

Why Davis is More Than Just UC Davis: A Local's Guide for Travelers

When most people hear “Davis, California,” they immediately think of the University of California, Davis. The campus is central to the city, and it draws thousands of students, parents, and visitors each year. But Davis is more than just a college town. Located off Interstate 80 between Sacramento and the Bay Area, Davis is also a hub for agriculture, research, cycling, and community events. For travelers passing through, families attending weddings or reunions, professionals on business trips, and teams visiting for tournaments, Davis offers a surprising mix of small-town charm and practical convenience.

If you're planning a trip to Davis, here's why it makes sense to stay in town, and why the Prodigy Hotel, a Days Inn by Wyndham, is a smart choice for affordable, comfortable lodging.

Why People Travel to Davis

1. University Visits

UC Davis is one of the top public universities in the nation, and it brings in thousands of visitors every month. Parents come for orientation, family weekends, and graduation ceremonies. High school students tour the campus when considering colleges. Researchers attend conferences and academic workshops. Many visitors want to stay nearby but need affordable accommodations rather than on-campus housing.

2. Agriculture and Research

Davis has long been tied to agriculture and environmental sciences. Professionals from across California and beyond travel to Davis for meetings, conferences, and research collaborations. With many events scheduled at UC Davis and surrounding research facilities, staying close by saves time and simplifies logistics.

3. Events and Reunions

Davis is a convenient meeting point between Sacramento and the Bay Area. Families often choose Davis as a midway spot to host reunions, weddings, or milestone celebrations. The city offers venues of all sizes, and hotels like the Prodigy provide guest room blocks and event space options for small gatherings.

4. Sports and Competitions

The city is also known for its sports culture. Soccer tournaments at the Davis Legacy Soccer Complex, cycling events like the Amgen Tour of California, and swim meets at UC Davis

facilities bring in athletes and families. Teams need lodging that is budget-friendly, group-friendly, and flexible.

5. Travelers Along the I-80 Corridor

Finally, Davis is a natural stop for travelers driving along I-80 from the Bay Area to Sacramento, Reno, or beyond. Whether you're heading north to Oregon or east toward Lake Tahoe, Davis offers a convenient place to rest without paying city-center prices.

Why Stay in Davis Instead of Sacramento or the Bay

Sacramento is just 20 minutes away, and San Francisco is about an hour. But Davis has several advantages for travelers:

- **Lower hotel rates** compared to downtown Sacramento or Bay Area hotels.
 - **Easy freeway access** to I-80 and Highway 113.
 - **Free parking** at hotels like the Prodigy is something you won't find easily in major city hotels.
 - **Less congestion**, with small-town convenience and walkable areas.
 - **Family-friendly environment**, making it comfortable for both business travelers and leisure guests.
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The Prodigy Hotel: A Practical Choice in Davis

Located at **4100 Chiles Rd, Davis, CA**, the Prodigy Hotel (a Days Inn by Wyndham) combines affordability with practical amenities for travelers of all types.

Guest Rooms

- 78 rooms spread across two floors and three buildings.
- Room types include:
 - 1 King Bed (Non-Smoking)

- 2 Queen Beds (Non-Smoking)
 - Pet-friendly rooms for dogs or cats up to 30 lbs (\$25 fee).
 - Accessible rooms with mobility features.
- Renovated in 2018 with updated carpets and HDTVs.

Amenities

- Free WiFi and free on-site parking for cars, trucks, and buses.
- Seasonal outdoor pool, hot tub, and fitness center.
- Business center and guest laundry facilities.
- In-room coffee makers, microwaves, and mini-fridges.
- 24-hour front desk service.
- Quiet hours enforced after 10 PM.

Event Space

- Meeting room available for small events, gatherings, or conferences.
- Options for catering through the property or outside vendors.
- Flexible booking policies for nonprofits, schools, and corporate clients.

Group Benefits

- Group room blocks with discounted rates.
- Complimentary breakfast included.
- 1 complimentary room per 10 booked (for qualifying groups).
- Late checkout options for groups.

For weddings, reunions, or small business meetings, the Prodigy Hotel offers a balance of cost savings and professional service.

What to Do in Davis While You're Here

Even if you're not visiting UC Davis, the city has plenty to offer:

- **Farmers Market:** Every Saturday, locals and visitors gather for fresh produce, food stands, and live music.
 - **Explorit Science Center:** A family-friendly museum with hands-on exhibits.
 - **Downtown Davis:** Walkable area with restaurants, coffee shops, and boutiques.
 - **UC Davis Arboretum:** A 100-acre garden with walking trails along the Putah Creek.
 - **Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts:** Hosts concerts, lectures, and cultural events.
 - **Bike-Friendly City:** Davis is known as the "Bicycle Capital of the U.S.," with extensive bike paths.
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Who Benefits Most from Staying at Prodigy Hotel

- **Families attending UC Davis events** who need affordable lodging nearby.
 - **Corporate travelers** attending meetings, conferences, or site visits.
 - **Sports teams** traveling for tournaments who need room blocks.
 - **Road trippers** along I-80 who need a safe, affordable overnight stop.
 - **Event planners and reunions** looking for space to gather without high city costs.
 - **Pet owners** traveling with small dogs or cats.
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Final Word

Davis is not just a university town, it's a practical and welcoming destination for travelers across California. Whether you're here for academics, family events, or simply passing through, the Prodigy Hotel offers affordable rates, flexible group options, and the amenities you need for a smooth stay.

[Click here to book your stay at Prodigy Hotel.](#)