Get To Know Santa Cruz

Once you get to Santa Cruz, what will help you most is knowing what’s available to you in the community, so let's explore! First things first, make sure you’ve watched the video on how to get around on and off campus so that you’re familiar with the bus routes in Santa Cruz! Now that you have a little more knowledge of how to get around, let's highlight some essential routes.

Your first stop uses either the 15 or 16 routes to Mission & Trescony, or the 19 to Bay & King. These will drop off by Mission Street. Wherever you go on Mission, you’ll have no problem finding restaurants, grocery stores, and shopping of all kinds along the way.

The second stop for essentials uses any of the routes, 10, 15, 16, or 19, to the Santa Cruz Metro Center on Pacific Avenue. No matter where you go on Pacific, it is filled with restaurants, stores of all kinds, and even small concert venues! There is so much to discover downtown you'll likely keep finding new shops every year!
A third stop takes you to our local mall. To get there, take a 10, 15, 16, or 19 to the Metro Center, and then wait for either a 69A or 69W route to arrive. You can then take either to the Capitola Mall stop. The mall has stores for almost anything--it'll take time to explore in full, but can make for a fun afternoon trip with friends every once in a while!
Another key destination is one that may have led you to Santa Cruz--the beaches! Natural Bridges is the first of the two, using routes 20, 20D, and 22 and getting off at the Natural Bridges Drive & Delaware Avenue stop. Cross the street to the Natural Bridges sign and follow the paved path all the way until you reach the beach.

Second, for the beach by the boardwalk, take routes 19 or 20 to the Pacific Avenue & 2nd stop. Follow the road back to the beach and you’ll also find access to both the boardwalk and wharf. Ultimately, nothing is better than going out and exploring the community yourself--and we can’t wait to see what you find!