

California – The Golden State

- **California**, constituent state of the United States of America. It was admitted as the 31st state of the union on September 9, 1850, and by the early 1960s it was **the most populous U.S. state**.
- No version of the origin of California's name has been fully accepted, but there is wide support for the contention that it derived from an early 16th-century Spanish novel, *Las sergas de Esplandián* ("The Adventures of Esplandián"), that described a paradisiacal island full of gold and precious stones called California.
- The influence of the Spanish settlers of the 18th and 19th centuries is evident in California's architecture and place-names. The capital is Sacramento.

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/89503/California>





California is a **land of stunning physical contrasts**. Both the highest and lowest points in the 48 conterminous states are in the state of **California—Mount Whitney and Death Valley**, respectively. The former is the culminating summit of the Sierra Nevada, one of the major mountain ranges of North America.



Yosemite NP



- **Yosemite National Park**, scenic mountain region in east-central California, U.S.
- The park, surrounded on all sides by national forest lands, encompasses 1,189 square miles (3,080 square km). It was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1984.
- The park is situated in the heart of the Sierra Nevada range.
- It features a number of attractions, such as sheer rock walls that rise 3,000 to 4,000 feet (900 to 1,200 metres) above the valley floor, Yosemite Falls, and huge domes and peaks.

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/653840/Yosemite-National-Park>

Sierra Nevada



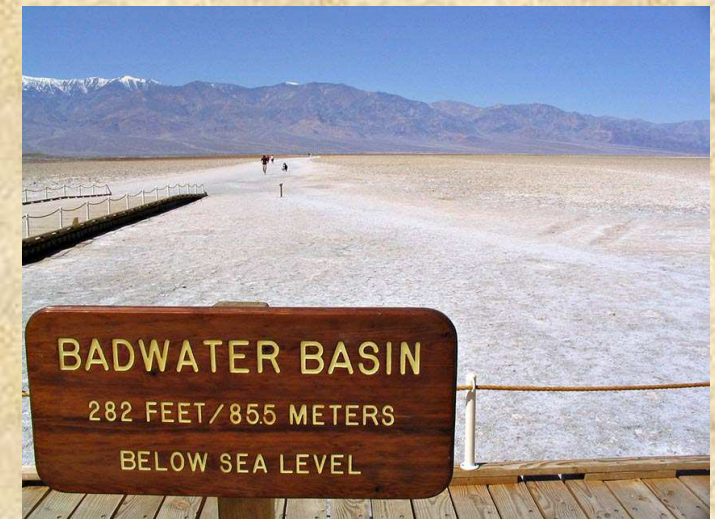
- **Sierra Nevada**, also called **Sierra Nevadas**, major mountain range of western North America, running along the eastern edge of the U.S. state of California. Its magnificent skyline and spectacular landscapes make it one of the most beautiful physical features of the United States.
- Biologically, it is home to the largest trees in the world—the giant **sequoias**.
- As a recreation centre, its year-round facilities prove a magnet to the inhabitants of the huge urban areas of California, and it has considerable importance as a source of power and water.
- It was the focus of the celebrated California gold rush.

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/543431/Sierra-Nevada>

Mount Whitney, highest peak (14,494 feet [4,418 metres] above sea level). It is the culminating summit of the Sierra Nevada.



Death Valley. It is the lowest, hottest, driest portion of the North American continent. Death Valley is about 140 miles (225 km) long, trends roughly north-south, and is from 5 to 15 miles (8 to 24 km) wide.



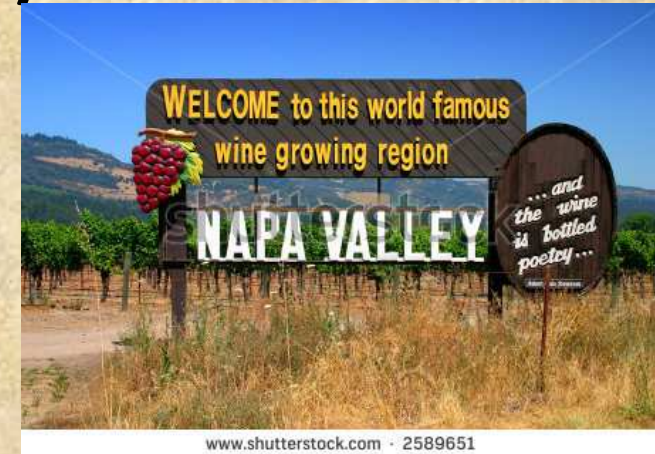
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- California's population, concentrated mostly along the coast, is the most urban in the United States, with more than three-fourths of the state's people living in the **Los Angeles, San Francisco, and San Diego** metropolitan areas. Despite its urbanization and the loss of land to industry, California still leads the country in agricultural production.
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Californian vineyards

- 1780s – Spanish monks
- Count Agoston Haraszthy introduced viticulture (grape cultivation) into California in the 1850s
- 1919 – the 18th Amendment prohibited the making of alcohol. It was repealed in 1933.
- 1960s – boom started
- Best areas: Napa and Sonoma counties



A brief history of California

- When **Spanish navigator Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo** became the first European to sight the region that is present-day California in **1542**, there were about 130,000 Native Americans inhabiting the area.
- The territory was neglected by Spain for more than two centuries (until 1769) because of reports of the region's poverty and a general slowdown of Spanish exploration.
- **Colonization began after 1773** with the opening of an overland supply route across the southwestern deserts that was intended to link other Spanish settlements in what are the present-day states of Arizona and New Mexico to the coast.
- 21 missions were established
- Secularization of the missions was sought by Spanish Mexican settlers known as Californios when Mexico became independent of Spain in 1821. Between 1833 and 1840 the mission ranches were parceled out to political favourites by the Mexican government. The padres withdrew, and the Native Americans were cruelly exploited and diminished.
- In 1841 the first wagon train of settlers left Missouri for California. The colony grew slowly, but in 1846 the Northwest became a part of the United States, and settlers at Sonoma proclaimed an independent California republic. In May the United States declared war on Mexico, and in July the U.S. flag was raised at Monterey. Minor skirmishes occurred before the Californios surrendered in January 1847. Mexico signed the **Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo**, ceding to the United States a vast area of the Southwest that included all of present-day California.

Californian Gold Rush, 1849

- The Gold Rush hastened statehood in 1850 (as a part of the Compromise of 1850); and, though the Gold Rush peaked in 1852, the momentum of settlement did not subside. Nearly \$2 billion in gold was extracted from the earth before mining became virtually dormant.

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/89503/California/79268/Settlement>

- **Levi Strauss** (1829–1902), a Bavarian immigrant, arrived in San Francisco in 1850 during the Gold Rush, bringing dry goods for sale to miners. Hearing of the miners' need for durable pants, Strauss hired a tailor to make garments out of tent canvas. Later, denim was substituted, and copper riveting was added to pocket seams. A merchandising partnership of Strauss and his two brothers, Jonas and Louis, was formed in 1853.

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/337930/Levi-Strauss-Co#ref38503>

San Francisco – the City by the Bay

- It is a cultural and financial centre of the western United States and one of the country's most cosmopolitan cities.
- **Spanish colonists founded San Francisco** on the peninsula between the Pacific Ocean and San Francisco Bay **in 1776**, but the “City by the Bay” really burgeoned **in 1849, when the California Gold Rush** enticed treasure seekers from around the world. In that year alone, the city's population grew from 1,000 to 25,000.
- In **1906, an earthquake** and subsequent fires devastated the city, destroying more than 80 percent. Relying on the strong financial industries established during the Gold Rush, San Francisco recovered quickly.

<http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/st/english/pamphlet/2012/09/20120921136399.html#ixzz2mKqRkOF2>

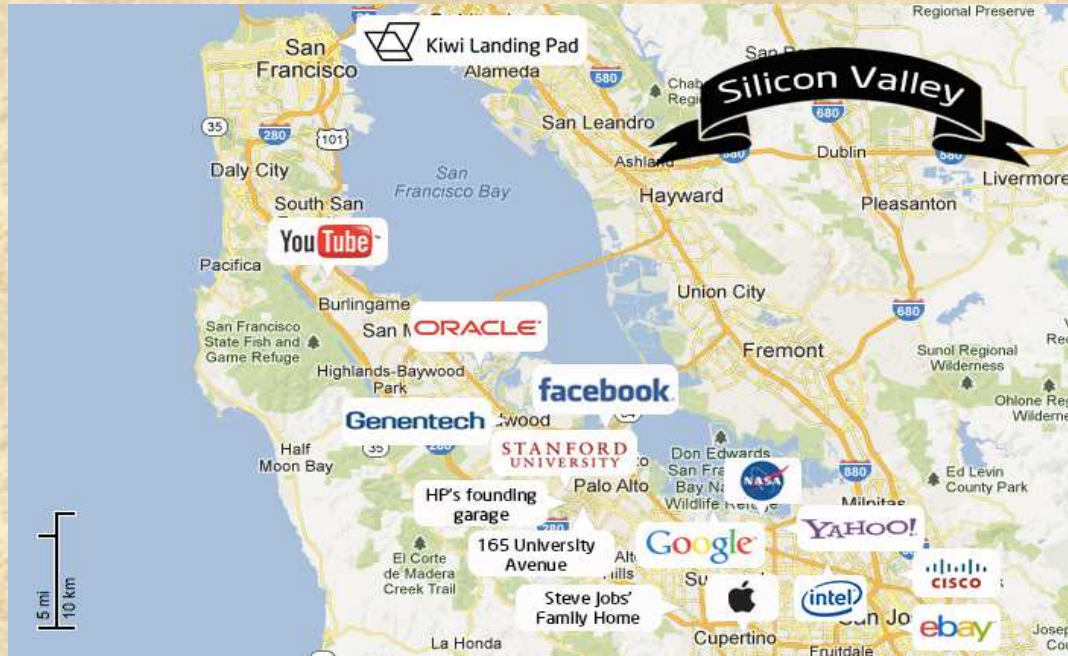
San Francisco

- **Golden Gate Bridge** - 1,280m long, suspension Bridge



- The **cable car** system





Silicon Valley

- **Silicon Valley**, industrial region around the southern shores of San Francisco Bay, California, U.S., with its intellectual centre at Palo Alto, home of Stanford University.
- Its name is derived from the dense concentration of electronics and computer companies that sprang up there since the mid-20th century, silicon being the base material of the semiconductors employed in computer circuits. The economic emphasis in Silicon Valley has now partly switched from computer manufacturing to research, development, and marketing of computer products and software.

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/544409/Silicon-Valley>

Los Angeles

- **Los Angeles** , city, seat of Los Angeles county, southern California, U.S. It is the second most populous city and metropolitan area (after New York City) in the United States. (3.8 million people)
- The city sprawls across a broad coastal plain situated between mountains and the Pacific Ocean; the much larger Los Angeles county, which encompasses the city, contains some 90 other incorporated cities, including Beverly Hills and Long Beach.

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/348286/Los-Angeles>





- **Hollywood**, district within the city of Los Angeles, California, U.S., whose name is synonymous with the American film industry.
- In 1911 a site on Sunset Boulevard was turned into Hollywood's first studio, and soon about 20 companies were producing films in the area.
- After World War II, film studios began to move outside Hollywood, and the practice of filming "on location" emptied many of the famous lots and sound stages or turned them over to television show producers. With the growth of the television industry, Hollywood began to change, and by the early 1960s it had become the home of much of American network television entertainment.
- Many stars, past and present, live in neighbouring communities such as Beverly Hills and Bel Air.

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/269462/Hollywood>