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About

Fullerton is an extremely convenient place to live, featuring great schools, tons of parks, all the shopping you could ask for, and commuting routes to North Orange County and East LA. If you were to poll residents on the best adjective to describe their city, there's a good chance "comfortable" would top the list. Although it's home to Cal State Fullerton, the largest branch of the CSU system, most of the city feels sleepy and suburban. Single-family homes in tucked-away, low-traffic neighborhoods make up most of the local housing inventory.

There's a wide variety of housing options available in the city, ranging from modern condos to colorful ranch-style homes to new traditional two-story properties. "You can really find any kind of home you want here," says Barbara Kerr, who has worked in the area for over 40 years. "It really caters to buyers looking for more of a suburban feel compared to, say, Anaheim. But you're still very connected to everything." Home prices vary significantly depending on what part of the city you're looking at: quieter neighborhoods on the north side of the city are particularly sought-after. Most condos and townhouses sell for between \$400,000 and \$950,000, while single-family homes can go for anywhere from \$600,000 to over \$2 million.

Fullerton is known for its many beautiful green spaces. 124-acre Craig Regional Park is particularly popular, offering playgrounds, walking trails and a fishing pond. Hillcrest Park in the center of town is known for its locally iconic wooden staircase, which is popular with exercise enthusiasts. If you don't feel like limiting yourself to just one park, you can hop on your bike and go for a ride on the 11-mile Fullerton Loop trail, which runs through a number of the most scenic parks in Fullerton. The trail is a favorite of local mountain bikers and popular with horseback enthusiasts and birdwatchers as well. Residents can enjoy a more manicured outdoor experience at the Fullerton Arboretum or play a round at the public Coyote Hills Golf Course.

Many dining destinations in the SOCO district downtown

There are several retail centers around Fullerton, but the city's centerpiece is definitely its downtown area. The vibrant, walkable district is known for its array of independent and chain eateries. There are coffee shops, vegan options and restaurants that serve a range of cuisines from around the world. The Downtown Fullerton Farmers Market is held on Thursday evenings from April through August. Various Shopping centers and big box retailers can be found along the city's borders, along with grocery stores ranging from Sprouts and Ralphs to Fullerton Arirang Supermarket.

Fullerton Joint Union High School District is among the best in the state

Fullerton Unified School District is among the stronger districts in Greater Los Angeles, with nearly every school scoring National Blue Ribbon and California Distinguished School honors. Troy High School is particularly well-known for its top-tier academics and variety of extracurricular STEM programs. The school's teams have won first prize in the U.S. National Science Olympiad more than 10 times since 1996.

Although Cal State Fullerton has over 40,000 students, its presence is somewhat muted. “There are definitely college students around, but I wouldn’t call it a college town,” says Kerr. “Obviously, a lot of people in town work at the university, and there are sometimes public events, but all in all, the school is pretty quiet. A lot of the students commute; it’s not like there’s a fraternity row or anything.

Direct access to Interstate 5 and 15 minutes from Disneyland

Fullerton is surrounded by several highways, but the most important by far is Interstate 5, which runs just west of the city and connects to Santa Ana and Downtown LA. It’s around 11 miles to Santa Ana, 20 miles to Irvine and John Wayne Airport, and around 25 miles to Downtown LA. Buses in the area are overseen by the Orange County Transportation Authority, which offers several routes connecting the city to neighboring Anaheim.

Script

[Persona: _____, Conversational]

INTRODUCTION

Fullerton is a sleepy city in northern Orange County known for its schools. Sometimes called “The Education Community,” it is home to Cal State Fullerton, the largest branch of the California State University system, and some of the best primary and secondary schools in the state.

SCHOOLS

Niche grades Fullerton Elementary School District A-minus, while Fullerton Joint Union High School District gets an A-plus. Combined they serve almost 25,000 students. Cal State Fullerton has a student body of 40,000 and is well-known for their teaching and nursing programs, as well as highly rated online master's programs.

HOUSING

The median home price in Fullerton was around \$1 million in October 2024, higher than the California average and more than double the national number. There are condos and townhomes in Downtown Fullerton and a selection of early 20th-century homes on compact lots. Apartments and multifamily housing caters to students and faculty around Cal State Fullerton. Coyote Hills and Sunny Hills are more exclusive and known for higher prices.

PARKS AND RECREATION

With over 50 parks, nearly every neighborhood in Fullerton is walkable to a cultivated green space. Throughout the city, 28 miles of recreational trails are used for mountain biking, horseback riding and hiking. Take in flora from around the world at the Fullerton Arboretum, a 26-acre botanical garden with a beautiful collection.

SHOPPING AND DINING

There are commercial stretches with shopping and dining destinations all over the city, including the SOCO district downtown. This walkable area is known for mom-and-pop restaurants representing a wide range of cuisines.

Other shopping is half a mile south at Fullerton Town Center, a full-service shopping center with a grocery store, national chains and a movie theater.

For stocking up on fresh fruits and veggies, the Fullerton Farmer's Market is a year-round certified open-air market open on Wednesdays.

TRANSPORTATION

Fullerton is surrounded by major roadways and has direct access to Interstate 5. The Fullerton train station serves thousands of Amtrak and Metrolink passengers daily, while the Orange County Transportation Authority operates bus routes.

CRIME

Violent crime in Fullerton is lower than state and national averages, while property crime is higher.

OUTRO

Surprisingly sleepy with a funky college-town vibe, Fullerton is an education destination for students of all ages.