



BAKERSFIELD, CA AREA INFORMATION

While [Bakersfield](#) is known for its oil production (with the largest oil field in the state of California) and productive agriculture output, the city has much more to offer than just these two big industries. The city has 54 city parks; a high number for a city in southern California and is known for the creation of a unique style of country music called Bakersfield Sound. While Bakersfield is a smaller city in the state of California with a population of 376,000, its tight knit community and quirky heritage keeps the region thriving. True to Californian culture, residents love to support local businesses and pride their community on having access to locally sourced foods. With hundreds of miles of bike lanes leading to beautiful parks, a short commute to the Sierra Nevada Mountains, and access to some of California’s most impressive national forests, the community in Bakersfield is not only lovely, but also lively.

Transportation

By Car

It is relatively easy to drive in Bakersfield, especially compared to the craziness of big city congestion like Los Angeles. You are able to find public street parking in the city free of charge, as well as [parking](#) structures that have low fees after a certain amount of time. Having a car may be convenient too if you wish to do some outdoor exploring. Whether you drive yourself or let someone else take the wheel via [Uber](#) or [Lyft](#), all of Bakersfield attractions are accessible by car.



Public Transportation

The [GET bus](#) runs on the city's public transportation system and has 6 different lines. The bus routes cover an expansive portion of the city as well as surrounding towns, so it is always a great option when driving isn't convenient.



By Bike

The city has created a [bicycle transportation](#) network connecting miles of bike paths, lanes, and routes for citizens to partake in this great form of transportation. Riders can pedal through neighborhoods and commercial districts, making it a great way to commute to work. Riders can access almost all areas in Bakersfield with the designated biking routes.

By Air

Three miles northwest of downtown, is [Meadows Fields](#) a local airport. If you're planning a trip domestically or internationally, this airport is the most convenient.

By Train

Bakersfield has an [Amtrak](#) station (Bakersfield Station). Amtrak provides rail and bus services to and from major cities in California from its downtown Bakersfield station. Passenger train service is available to and from Sacramento and to the San Francisco Bay Area. All trains have at least one coach car with seating for handicapped customers.

Schools

Generally, to register your child for school you will need to have a passport and/or birth certificate, proof of immunizations, any applicable past school records and proof of residency. Most public schools have boundary areas, and you must show proof (i.e. copy of lease or home purchase agreement) to be allowed to register in that particular school. Please always confirm requirements with the school you are interested in before assuming that your child will be able to attend that school.

Grade level in the public school system is determined by the age of the child. Typically, the child must be 5 years old by September 1st to enter kindergarten. School districts may be very strict about the age requirement, but inquire with the school district you are interested in to determine if there are any exemptions for foreign students who are ahead in grade level. You may also want to ask about any gifted or advanced programs as well as their English as a Second Language (ESL) Programs. Some elementary schools also offer a pre-Kindergarten program for children who miss the September 1st requirement. You may inquire at the school districts for availability.

Contact your IOR Destination Services Consultant for more assistance with schooling questions.

Public and Private Schools

For a list of public schools in Bakersfield please look at the [Bakersfield City School District](#) and the [Kern High School District](#).

For a list of private schools, [click here](#).

Colleges/Universities

- [Colleges and Universities near Bakersfield](#)
- [California State University Bakersfield](#)



Recreation

Listed below are a few of the attractions offered in Bakersfield. A more complete listing of attractions in Bakersfield can be found [here](#).

- [Museums in Bakersfield](#)
- [Bakersfield Festivals](#)
- [Outdoor Fun in Bakersfield](#)
- [National Parks in Kern County](#)
- [Nightlife in Bakersfield](#)
- [Arts and Culture in Bakersfield](#)
- [Dining in Bakersfield](#)



Sequoia National Park

Obtaining a Driver's License

In the US, a driver's license or ID card is issued by each individual state and not by the federal government. Since there is no national identity card in the USA, and many Americans don't have a passport or carry around a birth certificate, a driver's license issued by your state is often the only official piece of identification for many citizens. Since 9/11, you will need to show a valid driver's license or State ID card to enter many big office buildings.

If you become a California resident, you must get a California driver license within 10 days. To change to a California license, you will need to pass a vision test, surrender your out-of-state license, bring proof of identity, and pay necessary fees to your local DMV facility. You have three chances to pass the driving test. If you fail, you may practice for a while, then make another appointment. There is no waiting period, but you must make an appointment. If you fail to successfully complete the driving test on the first attempt, you must pay a fee for each additional driving test that is administered under an application for an original or renewal driver license. For more information, please go to the [California state DMV website](#).

Your Destination Services Consultant will also assist you with the proper procedure.