**Museum of Ventura County**
100 E. Main St.
The Museum celebrates the history and culture of Ventura County with special exhibitions, programs and events. The George Stuart Historical Figures bring world history to life, and the Museum Research Library is a treasure trove of photographs, books and documents relating to this region.

**Mission Gardens & Morley Bay Fig Tree**
On Main St. between Figueroa St. & Ventura Ave.
This land was once the Old Mission Gardens, surrounded by tall adobe walls, bountiful citrus trees on the highest mound and cultivating some of the first orange trees grown in California. The Morley Bay Fig Tree, located west of Figueroa Plaza, was planted in the 1860s.

**Mission Plaza: Archaeological Site**
(Allinger Archaeological Museum, Valdez Adobe, & El Calabozo) - 113 E. Main St.
The Allinger Archaeological Museum (open by appointment) was named for long-time Ventura Mayor Al Allinger and built on the home site of adobe builder and early mayor Angel Essacondo. To the west of the museum is a walkway called Valdez Alley, where the handsome 1820s Ramon Valdez adobe once stood. The adobe served as the first polling place where all eight eligible voters cast their ballots in honor of Abraham Lincoln in 1860.

Farther up the hill on Valdez Alley is a little Mexican-era brick building and fountain called “El Calabozo” (the hovel), after the shape of its water spout. The building was part of a seven-mile aqueduct system developed by the Spanish Padres and constructed by Chumash labor in the 1780s and 1800s.

**Fray Junipero Serra Statue**
Below City Hall on California at Poli Streets
In 1956 the Federal Arts Project funded this heroic sculpture of the Spanish friar, and the park was named after him. In 1959 a wooden replica of the statue was cast in bronze. The present statue, an exact replica, was cast in bronze in 1989. A wooden duplicate is used in the making of the bronze statue but can be seen in the City Hall Atrium.

**Ventura City Hall & Municipal Art Gallery**
501 Poli St.
City Hall, formerly the Ventura County Courthouse, was built by noted Los Angeles architect Albert C. Martin in 1912 in the “Beaux Arts” style. The neoclassical columns, red brick, and terra cotta facade are offset by 24stained glass windows. The Mathes Hall building, on the north side of City Hall, was added in 1928 and is also neoclassical. The City Hall’s Clock Tower, designed by architect Charles L. Band, was added in 1958. The tower has a weight-operated bell and chimes that play a variety of melodies at different times of the day.

**San Buenaventura Mission**
211 E. Main St. & Figueroa St.
San Buenaventura Mission is the fifth in the chain of 21 Missions and the last one founded personally by Fray Junipero Serra on Easter Sunday, March 31, 1782. The Mission’s first church building was destroyed by fire. In 1793 work was in progress on the present church made of tile, stone and adobe. The church’s walls are 17 feet thick. The Mission Museum highlights mission artifacts such as Chumash basketry and mysterious wooden bells. In the Church garden can be found the actual life-size statue of Fray Junipero Serra. The Mission’s two Norfolk Islands Pines, planted in the 1850s, were designated California’s Millennium Landmark Trees in 2000. In 1869 Fray Junipero Serra and his companions headed northward from Mexico and founded Mission San Diego. This undated mission lived wholessly by his motto: Suarez obdrak. Nanat awus. Always go forward. Never turn back. (Cross to south side of Main Street)

**Peirano’s Market** and Mission Lavendaria*
204 W. 200 W. Main St.
Converted into Jonathan’s Restaurant in 1996, Peirano’s Market was Ventura’s first commercial brick building, constructed in 1877 by Italian merchant Alex Guadalupe. The building was later home to a variety of businesses, including a hardware store and a tailor shop. In 1992, archaeologists discovered an elaborate 1850s-era “lavendaria” (laundry) with a 20-foot-long washboard under the building, constructed by Chumash artisans.

**Clock Tower Inn**
161 & 165 E. Santa Clara St.
Built in the 1950s as a fire station, the building has been converted into a restaurant and hotel. The tower’s purpose was to dry fire hoses.

**A.J. Comstock Museum**
Figueroa St. Plaza
On the northeast side of the Clock Tower Inn, facing the plaza rose garden, is the A.J. Comstock Fire Museum. This small exhibit portrays the history and growth of Ventura City’s Fire Department, including the Chinese Fire Company which operated in Ventura for nearly 35 years.

**Castle Hall House**
211 E. Santa Clara St.
The first two-story house, built in 1912, shows many characteristics of the Victorian period of 1860 to early 1900s.

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**Historic Walking Tour Guide**

**Downtown Ventura**

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**For those who would like to explore further, one black block east on Poli Street stand these historic structures:**

**Judge Ewing Residence**
600 Poli St.
This Queen Anne style house, built in 1894 for Judge Felix Ewing, is known for its decorative Balustrade style, wrap around porch, and stone walls.

**The Hammond Residence**
65-9 Poli St.
This richly decorated Queen Anne style house was built in 1906 for Harry Hammond, owner of an insurance company.

**The Elizabeth Bald Hospital**
121 Pila St.
This impressive Moorish Revival building was completed in 1902 as one of the most modern hospitals in Southern California by Dr. Cephas L. Bard. Ironically, he was the first patient admitted and died in the hospital.

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**For Tour Information call the Ventura Visitor and Convention Bureau at 805/681-3073.

This document is available in alternate formats by calling the City of Ventura at 805/658-4770 or 805/658-7700 (TDD).**