

Albany Real Estate



Albany

Albany is located on the eastern shore of [San Francisco Bay](#), bordering the city of [Berkeley](#) to the south and east, and the [Contra Costa County](#) cities of [El Cerrito](#) and [Richmond](#) to the north. Albany's northern and southern borders are defined by two creeks, [Codornices Creek](#) on the south and [Cerrito Creek](#) on the north. Cerrito Creek takes its name from "El Cerrito de San Antonio", now known as [Albany Hill](#). The hill's unusual location near the bay shore makes it a

prominent landmark in the East Bay. The rest of the city is relatively flat by Bay Area standards, except for a small area near the base of the [Berkeley Hills](#).

Albany's waterfront has undergone significant man-made changes; the most prominent landform is now the [Albany Bulb](#), a former garbage landfill jutting out into San Francisco Bay. The bulb was the site of a small art colony and shanty town until it was cleared to turn the area into part of the new [Eastshore State Park](#).^{[14][15][16]}

[University Village](#), a housing unit of the [University of California Berkeley](#), is located in Albany.

Known for its excellent schools, quaint residential streets, and bustling Solano Avenue that runs through its core, Albany has a lot to offer for a small town of less than 20,000 residents. Initially established as a bedroom community for commuters to San Francisco, the city has blossomed into a thriving community all its own.

[Albany schools](#) consistently place in the 90th percentile, producing some of the highest academic test scores in the state. (Perhaps this isn't surprising, considering that Albany is also home to UC Berkeley's family student housing, University Village.)

Accordingly, homes here go for top dollar. You'll find primarily 2- and 3-bedroom single-family homes, including Craftsman bungalows, Mediterranean-style residences, and charming [MacGregor homes](#), which have touches of storybook whimsy.

If you're looking for big-box stores, head to San Pablo Avenue, but most residents do their shopping on [Solano Avenue](#), which is dotted with gourmet and specialty grocers, florists, boutiques, jewelers, antique shops, cafes and restaurants. Every year people from all over the Bay Area descend on this beloved Main Street for the [Solano Stroll](#), an annual street fair (and people-watching extravaganza) that runs more than 25 blocks.

Albany's city limits extend to the waterfront, where you'll find an unlikely — and fiercely contested — bit of wildness, the [Albany Bulb](#). A former landfill turned park and art installation, the Bulb is a popular destination for dog walkers, hikers, and the adventurous, with spectacular views of the bay. Adjacent to Golden Gate Fields, it also connects to the Bay Trail, which you can walk or bike to access the Richmond Marina, the tip of [Emeryville](#), and beyond.

Sharing borders with Berkeley, Richmond, and El Cerrito, Albany is close to major freeways as well as to BART and other public transportation. Oakland is about 15 minutes away and San Francisco can be as close as 20 minutes in light traffic.