Santa Barbara On Foot  
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Santa Barbara Paseos - Hidden Walkways

Begin this walk on State Street a half a block north of Ortega Street, along the route of the Downtown electric shuttle. Here the Paseo walk begins with a pedestrian way called (1) Storke Placita. This little paseo leads to De La Guerra Plaza, which fronts City Hall. The Plaza has been a festival location since the early 1800’s. During the city’s annual Old Spanish Days celebration in August, the plaza becomes a bustling mercado.

Go north to De La Guerra Street and west to a narrow pedestrian way, Street in Spain, between buildings into (2) El Paseo, Santa Barbara’s original pedestrian mall which dates from 1925. Take time to wander through the maze of passageways and courtyards. Coming out to the east on Anacapa Street, cross Anacapa to find a somewhat similar but smaller complex on the east side. It ends with a charming grass courtyard and fountain east of (3) Presidio Avenue.

Backtrack to El Paseo and find your way north through the maze to a parking lot and Canon Perdido Street. Cross to a sidewalk just west of the (4) Lobero Theater that runs north between the theater and an office building. Follow this sidewalk to an arch which allows you to skirt a parking structure to your left, go left at the far end of the parking structure down a walkway/driveway to an alleyway north to Carrillo Street.

Cross Carrillo Street and look carefully for a sidewalk between buildings just east of the (5) Hill-Carrillo Adobe (15 East Carrillo Street). Take the sidewalk to another parking lot and skirt the lot to the west, entering an alleyway going north to Figueroa Street.

Across Figueroa Street and to your right is one entrance to (6) La Arcada, another old pedestrian way containing restaurants, shops and offices. Notice the sculptures as you wander through to State Street. Then backtrack to find another way out behind the Santa Barbara Art Museum. Take that way out, passing north between the Art Museum and the Santa Barbara Public Library, where you will find a sculpture in an unexpected spot, and another nice fountain and a mural.

Continue along the path and cross Anapamu to a bouganvilla covered arbor. Take the pathway beneath it, and work north across the parking lot to find a way out next to the (7) Santa Barbara College of Law, arriving at Victoria Street. Cross Victoria Street and go right to find another pedestrian pathway between buildings to (8) Arlington Avenue.

Work west to State Street, then north to Sola Street. Cross State on Sola, and go west to a broad pedestrian way which parallels State to the west. Go south on this former limousine entrance to the (9) Arlington Theater to the Theater Mezzanine, and continue beyond to Victoria Street. Cross Victoria and walk a few feet west to a pedestrian way into (10) Victoria Court, a pedestrian oriented complex built in the late 70’s. Find your way south to a sidewalk (one half block west of and parallel to State Street) and continue past the tiny Post Office to your left. Continue south past the parking lot and through an archway in a wall to Anapamu Street. Look right on the wall and note the cat sleeping atop the wall, a gift to the city from the masonry contractor who built the wall.

Go east on Anapamu Street 1/2 block to State Street, cross and go south on State to the (11) San Marcos Building (a pre-1925 arcade). Enter the arcade and find your way to the parking lot behind. Retrace your route to State Street and turn south along State for two blocks to Canon Perdido Street. Cross Canon Perdido Street and turn right; continue for 1/2 block and enter (12) Paseo Nuevo, Santa Barbara’s most recent pedestrian mall, completed in the early 90’s. Wander through Paseo Nuevo to wind up back at State Street, and you’ll be roughly where you started.

A ramble through some of Santa Barbara’s pleasant “paseos” (car-free pedestrian walkways), passing unique shops, restaurants, and historic sites along the way. This is a nice evening walk with many good dining opportunities.

This walk was originally developed by the Santa Barbara Bicycle Coalition. <www.sbbike.org>