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Orange County Relocation Guide

Orange County Description and Information

Orange County, California

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

County of Orange, California



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Official website: <http://www.oc.ca.gov/>

Location



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

Orange County is a [county](#) in the [southern](#) part of the [U.S. state](#) of [California](#). Its [county seat](#) is [Santa Ana](#). With a population of 3,056,865 ([2005](#) estimate [\[1\]](#)), it is the second most populous [county](#) in the state of [California](#) and the fifth most populous in the [United States](#). The county is known for its wealth and political conservatism, although it is in reality neither as uniformly wealthy nor as politically conservative as its stereotypical image suggests. It is also famous as a tourist destination, as the county is home to [Disneyland](#), [Knott's Berry Farm](#), and miles of sandy beaches. It is at the center of Southern California's [Tech Coast](#).

Geography

According to the [U.S. Census Bureau](#), the county has a total area of 2,455 [km²](#) (948 [mi²](#)), making it the smallest county in Southern California. Surface water accounts for 411 [km²](#) (159 [mi²](#)) of the area, 16.73% of the total; 2,045 [km²](#) (789 [mi²](#)) of it is land.

Orange County is bordered on the west by the [Pacific Ocean](#), on the north by [Los Angeles County](#), on the northeast by [San Bernardino County](#), on the east by [Riverside County](#), and on the south by [San Diego County](#).

The northern part of the county lies on the [coastal plain](#) of the [Los Angeles Basin](#), while the southern half lies on the foothills of the [Santa Ana Mountains](#). Most of Orange County's population resides in one of two shallow coastal valleys that lie in the basin, the [Santa Ana Valley](#) and the [Saddleback Valley](#). The coastal plain gently rises into the [Santa Ana Mountains](#), which lie within the boundaries of the county and of the [Cleveland National Forest](#). The high point is [Santiago Peak](#) (5,687 ft/1,733 m), about 20 mi (32 km) east of Santa Ana. Santiago Peak and nearby [Modjeska Peak](#), just 200 feet shorter, form a ridge known as [Saddleback](#), visible from almost everywhere in the county.

The [Santa Ana River](#) is the county's principal watercourse. Its major tributary running through the county is [Santiago Creek](#). Other watercourses within the county include Aliso Creek, San Juan Creek, and Horsethief Creek. The [San Gabriel River](#) also briefly crosses into Orange County and exits into the Pacific on the Los Angeles-Orange County line between [Long Beach](#) and [Seal Beach](#). [Laguna Beach](#) is home to the county's only natural lakes, [Laguna Lakes](#), which are formed by water rising up against an underground fault.

The cities of Orange County are connected by a network of [freeways](#), which residents typically call by their route number rather than their formal name (i.e., "The Fifty-five" instead of "The Costa Mesa Freeway"). One of the most important Orange County roadways is the [Santa Ana Freeway](#), or [Interstate 5](#), which runs North-South bisecting the length of the county. It merges with another key north-south road, the [San Diego Freeway \(Interstate 405\)](#) in [Irvine](#). The 5 and 405 freeways meet at the "[El Toro Y](#)," one of the busiest interchanges in the U.S. Another notoriously busy interchange is the [Orange Crush](#), where the [5](#), [22](#), and [57](#) meet.

Residents often divide the county into "North County" and "South County", as opposed to an East-West division characterized by coastal and inland cities. There is no formal geographical division of North and South County, though a North-South border may be drawn somewhere along the [Tustin-Irvine](#) and [Costa Mesa-Newport Beach](#) city boundaries, or along the boundary between the [714](#) and [949](#) area codes. Orange County is part of the five-county [Greater Los Angeles](#) area.

Adjacent Counties

- [Los Angeles County, California](#) - north, west
- [San Bernardino County, California](#) - northeast
- [Riverside County, California](#) - east
- [San Diego County, California](#) - southeast

History

Members of the [Tongva](#) and [Juaneño/Luiseño](#) nations long inhabited the area. After the [1769](#) expedition of [Gaspar de Portolà](#), a [Spanish](#) expedition led by [Junipero Serra](#) named the area Vallejo de Santa Ana (Valley of [Saint Anne](#)). On [November 1, 1776](#), [Mission San Juan Capistrano](#) became the first permanent European settlement.

A severe drought in the [1860s](#) devastated the prevailing industry, cattle ranching, and much land came into the possession of [Richard O'Neill, Sr.](#), [James Irvine](#) and other land barons. In [1887](#), [silver](#) was discovered in the Santa Ana mountains, attracting settlers via the [Santa Fe](#) and [Southern Pacific Railroads](#). This growth led the [California legislature](#) to divide [Los Angeles County](#) and create [Orange](#) County as a separate political entity on [March 11, 1889](#). It was named for its most famous product, but other [citrus](#) crops, [avocados](#), and [oil](#) extraction were also important to the early economy.

Orange County benefited from the [July 4, 1904](#) completion of the [Pacific Electric Railway](#), a [trolley](#) connecting Los Angeles with [Newport Beach](#) and Santa Ana. The link made Orange County an accessible weekend retreat for celebrities of early [Hollywood](#). It was deemed so significant that the city of Pacific City changed its name to [Huntington Beach](#) in honor of [Henry Huntington](#), president of the Pacific Electric and nephew of [robber baron Collis Huntington](#). Transportation further improved with the completion of the State Route and [U.S. Route 101](#) (now mostly [Interstate 5](#)) in the [1920s](#).

Agriculture, such as the [boysenberry](#) which was made famous by [Buena Park](#) native [Walter Knott](#), began to decline after [World War II](#) but the county's prosperity soared. The completion of [Interstate 5](#) in [1954](#) helped make Orange County a [bedroom community](#) for many who moved to [Southern California](#) to work in [aerospace](#) and manufacturing. Orange County received a further boost in [1955](#) with the opening of [Disneyland](#).

In [1969](#), [Yorba Linda](#)-born Orange County native [Richard Nixon](#) became the 37th [President of the United States](#).

In the [1980s](#), the population topped 2 million for the first time. Orange County had become the second largest county in California.

A spectacular investment fund melt-down in [1994](#) led to the criminal prosecution of Orange County treasurer [Robert Citron](#). On December 6, [1994](#), Orange County declared

Chapter 9 [bankruptcy](#), from which it emerged in June [1995](#); this was the largest ever municipal bankruptcy in the U.S. The county lost about \$1.6 [billion](#) through high-risk investments in [derivatives](#).

In recent years, the county has been characterized by conflict between the older northern and newer southern cities over development, the building of new [toll roads](#), and a recently defeated proposal to build an international airport at the former [El Toro Marine Corps Air Station](#) to supplement the crowded [John Wayne Airport](#).

Demographics

As of the [census²](#) of 2000, there were 2,846,289 people, 935,287 households, and 667,794 families residing in the county, making Orange County the second most populous county in [California](#). The [population density](#) was 1,392/km² (3,606/mi²). There were 969,484 housing units at an average density of 474/km² (1,228/mi²). The racial makeup of the county was 64.81% [White](#), 1.67% [African American](#), 13.59% [Asian](#), 0.70% [Native American](#), 0.31% [Pacific Islander](#), 14.80% from [other races](#), and 4.12% from two or more races. 30.76% are [Hispanic](#) or [Latino](#) of any race.

In [1990](#), still according to the [census²](#) there were 2,410,556 people residing in the county. The racial makeup of the county was 64.49% [White](#), not of Hispanic origins, 23.43% [Hispanic](#) or [Latino](#), 9.99% [Asian](#), 1.62% [African American](#), 0.36% [Native American](#), and 0.11% of some other race.

There were 935,287 households out of which 37.0% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 55.9% were [married couples](#) living together, 10.7% had a female householder with no husband present, and 28.6% were non-families. 21.1% of all households were made up of individuals and 7.2% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 3.00 and the average family size was 3.48.

The population is diverse age-wise, with 27.0% under the age of 18, 9.4% from 18 to 24, 33.2% from 25 to 44, 20.6% from 45 to 64, and 9.9% 65 years of age or older. The median age is 33 years. For every 100 females there were 99.0 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 96.7 males.

The median income for a household in the county was \$58,820, and the median income for a family was \$64,611. Males had a median income of \$45,059 versus \$34,026 for females. The [per capita income](#) for the county was \$25,826. About 7.0% of families and

**Orange County
Population by year**

1890	13,589
1900	19,696
1910	34,436
1920	61,375
1930	118,674
1940	130,760
1950	216,224
1960	703,925
1970	1,421,233
1980	1,932,709
1990	2,410,556
2000	2,846,289

10.3% of the population were below the [poverty line](#), including 13.2% of those under age 18 and 6.2% of those age 65 or over.

Education

Orange County is home to several colleges and universities, including:

- [University of California, Irvine](#)
- [University of Southern California](#) - Orange County Center
- [California State University, Fullerton](#)
- [Chapman University](#)
- [Irvine Valley College](#)
- [Vanguard University](#)
- [Orange Coast College](#)
- [Saddleback College](#)
- [Concordia University](#)
- [Soka University](#) and
- [The Art Institute of California](#) - Orange County campus

Its county department of education also oversees 28 [school districts](#).

Further information: [List of school districts in Orange County, California](#)

Points of interest

The area's warm [Mediterranean climate](#) and 42 miles of year-round beaches attract millions of tourists annually. [Huntington Beach](#) is a hot spot for sunbathing and [surfing](#); [nicknamed](#) "Surf City, U.S.A.", it is home to many surfing competitions. Other tourist destinations include the [theme parks Disneyland](#) and [Disney's California Adventure](#) in [Anaheim](#) and [Knott's Berry Farm](#) in [Buena Park](#). The [Anaheim Convention Center](#) is the largest such facility on the West Coast. [Little Saigon](#) is another notable tourist destination, being home to the largest concentration of [Vietnamese people](#) outside of Vietnam.

Notable structures include the [Crystal Cathedral](#) in [Garden Grove](#), the largest house of worship in California; the historic [Balboa Pavilion \[2\]](#) in Newport Beach; the Huntington Beach Pier; and the restored [Mission San Juan Capistrano](#).

Some of the most exclusive (and expensive) neighborhoods in the U.S. are located here, many along the [Orange County Coast](#). Large shopping malls exist throughout the county, such as the [Irvine Spectrum Center](#), [South Coast Plaza](#) in [Costa Mesa](#), [Fashion Island](#) in [Newport Beach](#), and [The Block](#) at [Orange](#).

Historical points of interest include [Mission San Juan Capistrano](#) (destination of migrating swallows), and the [Richard Nixon Library & Birthplace](#) (the only privately-controlled [presidential library](#) in the nation since the government began constructing these libraries in [1939](#)) in [Yorba Linda](#). The Nixon Home is a [National Historic Landmark](#), as is the home of a very different character, Madam [Helena Modjeska](#), in [Modjeska Canyon](#) on [Santiago Creek](#).

The [Anaheim Angels](#) won the [World Series](#) in [2002](#). The county's [National Hockey League](#) team, the [Mighty Ducks of Anaheim](#), lost the [2003 Stanley Cup](#) finals after winning three games in a seven-game series. [NFL football](#) left the county when the [Los Angeles Rams](#) relocated to [St. Louis](#) in 1995, but [Anaheim](#) city leaders are currently in talks with the NFL to bring a Los Angeles-area franchise to Orange County. The county is also the home of the Orange County Buzz basketball team of the American Basketball Association (ABA) In November 2006, the NBA Development League brings an L.A. Clippers-affiliated team to play the 2006-2007 season at the Arena at the Anaheim Convention Center.

Government

Orange County is a general law county of California; its [seat](#) is [Santa Ana](#). Its legislative and executive authority is vested in a five-member Board of Supervisors. Each Supervisor is popularly elected from a regional district, and together the board oversees the activities of the county's agencies and departments and sets policy on development, public improvements, and county services. At the beginning of each year the Supervisors select a Chairman and Vice-Chairman, but the administration is headed by a professional municipal manager, the County Executive.

Seven other public officials are elected at-large: the County Assessor, Auditor-Controller, Clerk-Recorder, District Attorney, Sheriff-Coroner, Treasurer-Tax Collector and Public Administrator.

Politics

1988	67.7% 586,230	31.1% 269,013
1984	74.7% 635,013	24.3% 206,272
1980	67.9% 529,797	22.6% 176,704
1976	62.2% 408,632	35.3% 232,246
1972	68.3% 448,291	26.9% 176,847
1968	63.1% 314,905	29.9% 148,869

Orange County has long been known as a Republican stronghold and has consistently sent Republican representatives to the state and federal legislatures. Republican majorities in Orange County helped deliver California's [electoral votes](#) to Republican presidential candidates [Richard Nixon](#) (1960 and 1968), [Gerald Ford](#) (1976), [Ronald Reagan](#) in (1980 and 1984) and [George H. W. Bush](#) in (1988). Orange County has not voted for a Democratic presidential candidate since Franklin D. Roosevelt's 1936 landslide re-election. Although Democrats have made inroads in the northern end of the county since the mid-1980s, Orange County politics are still dominated by Republicans. Five of the County's six [U.S. Representatives](#), four of its five [State Senators](#) and seven of its nine [State Assembly members](#) are Republicans, as are four of the five members of the County Board of Supervisors.

1964	55.9% 224,196	44.0% 176,539
1960	60.8% 174,891	38.9% 112,007
1956	67.4% 113,510	32.6% 54,895
1952	70.4% 77,548	29.6% 32,530

According to the [California Secretary of State](#), as of September 2003 Orange County had 1,349,988 registered voters. Of these registered voters, 48.59% are registered Republican, 31.18% are registered Democrat, 16.07% declined to state, and the remaining 4.16% are registered with minor political parties.

Orange County produced such notable Republicans as President [Richard Nixon](#) (born in [Yorba Linda](#) and lived in [San Clemente](#)), U.S. Senator [John F. Seymour](#) (previously mayor of [Anaheim](#)), U.S. Senator [Thomas Kuchel](#) (of [Anaheim](#)), U.S. Rep. [James B. Utt](#) (of [Santa Ana](#)), U.S. Rep. [Robert Badham](#) (of [Newport Beach](#)), U.S. Rep. [William E. Dannemeyer](#) (of [Fullerton](#)). Former U.S. Rep. [Chris Cox](#) (of [Newport Beach](#)) is currently chairman of the [U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission](#). The county has produced relatively few prominent Republicans in state government, although in 1996 [Curt Pringle](#) (currently mayor of [Anaheim](#)) became the first Republican-elected Speaker of the [California Assembly](#) in decades.

Since the [1990s](#), the growth of the [Hispanic](#) population has softened Orange County's political conservatism. In the landmark [1996](#) election, Democrat [Loretta Sanchez](#) defeated veteran Republican [Robert K. Dornan](#), and has held the seat ever since. Republicans have responded by making more explicit efforts to court the Hispanic vote. As more immigrants and Democrats settle in Orange County, there are signs that the longtime [Republican](#) dominance is beginning to falter. [Democrats](#) such as U.S. senators [Barbara Boxer](#) and [Dianne Feinstein](#), Governor [Gray Davis](#), and Democratic [presidential](#) candidates, have fared better in the Orange County recently. In 2004, [George W. Bush](#) captured 60% of the county's vote, up from 56% in 2000, despite a higher Democratic popular vote compared with the 2000 election. Although [Barbara Boxer](#) won statewide, and did better in Orange County than she did in 1998, she lost to Republican [Bill Jones](#), 43% to 51%. The 39% that [John Kerry](#) received is higher than the percentage [Bill Clinton](#) won in both 1992 and 1996, however, the percentage of the vote George W. Bush received in 2004 (60% of the vote) is higher than any presidential election since 1988, showing a still-strong GOP presence in the county. Democrats get strong showings in three cities: [Santa Ana](#), the county seat, [Laguna Woods](#), a retirement community, and

[Laguna Beach](#), perhaps the county's most famous city, due to its large gay and lesbian population and its socially liberal residents. The rest of the county still leans Republican, including [Anaheim](#) and [Newport Beach](#).

The county features prominently in the book *Suburban Warriors: The Origins of the New American Right* by Lisa McGirr. She argues that the County's rightward orientation in the [20th century](#) owed much to its settlement by [Midwestern](#) transplants, who reacted strongly to communist sympathies and the turmoil of the [1960s](#) in nearby Los Angeles—across the "[Orange Curtain](#)."

Transportation

Transportation in Orange County is offered primarily by the [Orange County Transportation Authority](#), or OCTA, which was named America's #1 Transportation System in 2005, by the American Public Transportation Association. OCTA not only manages the extensive bus network crisscrossing the county, but also funds the construction and maintenance of local streets, highways, and [freeways](#), operates a coordinated taxicab system, maintains express toll lanes through the median of the notoriously congested [Riverside Freeway](#) (SR/CA-91), and works with Southern California's [Metrolink](#) to provide [commuter rail](#) service along three lines - the [Orange County Line](#), the [91 Line](#), and the [Inland Empire-Orange County Line](#).

OCTA's bus network, which maintains 6,542 stops on 77 lines running along virtually all major streets, generates 210,000 boardings a day. OCTA's 817 buses are being gradually replaced by Liquefied Natural Gas-powered vehicles, currently comprising over 40% of the fleet. OCTA also planned to initiate local [light rail](#) service along the most heavily-congested bus routes, and along former railroad rights of way. Plans for such a system, however, were scrapped in favor of increased bus and road improvements in 2005.

Starting in 1992, [Metrolink](#) has operated commuter rail lines through Orange County. as of 1998, three lines through the area, added more stops, are still planning on adding yet more stops and service, and has also maintained Rail-to-Rail service with parallel [Amtrak](#) service. Together, the [Orange County Line](#), the [91 Line](#) and the [Inland Empire-Orange County Line](#), along with Metrolink riders on parallel Amtrak lines, generate over 12,000 boardings on a typical weekday. On weekdays, 40 trains run along these three lines; Metrolink does not run on weekends. New stations have recently opened at Anaheim Canyon, Tustin, and Laguna Niguel, while Yorba Linda and Buena Park stations are proposed for future construction.

The major interstate highways of Orange County, all of which are to some extent north-south arteries, include the [Santa Ana Freeway](#) (I-5), the [San Diego Freeway](#) (I-405 and I-5 south of Irvine), and the [San Gabriel River Freeway](#) (I-605), which only briefly enters Orange County territory. The other freeways in the county are state highways, and include the perpetually congested [Riverside](#) and [Artesia Freeways](#) (CA/SR-91) and

[Garden Grove Freeway \(CA/SR-22\)](#) running east-west, and the [Orange Freeway \(CA/SR-57\)](#), [Costa Mesa Freeway \(SR/CA-55\)](#), Laguna Freeway ([CA/SR-133](#)), [San Joaquin Transportation Corridor \(CA/SR-73\)](#), [Eastern Transportation Corridor \(CA/SR-261, CA/SR-133, and CA/SR-241\)](#), and [Foothill Transportation Corridor \(CA/SR-241\)](#) running north-south. Minor stub freeways include the Richard M. Nixon Freeway (CA/SR-90), also known as Imperial Highway, and the southern terminus of Pacific Coast Highway (CA/SR-1).

The three transportation corridors, typically referred to as "the toll road" or by their number designations ("the 73", "the 133", "the 261", and "the 241") were constructed by a joint authority (the [Transportation Corridor Agencies](#) or TCA) in the 1990s. These [toll roads](#) were built to connect existing freeways (including the currently non-tolled portions of CA/SR-73 and CA/SR-133) to new South County developments, and to serve as alternate routes for crowded Orange County freeways. Tolls can be collected in cash or with the use of transponders for prepaid accounts. The median of the Riverside Freeway (CA/SR-91) also contains toll lanes known as the [Express Lanes](#) maintained by [OCTA](#); users must maintain prepaid accounts to drive on these lanes.

Orange County's only major airport, [John Wayne-Orange County Airport](#) (SNA), is located in unincorporated territory surrounded by the cities of Santa Ana, Costa Mesa, Irvine, and Newport Beach. Its modern Thomas F. Riley Terminal handles over 8 million passengers annually through 14 different airlines.

Orange County in literature and popular culture

Film and television

Orange County has been the setting for numerous films and television shows:

- It is best-known as the setting of the eponymous [2003 Fox Network](#) television [drama *The O.C.*](#) which is set in the Orange County coastal harbor town of [Newport Beach, California](#) (although the series is actually filmed in [Los Angeles County](#) to keep production costs down). The show has been criticized by some residents who feel that the show misrepresents their community.
- It is the subject and setting of the eponymous [2002](#) movie [Orange County](#).
- It is also the setting of the (now canceled) [sitcom *Arrested Development*](#).
- The film [Better Luck Tomorrow](#) was shot and set in the northern Orange County cities of Cypress and Anaheim.
- The film [Life as a House](#) was set in [Laguna Beach](#), although it was filmed in [Los Angeles County](#).
- [MTV's *Laguna Beach: The Real Orange County*](#) was filmed in the Orange County coastal town of [Laguna Beach, California](#).

- A plot line in the [television](#) drama [The West Wing](#) involved a dead liberal [Democrat](#) unexpectedly winning a [Congressional seat](#) from an Orange County district.
- Orange County is the home of the late Republican President [Teddy Bridges](#) on the ABC drama [Commander-in-Chief](#).
- [Sayid Jarrah](#) from the ABC drama [Lost](#) was bound to go to Irvine, CA where his longtime friend Nadia lives. [John Locke](#), another castaway from the series, is said to live in Tustin, CA. Both cities are in Orange County.
- Orange County was the location of the [1994 Charlie Sheen](#) movie [The Chase](#).

Orange County has also often been used as a shooting location for films and television programs. Examples of movies at least partially shot in Orange County are [Tom Hanks's That Thing You Do](#) the [Coen Brothers's The Man Who Wasn't There](#) and the [Martin Lawrence](#) movie [Big Momma's House](#). All three of which were filmed in or around the historic Orange Circle in the City of Orange.

Music

Popular [Ska](#) and [punk rock](#) bands such as [Avenged Sevenfold](#), [The Dear and the Dearted](#), [Bullets and Octane](#), [Bleeding Through](#), [Eighteen Visions](#), [Atreyu](#), [Throwdown](#), [xRAINx](#), [The Adolescents](#), [Thrice](#), [Social Distortion](#), [D.I.](#), [Agent Orange](#), [The Offspring](#), [Fear](#), [Rising Dissent](#), and the bands [No Doubt](#), [Stryper](#), [Lit](#), [O.C.Supertones](#), [Sugar Ray](#), [Throwdown](#), [Rage Against the Machine](#), [The Aquabats](#), [Reel Big Fish](#), [Save Ferris](#), [Circle Jerks](#), [Youth Brigade](#), [Cadillac Tramps](#), [Black Flag](#), [Supernova](#), [Bad Religion](#), [The Germs](#), [The Crowd](#), [The Screamers](#), [The Skulls](#), [The Vandals](#), [The Descendents](#), [The Dickies](#), [MIA](#), [Slayer](#), [T.S.O.L. \(True Sounds of Liberty\)](#), [The Weirdos](#) and [Jeffries Fan Club](#) all hail from Orange County, as does the alt-rock band [Something Corporate](#). Notable punk label [Geykido Comet Records](#) is also based in Orange County.

The punk scene in Orange County remains strongly influential.

[Bobby Hatfield](#) of [The Righteous Brothers](#), [The Chantays](#) of "Pipeline" fame, [Berlin](#), also hail from Orange County.

Literature

A number of novels by best-selling fiction and horror author [Dean Koontz](#), a resident of Newport Beach, is set in the area.

Several of the stories in [Pulitzer Prize](#)-winning author [Michael Chabon](#)'s collection, [A Model World](#), are set in Orange County. Chabon studied [creative writing](#) at [UC Irvine](#).

Orange County is the place in which [Kim Stanley Robinson's *Three Californias Trilogy*](#) is set. These books depict three different futures of the Orange County (survivors of a nuclear war in *The Wild Shore*, a developer's dream gone mad in *The Gold Coast*, and an ecotopian utopia in *Pacific Edge*). [Philip K. Dick's novel *A Scanner Darkly*](#) was also set in Orange County.

The modern fantasy novel "All the Bells on Earth" by [James P. Blaylock](#) is set in [Orange](#), a city in northern Orange County.

Sports

Orange County is home to the MLB [Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim](#) and NHL [Mighty Ducks of Anaheim](#).

Orange County annually plays host to the [U.S. Open of Surfing](#), [AVP Pro Beach Volleyball](#) and [Van's World Championship of Skateboarding](#); all held in [Huntington Beach](#)^[3].

Religion

Orange County is also the base for several significant religious organizations:

- The [Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange](#) headed by Bishop [Tod Brown](#).
- [Chuck Smith](#), father of the [Jesus People movement](#), is headquartered at [Calvary Chapel](#) in [Costa Mesa](#).
- Reverend [Robert Schuller's](#) [Crystal Cathedral](#) is in [Garden Grove](#).
- [Trinity Broadcasting Network](#) began as Channel 40 in [Tustin](#), now in [Costa Mesa](#).
- [The Purpose Driven Life](#) author [Rick Warren](#) and his [Saddleback Church](#) is in [Lake Forest](#).
- The [Vineyard Christian Fellowship](#) movement began in Orange County.
- The Newport Beach [LDS Temple](#) serves the 50,000 [Latter-day Saints](#) in the county.
- The Merage Jewish Community Center headquartered in [Irvine](#).
- The Jewish Federation of Orange County.
- [Children of God](#), AKA "The Family" ,was founded in [1968](#) in [Huntington Beach](#) by [David Berg](#).
- The [Islamic Educational Center of Orange County](#) is based in Costa Mesa.
- The mosque at the [Islamic Society of Orange County](#) in Garden Grove serves one of the largest [Muslim](#) communities in the nation.
- The [Islamic Center of Irvine](#) is one of the newest and largest Islamic Centers in the nation.
- The Baha'i Center of San Clemente was built by members of the [Baha'i](#) faith. ^[4]

Notable residents

Main article: [Notable Orange County residents](#)

Because of Orange County's proximity to [Los Angeles](#), the entertainment capital of the United States, many film and media celebrities have moved or bought second houses there. Actor [John Wayne](#), who lived in [Newport Beach](#), is the namesake for Orange County's biggest [airport](#). Orange County has also produced many homegrown celebrities, including golfer [Tiger Woods](#), actor [Kevin Costner](#), comedian/actors [Steve Martin](#) and [Will Ferrell](#), actresses [Michelle Pfeiffer](#) and [Diane Keaton](#), and singers [Bonnie Raitt](#), [Gwen Stefani](#) and [Jeff Buckley](#).

The county's most famous resident was perhaps [Richard Nixon](#), the 37th [President of the United States](#), who was born in [Yorba Linda](#) and lived in [San Clemente](#) following his [resignation](#).

Incorporated cities in Orange County

As of May 2006, Orange County has 34 incorporated cities. The oldest is Anaheim (1870) and the most recent is Aliso Viejo (2001). Many of the cities have notable neighborhoods.

- [Aliso Viejo](#), incorporated in [2001](#)
- [Anaheim](#), incorporated in [1870](#)
 - [Anaheim Hills](#)
 - [West Anaheim, California](#)
- [Brea](#), incorporated in [1917](#)
- [Buena Park](#), incorporated in [1953](#)
- [Costa Mesa](#), incorporated in [1953](#)
- [Cypress](#), incorporated in [1956](#)
- [Dana Point](#), incorporated in [1989](#)
 - [Monarch Beach](#)
- [Fountain Valley](#), incorporated in [1953](#)
- [Fullerton](#), incorporated in [1904](#)
- [Garden Grove](#), incorporated in [1956](#)
- [Huntington Beach](#), incorporated in [1909](#)
- [Irvine](#), incorporated in [1971](#)
- [La Habra](#), incorporated in [1925](#)
- [La Palma](#), incorporated in [1955](#)
- [Laguna Beach](#), incorporated in [1927](#)
- [Laguna Hills](#), incorporated in [1991](#)

- [Laguna Niguel](#), incorporated in [1989](#)
- [Laguna Woods](#), incorporated in [1999](#)
- [Lake Forest](#), incorporated in [1991](#)
 - [Foothill Ranch](#)
- [Los Alamitos](#), incorporated in [1960](#)
- [Mission Viejo](#), incorporated in [1988](#)
- [Newport Beach](#), incorporated in [1906](#)
 - [Balboa Island](#)
 - [Corona del Mar](#)
 - [Newport Coast](#)
- [Orange](#), incorporated in [1888](#)
 - [El Modena](#)
 - [Olive](#)
- [Placentia](#), incorporated in [1926](#)
- [Rancho Santa Margarita](#), incorporated in [2000](#)
- [San Clemente](#), incorporated in [1928](#)
- [San Juan Capistrano](#), incorporated in [1961](#)
- [Santa Ana](#), incorporated in [1886](#)
- [Seal Beach](#), incorporated in [1915](#)
- [Stanton](#), incorporated in [1956](#)
- [Tustin](#), incorporated in [1927](#)
- [Villa Park](#), incorporated in [1962](#)
- [Westminster](#), incorporated in [1957](#)
- [Yorba Linda](#), incorporated in [1967](#)

Unincorporated communities in Orange County

These communities are outside of city limits in [unincorporated](#) county territory:

- [Coto de Caza](#)
- [Dove Canyon](#)
- [Ladera Ranch](#)
- [Las Flores](#)
- [Midway City](#)
- [Olinda](#)
- [Orange Park Acres](#)
- [Rossmoor](#)
- [Santa Ana Heights](#)
- [Silverado Canyon](#)
- [Sunset Beach](#)
- [Trabuco Canyon](#)
- [Tustin Foothills](#)

See also: [List of neighborhoods and unincorporated communities in Orange County](#)

See also

- [Santa Ana-Anaheim-Irvine, California](#) (current OMB designation)
- [John Wayne-Orange County Airport \(SNA\)](#)
- [Orange County Transportation Authority](#)
- [List of school districts in Orange County, California](#)
- [Orange County High School of the Arts](#)
- [Tri-Cities](#)
- [The O.C.](#)

External links

Government

- [County of Orange](#) - Official County Government Web Site
- [Orange County Transportation Authority](#)

Media

- [The Orange County Register](#) - OC's chief Newspaper
- [OC Weekly](#) - Orange County's Alternative Newsweekly
- [Orange County Business Journal](#) - Weekly newspaper covering business in OC
- [\http://www.koec.org/ Orange County Public Television (PBS)- Five night per week Orange County news program "Real Orange."

Others

- [Orange County Business Council \(Chamber of Commerce\)](#)
- [Anaheim/Orange County Visitor & Convention Bureau](#)
- [Orange County ArtSource](#) - Links to Major Visual and Performing Arts Venues
- [Unofficial Orange County History Page](#) - From the 1400s to the present