Electronic Arts being major employers. The San Francisco Airport, San Mateo County's largest employer is close by and two major highways-Highway 101 and Highway 280 offer reasonable commutes.

On the weekends, Redwood City residents can enjoy a number of recreational activities. Redwood City is home to a number of parks and playgrounds as well as 20 public tennis courts and an ice-skating rink. For the nautically inclined there are several marinas in Redwood City as well as a yacht club.

An excellent City with lots to offer, Redwood City welcomes you for a visit.

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### Redwood Shores

One of the very few new areas still under development is the community of Redwood Shores. Although it is within the City Limits of Redwood City and Belmont, this is a distinct community east of US 101 between the freeway and the bay. The beautifully landscaped homes are set among lagoons and saltwater ways with a network of bicycle and walking trails. A major shopping center recently opened and the community has a number of high-rise office buildings including the very large Oracle complex. Redwood Shores depends on the cities across the freeway for police and fire support as well as for school and churches. Because of the economic power behind this rapidly growing community, it is expected that it will soon develop its own social infrastructure.

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### Salinas Monterey Hwy

The Salinas Valley, located on highway 101 can be reached by traveling Highway 68 east from the Monterey Peninsula.

Salinas, the seat of Monterey County, gives visitors an opportunity to marvel at its rolling hills, agricultural fields, rivers, and large urban areas. Known as the "Salad Bowl of the World," the Salinas Valley produces numerous fruits and vegetables including lettuce, broccoli, artichokes, strawberries, and carrots. Agriculture is the number one industry in all of Monterey County, grossing \$2 billion per year. There are many opportunities for a behind-the-scenes look at the agriculture industry. Try a farm or wine tour topped by lunch at a Salinas restaurant serving the freshest local produce available.

### San Bruno

This bedroom town is located just west of the San Francisco International Airport. It rises from the flats near the bay up and over the hills of the coastal range. There are great views of the bay, the wooded hills and even the Pacific Ocean from the western slopes. Tanforan Park is one of biggest shopping malls, about 120 stores, on the Peninsula. The town is aging gracefully, most of housing was built after World War II and the styles are reminders of the Fifties and Sixties. Golden Gate National Cemetery is located in the northern section of San Bruno not far from the Federal Archives and Records Center. Skyline Community College is in the city along with excellent public and private schools. Because of a break in the coastal mountains separating the ocean from the bay, the fog routinely rolls into San Bruno during summer afternoons and evenings.

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## San Carlos

San Carlos is a wonderful community twenty-five miles south of San Francisco reachable by both highway 101 and I-280. Its population of 26,000 works primarily in San Mateo County with 16% commuting to San Francisco or elsewhere in the Bay area. The schools are of high quality ranking in the top 4% of the nation. The neighborhoods are friendly and well established with mature oak trees lining the streets. A saying among real estate professionals holds that "...there are no bad areas in San Carlos." The new Hiller Museum opened in the summer of 1998. This museum is located at the San Carlos Airport and offers a fascinating look at the history of aviation in northern California through the aircraft collection of Stanley Hiller, the father of the modern helicopter.

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## San Jose - Central San Jose

San Jose has consistently ranked among the top ten of Money Magazine's most livable cities in the United States...and no wonder! San Jose has the lowest crime rate of any metropolis in the country; it has many high-ranking schools, its own professional hockey team, a symphony, art, culture, recreation and many activities. Zero Population Growth rated it the fourth best city in the state for raising children in 1995.

A mostly middle class, family town, San Jose is the third most populous city in the state. It is viewed by many as the capital of Silicon Valley and has a good employment base with lots of industry plus a major airport. San Jose is home to many major electronic firms including Adobe System headquarters with 2,000 employees and Novell, with 3,000 employees.

San Jose is a very desirable city with homes both on flat land and on hills. Housing variety is plentiful with styles ranging from brand new contemporary to charming old world style bungalows.

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## San Mateo

San Mateo is located within San Mateo County about 18 miles from downtown San Francisco. It is the second most populous city in the county.

Rising from the San Francisco Bay into the hills, San Mateo is a middle-class city with a diversified housing stock. Many homes in the area were built between 1940 and 1960 but you will also find a variety of newer homes. From town homes to family homes, there is a lot to choose from in San Mateo.

Schools in San Mateo are very good. They score in the 70th to 90th percentiles in standardized testing. The local high school has won national recognition for excellence. Residents recently approved a bond to renovate elementary schools and built new facilities.

Employment in and around San Mateo is plentiful. The Hillsdale Mall provides many opportunities with its major department stores and there are two major hospitals in the area. For those who wish to commute either to nearby San Jose or San Francisco there are several highways as well as a commuter train and the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART).

After work, San Mateo residents have many opportunities for play. There are a number of parks in the area as well as a marina and bike paths that criss-cross the town. Residents can attend thoroughbred racing at Bay Meadows or enjoy a Bay beach and swimming at Coyote Point. Just west of the city is Crystal Springs Reservoir where you will find miles of open space and trails.

For affordable, convenient and enjoyable Bay Area living, San Mateo is an excellent choice.

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## Santa Clara

Well-established and nicely maintained, Santa Clara is the third most populous city in Santa Clara County. Home to Santa Clara University, Mission Santa Clara, Mission College and the Triton Museum of Art, Santa Clara has much to offer in the way of education and arts. The school district in Santa Clara includes many diverse neighborhoods and students generally score well on standardized testing. Some of Santa Clara's schools are located in the renowned Cupertino School District. Parents are supportive of the arts in schools and work to maintain their programs.

In Santa Clara, you will find many homes built in the Fifties and Sixties, as well as an "old quad" neighborhood near Santa Clara University where there is historic pre-World War II housing. You will notice that residents have lovingly maintained their homes with considerable renovation and remodeling.



With more than 31 parks and playgrounds, residents can enjoy tennis, baseball, basketball and many other recreational activities. Great America is a major amusement park and destination for families both within and outside of the area. In addition, there are many restaurants, youth centers and shopping centers. Known for turning out Olympic swimmers, the Santa Clara International Swim Center is another of Santa Clara's claims to fame.

Centrally located, freeways and parkways through and around the city making commuting to work a breeze. Cal Train travels to San Francisco and the light rail starts at Great America and goes to South San Jose. Santa Clara is also close to San Jose International Airport.

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## Saratoga

Pretty and prestigious Saratoga is home to many of Silicon Valley's judges, doctors, middle and upper managers. Nestled against the foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains, Saratoga has a charming old town and a mineral springs in the hills. It is just a short drive to many major employers such as Apple Computer, Intel and Silicon Graphics. Those commuting from Saratoga can take the new Highway 85 that ties into the Santa Clara County freeway network.

Saratoga is served by six school districts and all scores run in the 80th and 90th percentiles. In the 1996 math SAT, Saratoga High scored fourth highest in California. Education is strongly supported by the community. Higher education opportunities also exist in the form of West Valley Community College and nearby DeAnza Junior College as well as San Jose State University.

Saratoga is a wonderful town for recreation with nine parks and a community theater as well as regular concerts at the local Mountain Winery. There is a multitude of first-class restaurants, as well as beautiful and historic Villa Montalvo, which is the site of many cultural events.

Saratoga works to preserve its beauty and is a slow-growth oriented city of predominantly three, four and five bedroom homes. Opulent custom homes can be found in the hills.

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## Seaside/Former Fort Ord/Sand City

Situated on rolling hills with an elevation that ranges from about to 400 feet above sea level offering a striking panoramic view of the bay and peninsula skyline.

Seaside is the most populous city on the Monterey Peninsula. The city was formerly home to the U.S. Army base Fort Ord until its closure in 1993. Located north of Seaside is the thriving community of Sand

City, home to the Sand Dollar Shopping area and the new Edgewater on Monterey Bay featuring Borders, Target, Circuit City, Costco, and more.

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## South San Francisco

South San Francisco is a residential and industrial community of 58,000. It is located mostly on flat land near the western edge of the bay 2.2 miles north of San Francisco International Airport, and is nestled between San Bruno Mountain, the Santa Cruz Mountain Range and

San Francisco Bay. It is well known for its name on a hill highly visible to commuters who travel north on US 101. Originally a center for steel mills and manufacturing, South San Francisco has evolved into a mix of offices and industry. South San Francisco is one of the centers of bioscience worldwide, the birthplace of the biotechnology industry, and home of what is arguably the highest concentration of commercial biotechnology companies anywhere. The homes are modestly priced by Bay Area standards making it a favorite bedroom community for San Francisco. It has excellent schools and an unusually low crime rate.

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## Sunnyvale

The center of Silicon Valley, Sunnyvale is the second largest city in Santa Clara County. It is bordered by Mountain View, Cupertino and Santa Clara. It has been ranked by Money Magazine as the fourth safest city in the nation and by Zero Population growth as the number one city in California for raising children.

Schools in this city rank middle to high. Some Sunnyvale neighborhoods are in the nationally renowned Cupertino School District while others are served by Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, and Fremont School Districts. Parental support for education in this city is excellent.

Once a city of orchards, Sunnyvale is now home to hundreds of high-tech and bio-tech firms. There are many shopping centers and plenty of restaurants. A 70-acre Bay lands Park opened in 1993 and there are seventeen other parks across the city. School facilities including gyms, swimming pools and playing fields are open the public. Two theater groups and a dance company serve the city's cultural interests.

Weather is typical of the Santa Clara Valley with temperatures rarely very hot or cold. Winter lows average 50° and summer averages around 80°.

Sunnyvale has a wide range of housing. Forty-two percent of the homes are three bedrooms, 25% are two bedroom and 22 percent are four bedroom. Only 5% of homes have five or more bedrooms.

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## Woodside

In San Mateo County halfway between San Francisco and San Jose, you'll find the prestigious town of Woodside. Aptly named, Woodside sets amid huge second growth redwoods. Woodside Store, after which the town was named, was the center of logging activity in the early 1900s. That store is now a museum and the town is populated not by loggers, but by those who are seeking a quiet and beautiful home.

Woodside is known as a horse community. There are many equestrian estates, as well as some gorgeous mansions. You can also find some small mountain cabins on ¼ acre lots. Many famous people have sought to take advantage of Woodside's peace and quiet and have purchased homes in the area. Some of the town's more famous current and past residents have included Tennessee Ernie Ford, Shirley Temple Black and Tom Cruise. Woodside is also the home of the Gorilla Foundation, which fosters Koko, the gorilla who communicates in sign language.

The Woodside School District consists of one elementary school, which ranks in the top 10 percent of the state and is a California Distinguished School. Teenagers attend Woodside High. For higher education, residents can take advantage of nearby College of San Mateo or Cañada College. Foothill College is about a 15-minute drive away.

As Woodside backs on to a game refuge, deer watching is a common activity in the area. Residents can also take advantage of the town's small library as well as the county park. Filoli, a beautiful and famous estate, is open for tours and many cultural activities can be found in nearby Silicon Valley or San Francisco.

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