

CALIFORNIA'S FASCINATING FACTS

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California Tourism

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AGRICULTURE

- Nicholas Turkey Farms in California is the largest producer of turkey eggs in the world.
- The Renaissance Winery is the largest mountain vineyard estate (365 acres) in North America.
- Knott's Berry Farm is the birthplace of the boysenberry.
- Encinitas is the largest poinsettia grower in the world.
- The first Navel Orange tree in the U.S. was grown in Riverside.
- California leads the U.S. in producing 350 different crops and commodities.
- Almonds, artichokes, dates, figs, kiwi fruit, olives, pistachios, pomegranates, prunes, raisins, and walnuts are all U.S. crops grown exclusively in California.
- California has been the top ranking agricultural state in the U.S. for more than 50 years.
- California has more than 400,000 acres devoted to wine grape production. California produces over 90 percent of all wine in the U.S.

- Fresno County produces more agricultural goods than any other county in the nation.
- Marilyn Monroe was crowned the first "California Artichoke Queen" in 1947. Nine counties in California supply the entire U.S. with artichokes.
- California boasts 350 cities and towns with a certified farmers market.
- According to the Wine Institute, the Golden State is home to approximately 800 commercial wineries.
- Corning is the site of the world's largest table olive processing plant for canning black olives.
- The world's largest almond processing plant, Blue Diamond, is located in Sacramento.

ADVENTURE/ RECREATION



-  The Tuna Club, in Avalon, is the oldest fishing club in the United States, founded in 1889.
-  The Catalina Island Golf Course, built in 1892, was the first golf course in Southern California.
-  Golden Gate National Recreation Area, embracing 114 square miles on both sides of the Golden Gate Bridge, is the largest

urban park in the world, and the most popular in the U.S. National Park system.



California has 9,970 acres of coastal waters designated as state parks.



420 public beaches lie along California's coastline.



Yosemite National Park has more than 700 miles of hiking trails.



With 265 state parks, the California State Park System is the largest state park system in the world.



The Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks contain the largest cave system in California.

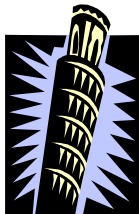


California is ranked number one for the number of persons visiting its state parks.



The Furnace Creek Golf Course is the lowest golf course in the world at 210 feet below sea level.

ARCHITECTURAL WONDERS



Bear Mountain Ski Resort has the world's first "ski-into-the-building/ski-out-of-the-building" structure.



The Honey Run Covered Bridge, built in 1894, just outside of Chico, is the only three-level covered bridge in the nation.



Mission Santa Barbara is the only mission church ever built with two towers.



Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park is California's largest secular (non-mission) adobe.



The Fernbridge, built in 1911 in Humboldt County, is the oldest reinforced concrete bridge in existence.



Located six miles off Crescent City's coast, Point Saint George Lighthouse is the most expensive lighthouse ever built in the U.S.



The Sunset Tower in West Hollywood was the first all-electric apartment building in California.



Knight's Ferry Bridge, in Stanislaus County, is the longest covered bridge west of the Mississippi.



The Huntington Beach Pier is the longest concrete municipal pier in the nation (1,853 feet long).



Built in 1862, the Bridgeport single span wood arch bridge is the longest covered bridge in the U.S. reaching 208 feet from pier to pier.



Shasta Dam has the highest center overflow spillway of any dam in the world.



The Crystal Springs Dam, in San Mateo County, is the world's largest concrete dam.



The San Mateo-Hayward Bridge is the longest orthotropic span in the world (6.74 miles).



The Stanford Linear Accelerator is the largest linear accelerator in the world (2 miles long).



The largest runway in the world is located at Edwards Air Force base (7.5 miles long).



The world's largest outdoor amphitheater is the Hollywood Bowl.



San Jose's Winchester Mystery House has 160 rooms and more than 10,000 windows.



St. Peter's Chapel in Vallejo is home to the largest collection of Tiffany stained glass on the West Coast.



The Ventura Mission, or San Buenaventura Mission, is the only mission in America that has bells made of wood.



Hearst Castle near San Simeon is the last great estate produced during America's Gilded Age and is the largest Gilded Age estate to come into public hands with its original collections intact.

THE ARTS



☞ The Crocker Art Museum is the oldest art museum west of the Mississippi.

☞ The first public showing of "Gone With The Wind" was at the Fox Theater in Riverside.

☞ The Orange County Performing Arts Center is the largest privately-funded performing arts center in the U.S.

ATTRACTIONS



☺ California has more theme parks and amusement parks than any other state.

☺ The Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk is California's oldest amusement park.

☺ The Giant Dipper Roller Coaster at the Santa Cruz Boardwalk is California's oldest operating roller coaster.

☺ Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk is the West Coast's only major seaside amusement park.

☺ Castle Air Museum, in Atwater, California, has the largest display of military aircraft in California.

☺ "Superman The Escape" at Six Flags Magic Mountain, is the world's fastest and

tallest thrill ride - it goes from 0 to 100 mph in 7 seconds and is 415 feet tall (41 stories).

- ☺ “The Viper” at Six Flags Magic Mountain is the world’s largest looping roller coaster. It is 188 feet high, 3,380 feet long, goes upside down 7 times, and reaches speeds up to 70 mph.
- ☺ “The Colossus” at Six Flags Magic Mountain is the world’s highest capacity roller coaster. It can move over 2,600 guests per hour!
- ☺ Knott’s Berry Farm, which opened in 1940, is America’s oldest theme park.
- ☺ “The Timber Mountain Log Ride” at Knott’s Berry Farm, which opened in 1969, was America’s first log flume ride.
- ☺ “Bigfoot Rapids” at Knott’s Berry Farm is California’s longest man made white water river.
- ☺ Knott’s Berry Farm is the site of America’s first 360-degree looping roller coaster (Opened in 1975, replaced in 1990).
- ☺ The San Diego Wild Animal Park hosts the only Northern White Rhinoceroses in the Western hemisphere.
- ☺ California’s only nudist colony exhibit exists at the San Diego Zoo -- naked mole-rats in the Children’s Zoo.
- ☺ The world’s first digital theme park (virtual reality) is located in Pasadena.

- ☺ The World Famous San Diego Zoo boasts the world’s largest zoological society membership, with members in more than a quarter million households.
- ☺ The World Famous San Diego Zoo hosts the most comprehensive collection of deer in the world, with 17 species.
- ☺ The Outer Bay Exhibit in Monterey features the largest window on earth, 17 feet by 57 feet by 13 inches thick.
- ☺ Two of the top ten amusement parks (by 1999 attendance) in the U.S. are located in California. They are Disneyland, and Universal Studios, (#2, and #7, respectively).
- ☺ The *Star of India*, located in San Diego, is the oldest active tall ship in the world.

California Firsts



- 👍 The Lost Coast Brewery in Eureka was the first brewery in the United States to be founded and operated by women.
- 👍 The world’s first laser was successfully operated by its inventor, Theodore Maiman, at Hughes Research Laboratories in Malibu in the spring of 1960.
- 👍 The Frisbee was invented in California.

- 👍 The first television was invented by Philo T. Farnsworth, and transmitted its first successful electronic image in San Francisco on September 7, 1927.
- 👍 California was the site of the first radio broadcast.
- 👍 Fashion Fair Mall, in Fresno, was the nation's first enclosed shopping mall.
- 👍 San Francisco's Genentech Inc. developed human insulin, the first product of recombinant DNA technology to reach the market.
- 👍 The first seedless watermelon was developed in California.
- 👍 The first node of the Internet (then known as ARPANET) was installed at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in September 1969. The first host-to-host message was sent one month later from UCLA to Stanford Research Institute.
- 👍 Fashion Fair Mall, in Fresno, is the nation's first enclosed shopping mall.
- 👍 Around-the-clock satellite communications commenced with the successful launch of Syncom 2, a satellite built by Hughes Aircraft Company in Los Angeles in the Summer of 1963.
- 👍 The first ship-to-shore message in the U.S. occurred in August 1899 when a lightship near the Golden Gate sent a dot-and-dash

message to a receiving unit on shore announcing the return of the first troops from the Spanish-American War.

- 👍 The first vacuum tube was invented in the Silicon Valley and would later make possible talking movies, long distance telephones, radar, microwave communications and space flight . . . just to name a few.
- 👍 Los Angeles is home to the first . . .
 - freeway
 - gas station in the U.S.
 - air passenger line in the world
 - supermarket
 - Barbie™
 - B2 Bomber and F11-7 Stealth Fighter.

CAPITOLS and CAPITALS









- ☺ Gridley is known as the “Kiwi Capital of America.”
- ☺ Tulare County is known as the “Milk Capital of the World.”
- ☺ Angels Camp is known as the “Frog Jumping Capital of the World.”
- ☺ Shasta Lake is known as the “Houseboat Capital of the World.”
- ☺ Selma is known as the “Raisin Capital of the World.”


- ☺ Oakdale is the “Cowboy Capital of the World.”
- ☺ Indio is known as the “Date Capital of the World” for producing more than 95 percent of the dates in the country.
- ☺ Fallbrook is known as the “Avocado Capital of the World.”
- ☺ Clear Lake is known as the “Bass Capital of the West.”
- ☺ Solvang is known as the “Danish Capital of America.”
- ☺ Palm Springs is known as the “Golf Capital of the World.”
- ☺ Vista is known as the city with the “Best Climate in the World.”
- ☺ The town of Smith River is known as the “Easter Lily Capital of the Nation.”
- ☺ Crescent City Harbor is the “Shrimp Capital of California.”
- ☺ Oxnard is known as the “Strawberry Capital of California.”
- ☺ Sacramento is known as the “Camellia Capital” for it’s more than one million camellia bushes.
- ☺ Kelseyville is known as the “Pear Capital of the World.”


- ☺ Santa Maria is known as the “Barbecue Capital of the World.”
- ☺ Bishop is known as the “Mule Capital of the World.”
- ☺ Santa Cruz County is the “Brussel Sprouts Capital of the World.”
- ☺ Gilroy is the “Garlic Capital of the World.”
- ☺ San Jose was the site of California’s first Capitol in 1849.


CITIES, TOWNS
and HOMES OF...





-  Beverly Hills is the only city to boast: no hospital, no cemetery, no billboards, and no telephone or power wires.
-  The Beverly Hills zip code area is the richest per-capita area in the nation.
-  Beverly Hills is the most filmed city in the world.
-  California is home to more drive-in movie theater screens than any other state with 123 screens at 60 sites.
-  Eureka is home to the world’s tallest living Christmas tree, standing more than 125 feet in height.
-  Hollywood is home of the world’s largest outdoor amphitheater, the Hollywood Bowl.


 Modesto is home to the world's largest winery and the world's largest cannery, the E.J. Gallo Winery and the Tri-Valley Growers cannery.


 San Diego is home to the largest military complex in the world (165,000 active duty and civil service personnel).

 Riverside is home to California's first bicycle club.

 Humboldt County is home to the tallest totem pole in the U.S., measuring 160 feet in height.


 Bishop is home to the Mule Days Parade, the "longest" non-motorized parade in the world.


 Barstow is the last Main Street city with Route 66 still named Main Street.

 The O'Neil Company, inventor of the wetsuit and manufacturer of surfboards, is located in Santa Cruz.

CLIMATE/WEATHER




 The highest recorded temperature ever in the western hemisphere was 134 degrees, recorded in 1913 in Death Valley.


 The largest wave (Tsunami), at 20.7 feet, to ever wash ashore in California was on


March 28, 1964, destroying 56 blocks of Crescent City.


CULINARY DELIGHTS





 Spago, a West Hollywood restaurant, was the birthplace of the "California Designer Pizza."


 The world's largest burrito, as awarded by the Guinness Book of World records, was made at the La Caesta restaurant in Fallbrook.


 Fortune cookies got their start in Los Angeles in 1916 thanks to David Jung.


 Hot fudge sundaes became famous at C.C. Brown's in Los Angeles in 1906.

 The Margarita cocktail got its start at the Tail O' the Cock in Los Angeles in 1955.

 The Martini was first developed in Martinez.

 The Popsicle began in Oakland in 1905 thanks to Frank Epperson.

 The use of the "doggie bag" began with Lawry's in Los Angeles in 1938.

 America's oldest Italian Restaurant is the Fior d'Italia (1886) in San Francisco.

☉ California is the birth place of the following fast-food chains: A&W, McDonald's, Denny's, In-N-Out Burger, Carl's Jr., Taco Bell, Bob's Big Boy, Del Taco, Winchell's, Marie Calender's and Wienerschnitzel.

☉ Old California Restaurant Row with 18 restaurants, located in San Marcos, is the only mall of restaurants in California.



CULTURE

☉ California is home to more than 300,000 Native Americans, which is more than any other state.

☉ The Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation is California's largest.

☉ Klamath's End of the Trail Indian Museum contains one of the world's largest private collections of authentic Native American artifacts.

☉ Barstow has the largest Native American Rock Art Gallery accessible to the public. Black Canyon contains more than 10,000 petroglyphs.

☉ The Tien Hau Temple in San Francisco is the oldest Chinese temple in the U.S.

ECONOMY/ BUSINESS



\$ Were California a separate country it would rank among the top eight economies in the world.

\$ California is the nation's leading agriculture state.

\$ 104 of the 500 fastest growing U.S. technology companies are based in California.

\$ California has the largest environmental industry (including technology) in the nation.

\$ California is the number one travel destination in the U.S., attracting 282 million visitors in 1999 with travel expenditures totaling \$67.9 billion.

\$ The 3 million square-foot California Mart in Los Angeles is the largest apparel wholesale market in the world.

\$ Kern County is the number one oil-producing county in the U.S.

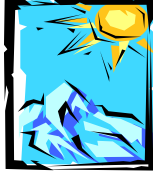
EDUCATION



✍ The California State University is the largest system of senior higher education

in the U.S., boasting 23 campuses and 19 extension centers.

ENVIRONMENT



- 🌐 California has 265 state parks, which is the most state parks in one state, in the nation.
- 🌐 Riverside was the first place to use a tree-lined divided avenue in the U.S.
- 🌐 The world's first oil tanker burnt and sank in Ventura in 1887 at the end of the Ventura Pier.
- 🌐 Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is the largest protected sanctuary in the country.



EVENTS

- ★ The Del Mar County Fair is the largest District Agricultural Fair in California.
- ★ Palm Springs' Short Film Festival is the largest competitive short film festival in North America.
- ★ Knott's Scary Farm Halloween Haunt is the world's largest annual Halloween party


and the largest event in the amusement park industry.


- ★ The oldest rodeo in the West is the Fortuna Rodeo in Humboldt County, dating back to 1921.
- ★ Wild West Stunt Show at Knott's Berry Farm is America's first daily operating stunt show, running continuously since 1951.
- ★ Quincy is the site for the World Championship Cribbage Tournament.
- ★ Rancho Santa Fe is home to the largest annual outdoor fashion show in the country.
- ★ Riverside is the site of the first Easter sunrise service.
- ★ The Humboldt County Fair, which began in 1896, is the oldest continuously running county fair in California.
- ★ America's first International Air Meet took place near Los Angeles in 1910.





GEOGRAPHY


- 🌲 With the exception of Mt. Kilimanjaro, Mt. Diablo State Park Summit offers a sweeping panorama showing more of the earth's surface than any other peak in the world.


 California is the third largest state in the nation covering 158,693 square miles.


 California has a coastline more than 1,264 miles long.


 At 14,495 feet above sea level, Mt. Whitney, in Sequoia National Park, is the highest point in the contiguous U.S.


 At 280 feet below sea level, Badwater, in Death Valley National Park, is the lowest point in the western hemisphere.


 California State Parks cover more than one million acres; more than the 48 state park systems combined, with the exception of Alaska.

 Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is the largest state park in the U.S., with more than 600,000 acres.


 Death Valley is the largest national park in the contiguous U.S. with over 3.3 million acres.


 The elevation change from Badwater Basin to Telescope Peak is 11,300 feet in 15 miles, which is the greatest elevation change in the shortest distance in California.

 The South Fork Ridge in Northern California is the longest ridge in the world (63 miles long).

 Santa Monica boasts the longest stretch of beach on the Pacific Coast (3 miles).


 San Bernardino County is the largest county in the U.S. (12,876,032 acres).


 The average width of the Golden State is 150-200 miles.


 California boasts 4.1 million acres of National Parks.


Historical Timeline...





 Coloma is home of the gold discovery that touched off the Great Gold Rush of 1849.


 The first Masonic Lodge in California, built in 1854, is located in Shasta State Historic Park.


 Stearns Wharf, located in Santa Barbara and built in 1872 by John P. Stearns, is the oldest operating wharf on the West Coast.


 The Modoc War, fought from January 16, 1873 to June 1, 1873, was only major Indian War fought on California Soil at the present site of Lava Beds National Monument.


 The only general officer to be killed in the Modoc War was Major General Edward Richard Sprig Canby (Lava Beds National Monument) in April of 1873.


 Ballard's Little Red Schoolhouse, located in Solvang is the oldest schoolhouse still in use (Built in 1883).

 The Samoa Cookhouse in Humboldt County is the last operating cookhouse in the West, serving since 1893.

 Siskiyou County, on the old stage road from Yreka to Fort Jones, was the site of the last horsedrawn stagecoach robbery in California on July 5, 1908.


 Julia Morgan, California's first female architect, designed the historical YWCA landmark in Pasadena. The YWCA was built in 1921.


 The United Nations was founded in San Francisco, California on June 25, 1945.


 Replicated from a 1908 shop, the Escondido Historical Society owns and operates the only blacksmith shop in California, offering classes and instruction since 1990.





NATURAL WONDERS


 The Moreton Bay Fig Tree, located outside of Santa Barbara, is the nation's largest of its kind. It has a span of over 160 feet and provides more than 21,000 square feet of shade.


 Plumas County is home to the world's largest ponderosa pine tree. It is 334 feet tall, 24 feet around and 7.5 feet in diameter.


 In Calaveras Big Trees State Park you can find the world's tallest trees—redwoods and giant sequoias.


 Dorrington, in Calaveras County, is home of the second largest sugar pine in the world. The tree boasts a 32-foot circumference and is 220-feet tall.


 The General Sherman Tree has the largest volume of any tree. It weighs approximately 2.7 million pounds, has a height of 274.9 feet, a circumference of 102.6 feet, and adds enough wood per year to make a 60-foot-tall tree.


 The Sutter Buttes in northern California may be the smallest stand alone mountain range in the world, measuring a mere mile in length.

 California has more active volcanoes than any other U.S. state: Mt. Lassen, Mt. Shasta and Mammoth Mountain.

 The largest gold nugget in the western hemisphere was unearthed in 1854 at the gold mine in Carson Hill, Calaveras County.

 The Joshua Tree Forest on Cima Dome is the largest, tallest and most dense in the United States.

 Lake Tahoe is the largest alpine lake in North America, measuring 12 miles wide by 22 miles long, with a 72 mile long shoreline and a maximum depth of 1,645 feet.

 Giant Rock, located north of the Joshua Tree National Park, is the world's largest

solitary boulder at seven stories and weighing over 23,000 tons.



Lassen Volcanic Park is home to the world's largest plug dome volcano.



The Smith River is the only wild river (undammed) in the state.



Eureka Dunes in Death Valley are the tallest dunes (680 feet tall) in California.



Clear Lake is the largest natural freshwater lake within California and is the oldest lake in North America.



The area of Geysers near Clear Lake is the world's largest geothermal region.



California is home to the top two Largest National Champion Trees - in first place, a Giant Sequoia in Sequoia National Park and a Coast Redwood in Prairie Creek in second place.



The largest coast live oak tree has recently been identified. Reaching 58 feet tall, more than 28 feet in trunk circumference, and boasting a 75 foot wide crown, the coast live oak tree still continues its 250 year residency in Wynola today.



Medicine Lake Volcano is the largest volcano in the Cascade Range.



Lava Beds National Monument is the location of:

- the highest concentration of lava tube caves in the world.

- the highest concentration of pictographs and petroglyphs in California.
- the longest lava tube cave in California (Mammoth Cave).
- the deepest lava tube cave in California (Crystal Cave).
- the largest obsidian flow in California and perhaps the world.



Moaning Cavern in Calaveras County is the largest cavern in California.



Yosemite National Park has the highest waterfall in the U.S., with 2,425 feet of water falling over Yosemite Falls.



The San Francisco Bay is the largest natural harbor and estuary on the West Coast.



The oldest living thing in the world, the Bristlecone Pine Tree, aged at nearly 5,000 years old, can be found in California.



Point Lobos State Reserve has more than 300 species of wildflowers.



Vichy Springs Resort & Inn, near Ukiah, is home to the only naturally-carbonated hot springs in North America.



At least three pygmy forests thrive along the Sonoma-Mendocino coast.

SPORTS



🚗 California is home to more professional sports teams than any other state.

🚗 Plumas County is the birthplace of downhill ski racing in the western hemisphere.

🚗 Martinez is the birthplace of the famed baseball player Joe DiMaggio - "The Yankee Clipper."

🚗 The world famous Rose Bowl in Pasadena is the nation's oldest stadium.

TRANSPORTATION



🚗 Deer Park Escondido Auto Museum boasts the world's largest display of American production convertibles.

🚗 Angels Flight Railroad in Los Angeles is the shortest railroad in the world, measuring only 300 feet.

🚗 Merced County is home to the oldest steam tractor in North America, dating back to 1893, and is located at Bright's Museum in Le Grand.

🚗 The last Trans-Continental railroad to be built in the U.S. was the Western Pacific line, completed in Plumas County in 1909.

🚗 The oldest passenger-carrying commercial vessel in the U.S. in use today is the M.V. Madaket, first used as a ferry in 1910. Its harbor is in San Francisco.

🚗 The sound barrier was first broken over the skies of California by Brigadier General Chuck Yeager.

🚗 The first U.S. jet plane flight was out of Edwards Air Force Base in 1942.

🚗 The world's first cable car rumbled on the streets of San Francisco in 1873.

🚗 The Mendocino Coast "Skunk" train runs the most crooked railroad line in the country, with a bridge or trestle for almost every mile of rail.

🚗 Los Angeles International Airport is the world's third busiest airport.

🚗 Catalina Island is home to the only two semi-submersible vessels on the West Coast.


UNIQUE / UNPRECEDENTED





💡 International Banana Club in Pasadena is the world's only banana museum.


💡 Whiskeytown National Recreation Area is the only place in which "Pucinelli Howell" or Howel's Salt Grass, grows in the Shasta Cascade Region.


💡 The Hotel del Coronado, built in 1888, is the largest beach resort on the North American Pacific Coast.


 The Hale Telescope, located on Palomar Mountain in San Diego County, is the largest telescope in North or South America.


 Solvang is home of the oldest wind harp in California, dating back to 1941.


 The Yard House, at Shoreline Village in Long Beach, serves the world's largest number of beers on tap with 430 handles of draft beer served.

 Baker, near Death Valley, is home to a 135-foot tall thermometer.

 Thousands of monarch butterflies can be seen in Pacific Grove every October-March.

 More than 26,000 gray whales pass California's shores every December-April.


 California boasts 200 official wildlife viewing areas.


 Año Nuevo State Reserve hosts the largest mainland breeding colony in the world for northern elephant seals.


10/06




WILDLIFE

 Lava Beds National Monument is the location of the highest concentration of bald eagles in the contiguous states.

 Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is California's largest protected sanctuary.

 In 1870, Lake Merrit was declared America's first state game refuge and today is the only salt water lake located in the heart of a city.

 Most of the world's seagulls are born in California.