 THINGS TO DO

UCSB RECREATION CENTER:

Nicknamed the ‘Rec-Cen,’ the UCSB Recreation Center opened in 1995 and has been one of the most popular spots on campus ever since. The original Rec Center has two swimming pools, two gymnasiums, two weight rooms, two squash courts and five racquetball courts. An expansion, Rec Cen II, was opened in the spring of 2005. It includes an additional weight room, multi-purpose gym, climbing wall, jacuzzi, pottery studio, classroom and additional locker facilities. This facility is free for you to use as a student and you must have your student ID card to enter. You can rent a locker each quarter for $20-$30, depending on size and location. All locker rentals come with towel service. Mornings or mid-day are your best bets for avoiding crowds... usually the hours between 3 and 7 PM are crazy! [http://www.recreation.ucsb.edu](http://www.recreation.ucsb.edu) (see links on the left).

ADVENTURE PROGRAM:

The adventure program offers trips, classes, and ropes courses that try to provide you with the type and level of adventure that meets your needs. See the website at [http://www.recreation.ucsb.edu/adventureprograms/default.aspx](http://www.recreation.ucsb.edu/adventureprograms/default.aspx) for more information.

LEISURE REVIEW:

A number of laid-back, challenging, fun, and/or exciting leisure courses are offered through the recreation department. Pottery, yoga, scuba, fencing, diving, guitar, sailing, ballet, salsa, swing, and wine-tasting are just some of the fun activities you can join for a (typically) small fee. Classes are open to everyone, so join with a spouse or friend from outside the University if you like. More information is available at [http://www.recreation.ucsb.edu/leisurereview/default.aspx](http://www.recreation.ucsb.edu/leisurereview/default.aspx)

ARTS & LECTURES:

UCSB has a very strong Arts & Lectures program. They present performances featuring touring artists from all over the world—first-rate dancers, classical and world musicians, performance artists and theater companies. They screen films—international cinema, independent films, documentaries, and the best Hollywood movies and occasionally, restored silent classics with live piano accompaniment. In addition, they offer lectures and special events featuring writers, artists, government officials, mountain climbers/adventurers, scientists and other notable, accomplished people. Please see [http://www.artsandlectures.ucsb.edu/](http://www.artsandlectures.ucsb.edu/) for more information and their calendar of upcoming events! Student tickets are discounted from regular prices.
RECREATIONAL AND INTRAMURAL SPORTS:

UCSB boasts one of the best recreational and club sports programs in the country. Requirements for joining vary with each sport, including coed alpine racing, coed bowling, coed cycling, coed fencing, women's field hockey, women's lacrosse, men's lacrosse, coed martial arts, men's roller hockey, women's rowing, men's rowing, women's rugby, men's rugby, coed sailing, women's soccer, men's soccer, coed surfing, coed triathlon, women's ultimate, men's ultimate, and coed water ski. See the website http://www.recreation.ucsb.edu/recreationalsports/default.aspx or http://GauchosPlay.com/ for details on each of the teams.

There is also an extensive offering of intramural sports. These programs require no skill level, just interest and commitment. For a list of the intramural sports offered each quarter and to learn how to sign up, visit http://GauchosPlay.com/ or http://www.recreation.ucsb.edu/intramurals/default.aspx.

One of the greatest things about UCSB is the year-round outdoor sports weather. You will find across the graduate student population tri-athletes, marathon runners, cyclists, skiers, rock-climbers, and surfers who enjoy the temperate climate for training. Just ask around for more information.

Hiking

Santa Barbara’s year round great weather makes hiking always an option. Whether you are an experienced hiker or just want to enjoy nature, Santa Barbara has it! See http://santabarbarahikes.com/ for some local spots!

Music

Velvet Jones on State St. in Santa Barbara is a destination for many bands, both local and “mainstream”. It is also privileged to host many “secret” shows that only locals in the Santa Barbara area can attend. See http://velvet-jones.com/index/cfm for shows. The Santa Barbara Bowl is also host to much larger shows and concerts in its amazing outdoor arena. See http://www.sbbowl.com/index.htm. Only an hour away, Los Angeles provides even more venues, bands, and performances.

Wine Tasting

Santa Barbara and its neighboring counties are home to numerous wineries. Spend the day hopping vineyards up and down the beautiful coast. Prices are extremely reasonable, especially if planned with a decently sized group! See http://www.santabarbara.com/winecountry/ for local vineyards and tasting rooms.
Restaurants and Breweries

Enjoy eating foods from around the world? So do the locals in Santa Barbara! Take your pick from Japanese, Thai, Indian, Chinese, Italian, Latin American, Scandinavian, and American just to name a few! A majority of these are found on State St. in Downtown Santa Barbara. See [http://www.santabarbara.com/dining](http://www.santabarbara.com/dining) for other options. Local breweries include: Hollister Brewing Company, Telegraph Brewing Company and the Island Brewing Company in Carpenteria.

Secrets of Santa Barbara

The Ellwood Butterfly Preserve is less than 1 mile from campus and during the months of November through February, is home to one of the largest monarch butterfly migrations. The tour consists of a short hike through the forest toward the beach with THOUSANDS of butterflies along the way. See [http://www.lotsafunmaps.com/Santa_Barbara/Ellwood_Butterfly_Preserve_and_Beach.html](http://www.lotsafunmaps.com/Santa_Barbara/Ellwood_Butterfly_Preserve_and_Beach.html) for specifics and pictures

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS:

UCSB is home to a wide assortment of clubs and organizations. Some of the categories are career-related, community service, cultural, ethnic, graduate student specific, health, ideological, political, recreational, religious, and social. One of the most important organizations is the Graduate Student Association ([http://ucsbgsa.org/](http://ucsbgsa.org/)). This is the organizing body behind most of the activities and rights for graduate students on campus. They host happy hours, social activities, discounted prices and fund many of the different graduate programming on campus (such as graduate student symposiums and workshops).

Another important organization is the Instruction Development group which promotes Teaching Assistant development through training modules, orientations and workshops. Most of the information regarding TAs is available on their website: [http://oic.id.ucsb.edu/ta-development-program](http://oic.id.ucsb.edu/ta-development-program)

TRAVEL

- The Beach is a walk from anywhere.
- Death Valley is 5 hours to petrified wood, stick to winter/spring trips or face extreme heat.
- Joshua Tree is 4 hours for rock climbing and camping.
- LA is 1.5 hours and always a learning experience. Recommend you visit Westwood, Brentwood, Hollywood, Santa Monica, Pasadena, and anything that ends in Beach.
- Las Vegas is 6 hours; where anything is legal.
- Mammoth Mountain is 7 hours away and Big Bear is only 3.5 hours away.
for some snow activities.

- Mt. Whitney is 4.5 hours to the highest peak in the U.S. less than 100 miles from Death Valley
- San Diego is 4 hours south and is the last stop before Tijuana.
- San Francisco is 5-6 hours away and Alcatraz is not the only thing to see.
- Santa Ynez Valley is 20 minutes to wine country and mountain biking.
- Tahoe is also 7 hours away with water and many mountain sports.
- Yosemite is 6 hours to visit Half Dome.

**SANTA BARBARISMS AND OTHER MATTERS**

Here are some aspects of UCSB culture that are considered ‘peculiar’ or ‘unique’ to incoming graduate students, particularly those not from the west coast:

**THE ‘EARLY MORNING’ MISNOMER**

There is a different concept of ‘early morning’ here. Most University offices open at 9:00am, close for an hour over lunch (usually 12:00-1:00pm), and close at 4:00pm, so make sure to plan accordingly for official matters. But don’t worry… you can still work all the time.

**SHOPPING SHOCK**

Santa Barbara, though relatively “close” to LA, does not have a large variety of shopping opportunities. Please be aware that Santa Barbara is a tourist attraction and home to many very wealthy people. This results in small malls and boutiques.

**INTERCOLLEGIATE SPORTS**

Ever heard of the UCSB Gaucho football team? No? That’s because it hasn’t existed for about 20 years! Indeed, those from larger universities may be sorely disappointed. However, the men’s soccer team and women’s basketball team have enjoyed much success in recent years. In 2006 the men’s soccer team won the NCAA Division 1 National Championship. The Gaucho Locos go crazy at sporting events, especially at the men’s “futbol” games. Get ready to throw some tortillas!

**IT’S A BIKE FREEWAY**

The number of students who commute to school by bicycle is significant. Between classes, take care in passing bike paths (or freeways). Also, don’t be alarmed by the cell-phone chatting, gum-chewing, surfboard-carrying undergrad biking by—we see it all the time!

**HALLOWEEN AND IV**
Isla Vista can become fairly rowdy on weekends (as we are in the top 10 party schools) but the time to be aware of foot/car/bike traffic and hangovers is Halloween weekend. It is a famous event (http://www.tryourla.com/5-reasons-why-santa-barbara-kicks-ass-on-halloween/) which can bring up to tens of thousands into Isla Vista (http://www.edhat.com/site/tidbit.cfm?nid=42131).

**Hitting the Ground Running**

**Collaborative but Widespread Community**
One of the great things about the Ecology, Evolution and Marine Biology Department is the interactions between faculty and graduate students that promote collaboration and interdisciplinary discussion. Although EEMB tends to be a very friendly and social department, we are spread out among 6 buildings in the Southeast corner of campus. Key departmental activities include the weekly Seminar Series hosted in the MSI auditorium on Mondays, the Departmental Symposium in the Fall and the Graduate Student Symposium in the Spring. Social activities include the fall retreat, weekly happy hours and the Grad-Student-wide Chili Cookoff in the spring hosted by EEMB Grad students.