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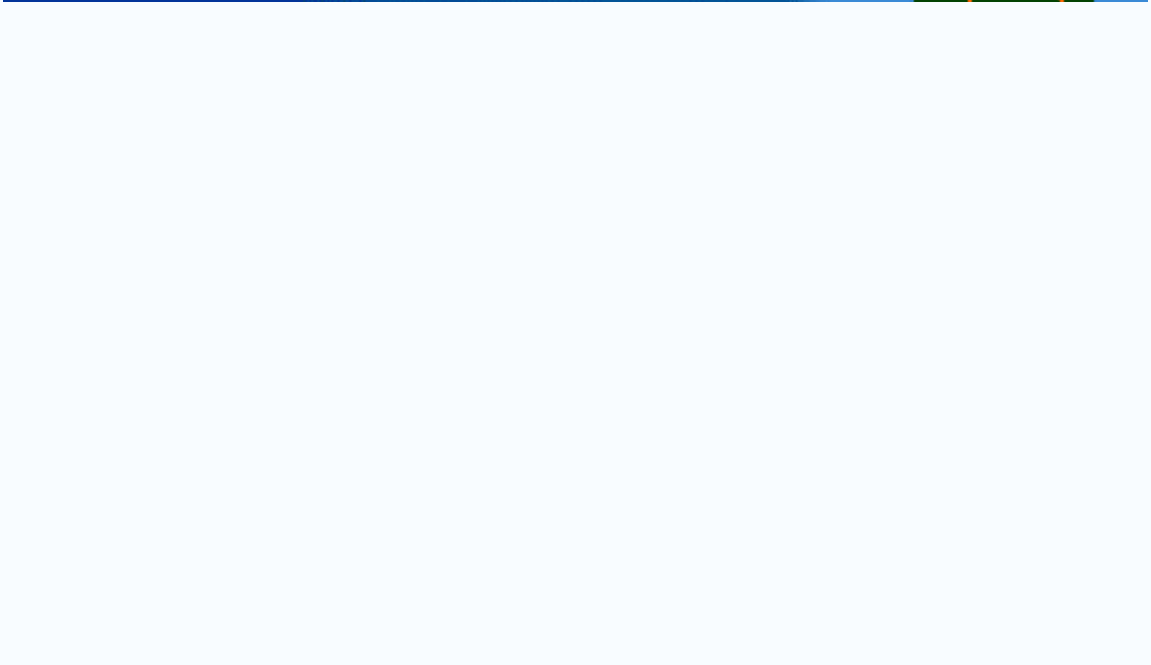
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Marin Relocation Guide

Marin County Description and Information



Marin County, California

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

County of Marin, California



Official website: <http://www.co.marin.ca.us/>

Location



Location of Marin County within [California](#).

Marin County is a [county](#) located in the North [San Francisco Bay Area](#) of the [U.S. state of California](#), across the [Golden Gate Bridge](#) from [San Francisco](#). As of 2000, the population was 247,289. The [county seat](#) is [San Rafael](#).

Marin County is world-renowned for its stunning natural beauty, liberal politics and pockets of extreme [affluence](#).

[San Quentin Prison](#) is located in the [county](#), as is [Skywalker Ranch](#). [Autodesk](#), the publisher of [AutoCAD](#), is located there, as are numerous other high-tech companies. The headquarters of film and media company [Lucasfilm](#) Ltd. has moved to the [Presidio of San Francisco](#). [United States Senator Barbara Boxer](#) is from Marin.

The [Marin County Civic Center](#) was designed by [Frank Lloyd Wright](#) and draws thousands of visitors a year to guided tours of its [arch](#) and [atrium](#) design.

Marin County's many beautiful [natural](#) sites include the famous [Muir Woods redwood forest](#), [Stinson Beach](#), [Point Reyes National Seashore](#), and [Mount Tamalpais](#), the birthplace of [mountain biking](#).

History

Marin County was one of the original counties of California, created in [1850](#) at the time of statehood.

The origin of the county's name is not clear. One version is the county was named for Chief Marin, of the [Licatiut](#) tribe of [Native Americans](#) who inhabited that section and waged fierce battle against the early [Spanish](#) military explorers. The other version is that the bay between San Pedro and San Quentin points was named *Bahia de Nuestra Senora del Rosario la Marinera* in [1775](#), and it is quite possible that Marin is simply an abbreviation of this name.

Geography

According to the [U.S. Census Bureau](#), the county has a total area of 2,145 [km²](#) (828 [mi²](#)). 1,346 [km²](#) (520 [mi²](#)) of it is land and 799 [km²](#) (308 [mi²](#)) of it (37.24%) is water.

Geographically, the county forms a large, southward-facing peninsula, with the [Pacific Ocean](#) to the west, [San Pablo Bay](#) and [San Francisco Bay](#) to the east, and -- across the [Golden Gate](#) -- the city of [San Francisco](#) to the south. Marin County's northern border is with [Sonoma County](#).

Most of the county's population resides on the eastern side, with a string of communities running along the Bay, from [Sausalito](#) to [Tiburon](#) to [Corte Madera](#) to [San Rafael](#). The interior contains large areas of agricultural and open space; [West Marin](#), through which [California State Route 1](#) runs alongside the California coast, contains many small unincorporated communities dependent on agriculture and tourism for their economies.

Adjacent Counties

[San Francisco County, California](#) - south (across the [Golden Gate Bridge](#))

[Contra Costa County, California](#) - east (across the [Richmond-San Rafael Bridge](#))

[Sonoma County, California](#) - north

Demographics

As of the [census²](#) of 2000, there were 247,289 people, 100,650 households, and 60,691 families residing in the county. The [population density](#) was 184/km² (476/mi²). There were 104,990 housing units at an average density of 78/km² (202/mi²). The racial makeup of the county was 84.03% [White](#), 2.89% [Black](#) or [African American](#), 0.43% [Native American](#), 4.53% [Asian](#), 0.16% [Pacific Islander](#), 4.50% from [other races](#), and 3.47% from two or more races. 11.06% of the population were [Hispanic](#) or [Latino](#) of any race.

There were 100,650 households out of which 27.50% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 48.40% were [married couples](#) living together, 8.50% had a female householder with no husband present, and 39.70% were non-families. 29.80% of all households were made up of individuals and 9.60% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.34 and the average family size was 2.90.

In the county the population was spread out with 20.30% under the age of 18, 5.50% from 18 to 24, 31.00% from 25 to 44, 29.70% from 45 to 64, and 13.50% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 41 years. For every 100 females there were 98.20 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 96.40 males.

The median income for a household in the county was \$71,306, and the median income for a family was \$88,934. Males had a median income of \$61,282 versus \$45,448 for females. The [per capita income](#) for the county was \$44,962. About 3.70% of families and 6.60% of the population were below the [poverty line](#), including 6.90% of those under age 18 and 4.50% of those age 65 or over.

Marin County has the [highest per capita income](#) of any county in the United States. This is driven in particular by expensive enclaves in Belvedere, Kentfield, Ross, Tiburon, Mill Valley, Sausalito, San Anselmo and portions of San Rafael and Novato.

The traditionally middle class towns of Corte Madera, Fairfax, Novato and San Rafael (where per capita incomes typically paralleled the California state average as late as [1985](#)) also have experienced especially sharp rises in real estate values, due in part to their proximity to the "prestige" address areas. The county's resistance to [urban sprawl](#) and its preservation of [open space](#) have also had an upward impact on housing prices by reducing the number of new [subdivisions](#) built in the area since [1970](#). As a result of these factors, many lower-income middle class families have moved, often to [Sonoma County, California](#), for cheaper housing.

Against this backdrop two neighborhoods in particular are populated almost exclusively by low-income persons of color as opposed to the surrounding population of Marin, which is largely Caucasian and more affluent: Marin City (which shares a zip code with Sausalito) and the Canal Neighborhood in San Rafael.

Marin City has a population of 2,500 and is ethnically diverse with large East Asian, Hispanic, and African American populations. Many families live in [public housing](#) apartment buildings that are now approaching 50 years old.

The population in *The Canal* is largely Hispanic, with many households residing in overcrowded apartment units.

San Rafael has asserted to the Federal Government that this population is significantly undercounted by the [U.S. Census](#) due to the high percentage of [illegal immigrants](#), depriving the city of tax funds for improved social services. They assert that the 6.6% of the county-wide population listed as below the poverty line is both under-reported, and heavily concentrated in The Canal.

Notable current and former residents

[Isabel Allende](#), writer.

[Barbara Boxer](#), current [United States Senator](#).

[Pete Carroll](#), head [football coach](#) at [USC](#).

[Ram Dass](#), author of [Be Here Now](#).

[Dana Carvey](#), actor and comedian.

[Gary Fisher](#), mountain biking pioneer.

[Klaus Kinski](#), actor.

[Chad Kreuter](#), former professional [baseball](#) player.

[Anne Lamott](#), writer.

[Sammy Hagar](#), singer.

[Janis Joplin](#), singer.

[Barry Levinson](#), director.

[Huey Lewis](#), singer.

[John Walker Lindh](#), American who fought for the [Taliban](#).

[George Lucas](#), [film director](#) and founder of [Lucasfilm](#).

[Van Morrison](#), singer and songwriter.

[Jonny Moseley](#), [gold medal](#) winning [Olympic](#) skier.

[Gavin Newsom](#), current [mayor](#) of [San Francisco](#).

[Sean Penn](#), actor.

[Robin Wright Penn](#), actress.

[Kathleen Quinlan](#), actress.

[Bonnie Raitt](#), singer.

[Michael Savage \(commentator\)](#), conservative radio host

[Tupac Shakur](#), rapper, poet, and actor.

[Peter Tork](#), musician. Member of [The Monkees](#)

[Carlos Santana](#), musician.

[Charles Schwab](#), investor.

[Robin Williams](#), actor and comedian.

[Tony Williams](#), drummer.

Most members of The [Grateful Dead](#)

Presidential elections results

Though the county is marked by its fiscal conservatism and protectionist isolationism, the Republican Party's post-70s emphasis on traditional values and national security has alienated much of its base in the greater San Francisco Bay Area. Marin County presidential election returns since its 1960 support of California's Richard M. Nixon:

Year	<u>GOP</u>	<u>Dems</u>
2004	25.4% 34,378	73.2% 99,070
2000	28.3% 34,872	64.3% 79,135
1996	28.2% 32,714	58.0% 67,406
1992	23.3% 30,479	58.3% 76,158
1988	39.7% 46,855	58.8% 69,394
1984	49.0% 56,887	49.6% 57,533
1980	45.8% 49,678	42.9% 39,231
1976	52.5% 53,425	42.9% 43,590
1972	52.1% 54,123	45.6% 47,414
1968	50.1% 41,422	43.8% 36,278
1964	38.1% 28,682	61.7% 46,462
1960	57.3% 37,620	42.5% 27,888

Cities, Towns and Unincorporated Districts

[Belvedere](#)

[Bollinas](#)

[Corte Madera](#)

[Dillon Beach](#)

[Fairfax](#)

[Inverness](#)

[Inverness Park](#)

[Kentfield](#)

[Lagunitas-Forest Knolls](#)

[Larkspur](#)

[Greenbrae](#)

[Marin City](#)

[Marshall](#)

[Mill Valley](#)

[Strawberry](#)

[Tamalpais-Homestead Valley](#)

[Muir Beach](#)

[Nicasio](#)

[Novato](#)

[Bel Marin Keys](#)

[Black Point-Green Point](#)

[Hamilton](#)

[Olema](#)

[Point Reyes Station](#)

[Ross](#)

[San Anselmo](#)

[San Geronimo](#)

[San Rafael](#)

[Lucas Valley-Marinwood](#)

[Peacock Gap](#)

[Santa Venetia](#)

[Sausalito](#)

[Stinson Beach](#)

[Tiburon](#)

[Tomales](#)

[Woodacre](#)

In books and films

Marin County lifestyles of the 1970s were spoofed in the 1977 novel *[The Serial: A Year in the Life of Marin County](#)* by [Cyra McFadden](#), and in the subsequent film *[Serial \(1980 film\)](#)* which was based on the novel.

Marin County's reputation as a [counterculture](#) enclave, especially the town of Bolinas and its isolationist reputation, made it a location of many key events in the 1981 novel *[Ecotopia Emerging](#)* by [Ernest Callenbach](#).

See also



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[Golden Gate Transit](#)

[List of school districts in Marin County, California](#)

[Gross Field](#)