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Blake Lively^[1] (born Blake Ellender Brown;^{[2][3]} August 25, 1987^[4]) is an American actress. She is best known for her role as [Serena van der Woodsen](#) in the CW drama series [Gossip Girl](#) (2007â€"12). Lively has also starred in such films as [The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants](#) (2005), [Accepted](#) (2006), [The Private Lives of Pippa Lee](#) (2009), [The Town](#) (2010), [Green Lantern](#) (2011), [Savages](#) (2012), [The Age of Adaline](#) (2015), and [The Shallows](#) (2016). [TOP](#)

[TOC](#); [Next](#); [Early life](#) Lively was born on August 25, 1987, in the [Tarzana](#) neighborhood of Los Angeles.^{[5][6]} She is the daughter of [Ernie Lively](#) (n  Ernest Wilson Brown, Jr.), an actor, and his wife, Elaine (n e McAlpin), who worked as a talent scout.^[7] She was named after her grandmother's brother.^{[8][9]} She has an older brother, [Eric](#), two half-sisters, [Lori](#) and [Robyn](#),^[10] and a half-brother, [Jason](#). Both of her parents and all of her siblings are, or have been, in the entertainment industry.^[11] Lively is of English, Irish and German ancestry. She also recently claimed to be of [Cherokee](#) descent, but nothing has been provided to substantiate this.^[12] During Lively's childhood, her parents took her with them to acting classes that they taught because they did not want to leave her with a babysitter. Lively said that watching her parents teach acting classes helped her learn the "drills" of acting and gain confidence as she got older.^{[11][13]} She was initially not particularly interested in acting, and wanted to attend [Stanford University](#).^[8] During the summer between her junior and senior years of high school, her brother Eric asked his agent to send her on a few auditions over a period of a few months. From these auditions, she was cast as Bridget for [The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants](#).^[14] Lively filmed her scenes in that film between her junior and senior years at [Burbank High School](#).^{[14][15]} While at Burbank, Lively served as senior class president, a cheerleader, and a member of the championship choir.^{[16][17][18]} [TOC](#); [Previous](#); [Next](#); [Career](#) Lively began her acting career at age 10, when she appeared in the 1998 film *Sandman*, which was directed by Lively's father. She describes her role as a "bit part".^[19] She appeared in the film adaptation of the novel of the same name, [The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants](#), in 2005, as Bridget, one of the four female leads. Lively's performance in the film earned her a nomination for a [Teen Choice Award](#) for "Choice Movie Breakout â€" Female.^[20] In 2006, Lively co-starred with [Justin Long](#) in [Accepted](#), and Lively had minor roles in the horror film, *Simon Says*. While *Accepted* was not well received by critics, Lively's performance was, earning her a 'Breakthrough Award' from Hollywood Life.^[21] In 2007, she played one of the two title characters in [Elvis and Anabelle](#) as Anabelle, a bulimic girl who hoped to win a beauty pageant. Lively said [of getting into character for the role](#) that she had 'shed serious weight' for her height. Lively stated that that process was difficult for her because food is "the No. 1 love of my life."^[22] MovieLine.com praised her performance in the film and credited it as having been her "breakthrough role".^[23] Lively was cast in [The CW's](#) series [Gossip Girl](#), based on [the book series of the same name](#) by [Cecily von Ziegesar](#), which premiered in September 2007. She played [Serena van der Woodsen](#) in the teen drama until 2012 when the show ended.^{[24][25]} Her first magazine cover was the November 2007 issue of *Cosmo Girl*, where she discussed her time in high school and her career prior to *Gossip Girl*.^[26] In 2008 Lively reprised her role as Bridget in the sequel [The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2](#). Similarly to the first film, Lively's performance was positively received by critics.^{[27][28]} As of November 2008, the film had earned over \$44 million at the box office.^[29] In 2009 Lively appeared as Gabrielle DiMarco, a minor role in the romantic comedy [New York, I Love You](#), a sequel to the 2006 film *Paris, je t'aime*. Despite positive critical reception, the film did not fare well at the box office.^{[30][31]} One of Lively's most acclaimed roles to date is her supporting role as the younger version of the title character in *The Private Lives of Pippa Lee* (2009).^[32] Paul Byrnes, of the *Brisbane Times*, described Lively's performance

in the film as "sensational".^[33] In October 2009 Lively began filming her scenes for her role as Kristina "Kris" Coughlin in the 2010 film *The Town*, based on [Chuck Hogan's](#) novel *Prince of Thieves*.^[34] The film, which stars [Ben Affleck](#), was released in the United States on September 17, 2010. Lively played [Carol Ferris](#), the female lead and [love interest](#) of Hal Jordan in the superhero film *Green Lantern*, which was released in June 2011.^[35] The film grossed a worldwide total of \$219,851,172.^[36] but was considered a summer disappointment as it "failed to perform to expectations" even though it grossed more than its budget.^[37] Lively appeared in the music video for [The Lonely Island's](#) "[I Just Had Sex](#)" together with [Jessica Alba](#) in December 2010.^[38] In 2011 she was featured in the annual *TIME* magazine 100 influential people.^[39] Additionally, [AskMen.com](#) named her the most desirable woman of 2011^[40] and *People* magazine named her one of 2012's Most Beautiful at Every Age.^[41] In 2012 she starred in [Oliver Stone's](#) *Savages* alongside [Taylor Kitsch](#), [Aaron Johnson](#), [Salma Hayek](#), and [John Travolta](#). Lively replaced [Jennifer Lawrence](#) as Ophelia, after the latter dropped out to do *The Hunger Games* instead. *HitFix* film critic [Drew McWeeny](#) praised Lively's performance, which he described as "smart and sad precisely because she plays O as such a broken, needy little soul".^[42] The same year she was selected as the face of the new [Gucci](#) fragrance, Gucci Premiere. She appeared in a short film ad directed by [Nicolas Winding Refn](#) for the fragrance.^[43] In October 2013 Lively was named the new face of [L'Oreal](#), marking her first major makeup campaign.^[44] Most recently Lively starred in the film *The Age of Adaline* (2015), opposite [Michiel Huisman](#) and [Harrison Ford](#), playing a woman who "stops aging after recovering from a near-fatal accident."^[45] The film was a modest commercial success, grossing \$54.5 million from a production budget of \$25 million.^[46] In 2016 Lively starred in the [survival horror](#) film *The Shallows*. It received mostly positive reviews and Lively's performance was praised by critics. [TOC](#)^[47] [Previous](#)^[48] [Next](#)^[49] [Other ventures](#) [TOC](#)^[50] [Previous](#)^[51] [Next](#)^[52] [Celebrity homemaker](#) Lively describes herself as a "foodie and cook,"^[47] and has said [Martha Stewart](#) is her "idol;" she is also a fan of [Nigella Lawson's](#) work.^[48] In 2008 Lively baked a cake with Stewart during an episode of *The Martha Stewart Show*.^[49] In 2009 Lively stated that she "hoped one day to have an interior decorating company," citing her love for antiques and fascination with "colors and textures and layering things."^[13] In 2010 she attended a tailor-made workshop at [Le Cordon Bleu](#) in Paris, and has spoken of her desire to return to the culinary school for further instruction.^[50] Also in 2010 Lively spent an evening working as a pastry chef at the renowned [Per Se](#) in New York City.^[51] She has remarked that, when travelling, she always takes cookery classes to immerse herself in the local culture.^[52]^[53] In 2010 and again in 2011, Lively spoke publicly of her desire to become a restaurateur.^[54]^[55] In 2011 she created a s'mores cupcake to be sold at [Sprinkles](#) bakeries.^[56] In 2012 Lively's wedding reception was featured in *Martha Stewart Weddings*; food photography was the focal point of the picture spread.^[57] In 2013 she appeared in *Elle Decor* to recount her experiences designing a custom [La Cornue](#) oven for her newly purchased Bedford home.^[58] In 2013 she filmed a cooking segment for *Vogue's* website, demonstrating how to make a brie pastry.^[59] In 2014 she launched *Preserve*, a digital magazine and e-commerce website with hand-made one-of-a-kind items all selected by Lively;^[60] on October 9, 2015, Lively closed the site, stating that it had been launched before it was ready, and that she plans to rebuild and relaunch it properly.^[61] [TOC](#)^[62] [Previous](#)^[63] [Next](#)^[64] [Advocacy](#) During the [2008 United States presidential election](#), Lively expressed her support for [Barack Obama](#). Lively and [Penn Badgley](#) appeared in a pro-Obama commercial, as part of [MoveOn.org's](#) Youth Vote program. The commercial, directed by [Doug Liman](#), aired during *Gossip Girl* on the CW, [MTV](#) and [Comedy Central](#).^[62] In 2013 she appeared in a video clip for [Gucci's](#) "Chime for Change" campaign that aims to raise funds and awareness of women's issues in the areas of education, health, and justice.^[63] [TOC](#)^[64] [Previous](#)^[65] [Next](#)^[66] [Personal life](#) Lively met actor [Ryan Reynolds](#) while filming *Green*

Lantern in early 2010, and the two began dating in October 2011.^[64] They bought a home in [Bedford, New York](#) in June 2012,^[65] and got married on September 9, 2012, at [Boone Hall](#) in [Mount Pleasant, South Carolina](#).^[66] They have two daughters: James ^[67]^[68] and a younger daughter.^[69]^[70] [TOC](#) [Previous](#) [Next](#) [Filmography](#)

Film roles

Year Title Role Notes

1998 *Sandman* Trixie/Tooth Fairy

2005 *Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants, The*[The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants](#) [Bridget Vreeland](#)

2006 *Accepted* Monica Moreland

2006 *Simon Says* Jenny

2007 *Elvis and Anabelle* Annabelle Leigh

2008 *Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2, The*[The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2](#) [Bridget Vreeland](#)

2009 *New York, I Love You* Gabrielle DiMarco

2009 *Private Lives of Pippa Lee, The*[The Private Lives of Pippa Lee](#) Young Pippa Lee

2010 *Town, The*[The Town](#) Kristina "Kris" Coughlin

2011 *Green Lantern* [Carol Ferris](#)

2011 *Hick* Glenda

2012 *Savages* Ophelia "O" Sage

2015 *Age of Adaline, The*[The Age of Adaline](#) Adaline Bowman

2016 *Café Society* Veronica Hayes

2016 *The Shallows* Nancy Adams

2016 *All I See Is You* Gina

Television

Year Title Role Notes

2007–2012 *Gossip Girl* [Serena van der Woodsen](#) Main role, 121 episodes

2008–2010 *Saturday Night Live* Host 3 episodes [TOC](#) [Previous](#) [Next](#) [Awards and nominations](#)

Year Award Category Nominated work Result Ref.

2005 [Teen Choice Awards](#) Choice Movie Breakout Female *Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants, The*[The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants](#) Nominated ^[20]

2008 Choice Female Hottie N/A Nominated ^[71]

2008 [Choice TV Actress Drama](#) *Gossip Girl* Won

2008 Choice TV Breakout Star-Female Won

2008 [Newport Beach Film Festival](#) Achievement Award-Breakout Performance *Elvis and Anabelle* Won ^[72]

2009 [ASTRA Award](#) Favourite International Personality or Actor *Gossip Girl* Nominated ^[73]

2009 [Teen Choice Awards](#) Choice TV Actress Drama Nominated ^[74]

2009 Choice Female Hottie N/A Nominated

2010 [People's Choice Awards](#) Favorite TV Drama Actress *Gossip Girl* Nominated ^[75]

2010 [Teen Choice Awards](#) Choice TV Actress Drama Nominated ^[76]

2010 [Critics' Choice Movie Awards](#) Best Acting Ensemble *Town, The*[The Town](#) Nominated ^[77]

2010 [National Board of Review](#) Best Ensemble Cast Won ^[78]

2010 [San Diego Film Critics Society](#) Best Supporting Actress Nominated ^[79]

2010 [Washington D.C. Area Film Critics Association](#) Best Ensemble Won ^[80]

2011 [People's Choice Award](#) Favorite TV Drama Actress *Gossip Girl* Nominated ^[81]

2011 [CinemaCon Award](#) Breakthrough Performer of the Year Award N/A Won ^[82]

2011 [Teen Choice Awards](#) Choice Movie Actress Sci Fi/Fantasy *Green Lantern* Nominated ^[83]

2011 [Choice TV Actress Drama](#) *Gossip Girl* Won
2012 [People's Choice Award](#) Favorite TV Drama Actress Nominated [84]
2012 [Jupiter Award](#) Best International Actress *Green Lantern* Nominated [85]
2013 [Teen Choice Awards Choice TV Actress Drama](#) *Gossip Girl* Nominated [86]
2015 Choice Movie Actress: Drama *The Age of Adaline* Nominated [87]
2015 Choice Movie: Liplock (shared with [Michiel Huisman](#)) Nominated
2016 [Saturn Award Best Actress](#) Nominated [88]
2016 [Teen Choice Awards Choice Summer Movie Star: Female](#) *The Shallows* Nominated [89]

2016 [Choice Style: Female](#) N/A Nominated

2017 [People's Choice Awards](#) Favorite Dramatic Movie Actress *The Shallows* Won [90]
2017 [Jupiter Award](#) Best International Actress Nominated [91] [TOC](#);
[Previous](#);[Next](#);[References](#) [^ "Blake Lively and Ryan Reynolds: Marriage Certificate Shows They Wed Days After Secret Ceremony | E! Online". E!. Retrieved March 15, 2015.](#) [^ "Blake Ellender Brown, Born 08/25/1987 in California". CaliforniaBirthIndex.org. August 25, 1987. Retrieved March 15, 2015.](#) [^ WILLIAMS, OWEN. "50 Movie Stars You Didn't Know Had Changed Their Name \(And A Few You Did\)". \["Monitor". Entertainment Weekly \\(1274\\). August 30, 2013. p. 20.\]\(#\) \[^ Finn, Natalie \\(September 17, 2012\\). "Blake Lively and Ryan Reynolds: Marriage Certificate Shows They Wed Days After Secret Ceremony". \\[E! Entertainment Television\\]\\(#\\). Retrieved March 9, 2013.\]\(#\) \[^ According to the State of California. California Birth Index, 1905–1995. Center for Health Statistics, California Department of Health Services, Sacramento, California. Searchable at \\[Family Tree Legends\\]\\(#\\) \\[^ "Blake Lively : Biography". Biography.com. Retrieved March 15, 2015.\\]\\(#\\) \\[^ a b Lee, Michael J. \\\(July 29, 2006\\\). "RadioFree.com Interviews: Blake Lively, Accepted". RadioFree.com. Retrieved December 3, 2013.\\]\\(#\\) \\[^ "McAlpin\\\(e\\\) genealogies, 1730–1990: Alexander McAlpin of South Carolina and ... – Doris McAlpin Russell". January 29, 1947. Retrieved March 15, 2015.\\]\\(#\\) \\[^ "Celebrity siblings". Glamour. Retrieved February 25, 2013.\\]\\(#\\) \\[^ a b Wood, Dana \\\(December 2008\\\). "Blake Lively's After School Activities \\\(pg. 1\\\)". W. Retrieved November 15, 2009.\\]\\(#\\) \\[^ Bitette, Nicolette \\\(January 13, 2017\\\). "Blake Lively is mocked after revealing she's part Cherokee in L'Oreal ad for different skin tones." \\\[. New York Daily News\\\]\\\(#\\\). Retrieved May 7, 2017.\\]\\(#\\) \\[^ a b Miller, Rebecca \\\(December 2009\\\). "Blake Lively Grows Up". \\\[Marie Claire\\\]\\\(#\\\). Archived from \\\[the original\\\]\\\(#\\\) on November 7, 2009. Retrieved June 2, 2017.\\]\\(#\\) \\[^ a b Dana Wood \\\(December 2008\\\). "Blake Lively's After School Activities \\\(pg 2\\\)". W. Retrieved November 15, 2009.\\]\\(#\\) \\[^ "Blake Lively profile". Biography.com. August 25, 1987. Retrieved January 21, 2014.\\]\\(#\\) \\[^ "CELEBRITY CENTRAL: Blake Lively". People.\\]\\(#\\) \\[^ "Blake Lively Biography". Biography.com.\\]\\(#\\) \\[^ "Everyone's Talking About Blake Lively". Glamour. August 11, 2008.\\]\\(#\\) \\[^ Allure Magazine. "The Anti-Gossip Girl" \\\(May 2009\\\) \\\[^ a b "The Teen Choice Awards". FOX. Archived from \\\\[the original\\\\]\\\\(#\\\\) on January 8, 2006. Retrieved October 31, 2014.\\\]\\\(#\\\) \\\[^ "Hollywood Life Magazine's 6th Annual Breakthrough Awards". Zimbio. December 10, 2006. Retrieved May 21, 2013.\\\]\\\(#\\\) \\\[^ Wood, Dana \\\\(December 2008\\\\). "Blake Lively's After School Activities \\\\(Page 4\\\\)". W. Retrieved November 15, 2009.\\\]\\\(#\\\) \\\[^ Adams, Michael \\\\(September 9, 2009\\\\). "Remembering Elvis and Anabelle: Blake Lively's Real Breakthrough". Movie Line. Retrieved November 13, 2009.\\\]\\\(#\\\) \\\[^ "Showbiz people briefs". Reuters. April 12, 2006.\\\]\\\(#\\\) \\\[^ Bibel, Sara \\\\(October 31, 2013\\\\). "'Gossip Girl' Two Hour Series Finale Will Air Monday, December 17 on the CW". \\\\[TV by the Numbers\\\\]\\\\(#\\\\). \\\\[Zap2it\\\\]\\\\(#\\\\). Archived from \\\\[the original\\\\]\\\\(#\\\\) on May 18, 2013. Retrieved May 18, 2013.\\\]\\\(#\\\) \\\[^ Cosmo Girl Magazine \\\\(November 2007\\\\) \\\\[^ Tabouring, Franck \\\\\(August 8, 2008\\\\\). "Review: "The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2" ". Screening Blogs. Retrieved November 13, 2009.\\\\]\\\\(#\\\\) \\\\[^ Lumenick, Lou \\\\\(August 6, 2008\\\\\). "Sequels Wear Well". \\\\\[New York Post\\\\\]\\\\\(#\\\\\). Retrieved November 13, 2009.\\\\]\\\\(#\\\\) \\\\[^ "The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2". Box Office Mojo. Retrieved November 14, 2009.\\\\]\\\\(#\\\\) \\\\[^ Loder, Kurt \\\\\(October 16, 2009\\\\\). "'New York, I Love You': Out-Of-Towners". MTV. Retrieved November 13, 2009.\\\\]\\\\(#\\\\) \\\\[^ Tabouring, Franck \\\\\(October 12, 2009\\\\\). "Movie Review: 'New York, I Love You' ". Screening Blogs. Retrieved November 13, 2009.\\\\]\\\\(#\\\\) \\\\[^ Pomeranz, Margaret \\\\\(October 2009\\\\\). "The Private Lives of Pippa Lee". \\\\\[ABC News\\\\\]\\\\\(#\\\\\). Retrieved November 13, 2009.\\\\]\\\\(#\\\\) \\\\[^ Byrnes, Paul \\\\\(October 20, 2009\\\\\). "The Private Lives of Pippa Lee". \\\\\[Brisbane Times\\\\\]\\\\\(#\\\\\). Retrieved November 13, 2009.\\\\]\\\\(#\\\\) \\\\[^ "Blake Lively Goes to 'Town' for Ben Affleck". Film School\\\\]\\\\(#\\\\)\\\]\\\(#\\\)\\]\\(#\\)\]\(#\)](#)

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Categories: [1987 births](#) [20th-century American actresses](#) [21st-century American actresses](#) [Actresses from Los Angeles](#) [American child actresses](#) [American film actresses](#) [American people of English descent](#) [American people of German descent](#) [American people of Irish descent](#) [American television actresses](#) [Living people](#) [Lively family](#) This page was last edited on 14 June 2017, at 20:29.

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The 69th annual [Cannes Film Festival](#) was held from 11 to 22 May 2016.^[4] Australian director [George Miller](#) was the President of the Jury for the main competition.^[5] French actor [Laurent Lafitte](#) was the host for the opening and closing ceremonies. On 15 March it was announced that Japanese director [Naomi Kawase](#) would serve as the [Cin fondation](#) and Short Film Jury president.^[6] American director [Woody Allen](#)'s film *Caf  Society* opened the festival.^{[2][7]} The [Palme d'Or](#) was awarded to the British film *I, Daniel Blake* directed by [Ken Loach](#),^{[8][9]} which also served as closing film of the festival.^[3] At a press conference, Loach said that he was "quietly stunned" to win.^[10] **TOP**
 TOC Next Key

* Directorial debut feature; eligible for the [Cam ra d'Or](#)
â€ Winner of the main award for best film in its section
â€; Eligible for the [Queer Palm](#)
â'1 Documentary; eligible for the [ il d'or](#)

The opening and closing films are screened during the opening and closing ceremonies respectively. TOC Previous Next Official selection TOC Previous Next Competition The films competing in the main competition section for the [Palme d'Or](#) were announced at a press conference on 14 April 2016:^{[11][12]} *The Salesman*, directed by [Asghar Farhadi](#) was added to the competition lineup on 22 April 2016.^[13]
English title Original title Director(s) Production country

[American Honey](#) *American Honey* [Andrea Arnold](#) United Kingdom, United States
[Aquarius](#) *Aquarius* [Kleber Mendonça Filho](#) Brazil
[Elle](#) *Elle* [Paul Verhoeven](#) France, Germany, Belgium
[From the Land of the Moon](#) *Mal de pierres* [Nicole Garcia](#) France
[Graduation](#) *Bacalaureat* [Cristian Mungiu](#) Romania, France
[The Handmaiden](#) *Agassi* [Park Chan-wook](#) South Korea
[I, Daniel Blake](#) *I, Daniel Blake* [Ken Loach](#) United Kingdom, France
[It's Only the End of the World](#) *Juste la fin du monde* [Xavier Dolan](#) Canada, France
[Julieta](#) *Julieta* [Pedro Almodóvar](#) Spain
[The Last Face](#) *The Last Face* [Sean Penn](#) United States
[Loving](#) *Loving* [Jeff Nichols](#) United States, United Kingdom
[Ma' Rosa](#) *Ma' Rosa* [Brillante Mendoza](#) Philippines
[The Neon Demon](#) *The Neon Demon* [Nicolas Winding Refn](#) United States
[Paterson](#) *Paterson* [Jim Jarmusch](#) United States
[Personal Shopper](#) *Personal Shopper* [Olivier Assayas](#) France
[The Salesman](#) *Asghar Farhadi* [Asghar Farhadi](#) Iran
[Staying Vertical](#) *Rester Vertical* [Alain Guiraudie](#) France
[Sieranevada](#) *Sieranevada* [Cristi Puiu](#) Romania, France, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia
[Slack Bay](#) *Ma Loute* [Bruno Dumont](#) France, Germany
[Toni Erdmann](#) *Toni Erdmann* [Maren Ade](#) Germany, Austria
[The Unknown Girl](#) *La Fille inconnue* [Jean-Pierre Dardenne](#), [Luc Dardenne](#) Belgium
 TOC Previous Next Un Certain Regard The films competing in the *Un Certain Regard* section were announced at a press conference on 14 April 2016:[\[11\]](#)[\[12\]](#) *Clash*, directed by [Mohamed Diab](#), was announced as the opening film for the *Un Certain Regard* section. *Hell or High Water*, directed by [David Mackenzie](#) was added to the *Un Certain Regard* lineup on 22 April 2016.[\[13\]](#)
 English title Original title Director(s) Production country
[After the Storm](#) *Umi yori mo Mōtoku* [Mitsuru Fukuda](#) [Koreeda](#) Japan
[Apprentice](#) *Apprentice* [Boo Junfeng](#) Singapore, France, Germany
[Beyond the Mountains and Hills](#) *Me'Erab* [Khalim](#) [Ushagvaot](#)
[Captain Fantastic](#) *Captain Fantastic* [Matt Ross](#) United States
[Clash](#) (opening film) *Clash* [Mohamed Diab](#) Egypt, France, Germany, UAE
[The Dancer](#) * *La Danseuse* [Stéphanie Di Giusto](#) France
[Dogs](#) * *Câini* [Bogdan Miric](#) Romania, Bulgaria
[The Happiest Day in the Life of Olli Mäki](#) * *Hymyilevä Mies* [Juho Kuosmanen](#) Finland
[Harmonium](#) *Fuchi ni Kutsu* [Fukada](#) Japan
[Hell or High Water](#) *Hell or High Water* [David Mackenzie](#) United States
[Inversion](#) *Behzadi* [Behzadi](#) Iran
[The Long Night of Francisco Sanctis](#) * *La larga noche de Francisco Sanctis* [Francisco Martínez](#), [Andrea Testa](#) Argentina
[Pericle](#) *Pericle il Nero* [Stefano Mordini](#) Italy
[Personal Affairs](#) * *Omer* [Shakhsji](#) Israel
[The Red Turtle](#) * *La Tortue rouge* [Michael Dudok de Wit](#) France, Japan
[The Transfiguration](#) * *The Transfiguration* [Michael O'Shea](#) United States
[The Stopover](#) *Voir du pays* [Delphine Coulin](#), [Muriel Coulin](#) France
[The Student](#) (M)*Ученик (M)* [Uchenik](#) [Kirill Serebrennikov](#) Russia TOC Previous Next Out of competition The following films were selected to screen out of competition:[\[11\]](#)[\[12\]](#)[\[13\]](#)
 English title Original title Director(s) Production country
[The BFG](#) *The BFG* [Steven Spielberg](#) United States, United Kingdom, Canada
[Café Society](#) (opening film) *Café Society* [Woody Allen](#) United States
[The Wailing](#) *Gokseong* [Na Hong-jin](#) South Korea

[Money Monster](#) *Money Monster* [Jodie Foster](#) United States
[The Nice Guys](#) *The Nice Guys* [Shane Black](#) United States Midnight screenings
 English title Original title Director(s) Production country
[Blood Father](#) *Blood Father* [Jean-François Richet](#) France
[Gimme Danger](#) *Gimme Danger* [Jim Jarmusch](#) United States
[Train to Busan](#) *Bu-san-haeng* [Yeon Sang-ho](#) South Korea Special screenings
 English title Original title Director(s) Production country
[Chouf](#) *Chouf* [Karim Dridi](#) France, Tunisia
[Exile](#) *Exil* [Rithy Panh](#) Cambodia
[Hands of Stone](#) *Hands of Stone* [Jonathan Jakubowicz](#) United States, Panama
[Hissein Habré, A Chadian Tragedy](#) *Hissein Habré, une tragédie tchadienne* [Mahamat-Saleh Haroun](#) Chad
[Fool Moon](#) *La Forêt de Quinconces* [Grégoire Leprince-Ringuet](#) France
[The Death of Louis XIV](#) *La Mort de Louis XIV* [Albert Serra](#) France, Portugal, Spain
[The Last Resort](#) *L'ultima spiaggia* Thanos Anastopoulous, Davide Del Degan Italy
[Le Cancre](#) *Le Cancre* [Paul Vecchiali](#) France
[Peshmerga](#) *Peshmerga* [Bernard-Henri Lévy](#) France
[Wrong Elements](#) *Wrong Elements* [Jonathan Littell](#) France, Belgium [TOC](#);
[Previous](#);[Next](#);[Short films](#) Out of 5,008 entries, the following films were selected to compete for the [Short Film Palme d'Or](#).[\[16\]](#)
 English title Original title Director(s) Production country
[Law of the Lamb](#) *La Laine sur le dos* / [Soufiane Ababou](#) Tunisia, France
[Dreamlands](#) *Dreamlands* Sarah Dunlop United Kingdom
[Timecode](#) *Timecode* Juanjo Giménez Spain
[Imago](#) *Imago* Raymond Gutierrez Philippines
[Mother Madre](#) [Simón Mesa Soto](#) Colombia
[The Girl Who Danced with the Devil](#) *A moça que dançou com o diabo* João Paulo Miranda Maria Brazil
[Après Suzanne](#) *Après Suzanne* [Félix Moati](#) France
[4:15 P.M. The End of the World](#) *4:15 PM Sfarsitul Lumii* Catalin Rotaru, Gabi Virginia Sarga Romania
[The Silence](#) *Il Silenzio* Farnoosh Samadi Frooshani, Ali Asgari Italy
[Fight on a Swedish Beach](#) *Fight on a Swedish Beach* Simon Vahlne Sweden [TOC](#);
[Previous](#);[Next](#);[Cinéfondation](#) The [Cinéfondation](#) section focuses on films made by students at film schools. The following 18 entries (14 fiction films and 4 animation films) were selected out of 2,300 submissions. More than one-third of the films selected represent schools participating in *Cinéfondation* for the first time. It is also the first time that a film representing Bosnian and Venezuelan film schools have been selected. More than half of the films selected were directed by women.[\[16\]](#)
 English title Original title Director(s) School
[In the Hills](#) *In the Hills* Hamid Ahmadi [London Film School](#), UK
[Submarine](#) *Submarine* Mounia Akl [Columbia University School of the Arts](#), USA
[The Noise of Licking](#) *A nyalintás nesze* Nadja Andrasev [MOME](#), Hungary
[All Rivers Run to the Sea](#) *Toate fluviile curg în mare* Alexandru Badea [UNATC](#), Romania
[Somewhere Ailleurs](#) *Mélody Boulissière* [E.N.S.A.D.](#), France
[Gabber Lover](#) *Gabber Lover* Anna Cazenave Cambet [La Fémis](#), France
[The Alan Dimension](#) *The Alan Dimension* Jac Clinch [NFTS](#), UK
[Trash Poubelle](#) Alexandre Gilmet [INSAS](#), Belgium
[Fine Dobro](#) Marta Hernaiz Pidal [film.factory](#), Bosnia and Herzegovina
[The Guilt, Probably](#) *La culpa probablemente* Michael Labarca [Universidad de los Andes](#), Venezuela
[The Reasons in the World](#) *Las razones del mundo* Ernesto Martínez Bucio [CCC](#), Mexico
[1 Kilogram](#) *1 Kilogram* Park Young-Ju [K-ARTS](#), South Korea

Aram Aram Fereshteh Parnian [Lumière University Lyon 2](#), France
Nest Gudh Saurav Rai [Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute](#), India
The Sleeping Saint La santa che dorme Laura Samani [Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia](#), Italy

Whatever The Weather bei Wind und Wetter Remo Scherrer [Hochschule Luzern - Design & Kunst](#), Switzerland

Anna Anna Or Sinai [Sam Spiegel Film and Television School](#), Israel

Business Business Malena Vain [Universidad del Cine](#), Argentina [#160;TOC#160;](#)
[#160;Previous#160;Next#160;](#) [#160;](#) [#160;Parallel sections #160;TOC#160;](#)
[#160;Previous#160;Next#160;](#) [#160;](#) [#160;International Critics' Week](#) The full selection for the [International Critics' Week](#) section was announced on 18 April 2016, at the section's website.[\[17\]](#) *In Bed with Victoria*, directed by [Justine Triet](#) was selected as the opening film for the International Critics' Week section, while the short films *Bonne Figure*, directed by [Sandrine Kiberlain](#), *En Moi*, directed by [Laetitia Casta](#), and *Kitty*, directed by [Chloé Sevigny](#) were selected as its closing films.[\[17\]](#) Feature films

English title Original title Director(s) Production country

Album * *Albüm* Mehmet Can Mertoğlu Turkey, France, Romania

Diamond Island *Diamond Island* Davy Chou Cambodia, France

Raw * *Grave* Julia Ducournau France, Belgium

Mimosas *Las Mimosas* Oliver Laxe Spain, France, Morocco, Qatar

One Week and a Day * *שבוע יומיים* Shash Pelech Israel

Tramontane * *Maïthé* [Raïche Boulghourjian](#) Lebanon, France

A Yellow Bird * *A Yellow Bird* K. Rajagopal Singapore, France Special screenings

English title Original title Director(s) Production country

In Bed with Victoria (opening film) *Victoria* [Justine Triet](#) France

Smile (closing film) *Bonne figure* [Sandrine Kiberlain](#) France

En Moi (closing film) *En moi* [Laetitia Casta](#) France

Kitty (closing film) *Kitty* [Chloé Sevigny](#) United States

Los Pasos del Agua *Los pasos del agua* César Augusto Acevedo Colombia

From the Diary of a Wedding Photographer *من دفتر عروسی* Myomir [Nadav Lapidoz](#) Israel

Happy Times Will Come Soon *I tempi felici verranno presto* Alessandro Comodin Italy, France

Apnea * *Apnée* Jean-Christophe Meurisse France Short films

English title Original title Director(s) Production country

Arnie *Arnie* Ana B. Tsou Taiwan, Philippines

Ascension *Ascensão* Pedro Peralta Portugal

Campo de Viboras *Campo de Víboras* Cristóvão Alves Meira Portugal

Delusion Is Redemption to Those in Distress *O Delírio é A Redenção Dos Aflitos* Filipe Fernandes Brazil

Birth of a Leader *L'enfance d'un chef* Antoine de Bary France

Limbo *Limbo* Konstantina Kotzamani Greece

Oh What a Wonderful Feeling *Oh What a Wonderful Feeling* François Jaros Canada

Prenjak *Prenjak* Wregas Bhanuteja Indonesia

The Virgin Soldier *Le Soldat vierge* Erwan Le Duc France

Superbia *Superbia* Luca Tãth Hungary [#160;TOC#160;](#)
[#160;Previous#160;](#)
[Next#160;](#) [#160;](#) [#160;Directors' Fortnight](#) The full selection for the [Directors'](#)

[Fortnight](#) section was announced on 19 April 2016, at the section's website.[\[18\]](#)[\[19\]](#) *Sweet Dreams*, directed by [Marco Bellocchio](#) was selected as the opening film for the Directors' Fortnight section and *Dog Eat Dog*, directed by [Paul Schrader](#) was selected as the closing film for the Directors' Fortnight section. Feature films

English title Original title Director(s) Production country

Divines * *Divines* [Uda Benyamina](#) France

Dog Eat Dog (closing film) *Dog Eat Dog* [Paul Schrader](#) United States

[After Love](#) *L'Economie du Couple* [Joachim Lafosse](#) France, Belgium
[The Together Project](#) *L'Effet aquatique* [SÁ³Iveig Anspach](#) France, Iceland
[Sweet Dreams](#) (opening film) *Fai bei sogni* [Marco Bellocchio](#) Italy, France
[Fiore](#) & *Fiore* [Claudio Giovannesi](#) Italy, France
[Like Crazy](#) *La pazza gioia* [Paolo VirzÁ-](#) Italy, France
[My Life as a Zucchini](#) * *Ma vie de courgette* [Claude Barras](#) Switzerland, France
[Mean Dreams](#) *Mean Dreams* [Nathan Morlando](#) Canada
[Mercenary](#) * *Mercenaire* [Sacha Wolff](#) France
[Neruda](#) *Neruda* [Pablo LarraÁ-n](#) Chile, Argentina, France, Spain
[Endless Poetry](#) *Poesía sin fin* [Alejandro Jodorowsky](#) Chile, Japan, France
[Psycho Raman](#) *Raman Raghav 2.0* [Anurag Kashyap](#) India
[Risk](#) &¹ *Risk* [Laura Poitras](#) United States, Germany
[Tour de France](#) *Tour de France* [Rachid DjaÁ dani](#) France
[Two Lovers and a Bear](#) *Two Lovers and a Bear* [Kim Nguyen](#) Canada
[The Lives of Thérèse](#) &¹ & *Les Vies de Thérèse* [SÁ©bastien Lifshitz](#) France
[Wolf and Sheep](#) * & € □□□ □ □□□□□□ [Ghalyasfooládat](#) Denmark, Afghanistan Short films

English title Original title Director(s) Production country
Abigail *Abigail* Isabel Penoni, Valentina Homem Brazil
Chasse Royale & € *Chasse Royale* Romane Gueret, Lise Akoka France
Decorado *Decorado* Alberto VÁzquez Spain
Habat Shel *Hakala Habat shel hakala* Tamar Rudoy Israel
Happy End *Happy End* Jan Saska Czech Republic
Hitchhiker *Hitchhiker* Jero Yun
Import *Import* Ena Sendjarevic Netherlands
Kindil El Bahr □□□□□ □□□□□ [Dámiel/Cahouri](#) Algeria
Léthé *Léthé* Dea Kulumbegashvili France, Georgia
Listening to Beethoven *Listening to Beethoven* Garri Bardine Russia
The Beast Zvir Miroslav Sikavica Croatia [#160;TOC Previous](#)
[Next ACID](#) ACID, an association of French and foreign film directors, demonstrates its support for nine films each year, seeking to provide support from filmmakers to other filmmakers. [\[20\]](#)[\[21\]](#) The full ACID selection was announced on 19 April 2016, at the section's website. [\[22\]](#)

English title Original title Director(s) Production country
Isola Isola Fabianny Deschamps France
[The Girl Without Hands](#) *La Jeune Fille sans mains* SÁ©bastien Laudenbach France
Madame B, histoire d'une nord-coréenne *Madame B, histoire d'une nord-coréenne* Jero Yun France, South Korea
Le Parc *Le Parc* Damien Manivel France
Sac la mort *Sac la mort* Emmanuel Parraud France
Swagger *Swagger* Olivier Babinet France
Tombé du ciel *Tombé du ciel* Wissam Charaf France, Lebanon
Le Voyage au Groenland *Le Voyage au Groenland* SÁ©bastien Betbeder France
[Willy 1er](#) & *Willy 1er* Ludovic Boukherma, Zoran Boukherma, Marielle Gautier, Hugo P. Thomas France [#160;TOC Previous](#)[Next](#)
 Cannes Classics The full line-up for the Cannes Classics section was announced on 20 April 2016. [\[23\]](#) Restorations

English title Original title Director(s) Production country
Sorcerer (1977) [William Friedkin](#) United States
[The Birds, the Bees and the Italians](#) (1966) *Signore & signori* [Pietro Germi](#) Italy, France
[A Man and a Woman](#) (1966) *Un homme et une femme* [Claude Lelouch](#) France
[News Items](#) (1983) *Faits divers* [Raymond Depardon](#) France
[Hospital](#) (1970) [Frederick Wiseman](#) United States

Farrebique (1946) *Farrebique ou Les quatre saisons* [Georges Rouquier](#) France
The Last Chance (1945) *Die letzte Chance* [Leopold Lindtberg](#) Switzerland
Valley of Peace (1956) *Dolina miru* [France Ā tiglic](#) Yugoslavia
Voyage to the End of the Universe (1963) *Ikarié XB-1* [JindĀ™ich PolĀ;k](#) Czechoslovakia
The Day Shall Dawn (1959) *Jago hua savera* [Aaejay Kardar](#) Pakistan
Memories of Underdevelopment (1968) *Memorias del subdesarrollo* [TomĀ;s GutiĀ©rrez Alea](#)
 Cuba
Santi-Vina (1954) *Santi-Vina* Thavi Na Bangchang Thailand
Love (1971) *Szerelem* [KĀ;roly Makk](#) Hungary
Howards End (1992) [James Ivory](#) United Kingdom, Japan, United States
Decalogue V and *Decalogue VI* (1990) *Dekalog, piĉc* and *Dekalog, szeĉc* [Krzysztof KieĀ;owski](#)
 Poland
Momotaro, Sacred Sailors (1945) □□□ □□□□ *Momotarō: Umi ni Misshin* [Seo](#) Japan
One-Eyed Jacks (1961) [Marlon Brando](#) United States
Solaris (1972) *Солярис Solyaris* [Andrei Tarkovsky](#) Soviet Union
Ugetsu (1953) □□□□ *Ugetsu monogatari* [Kenji Mizoguchi](#) Japan
Pepper Candy aka *Sweet and Sour* (1963) *Dragĉes au poivre* [Jacques Baratier](#) France, Italy
Valmont (1989) [MiloĀ; Forman](#) France, United States
Lady Killer (1937) *Gueule d'amour* [Jean GrĀ©millon](#) France, Germany
Masculin Fĉminin (1966) *Masculin fĉminin: 15 faits prĉcis* [Jean-Luc Godard](#) France, Sweden
Indochine (1992) [RĀ©gis Wargnier](#) France
Adieu Bonaparte (1985) □□□□□□ □□□□□□□ *Wolosa of Empire* Egypt, France
The Pit and the Pendulum (1961) [Roger Corman](#) United States
Rendezvous in July (1949) *Rendez-vous de juillet* [Jacques Becker](#) France
Planet of the Vampires (1965) *Terrore nello spazio* [Mario Bava](#) Italy, Spain
Time to Die (1966) *Tiempo de morir* [Arturo Ripstein](#) Mexico Documentaries
 English title Original title Director(s) Production country
Journey Through French Cinema[24] *Voyage Ā travers le cinĉma franĉais* [Bertrand Tavernier](#)
 France
The Cinema Travelers * Ā¹ Shirley Abraham, Amit Madheshiya India
The Family Whistle * Ā¹ Michele Russo Italy, United States
Cinema Novo Ā¹ [Eryk Rocha](#) Brazil
Midnight Return: The Story of Billy Hayes and Turkey * Ā¹ [Sally Sussman](#) United States, United Kingdom, Portugal, Turkey
Bright Lights: Starring Carrie Fisher and Debbie Reynolds Ā¹ Alexis Bloom, [Fisher Stevens](#)
 United States
Gentleman Rissient Ā¹ [BenoĀ©t Jacquot](#), [Pascal MĀ©rigeau](#), Guy Seligmann France
Close Encounters with Vilmos Zsigmond * Ā¹ Pierre Filmon France
Women Who Run Hollywood Ā¹ *Ēt la femme crĉa Hollywood* Clara Kuperberg, Julia Kuperberg
 France
Bernadette Lafont, and God Created the Free Woman Ā¹ *Bernadette Lafont et Dieu crĉa la femme libre* Esther Hoffenberg France [#160;TOC Previous](#)
[Next Juries](#) [#160;TOC Previous Next](#)
[#160; Main competition](#) [George Miller, Australian film director \(President\)](#)[25]
[Arnaud Desplechin, French film director](#) [Kirsten Dunst, American actress](#) [Valeria Golino, Italian actress and film director](#) [Mads Mikkelsen, Danish actor](#) [LĀszlĉ Nemes, Hungarian film director](#)
[Vanessa Paradis, French actress and singer](#) [Katayoon Shahabi, Iranian film producer](#) [Donald Sutherland, Canadian actor](#) [#160;TOC Previous Next](#)
[#160;Un Certain Regard](#) [Marthe Keller, Swiss actress \(President\)](#)[26] [Jessica Hausner, Austrian film director](#) [Diego Luna, Mexican actor and film director](#) [Ruben Ostlund, Swedish film director](#) [Cĉline Sallette, French actress](#) [#160;TOC Previous Next](#)
[#160; CinĀ©fondation and short films](#) [Naomi Kawase, Japanese film director \(President\)](#)[27] [Marie-Josĉe Croze, Franco-Canadian actress](#) [Jean-Marie Larrieu, French film](#)

director [Radu Muntean](#), Romanian film director [Santiago Loza](#), Argentine film director and playwright [TOC Previous Next Cam ra d'or](#) [Catherine Corsini](#), French film director and actress (President)[\[28\]](#) Jean-Christophe Berjon, French film critic [Alexander Rodnyansky](#), Ukrainian film producer Isabelle Frilley, French CEO of Titra Film Jean-Marie Dreujou, French cinematographer [TOC Previous Next](#)International Critics' Week [Val rie Donzelli](#), French film director and actress (President)[\[29\]](#) [Alice Winocour](#), French film director [Nadav Lapid](#), Israeli film director [David Robert Mitchell](#), American film director [Santiago Mitre](#), Argentine film director [TOC Previous Next](#)L' il d'or [Gianfranco Rosi](#), Italian documentary film director (President)[\[30\]](#) [Anne Aghion](#), French-American documentary film director [Natacha R gnier](#), Belgian actress [Thierry Garrel](#), French artistic consultant and director of documentaries for [Arte TV](#) [Amir Labaki](#), Brazilian film critic and curator [TOC Previous Next](#)Queer Palm [Olivier Ducastel](#) and [Jacques Martineau](#), French film directors (Presidents)[\[31\]\[32\]](#) [Emilie Brisavoine](#), French film director and actress [Jo o Federici](#), Brazilian artistic director of [Festival MixBrasil](#) [Marie Sauvion](#), French film journalist [TOC Previous Next](#) Awards [TOC Previous Next](#) Official selection In Competition[\[8\]](#) [Palme d'Or – I, Daniel Blake](#) by [Ken Loach](#) [Grand Prix – It's Only the End of the World](#) by [Xavier Dolan](#) [Best Director](#) [Cristian Mungiu](#) for [Graduation](#) [Olivier Assayas](#) for [Personal Shopper](#) [Best Screenplay](#) – [Asghar Farhadi](#) for [The Salesman](#) [Best Actress](#) – [Jaclyn Jose](#) for [Ma' Rosa](#) [Best Actor](#) – [Shahab Hosseini](#) for [The Salesman](#) [Jury Prize](#) – [American Honey](#) by [Andrea Arnold](#) [Un Certain Regard](#)[\[33\]](#) [Un Certain Regard Award](#) – [The Happiest Day in the Life of Olli M ki](#) by [Juho Kuosmanen](#) [Un Certain Regard Jury Prize](#) – [Harmonium](#) by [K ji Fukada](#) [Un Certain Regard Award for Best Director](#) – [Matt Ross](#) for [Captain Fantastic](#) [Un Certain Regard Award for Best Screenplay](#) – [Delphine Coulin](#) and [Muriel Coulin](#) for [The Stopover](#) [Un Certain Regard Special Prize](#) - [The Red Turtle](#) by [Michael Dudok de Wit](#) [Cin fondation](#)[\[34\]](#) [First Prize](#) – [Anna](#) by [Or Sinai](#) [Second Prize](#) – [In the Hills](#) by [Hamid Ahmadi](#) [Third Prize](#) [The Noise of Licking](#) by [Nadja Andrasev](#) [The Guilt](#), [Probably](#) by [Michael Labarca](#) [Golden Camera](#)[\[9\]](#) [Cam ra d'Or](#) – [Divines](#) by [Houda Benyamina](#) [Short Films](#) [Short Film Palme d'Or](#) – [Timecode](#) by [Juanjo Gim nez](#) [Special Mention](#) – [The Girl Who Danced with the Devil](#) by [Jo o Paulo Miranda Maria](#) [TOC Previous Next](#) Parallel sections [International Critics' Week](#)[\[35\]](#) [Nespresso Grand Prize](#) – [Mimosas](#) by [Oliver Laxe](#) [France 4 Visionary Award](#) – [Album](#) by [Mehmet Can Merto lu](#) [SACD Award](#) – [Diamond Island](#) by [Davy Chou](#) [Leica Cine Discovery Prize for Short Film](#) – [Prenjak](#) by [Wregas Bhanuteja](#) [Canal+ Award](#) – [Birth of a Leader](#) by [Antoine de Bary](#) [Gan Foundation Support for Distribution Award](#) – [One Week and a Day](#) by [Asaph Polonsky](#) [Directors' Fortnight](#)[\[36\]](#) [Art Cinema Award](#) – [Wolf and Sheep](#) by [Shahrbanoo Sadat](#) [SACD Award](#) – [The Together Project](#) by [S lveig Anspach](#) [SACD special mention](#) - [Divines](#) by [Houda Benyamina](#) [Europa Cinemas Label Award](#) – [Mercenary](#) by [Sacha Wolff](#) [Illy Prize for Short Film](#) – [Chasse Royal](#) by [Lise Akoka](#) and [Romane Gueret](#) [Illy special mention](#) – [The Beast](#) by [Miroslav Sikavica](#) [TOC Previous Next](#) Independent awards [FIPRESCI Prize](#)[\[37\]](#) [In Competition](#) – [Toni Erdmann](#) by [Maren Ade](#) [Un Certain Regard](#) – [Dogs](#) by [Bogdan Miric ](#) [Parallel Sections](#) – [Raw](#) by [Julia Ducournau](#) ([International Critics' Week](#)) [Ecumenical Jury](#)[\[38\]\[39\]](#) [Prize of the Ecumenical Jury](#) – [It's Only the End of the World](#) by [Xavier Dolan](#) [Commendations: I, Daniel Blake](#) by [Ken Loach](#) [American Honey](#) by [Andrea Arnold](#) [L' il d'or Jury](#)[\[40\]](#) [L' il d'or](#) – [Cinema Novo](#) by [Eryk Rocha](#) [Special Mention](#) – [The Cinema Travelers](#) by [Shirley Abraham](#) and [Amit Madheshiya](#) [Queer Palm Jury](#)[\[41\]\[42\]](#) [Queer Palm Award](#) – [The Lives of Th r se](#) by [S bastien Lifshitz](#) [Short Film Queer Palm](#) – [Gabber Lover](#) by [Anna Cazenave Cambet](#) [Palm Dog Jury](#)[\[43\]](#) [Palm Dog Award](#) – [Nellie](#) for [Paterson](#) [Grand Jury Prize](#) – [Jacques](#) for [In Bed with Victoria](#) [Palm Dog Manitarian Award](#) – [Ken Loach](#) for showcasing a three-legged dog named Shea in [I, Daniel Blake](#) [Prix Fran ois Chalais](#)[\[44\]](#) [Fran ois Chalais Prize](#) – [The Student](#) by [Kirill Serebrennikov](#) [Vulcan Award of the Technical Artist](#)[\[45\]](#) [Vulcan Award](#) – [Ryu Seong-hie](#) for [The Handmaiden](#) ([art direction](#)) [Cannes Soundtrack Award](#)[\[46\]](#) [Cliff Martinez](#) for [The Neon Demon](#) [TOC](#)

 Previous Next Special award Honorary Palme d'Or[47] – [Jean-Pierre Léaud](#) TOC Previous Next References ^ ["Official poster for the 69th Festival de Cannes"](#). Cannes. Archived from the original on 21 April 2016. Retrieved 30 March 2016. ^ [a b](#) ["Woody Allen's Café Society to open the 69th Festival International du Film"](#). Cannes. Retrieved 29 March 2016. ^ [a b](#) ["Money Monster,' The BFG,' 'The Nice Guys' Among Cannes 2016 Lineup"](#). The Hollywood Reporter. Retrieved 23 May 2016. ^ ["Cannes Film Festival"](#). Cannes. Retrieved 27 May 2017. ^ ["George Miller to preside the Jury of the 69th Festival de Cannes"](#). Cannes Film Festival. Archived from the original on 30 December 2016. Retrieved 2 February 2016. ^ [Kesslasy, Elsa](#). ["Naomi Kawase to Preside Over Cannes Cinefondation, Short Film Jury"](#). Retrieved 15 March 2016. ^ ["Cannes: Woody Allen's Cafe Society to Open Film Festival"](#). Variety. Retrieved 29 March 2016. ^ [a b](#) ["Cannes 2016"](#). 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[TOC Previous External links](#) [Festival de Cannes 2016 \(New presentation of past years\)](#) [Categories: 2016 festivals in Europe 2016 film festivals 2016 in French cinema Cannes Film Festival May 2016 events in France](#) This page was last edited on 8 June 2017, at 01:41.

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https://tools.wmflabs.org/xtools/wikihistory/wh.php?page_title=2016_Cannes_Film_Festival 0; [Back to main article](#) [Contents](#) [1 History](#) [2 Geography](#) [3 Population](#) [4 Notable people](#) [5 Education](#) [6 Parks and recreation](#) [7 Filming location](#) [8 See also](#) [9 References](#) [10 External links](#)

Tarzana, Los Angeles

Tarzana /tɑːrˈzænə/ is an affluent neighborhood in the [San Fernando Valley](#) region of the city of [Los Angeles, California](#). Tarzana is on the site of a former ranch owned by author [Edgar Rice Burroughs](#). It is named after Burroughs' storybook jungle character hero, [Tarzan](#).^[1] [TOP](#)

[TOC Next](#) [History](#) The area now known as Tarzana was occupied in 1797 by [Spanish](#) settlers and missionaries who established the [San Fernando Mission](#). Later absorbed by Mexico, the land was ceded to the United States in 1848 by the [Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo](#) following the [Mexican-American War](#). Under US rule it evolved into a series of large cattle ranches owned by local elites. Investors took over in the 1870s, turning grazing into large-scale [wheat](#) farm operation. The area was purchased in 1909 by the Los Angeles Suburban Homes Company. [LA Times](#) founder and publisher General [Harrison Gray Otis](#) invested in the company and also personally acquired 550 acres (2.2 km2) in the center of modern-day Tarzana.^[2] In February 1919, [Edgar Rice Burroughs](#), author of the popular [Tarzan](#) novels, arrived in California with his family, relocating from Oak Park, Illinois. He and his family had wintered in Southern California twice before, and he found the climate ideal. On March 1, Burroughs purchased Otis's™ tract and established Tarzana Ranch.^[3] Burroughs subdivided and sold the land for residential development with neighboring small farms following suit. [TOC Previous Next](#) [Geography](#) [TOC Previous Next](#) [Boundaries](#) Tarzana, which measures 8.79 square miles, is bounded on the south by [Topanga State Park](#), on the east by [Encino](#), on the north by [Reseda](#) and on the west by [Woodland Hills](#).^[4]^[5]^[6] [Victory Boulevard](#) marks the northern edge of the neighborhood, Lindley Avenue the eastern, Corbin Avenue, with a jog to Oakdale Avenue, the western, and Topanga State Park the southern.^[5]^[7]

[TOC](#)[Previous](#)[Next](#)[Population](#) The U.S. census counted 35,502 people living in Tarzana in 2000, and Los Angeles estimated the neighborhood's population at 37,778 in 2008. There were 4,038 people per square mile, among the lowest [population densities](#) in the city.^[5] According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the racial composition was predominantly [white](#) (70.7%), followed by [Asian](#) (5%), and black or [African American](#) (3.6%). The *Los Angeles Times* considered the area as "moderately diverse". Thirty-five percent of the population was foreign-born. Iran (24.2%) and Mexico (12.1%) were the most common foreign places of birth.^[5] The percentage of divorced men and women was among the county's highest. Some 9% of the residents were military veterans, considered high for the city of Los Angeles. The percentages of residents aged 50 and older were among the county's highest. The median age, 38, was old when compared to the rest of the city and the county. The median household income in 2008 dollars was considered high, at \$73,195.^[5] [TOC](#)[Previous](#)[Next](#)[Notable people](#) *DeSean Jackson: Football Player* *Jonah Hill: Actor* *Mike Connors: Actor; known for playing Joe Mannix in the television series Mannix* *Jordan Farmar: Basketball player*^[8] *Paul Thomas Anderson: filmmaker*^[9] *Selena Gomez: actress and singer*^[10] *Blake Lively: actress*^[11] *Jon Lovitz: comedian and actor*^[12] *Robert Peernock: convicted murderer*^[13] *Paul Rodriguez: skateboarder*^[14] *Jim Rome: sports radio host and host of Jim Rome is Burning, born in Tarzana*^[15] *Hailee Steinfeld: actress*^[16] *BANKS (singer): singer*^[17] *Nick Young: basketball player*^[18] *Bobby Womack: soul singer-songwriter*^[19] [TOC](#)[Previous](#)[Next](#)[Education](#) A total of 40.3% of Tarzana residents aged 25 and older have earned a four-year degree. Percentages of those residents with a bachelor's degree or with a master's degree are also high for the county.^[5] [TOC](#)[Previous](#)[Next](#)[Elementary and secondary schools](#) Schools within Tarzana are:^[7]^[20] *Gaspar de Portola Middle School, LAUSD, 18720 Linnet Street* *Sherman Oaks Center for Enriched Studies (4-12), LAUSD alternative, 18605 Erwin Street Vanalden Avenue Elementary School, LAUSD, 19019 Delano Street Tarzana Elementary School, LAUSD, 5726 Topeka Drive CHIME Institute's Schwarzenegger Community School, LAUSD charter, 19722 Collier Street Wilbur Charter for Enriched Academics, LAUSD K-5, 5213 Crebs Avenue*^[21] *Nestle Avenue Elementary School, LAUSD, 5060 Nestle Avenue Zoned high schools serving Tarzana include: Birmingham High School in (Lake Balboa area)*^[22] *Reseda High School (in Reseda area)*^[citation needed] *Taft High School (in Woodland Hills area)*^[citation needed] Private schools include: *Lycée International de Los Angeles West Valley Campus* [TOC](#)[Previous](#)[Next](#)[Postsecondary schools](#) *Columbia College Hollywood, a private nonprofit film school on Oxnard Street.* [TOC](#)[Previous](#)[Next](#)[Public libraries](#) The [Los Angeles Public Library](#) operates the Encino-Tarzana Branch on [Ventura Boulevard](#) in Tarzana.^[23] [TOC](#)[Previous](#)[Next](#)[Parks and recreation](#) The Tarzana Recreation Center has a gymnasium that also is used as an auditorium; the building's capacity is 600. The park also has barbecue pits, a lighted baseball diamond, lighted outdoor basketball courts, a children's play area, a community room, an indoor gymnasium without weights, picnic tables, and lighted volleyball courts.^[24] [TOC](#)[Previous](#)[Next](#)[Filming location](#) *Portola Middle School in Tarzana was used as a location for the films [The Karate Kid](#), [Akeelah and the Bee](#) and ' [Thirteen](#); the [Disney Channel](#) show [Bizaardvark](#) is takes place in Tarzana. Tarzana Armenian Deli in Tarzana was used as a location for the HBO TV show [Six Feet Under](#). Season 2 and 13 [The Bad Girls Club](#) was filmed in Tarzana. Some episodes of A&E's [Intervention](#) TV series featured Tarzana Treatment Centers.* [TOC](#)[Previous](#)[Next](#)[See also](#) [TOC](#)[Previous](#)[Next](#)[References](#) [^] *"Tarzan Swings Without Tarzana". Los Angeles Times. June 14, 1999.* [^] *Laura Pulido; Laura Barraclough; Wendy Cheng (24 March 2012). [A People's Guide to Los Angeles](#). University of California Press. p.[#]324. ISBN[#]978-0-520-95334-5. Retrieved 19 August 2012.* [^] *Griffin, Scott Tracy (2012). [Tarzan: The Centennial Celebration](#). Titan Books.*

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Back to main article; **Contents** [1 Etymology](#) [2 History](#) [3 Geography](#) [4 Demographics](#) [5 Culture](#) [6 Economy](#) [7 Infrastructure](#) [8 Government and politics](#) [9 See also](#) [10 Notes](#) [11 References](#) [12 Further reading](#) [13 External links](#) California

For other uses, see [California \(disambiguation\)](#). California ([i/ˌkælˈfoːrniə,-ni.e / KAL-ə-FORN -yə, KAL-ə-FORN -ee-ə](#)) is the [most populous state](#) in the [United States](#) and the [third most extensive](#) by area. Located on the western ([Pacific Ocean](#)) coast of the U.S., California is bordered by [Oregon](#) to the north, [Nevada](#), to the east and northeast, [Arizona](#) to the southeast and it shares an [international border](#) with the [Mexican state of Baja California](#) to the south. The state capital is [Sacramento](#). [Los Angeles](#) is California's [most populous city](#), and the country's [second largest](#) after [New York City](#). The [Greater Los Angeles Area](#) and the [San Francisco Bay Area](#) are the nation's second- and fifth-most [populous urban regions](#) , respectively. California also has the nation's [most populous county](#), [Los Angeles County](#), and its [largest county](#) by area, [San Bernardino County](#). California's diverse geography ranges from the [Pacific Coast](#) in the west to the [Sierra Nevada](#) mountain range in the east; and from the [redwood](#)–[Douglas fir](#) forests in the northwest to the [Mojave Desert](#) in the

southeast. The [Central Valley](#), a major agricultural area, dominates the state's center. Though California is well-known for its warm [Mediterranean climate](#), the large size of the state means it can vary from moist [temperate rainforest](#) in the north, to arid [desert](#) in the interior, as well as snowy [alpine](#) in the mountains. What is now California was first settled by [various Native American tribes](#) before being explored by a number of European expeditions during the 16th and 17th centuries. The [Spanish Empire](#) then claimed it as part of [Alta California](#) in their [New Spain](#) colony. The area became a part of [Mexico](#) in 1821 following its successful [war for independence](#), but was ceded to the United States in 1848 after the [Mexican–American War](#). The western portion of Alta California then was organized as the State of California, and admitted as the 31st state on September 9, 1850. The [California Gold Rush](#) starting in 1848 led to dramatic social and demographic changes, with large-scale emigration from the east and abroad with an accompanying economic boom. If it were a country, California would be the [6th largest economy in the world](#)^[13] and the [35th most populous](#). It is also regarded as a global trendsetter in both popular culture and politics, and is the origin of the [film industry](#), the [hippie](#) counterculture, the [Internet](#),^[14] and the [personal computer](#), among others. Fifty-eight percent of the [state's economy](#) is centered on [finance](#), [government](#), [real estate services](#), [technology](#), and professional, scientific and technical [business services](#).^[15] The [San Francisco Bay Area](#) has the nation's [highest median household income](#) by metropolitan area, and is the headquarters of three of the world's largest 40 firms by revenue, [Chevron](#), [Apple](#), and [McKesson](#).^[16] Although it accounts for only 1.5 percent of the state's economy,^[15] California's agriculture industry has the highest output of any U.S. state.^[17] **TOP** ** TOC Next Etymology** Main article: [Etymology of California](#) The word *California* originally referred to the [Baja California Peninsula](#) of Mexico; it was later extended to the entire region composed of the current United States states of California, [Nevada](#), and [Utah](#), and parts of [Arizona](#), [New Mexico](#), [Texas](#) and [Wyoming](#).^[18] The name *California* is surmised by some writers to have derived from a fictional paradise peopled by [Black Amazons](#) and ruled by Queen [Calafia](#),^{[19][20]} who fought alongside Muslims and whose name was chosen to echo the title of a Muslim leader, the Caliph, fictionally implying that California was the Caliphate.^[21] The story of Calafia is recorded in a 1510 work [The Adventures of Esplandián](#), written as a sequel to [Amadis de Gaula](#) by Spanish adventure writer [Garcí Rodr guez de Montalvo](#).^{[22][23][24]} The kingdom of Queen Calafia, according to Montalvo, was said to be a remote land inhabited by [griffins](#) and other strange beasts, and rich in gold.

Know ye that at the right hand of the Indies there is an island called California, very close to that part of the Terrestrial Paradise, which was inhabited by black women without a single man among them, and they lived in the manner of Amazons. They were robust of body with strong passionate hearts and great virtue. The island itself is one of the wildest in the world on account of the bold and craggy rocks.     Chapter CLVII of [The Adventures of Esplandi n](#)^[25] When Spanish explorer [Francisco de Ulloa](#) was exploring the western coast of North America, his initial surveys of the [Baja California Peninsula](#) led him to believe that it was an island rather than part of the larger continent, so he dubbed the "island" after the mythical island in Montalvo's writing.^[26] This conventional wisdom that [California was an island](#), with maps drawn to reflect this belief, lasted as late as the 1700s.^[27] Shortened forms of the state's name include [CA](#), [Cal.](#), [Calif.](#) and [US-CA.](#) ** TOC** ** Previous Next History** Main article: [History of California](#) ** TOC Previous Next Pre-contact** Settled by successive waves of arrivals during the last 10,000 years, California was one of the most culturally and linguistically diverse areas in [pre-Columbian North America](#). Various estimates of the native population range from 100,000 to 300,000.^[28] The [Indigenous peoples of California](#) included more than [70 distinct groups](#) of Native Americans, ranging from large, settled populations living on the coast to groups in the interior. California groups also were diverse in their political organization with bands,

tribes, villages, and on the resource-rich coasts, large chiefdoms, such as the [Chumash](#), [Pomo](#) and [Salinan](#). Trade, intermarriage and military alliances fostered many social and economic relationships among the diverse groups. [TOC](#); [Previous](#) [Next](#); 16th, 17th and 18th centuries The first European effort to explore the coast as far north as the [Russian River](#) was a [Spanish](#) sailing expedition, led by Portuguese captain [Juan Rodr -iguez Cabrillo](#), in 1542. Some 37 years later English explorer [Francis Drake](#) also explored and claimed an undefined portion of the California coast in 1579. Spanish traders made unintended visits with the [Manila galleons](#) on their return trips from the [Philippines](#) beginning in 1565.[\[29\]](#) The first Asians to set foot on what would be the United States occurred in 1587, when [Filipino](#) sailors arrived in Spanish ships at [Morro Bay](#).[\[30\]](#) [Sebasti -n Vizca -no](#) explored and mapped the coast of California in 1602 for [New Spain](#). Despite the on-the-ground explorations of California in the 16th century, Rodr -iguez's idea of California as an island persisted. That depiction appeared on many European maps well into the 18th century.[\[31\]](#) After the [Portol - expedition](#) of 1769 -70, Spanish [missionaries](#) began setting up 21 [California Missions](#) on or near the coast of [Alta \(Upper\) California](#), beginning in San Diego. During the same period, Spanish military forces built several forts ([presidios](#)) and three small towns ([pueblos](#)). Two of the pueblos grew into the cities of [Los Angeles](#) and [San Jose](#). The Spanish colonization brought the [genocide of the indigenous Californian peoples](#). [TOC](#); [Previous](#) [Next](#); 19th century [Imperial Russia](#) explored the California coast and established a trading post at [Fort Ross](#). Its early 19th-century coastal settlements north of [San Francisco Bay](#) constituted the southernmost Russian colony in North America and were spread over an area stretching from [Point Arena](#) to [Tomales Bay](#).[\[33\]](#) In 1821, the [Mexican War of Independence](#) gave [Mexico](#) (including California) independence from Spain; for the next 25 years, [Alta California](#) remained a remote northern province of the nation of Mexico. Cattle ranches, or [ranchos](#), emerged as the dominant institutions of Mexican California. After Mexican independence from Spain, the chain of missions became the property of the Mexican government and were [secularized](#) by 1834.[\[34\]](#) The ranchos developed under ownership by [Californios](#) (Spanish-speaking Californians) who had received land grants, and traded cowhides and tallow with Boston merchants. From the 1820s, trappers and settlers from the United States and the future Canada arrived in Northern California. These new arrivals used the [Siskiyou Trail](#), [California Trail](#), [Oregon Trail](#) and [Old Spanish Trail](#) to cross the rugged mountains and harsh deserts in and surrounding California. Between 1831 and 1836, California experienced a series of revolts against Mexico;[\[35\]](#) this culminated in the 1836 California revolt led by [Juan Bautista Alvarado](#), which ended after Mexico appointed him governor of the department.[\[36\]](#) The revolt, which had momentarily declared California an independent state, was successful with the assistance of [American](#) and [British](#) residents of California,[\[37\]](#) including [Isaac Graham](#);[\[38\]](#) after 1840, 100 of those residents who did not have passports were arrested, leading to the Graham affair in 1840.[\[37\]](#) One of the largest ranchers in California was [John Marsh](#). After failing to obtain justice against squatters on his land from the Mexican courts, he determined that California should become part of the United States. Marsh conducted a letter-writing campaign espousing the California climate, soil and other reasons to settle there, as well as the best route to follow, which became known as "Marsh's route." His letters were read, reread, passed around, and printed in newspapers throughout the country, and started the first wagon trains rolling to California.[\[39\]](#) He invited immigrants to stay on his ranch until they could get settled, and assisted in their obtaining passports.[\[40\]](#) After ushering in the period of organized emigration to California, Marsh helped end the rule of the last Mexican governor of California, thereby paving the way to California's ultimate acquisition by the United States.[\[41\]](#) In 1846, settlers rebelled against Mexican rule during the [Bear Flag Revolt](#). Afterwards, rebels raised the [Bear Flag](#) (featuring a bear, a star, a red stripe and the words "California Republic") at Sonoma. The Republic's only president was [William B. Ide](#),[\[42\]](#)

who played a pivotal role during the Bear Flag Revolt. The California Republic was short lived;[43] the same year marked the outbreak of the [Mexican–American War](#) (1846–48).[44] When Commodore [John D. Sloat](#) of the [United States Navy](#) sailed into [Monterey Bay](#) and began the military occupation of California by the United States, Northern California capitulated in less than a month to the United States forces.[45] After a series of defensive battles in [Southern California](#), the [Treaty of Cahuenga](#) was signed by the [Californios](#) on January 13, 1847, securing American control in California.[46] Following the [Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo](#) that ended the war, the western territory of Alta California, became the United States state of California, and [Arizona](#), [Nevada](#), [Colorado](#) and [Utah](#) became United States Territories. The lightly populated lower region of California, the Baja Peninsula, remained in the possession of [Mexico](#). In 1846, the non-native population of California was estimated to be no more than 8,000, plus about 100,000 Native Americans down from about 300,000 before Hispanic settlement in 1769.[47] After gold was discovered in 1848, the population burgeoned with United States citizens, Europeans, Chinese and other immigrants during the great [California Gold Rush](#). By 1854 over 300,000 settlers had come.[48] Between 1847 and 1870, the population of [San Francisco](#) increased from 500 to 150,000.[49] On September 9, 1850, as part of the [Compromise of 1850](#), California was admitted to the United States undivided as a [free state](#), denying the expansion of [slavery](#) to the Pacific Coast. California's native population precipitously declined, above all, from Eurasian diseases to which they had no natural immunity.[50] As in other states, the native inhabitants were forcibly removed from their lands by incoming miners, ranchers, and farmers. And although California entered the union as a free state, the "loitering or orphaned Indians" were de facto enslaved by Mexican and Anglo-American masters under the 1853 *Act for the Government and Protection of Indians*. [51] There were massacres in which hundreds of indigenous people were killed. Between 1850 and 1860, California paid around 1.5 million dollars (some 250,000 of which was reimbursed by the federal government)[52] to hire militias whose purpose was to protect settlers from the indigenous populations. In later decades, the native population was placed in reservations and rancherias, which were often small and isolated and without enough natural resources or funding from the government to sustain the populations living on them.[51] As a result, the rise of California was a calamity for the native inhabitants. Several scholars and Native American activists, including Benjamin Madley and [Ed Castillo](#), have described the actions of the California government as a genocide.[53] The seat of government for California under Spanish and later Mexican rule was located at [Monterey](#) from 1777 until 1845.[34] [Pio Pico](#), last Mexican governor of Alta California, moved the capital to Los Angeles in 1845. The United States [consulate](#) was also located in Monterey, under consul [Thomas O. Larkin](#). In 1849, the Constitutional Convention was first held in Monterey. Among the tasks was a decision on a location for the new state capital. The first legislative sessions were held in [San Jose](#) (1850–1851). Subsequent locations included [Vallejo](#) (1852–1853), and nearby [Benicia](#) (1853–1854); these locations eventually proved to be inadequate as well. The capital has been located in [Sacramento](#) since 1854[54] with only a short break in 1862 when legislative sessions were held in San Francisco due to [flooding in Sacramento](#). Initially, travel between California and the rest of the continental United States was time consuming and dangerous. A more direct connection came in 1869 with the completion of the [First Transcontinental Railroad](#) through [Donner Pass](#) in the Sierra Nevada mountains. Once completed, hundreds of thousands of United States citizens came west, where new Californians were discovering that land in the state, if irrigated during the dry summer months, was extremely well suited to fruit cultivation and agriculture in general. Vast expanses of wheat, other cereal crops, vegetable crops, cotton, and nut and fruit trees were grown (including oranges in Southern California), and the foundation was laid for the state's prodigious agricultural production in the Central Valley and elsewhere. [TOC](#); [Previous](#); [Next](#); [20th century Migration to California](#) accelerated during the

early 20th century with the completion of major transcontinental highways like the [Lincoln Highway](#) and [Route 66](#). In the period from 1900 to 1965, the population grew from fewer than one million to become the most populous state in the Union. In 1940, the Census Bureau reported California's population as 6.0% Hispanic, 2.4% Asian, and 89.5% non-Hispanic white.^[55] To meet the population's needs, major engineering feats like the [California](#) and [Los Angeles Aqueducts](#); the [Oroville](#) and [Shasta Dams](#); and the [Bay](#) and [Golden Gate Bridges](#) were built across the state. The state government also adopted the [California Master Plan for Higher Education](#) in 1960 to develop a highly efficient system of public education. Meanwhile, attracted to the mild Mediterranean climate, cheap land, and the state's wide variety of geography, filmmakers established the [studio system](#) in Hollywood in the 1920s. California manufactured 8.7 percent of total United States military armaments produced during [World War II](#), ranking third (behind [New York](#) and [Michigan](#)) among the 48 states.^[56] After World War II, California's economy greatly expanded due to strong [aerospace](#) and [defense](#) industries,^[57] whose size decreased following the end of the [Cold War](#).^[57]^[58] [Stanford University](#) and its Dean of Engineering [Frederick Terman](#) began encouraging faculty and graduates to stay in California instead of leaving the state, and develop a high-tech region in the area now known as [Silicon Valley](#).^[59] As a result of these efforts, California is regarded as a world center of the entertainment and music industries, of technology, engineering, and the aerospace industry, and as the United States center of agricultural production.^[60] Just before the ["Dot Com Bust"](#) California had the 5th largest economy in the world among nations.^[61] Yet since 1991, and starting in the late 1980s in [Southern California](#), California has seen a net loss of domestic migrants most years. This is often referred to by the media as the California exodus.^[62] However, during the 20th century, two great disasters happened in California. The [1906 San Francisco earthquake](#) and 1928 [St. Francis Dam](#) flood remain the deadliest in U.S history.^[63] [TOC](#) [Previous](#) [Next](#) [Geography Main article: Geography of California](#) California is the [3rd largest state in the United States](#) in area, after [Alaska](#) and [Texas](#).^[65] California is often geographically bisected into two regions, [Southern California](#), comprising the 10 southernmost counties,^[66]^[67] and [Northern California](#), comprising the 48 northernmost counties.^[68]^[69] In the middle of the state lies the [California Central Valley](#), bounded by the [Sierra Nevada](#) in the east, the [coastal mountain ranges](#) in the west, the [Cascade Range](#) to the north and by the [Tehachapi Mountains](#) in the south. The Central Valley is California's productive agricultural heartland. Divided in two by the [Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta](#), the northern portion, the [Sacramento Valley](#) serves as the watershed of the [Sacramento River](#), while the southern portion, the [San Joaquin Valley](#) is the watershed for the [San Joaquin River](#). Both valleys derive their names from the rivers that flow through them. With dredging, the Sacramento and the San Joaquin Rivers have remained deep enough for several inland cities to be [seaports](#). The Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta is a critical water supply hub for the state. Water is diverted from the delta and through an extensive network of [pumps](#) and canals that traverse nearly the length of the state, to the Central Valley and the State Water Projects and other needs. Water from the Delta provides drinking water for nearly 23 million people, almost two-thirds of the state's population as well as water for farmers on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley. The [Channel Islands](#) are located off the [Southern coast](#). The Sierra Nevada (Spanish for "snowy range") includes the highest peak in the [contiguous 48 states](#), [Mount Whitney](#), at 14,505 feet (4,421 m).^[6]^[7]^[8] The range embraces [Yosemite Valley](#), famous for its glacially carved domes, and [Sequoia National Park](#), home to the [giant sequoia](#) trees, the largest living organisms on Earth, and the deep freshwater lake, [Lake Tahoe](#), the largest lake in the state by volume. To the east of the Sierra Nevada are [Owens Valley](#) and [Mono Lake](#), an essential [migratory bird](#) habitat. In the western part of the state is [Clear Lake](#), the largest freshwater lake by area entirely in California. Though Lake Tahoe is larger, it is divided by the California/Nevada border. The Sierra Nevada falls to Arctic temperatures in winter and has several dozen small

glaciers, including [Palisade Glacier](#), the southernmost glacier in the United States. About 45 percent of the state's total surface area is covered by forests,[\[70\]](#) and California's diversity of pine species is unmatched by any other state. California contains more forestland than any other state except Alaska. Many of the trees in the [California White Mountains](#) are the oldest in the world; an individual [bristlecone pine](#) is over 5,000 years old.[\[71\]\[72\]](#) In the south is a large inland salt lake, the [Salton Sea](#). The south-central desert is called the [Mojave](#); to the northeast of the Mojave lies [Death Valley](#), which contains the lowest and hottest place in North America, the [Badwater Basin](#) at $\hat{\wedge}^{\wedge}279$ feet ($\hat{\wedge}^{\wedge}85\&\#160;m$).[\[10\]](#) The horizontal distance from the bottom of Death Valley to the top of Mount Whitney is less than 90 miles (140 $\&\#160;km$). Indeed, almost all of southeastern California is arid, hot desert, with routine extreme high temperatures during the summer. The southeastern border of California with Arizona is entirely formed by the [Colorado River](#), from which the southern part of the state gets about half of its water. California contains both the highest point ([Mount Whitney](#)) and the lowest point ([Death Valley](#)) in the [contiguous United States](#). A majority of California's cities are located in either the [San Francisco Bay Area](#) or the [Sacramento metropolitan area](#) in [Northern California](#); or the [Los Angeles area](#), the [Riverside-San Bernardino-Inland Empire](#), or the [San Diego metropolitan area](#) in [Southern California](#). The Los Angeles Area, the Bay Area, and the San Diego metropolitan area are among several major metropolitan areas along the California coast. As part of the [Ring of Fire](#), California is subject to [tsunamis](#), [floods](#), droughts, [Santa Ana winds](#), [wildfires](#), [landslides](#) on steep terrain, and has several [volcanoes](#). It has many [earthquakes](#) due to several faults running through the state, in particular the [San Andreas Fault](#). About 37,000 [earthquakes](#) are recorded each year, but most are too small to be felt.[\[73\]](#) $\&\#160;TOC\&\#160;\&\#160;Previous\&\#160;Next\&\#160;\&\#160;\&\#160;Climate$ Main article: [Climate of California](#) Although most of the state has a [Mediterranean climate](#), due to the state's large size, the climate ranges from [subarctic](#) to [subtropical](#). The cool [California Current](#) offshore often creates summer [fog](#) near the coast. Farther inland, there are colder winters and hotter summers. The maritime moderation results in the shoreline summertime temperatures of [Los Angeles](#) and [San Francisco](#) being the coolest of all major metropolitan areas of the United States and uniquely cool compared to areas on the same latitude in the interior and on the east coast of the North American continent. Even the [San Diego](#) shoreline bordering Mexico is cooler in summer than most areas in the contiguous United States. Just a few miles inland, summer temperature extremes are significantly higher, with downtown Los Angeles being several degrees [warmer](#) than at the coast. The same [microclimate](#) phenomenon is seen in the [climate](#) of the Bay Area, where areas sheltered from the sea experience significantly hotter summers than nearby areas that are close to the ocean. Northern parts of the state have more rain than the south. California's mountain ranges also influence the climate: some of the rainiest parts of the state are west-facing mountain slopes. Northwestern California has a [temperate climate](#), and the Central Valley has a Mediterranean climate but with greater temperature extremes than the coast. The high mountains, including the [Sierra Nevada](#), have an [alpine climate](#) with snow in winter and mild to moderate heat in summer. California's mountains produce [rain shadows](#) on the eastern side, creating extensive [deserts](#). The higher elevation deserts of [eastern California](#) have hot summers and cold winters, while the low deserts east of the Southern California mountains have hot summers and nearly frostless mild winters. [Death Valley](#), a desert with large expanses below sea level, is considered the hottest location in the world; the highest temperature in the world,[\[74\]\[75\]](#) 134 $\&\#160;^{\wedge}F$ (56.7 $\&\#160;^{\wedge}C$), was recorded there on July 10, 1913. The lowest temperature in California was $\hat{\wedge}^{\wedge}45\&\#160;^{\wedge}F$ ($\hat{\wedge}^{\wedge}43\&\#160;^{\wedge}C$) in 1937 in [Boca](#). The table below lists average temperatures for August and December in a selection of places throughout the state; some highly populated and some not. This includes the relatively cool summers of the [Humboldt Bay](#) region around [Eureka](#), the extreme heat of [Death Valley](#), and the mountain climate of [Mammoth](#) in the [Sierra Nevadas](#).

Average temperatures and precipitation for selected communities in California
Location August (°F) August (°C) December (°F) December (°C) Annual Precipitation (mm/in)

[Downtown Los Angeles](#) 84/64 29/18 67/47 20/8 377/15

[LAX/LA Beaches](#) 75/65 23/18 64/48 18/9 326/13

[San Jose](#) 82/58 27/14 58/42 14/5 401/16

[San Francisco](#) 68/55 20/12 57/46 14/8 538/21

[San Diego](#) 76/66 24/19 64/48 18/9 262/10

[Oakland](#) 73/57 23/14 58/44 14/7 588/23

[Sacramento](#) 91/58 33/14 54/38 12/3 469/18

[Fresno](#) 97/66 36/19 55/38 12/3 292/11

[Riverside](#) 96/64 35/18 68/41 21/5 260/10

[Eureka](#) 62/53 16/11 55/42 12/5 960/38 [TOC](#); [Previous](#);

[Next](#); [Ecology](#) Main article: [Ecology of California](#) See also:

[Environment of California](#) California is one of the richest and most diverse parts of the world, and includes some of the most endangered ecological communities. California is part of the [Nearctic ecozone](#) and spans a number of terrestrial [ecoregions](#).^[77] California's large number of [endemic](#) species includes [relict](#) species, which have died out elsewhere, such as the Catalina ironwood (*[Lyonothamnus floribundus](#)*). Many other endemics originated through differentiation or [adaptive radiation](#), whereby multiple species develop from a common ancestor to take advantage of diverse ecological conditions such as the California lilac (*[Ceanothus](#)*). Many California endemics have become endangered, as urbanization, logging, [overgrazing](#), and the introduction of [exotic species](#) have encroached on their habitat. [TOC](#); [Previous](#); [Next](#); [Flora and fauna](#) Main articles: [Fauna of California](#) and [California Floristic Province](#) See also: [List of California native plants](#) California boasts several superlatives in its collection of flora: the [largest trees](#), the [tallest trees](#), and the [oldest trees](#). California's native grasses are [perennial plants](#).^[78] After European contact, these were generally replaced by [invasive species](#) of European annual grasses; and, in modern times, California's hills turn a characteristic golden-brown in summer.^[79] Because California has the greatest diversity of climate and terrain, the state has six life zones which are the lower Sonoran (desert); upper Sonoran (foothill regions and some coastal lands), transition (coastal areas and moist northeastern counties); and the Canadian, Hudsonian, and Arctic Zones, comprising the state's highest elevations.^[80] Plant life in the dry climate of the lower Sonoran zone contains a diversity of native cactus, mesquite, and paloverde. The [Joshua tree](#) is found in the Mojave Desert. Flowering plants include the dwarf desert poppy and a variety of [asters](#). [Fremont cottonwood](#) and [valley oak](#) thrive in the Central Valley. The upper Sonoran zone includes the chaparral belt, characterized by forests of small shrubs, stunted trees, and herbaceous plants. *[Nemophila](#)*, *[mint](#)*, *[Phacelia](#)*, *[Viola](#)*, and the California poppy (*[Eschscholzia californica](#)*) – the state flower – also flourish in this zone, along with the lupine, more species of which occur here than anywhere else in the world.^[80] The transition zone includes most of California's forests with the redwood (*[Sequoia sempervirens](#)*) and the "big tree" or giant sequoia (*[Sequoiadendron giganteum](#)*), among the oldest living things on earth (some are said to have lived at least 4,000 years). [Tanbark oak](#), [California laurel](#), [sugar pine](#), [madrona](#), broad-leaved maple, and [Douglas-fir](#) also grow here. Forest floors are covered with [swordfern](#), [alumnroot](#), [barrenwort](#), and [trillium](#), and there are thickets of [huckleberry](#), [azalea](#), elder, and wild currant. Characteristic wild flowers include varieties of [mariposa](#), [tulip](#), and [tiger](#) and [leopard](#) lilies.^[81] The high elevations of the Canadian zone allow the [Jeffrey pine](#), [red fir](#), and [lodgepole pine](#) to thrive. Brushy areas are abundant with dwarf [manzanita](#) and [ceanothus](#); the unique [Sierra puffball](#) is also found here. Right below the timberline, in the Hudsonian zone, the whitebark, foxtail, and silver pines grow. At about 10,500 feet (3,200 m), begins the Arctic zone, a treeless region whose flora include a number of wildflowers, including [Sierra primrose](#), [yellow columbine](#),

[alpine buttercup](#), and [alpine shooting star](#).^{[80][82]} Common plants that have been introduced to the state include the [eucalyptus](#), [acacia](#), [pepper tree](#), geranium, and [Scotch broom](#). The species that are federally classified as endangered are the [Contra Costa wallflower](#), [Antioch Dunes evening primrose](#), [Solano grass](#), [San Clemente Island larkspur](#), [salt marsh bird's beak](#), [McDonald's rock-creep](#), and [Santa Barbara Island liveforever](#). As of December 1997, 85 plant species were listed as threatened or endangered.^[80] In the deserts of the lower Sonoran zone, the mammals include the [jackrabbit](#), [kangaroo rat](#), squirrel, and opossum. Common birds include the [owl](#), [roadrunner](#), [cactus wren](#), and various species of hawk. The area's reptilian life include the [sidewinder viper](#), [desert tortoise](#), and [horned toad](#). The upper Sonoran zone boasts mammals such as the [antelope](#), [brown-footed woodrat](#), and [ring-tailed cat](#). Birds unique to this zone are the [California thrasher](#), [bushtit](#), and [California condor](#).^{[80][83][84][85]} In the transition zone, there are Colombian [black-tailed deer](#), [black bears](#), [gray foxes](#), [cougars](#), [bobcats](#), and [Roosevelt elk](#). Reptiles such as the garter snakes and rattlesnakes inhabit the zone. In addition, amphibians such as the [water puppy](#) and [redwood salamander](#) are common too. Birds such as the [kingfisher](#), chickadee, [towhee](#), and hummingbird thrive here as well.^{[80][86]} The Canadian zone mammals include the [mountain weasel](#), [snowshoe hare](#), and several species of chipmunks. Conspicuous birds include the [blue-fronted jay](#), [Sierra chickadee](#). Sierra [hermit thrush](#), [water ouzel](#), and [Townsend's solitaire](#). As one ascends into the Hudsonian zone, birds become scarcer. While the Sierra rosy finch is the only bird native to the high Arctic region, other bird species such as the hummingbird and [Clark's nutcracker](#). Principal mammals found in this region include the Sierra coney, [white-tailed jackrabbit](#), and the [bighorn sheep](#). As of April 2003, the bighorn sheep was listed as endangered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The fauna found throughout several zones are the [mule deer](#), [coyote](#), [mountain lion](#), [northern flicker](#), and several species of hawk and sparrow.^[80] Aquatic life in California thrives, from the state's mountain lakes and streams to the rocky Pacific coastline. Numerous trout species are found, among them [rainbow](#), [golden](#), and [cutthroat](#). Migratory species of salmon are common as well. Deep-sea life forms include [sea bass](#), [yellowfin tuna](#), [barracuda](#), and several types of whale. Native to the cliffs of northern California are seals, sea lions, and many types of shorebirds, including migratory species.^[80] As of April 2003, 118 California animals were on the federal endangered list; 181 plants were listed as endangered or threatened. Endangered animals include the [San Joaquin kitfox](#), [Point Arena mountain beaver](#), [Pacific pocket mouse](#), [salt marsh harvest mouse](#), [Morro Bay kangaroo rat](#) (and five other species of kangaroo rat), [Amargosa vole](#), [California least tern](#), [California condor](#), [loggerhead shrike](#), [San Clemente sage sparrow](#), [San Francisco garter snake](#), five species of salamander, three species of chub, and two species of pupfish. Eleven butterflies are also endangered^[87] and two that are threatened are on the federal list.^{[88][89]} Among threatened animals are the coastal [California gnatcatcher](#), [Paiute cutthroat trout](#), [southern sea otter](#), and [northern spotted owl](#). California has a total of 290,821 acres (1,176.91 km²) of National Wildlife Refuges.^[80] As of September 2010, 123 California animals were listed as either endangered or threatened on the federal list provided by the [US Fish & Wildlife Service](#).^[90] Also, as of the same year, 178 species of California plants were listed either as endangered or threatened on this federal list.^[90] [TOC](#) [Previous](#) [Next](#) [Rivers](#) Main article: [List of rivers of California](#) The vast majority of rivers in California are dammed as part of two massive water projects: the [Central Valley Project](#), providing water to the agricultural central valley, and the [California State Water Project](#) diverting water from northern to southern California. The state's coasts, rivers, and other bodies of water are regulated by the [California Coastal Commission](#). The two most prominent rivers within California are the [Sacramento River](#) and the [San Joaquin River](#), which drain the Central Valley and the west slope of the Sierra Nevada and flow to the Pacific Ocean through [San Francisco Bay](#). Several major tributaries feed into the Sacramento and the San Joaquin, including the [Pit River](#), the [Tuolumne River](#), and the

Feather River. The **Eel River** and **Salinas River** each drain portions of the California coast, north and south of San Francisco Bay, respectively, and the Eel River is the largest river in the state to remain in its natural un-dammed state. The **Mojave River** is the primary watercourse in the Mojave Desert, and the **Santa Ana River** drains much of the **Transverse Ranges** as it bisects Southern California. Some other important rivers are the **Klamath River** and the **Trinity River** in the far north coast, and the **Colorado River** on the southeast border with **Arizona**. [#160;TOC#160;](#)[#160;Previous#160;](#)[Next#160;](#)[#160;](#)[#160;](#)[Regions](#) Further information: [List of regions of California](#) and [List of places in California](#)

[Central Valley](#) [Coastal California](#) [Northern California](#) [Central California](#) [North Coast \(California\)](#) [San Francisco Bay Area](#) [Sierra Nevada](#) [Eastern California](#) [Inland Empire](#) (Also included in [Southern California](#)) [Southern California](#) [South Coast](#) [Los Angeles metropolitan area](#) [San Diego metropolitan area](#) [Inland Empire](#) [Imperial Valley](#) [#160;TOC#160;](#)[#160;Previous#160;](#)[Next#160;](#)[#160;](#)[#160;](#)[Demographics](#) Main article: [Demographics of California](#) [#160;TOC#160;](#)[#160;Previous#160;](#)[Next#160;](#)[#160;](#)[#160;](#)[Population](#)

Historical population

Census Pop. %±

1850 92,597 â€”

1860 379,994 310.4%

1870 560,247 47.4%

1880 864,694 54.3%

1890 1,213,398 40.3%

1900 1,485,053 22.4%

1910 2,377,549 60.1%

1920 3,426,861 44.1%

1930 5,677,251 65.7%

1940 6,907,387 21.7%

1950 10,586,223 53.3%

1960 15,717,204 48.5%

1970 19,953,134 27.0%

1980 23,667,902 18.6%

1990 29,760,021 25.7%

2000 33,871,648 13.8%

2010 37,253,956 10.0%

Est. 2016 39,250,017 5.4%

Sources: 1790â€”1990, 2000, 2010, 2016[\[91\]](#)[\[92\]](#)[\[93\]](#) Chart does not include Indigenous population figures. Studies indicate that the Native American population in California in 1850 was close to 150,000 before declining to 15,000 by 1900.[\[4\]](#)[\[51\]](#)[\[94\]](#) The [United States Census Bureau](#) estimates that the population of California was 39,250,017 on July 1, 2016, a 5.4% increase since the [2010 United States Census](#).[\[4\]](#) Between 2000 and 2009, there was a natural increase of 3,090,016 (5,058,440 births minus 2,179,958 deaths).[\[95\]](#) During this time period, [international migration](#) produced a net increase of 1,816,633 people while domestic migration produced a net decrease of 1,509,708, resulting in a net in-migration of 306,925 people.[\[95\]](#) The state of California's own statistics show a population of 38,292,687 for January 1, 2009.[\[96\]](#) However, according to the [Manhattan Institute for Policy Research](#), since 1990 almost 3.4 million Californians have moved to other states, with most leaving to Texas, Nevada, and Arizona.[\[97\]](#) California is the 2nd-most populous subnational entity in the [Western Hemisphere](#) and the Americas, with a population second to that of the state of [SÃ£o Paulo](#) in Brazil.[\[98\]](#) California's population is greater than that of all but 34 countries of the world.[\[99\]](#)[\[100\]](#) The [Greater Los Angeles Area](#) is the 2nd-largest [metropolitan area](#) in the United States, after the [New York metropolitan area](#), while Los Angeles, with nearly half the population of New York, is the 2nd-largest city in the United States. Also, [Los Angeles County](#) has held the title of most populous United

States county for decades, and it alone is more populous than 42 United States states.^[101]^[102] Including Los Angeles, four of the [top 15 most populous cities in the U.S.](#) are in California: Los Angeles (2nd), San Diego (8th), San Jose (10th), and San Francisco (13th). The [center of population](#) of California is located in the town of [Buttonwillow, Kern County](#).^[note 1] [TOC](#) [Next](#) [Population centers](#) See also: [List of cities and towns in California](#) and [List of largest California cities by population](#) The state has 482 [incorporated](#) cities and towns; of which 460 are cities and 22 are towns. Under California law, the terms "city" and "town" are explicitly interchangeable; the name of an incorporated municipality in the state can either be "City of (Name)" or "Town of (Name)".^[104] [Sacramento](#) became California's first incorporated city on February 27, 1850.^[105] [San Jose](#), San Diego and [Benicia](#) tied for California's second incorporated city, each receiving incorporation on March 27, 1850.^[106]^[107]^[108] [Jurupa Valley](#) became the state's most recent and 482nd incorporated municipality on July 1, 2011.^[109]^[110] The majority of these cities and towns are within one of five [metropolitan areas](#): the [Los Angeles Metropolitan Area](#), the [San Francisco Bay Area](#), the [Riverside-San Bernardino Area](#), the [San Diego metropolitan area](#) and the [Sacramento metropolitan area](#). [TOC](#) [Previous](#) [Next](#) [Migration](#) Starting in the year 2010, for the first time since the [California Gold Rush](#), California-born residents make up the majority of the state's population.^[112] Along with the rest of the United States, California's immigration pattern has also shifted over the course of the late 2000s-early 2010s.^[113] Immigration from [Latin American](#) countries has dropped significantly with most immigrants now coming from [Asia](#).^[114] In total for 2011, there were 277,304 immigrants. 57% came from Asian countries vs. 22% from Latin American countries.^[114] [Net immigration](#) from Mexico, previously the most common country of origin for new immigrants has dropped to zero/less than zero, since more Mexican nationals are departing for their home country than immigrating.^[113] As a result it is estimated that Hispanic citizens will constitute 49% of the population by 2060, instead of the previously projected 2050, due primarily to domestic births.^[113]^[115] The state's population of [undocumented immigrants](#) has been shrinking in recent years, due to increased enforcement and decreased job opportunities for lower-skilled workers.^[116] The number of migrants arrested attempting to cross the Mexican border in the Southwest plunged from a high of 1.1 million in 2005 to just 367,000 in 2011.^[117] Despite these recent trends, [illegal aliens](#) constituted an estimated 7.3 percent of the state's population, the third highest percentage of any state in the [country](#),^[118]^[note 2] totaling nearly 2.6 million.^[119] In particular, illegal immigrants tended to be concentrated in [Los Angeles](#), [Monterey](#), [San Benito](#), [Imperial](#), and [Napa](#) Counties – the latter four of which have significant agricultural industries that depend on manual labor.^[120] More than half of illegal immigrants originate from Mexico.^[119] [TOC](#) [Previous](#) [Next](#) [National origins](#) According to the United States Census Bureau in 2015 the population self-identifies as (alone or in combination):^[121] 72.9% [White](#) 14.7% [Asian](#) 6.5% [Black or African American](#) 3.8% [Two or More Races](#) 1.7% [Native American and Alaska Native](#) 0.5% [Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander](#) By ethnicity, in 2015 the population was 61.2% non-Hispanic (of any race) and 38.8% [Hispanic or Latino](#) (of any race).^[121] As of 2011, 75.1% of California's population younger than age 1 were minorities, meaning that they had at least one parent who was not non-Hispanic white (white Hispanics are counted as minorities).^[122] In terms of total numbers, California has the largest population of White Americans in the United States, an estimated 22,200,000 residents. The state has the 5th largest population of African Americans in the United States, an estimated 2,250,000 residents. California's Asian American population is estimated at 4.4 million, constituting a third of the nation's total. California's Native American population of 285,000 is the most of any state.^[123] According to estimates from 2011, California has the largest [minority population](#) in the United States by numbers, making up 60% of the state population.^[93] Over the past 25 years, the population of [non-Hispanic whites](#) has declined, while [Hispanic](#)

and [Asian](#) populations have grown. Between 1970 and 2011, non-Hispanic whites declined from 80% of the State's population to 40%, while [Hispanics](#) grew from 32% in 2000 to 38% in 2011.[\[124\]](#) It is currently projected that Hispanics will rise to 49% of the population by 2060, primarily due to domestic births rather than immigration.[\[115\]](#) With the decline of immigration from Latin America, Asian Americans now constitute the fastest growing racial/ethnic group in California; this growth primarily driven by immigration from [China](#), [India](#) and the [Philippines](#), respectively.[\[125\]](#)

California Racial Breakdown of Population

Racial composition 1970[\[126\]](#) 1990[\[126\]](#) 2000[\[127\]](#) 2010[\[128\]](#)

[White](#) 89.0% 69.0% 59.5% 57.6%

[Asian](#) 2.8% 9.6% 10.9% 13.0%

[Black](#) 7.0% 7.4% 6.7% 6.2%

[Native](#) 0.5% 0.8% 1.0% 1.0%

[Native Hawaiian](#) and [other Pacific Islander](#) 0.3% 0.4%

[Some other race](#) 0.7% 13.2% 16.8% 17.0%

[Two or more races](#) 4.8% 4.9%

Ancestry[\[fn 1\]](#) 2013 population Margin of error (+/-)

Total 43,071,506 33,741

[Afghan](#) 38,136 3,075

[Albanian](#) 4,792 681

[Alsatian](#) 730 163

[American](#) 1,124,070 10,956

[Arab](#): 277,573 6,191

[Egyptian](#)[\[fn 2\]](#) 45,540 2,737

[Iraqi](#)[\[fn 2\]](#) 20,551 1,969

[Jordanian](#)[\[fn 2\]](#) 14,142 1,731

[Lebanese](#)[\[fn 2\]](#) 57,008 2,372

[Moroccan](#)[\[fn 2\]](#) 8,953 959

[Palestinian](#)[\[fn 2\]](#) 16,340 1,571

[Syrian](#)[\[fn 2\]](#) 23,298 1,749

[Arab](#)[\[fn 2\]](#) 44,851 2,645

[Arab other](#)[\[fn 2\]](#) 48,890 2,692

[Armenian](#) 258,260 5,292

[Assyrian/Chaldean/Syriac](#) 35,690 2,687

[Australian](#) 18,803 1,253

[Austrian](#) 77,113 2,205

[Basque](#) 18,413 1,252

[Belgian](#) 25,581 1,354

[Brazilian](#) 34,776 1,964

[British](#) 146,221 3,425

[Bulgarian](#) 13,093 1,304

[Cajun](#) 3,752 858

[Canadian](#) 88,244 2,687

[Carpatho Rusyn](#) 462 151

[Celtic](#) 5,910 593

[Croatian](#) 48,160 1,859

[Cypriot](#) 557 204

[Czech](#) 88,563 2,557

[Czechoslovakian](#) 23,097 1,164

[Danish](#) 182,221 3,432

[Dutch](#) 392,589 6,088

[Eastern European](#) 66,301 2,688

[English](#) 2,330,057 15,509
[Estonian](#) 4,210 636
[European](#) 542,475 8,588
[Finnish](#) 50,937 2,012
[French](#)^[fn 3] 726,569 8,629
[French Canadian](#) 111,298 2,978
[German](#) 3,315,493 16,348
[German Russian](#) 2,094 328
[Greek](#) 131,110 3,050
[Guyanese](#) 2,947 468
[Hungarian](#) 125,280 3,639
[Icelander](#) 6,169 777
[Iranian](#) 213,661 6,417
[Irish](#) 2,612,782 13,767
[Israeli](#) 28,639 1,889
[Italian](#) 1,525,214 12,309
[Latvian](#) 10,974 916
[Lithuanian](#) 48,883 1,811
[Luxemburger](#) 3,040 387
[Macedonian](#) 3,093 471
[Maltese](#) 7,883 1,035
[New Zealander](#) 5,047 763
[Northern European](#) 46,409 2,030
[Norwegian](#) 394,056 5,827
[Pennsylvania German](#) 6,217 609
[Polish](#) 504,770 7,165
[Portuguese](#) 354,823 5,044
[Romanian](#) 66,942 2,927
[Russian](#) 433,384 6,662
[Scandinavian](#) 64,166 2,299
[Scotch-Irish](#) 240,268 4,345
[Scottish](#) 520,575 7,414
[Serbian](#) 17,739 1,434
[Slavic](#) 11,335 948
[Slovak](#) 24,732 1,564
[Slovene](#) 8,628 727
[Soviet Union](#) 195 111
[Subsaharan African](#): 269,781 7,329
[Cape Verdean](#)^[fn 4] 2,549 532
[Ethiopian](#)^[fn 4] 28,007 2,467
[Ghanaian](#)^[fn 4] 3,392 647
[Kenyan](#)^[fn 4] 4,713 970
[Liberian](#)^[fn 4] 1,069 400
[Nigerian](#)^[fn 4] 25,498 2,414
[Senegalese](#)^[fn 4] 585 296
[Sierra Leonean](#)^[fn 4] 537 223
[Somalian](#)^[fn 4] 7,066 1,440
[South African](#)^[fn 4] 10,095 917
[Sudanese](#)^[fn 4] 2,095 510
[Ugandan](#)^[fn 4] 1,694 516
[Zimbabwean](#)^[fn 4] 585 244
[African](#)^[fn 4] 174,347 6,255
[Other Subsaharan African](#)^[fn 4] 7,549 1,148

[Swedish](#) 425,092 5,332
[Swiss](#) 103,574 2,660
[Turkish](#) 23,206 1,214
[Ukrainian](#) 99,583 4,046
[Welsh](#) 168,463 3,482
[West Indian](#)^[fn 5] 79,125 727
[Bahamian](#)^[fn 6] 596 215
[Barbadian](#)^[fn 6] 1,362 308
[Belizean](#)^[fn 6] 21,331 1,459
[Bermudan](#)^[fn 6] 370 170
[British West Indian](#)^[fn 6] 1,858 485
[Dutch West Indian](#)^[fn 6] 1,960 329
[Haitian](#)^[fn 6] 7,363 1,046
[Jamaican](#)^[fn 6] 28,675 1,877
[Trinidadian and Tobagonian](#)^[fn 6] 5,357 716
[U.S. Virgin Islander](#)^[fn 6] 756 288
[West Indian](#)^[fn 6] 9,221 1,247
[Other West Indian](#)^[fn 6] 276 124
[Yugoslavian](#) 33,363 1,830
 Other groups 24,394,120 29,987
 footnotes = [^] *Underlined entries have sub-ancestries* [^] [a](#) [b](#) [c](#) [d](#) [e](#) [f](#) [g](#) [h](#) [i](#) Arab sub-ancestry [^]
 except Basque [^] [a](#) [b](#) [c](#) [d](#) [e](#) [f](#) [g](#) [h](#) [i](#) [j](#) [k](#) [l](#) [m](#) [n](#) [o](#) Subsaharan African sub-ancestry [^] except Hispanic
 groups [^] [a](#) [b](#) [c](#) [d](#) [e](#) [f](#) [g](#) [h](#) [i](#) [j](#) [k](#) [l](#) West Indian sub-ancestry
 Ancestry 2010 Population^[130] Percentage of Total Population
[White, not Hispanic or Latino](#) 15,763,625 42.3%
[Hispanic or Latino \(of any race\)](#) 14,013,719 37.6%
[Mexican](#) 11,423,146 30.6%
[Salvadoran](#) 573,956 1.5%
[Guatemalan](#) 332,737 0.8%
[Puerto Rican](#) 189,945 0.5%
[Colombian](#) 164,416 0.4%
[Spaniard](#) 142,194 0.3%
[Nicaraguan](#) 100,790 0.2%
[Peruvian](#) 91,511 0.2%
[Cuban](#) 88,607 0.2%
[Honduran](#) 72,795 0.1%
[Argentinean](#) 44,410 0.1%
[Ecuadorian](#) 35,750 0.09%
[Chilean](#) 24,006 0.06%
[Costa Rican](#) 22,469 0.06%
[Panamanian](#) 17,768 0.04%
[Bolivian](#) 13,351 0.03%
[Dominican](#) 11,455 0.03%
[Venezuelan](#) 11,100 0.02%
[Uruguayan](#) 4,110 0.01%
[Paraguayan](#) 1,228 0.003%
[Asian](#) 5,556,592 14.9%
[Filipino](#) 1,474,707 3.9%
[Chinese \(except Taiwanese\)](#) 1,349,111 3.6%
[Vietnamese](#) 647,589 1.7%
[Indian](#) 590,445 1.5%
[Korean](#) 505,225 1.3%
[Japanese](#) 428,014 1.1%

[Okinawan](#) 1,377 0.003%
[Taiwanese](#) 109,928 0.2%
[Cambodian](#) 102,317 0.2%
[Hmong](#) 91,224 0.2%
[Laotian](#) 69,303 0.2%
[Thai](#) 67,707 0.1%
[Pakistani](#) 53,474 0.1%
[Indonesian](#) 39,506 0.1%
[Sri Lankan](#) 11,929 0.03%
[Bangladeshi](#) 10,494 0.02%
[Nepalese](#) 6,231 0.01%
[Malaysian](#) 5,595 0.01%
[Mongolian](#) 4,993 0.01%
[Singaporean](#) 1,513 0.004%
[Black or African American](#) 2,683,914 7.2%
[Multiracial \(two or more races\)](#) 1,815,384 4.8%
[American Indian and Alaska Native](#) 723,225 1.9%
[Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander](#) 286,145 0.7%
[Polynesian](#) 157,104 0.4%
[Native Hawaiian](#) 74,932 0.2%
[Samoan](#) 60,876 0.1%
[Tongan](#) 22,893 0.06%
[Micronesian](#) 49,197 0.1%
[Guamanian or Chamorro](#) 44,425 0.1%
[Melanesian](#) 24,203 0.06%
[Fijian](#) 24,059 0.06%
 Total 37,253,956 100%

[#160;TOC#160;#160;Previous#160;Next#160;#160;](#) [#160;Languages](#)
 Non-English Languages Spoken in California by more than 100,000 persons
 Language Percentage of population (as of 2010)[\[131\]](#)

[Spanish](#) 28.46% (9,696,638 speakers)

[Tagalog](#) 2.20% (749,047)

[Chinese](#) 1.60% (544,008)

[Vietnamese](#) 1.43% (486,577)

[Korean](#) 1.08% (368,693)

[Cantonese](#) 0.66% (226,149)

[Mandarin](#) 0.54% (184,594)

[Armenian](#) 0.52% (177,048)

[Persian](#) 0.52% (176,366)

[Japanese](#) 0.43% (146,494)

[Russian](#) 0.42% (141,718)

[Hindi](#) 0.38% (129,183)

[Arabic](#) 0.38% (128,747)

[French](#) 0.36% (123,956)

[German](#) 0.34% (114,974)

[Punjabi](#) 0.31% (103,998) [English](#) serves as California's [de jure](#) and [de facto official language](#). In 2010, the [Modern Language Association of America](#) estimated that 57.02% (19,429,309) of California residents age 5 and older spoke only [English](#) at home, while 42.98% spoke another [primary language](#) at home. According to the 2007 [American Community Survey](#), 73% of people who speak a language other than English at home are able to speak English well or very well, with 9.8% not speaking English at all.[\[2\]](#) Like most [U.S. states](#) (32 out of 50), California law enshrines English as its [official language](#), and has done so since the passage of [Proposition 63](#) by California voters. Various government

agencies do, and are often required to, furnish documents in the various languages needed to reach their intended audiences.[\[132\]](#)[\[133\]](#)[\[134\]](#) In total, 16 languages other than English were spoken as primary languages at home by more than 100,000 persons, more than any other state in the nation. New York State, in second place, had 9 languages other than English spoken by more than 100,000 persons.[\[135\]](#) The most common language spoken besides English was [Spanish](#), spoken by 28.46% (9,696,638) of the population.[\[115\]](#)[\[113\]](#) With Asia contributing most of California's new immigrants, California had the highest concentration nationwide of [Vietnamese](#) and [Chinese](#) speakers, the second highest concentration of [Korean](#), and the third highest concentration of [Tagalog](#) speakers.[\[2\]](#) California has historically been one of the most linguistically diverse areas in the world, with more than 70 indigenous languages derived from 64 root languages in 6 language families.[\[136\]](#)[\[137\]](#) A survey conducted between 2007 and 2009 identified 23 different indigenous languages of Mexico that are spoken among California farmworkers.[\[138\]](#) All of California's indigenous languages are [endangered](#), although there are now efforts toward [language revitalization](#).[\[note 3\]](#) As a result of the state's increasing diversity and migration from other areas across the country and around the globe, linguists began noticing a noteworthy set of emerging characteristics of spoken [American English](#) in California since the late 20th century. This variety, known as [California English](#), has a [vowel shift](#) and several other phonological processes that are different from varieties of American English used in other regions of the United States.[\[139\]](#) [#160;TOC](#) [#160;](#)[#160;](#)[Previous](#)[#160;](#)[Next](#)[#160;](#)[#160;](#) [#160;](#)Culture Main article: [Culture of California](#) The culture of California is a Western culture and most clearly has its modern roots in the [culture of the United States](#), but also, historically, many [Hispanic](#) influences. As a border and coastal state, Californian culture has been greatly influenced by several large immigrant populations, especially those from Latin America and Asia.[\[140\]](#) California has long been a subject of interest in the public mind and has often been promoted by its boosters as a kind of paradise. In the early 20th century, fueled by the efforts of state and local boosters, many Americans saw the Golden State as an ideal resort destination, sunny and dry all year round with easy access to the ocean and mountains. In the 1960s, popular music groups such as [The Beach Boys](#) promoted the image of Californians as laid-back, tanned beach-goers. The [California Gold Rush](#) of the 1850s is [still seen as a symbol of California's economic style](#), which tends to generate technology, social, entertainment, and economic fads and booms and related busts. [#160;TOC](#)[#160;](#)[#160;](#)[Previous](#)[#160;](#)[Next](#)[#160;](#)[#160;](#) [#160;](#)Religion Main article: [Religion in California](#)

Religion in California (2014)[\[141\]](#)

religion percent

[Protestant](#) [#160;](#)[â€](#)[%](#)[%](#) 32%

[Roman Catholic](#) [#160;](#)[â€](#)[%](#)[%](#) 28%

[No religion](#) [#160;](#)[â€](#)[%](#)[%](#) 27%

[Judaism](#) [#160;](#)[â€](#)[%](#)[%](#) 2%

[Buddhism](#) [#160;](#)[â€](#)[%](#)[%](#) 2%

[Hinduism](#) [#160;](#)[â€](#)[%](#)[%](#) 2%

[Islam](#) [#160;](#)[â€](#)[%](#)[%](#) 1%

[Mormons](#) [#160;](#)[â€](#)[%](#)[%](#) 1%

Other [#160;](#)[â€](#)[%](#)[%](#) 5% The largest religious denominations by number of adherents as a percentage of California's population in 2014 were the Catholic Church with 28 percent, Evangelical Protestants with 20 percent, and Mainline Protestants with 10 percent. Together, all kinds of Protestants accounted for 32 percent. Those unaffiliated with any religion represented 27 percent of the population. The breakdown of other religions is 1% Muslim, 2% Hindu and 2% Buddhist.[\[141\]](#) This is a change from 2008, when the population identified their religion with the Catholic Church with 31 percent; Evangelical Protestants with 18 percent; and Mainline Protestants with 14 percent. In 2008, those unaffiliated with

any religion represented 21 percent of the population. The breakdown of other religions in 2008 was 0.5% Muslim, 1% Hindu and 2% Buddhist.[142] The [American Jewish Year Book](#) placed the total [Jewish](#) population of California at about 1,194,190 in 2006.[143] According to the [Association of Religion Data Archives](#) (ARDA) the largest denominations by adherents in 2010 were the [Roman Catholic Church](#) with 10,233,334; [The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints](#) with 763,818; and the [Southern Baptist Convention](#) with 489,953.[144] The first priests to come to California were Roman Catholic missionaries from Spain. Roman Catholics founded [21 missions along the California coast](#), as well as the cities of Los Angeles and San Francisco. California continues to have a large Roman Catholic population due to the large numbers of Mexicans and Central Americans living within its borders. California has twelve dioceses and two archdioceses, the [Archdiocese of Los Angeles](#) and the [Archdiocese of San Francisco](#), the former being the largest archdiocese in the United States. A [Pew Research Center](#) survey revealed that California is somewhat less religious than the rest of the US: 62 percent of Californians say they are "absolutely certain" of their belief in God, while in the nation 71 percent say so. The survey also revealed 48 percent of Californians say religion is "very important", compared to 56 percent nationally.[145] [#160;TOC#160;#160;Previous#160;Next#160;#160;#160;Sports](#) Main articles: [Sports in California](#) and [List of professional sports teams in California](#) California has twenty [major professional sports league](#) franchises, far more than any other state. The [San Francisco Bay Area](#) has seven major league teams spread in its three major cities: San Francisco, San Jose, and Oakland. While the Greater Los Angeles Area is home to ten major league franchises. San Diego and Sacramento each have one major league team. The NFL [Super Bowl](#) has been hosted in California 11 times at four different stadiums: [Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum](#), the Rose Bowl, Stanford Stadium, and San Diego's [Qualcomm Stadium](#). A twelfth, [Super Bowl 50](#), was held at [Levi's Stadium](#) in [Santa Clara](#) on February 7, 2016.[146] California has long had many respected collegiate sports programs. California is home to the oldest college bowl game, the annual [Rose Bowl](#), among others. California is the only US state to have hosted both the [Summer](#) and [Winter](#) Olympics. The [1932](#) and [1984 Summer Olympics](#) were held in Los Angeles. [Squaw Valley Ski Resort](#) in the Lake Tahoe region hosted the [1960 Winter Olympics](#). Multiple games during the [1994 FIFA World Cup](#) took place in California, with the [Rose Bowl](#) hosting eight matches including the [final](#), while [Stanford Stadium](#) hosted six matches. Below is a list of major league sports teams in California:

Team Sport League

[Los Angeles Rams](#) American football [National Football League](#) (NFL)

[Oakland Raiders](#) American football [National Football League](#)

[Los Angeles Chargers](#) American football [National Football League](#)

[San Francisco 49ers](#) American football [National Football League](#)

[Los Angeles Dodgers](#) [Baseball Major League Baseball](#) (MLB)

[Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim](#) [Baseball Major League Baseball](#)

[Oakland Athletics](#) [Baseball Major League Baseball](#)

[San Diego Padres](#) [Baseball Major League Baseball](#)

[San Francisco Giants](#) [Baseball Major League Baseball](#)

[Golden State Warriors](#) [Basketball National Basketball Association](#) (NBA)

[Los Angeles Clippers](#) [Basketball National Basketball Association](#)

[Los Angeles Lakers](#) [Basketball National Basketball Association](#)

[Sacramento Kings](#) [Basketball National Basketball Association](#)

[Los Angeles Sparks](#) [Basketball Women's National Basketball Association](#) (WNBA)

[Anaheim Ducks](#) [Ice hockey National Hockey League](#) (NHL)

[Los Angeles Kings](#) [Ice hockey National Hockey League](#)

[San Jose Sharks](#) [Ice hockey National Hockey League](#)

[Los Angeles Galaxy](#) [Soccer Major League Soccer](#) (MLS)

[San Jose Earthquakes](#) [Soccer Major League Soccer](#)

[Los Angeles Football Club](#) Soccer Major League Soccer [TOC](#); [Previous](#); [Next](#); [Education](#) Main article: [Education in California](#) See also: [List of colleges and universities in California](#) Public [secondary education](#) consists of [high schools](#) that teach elective courses in trades, languages, and liberal arts with tracks for gifted, college-bound and industrial arts students. California's public educational system is supported by a [unique constitutional amendment](#) that requires a minimum annual funding level for grades K–12 and [community colleges](#) that grows with the economy and student enrollment figures.[\[147\]](#) California had over 6.2 million school students in the 2005–06 school year. Funding and staffing levels in California schools lag behind other states. In expenditure per pupil, California ranked 29th (of the 50 states and the [District of Columbia](#)) in 2005–06. In teaching staff expenditure per pupil, California ranked 49th of 51. In overall teacher-pupil ratio, California was also 49th, with 21 students per teacher. Only Arizona and Utah were lower.[\[148\]](#) A 2007 study concluded that California's public school system was "broken" in that it suffered from over-regulation.[\[149\]](#) California's public [postsecondary education](#) offers three separate systems: *The research university system in the state is the [University of California \(UC\)](#), a [public university](#) system. As of fall 2011, the University of California had a combined [student](#) body of 234,464 students.[\[150\]](#) There are ten general UC campuses, and a number of specialized campuses in the UC system. The system was originally intended to accept the top one-eighth of California high school students, but several of the schools have become even more selective.[\[151\]\[152\]\[153\]](#) The UC system was originally given exclusive authority in awarding Ph.Ds, but this has since changed and the CSU is also able to award several Doctoral degrees. The [California State University \(CSU\)](#) system has almost 430,000 students, making it the largest university system in the United States. The CSU was originally intended to accept the top one-third of California high school students, but several of the schools have become much more selective.[\[153\]\[154\]](#) The CSU was originally set up to award only bachelor's and master's degrees, but has since been granted the authority to award several Doctoral degrees. The [California Community Colleges System](#) provides lower division coursework as well as basic skills and workforce training. It is the largest network of higher education in the US, composed of 112 colleges serving a student population of over 2.6 million.* California is also home to such notable private universities as [Stanford University](#), the [University of Southern California](#), the [California Institute of Technology](#), and the [Claremont Colleges](#). California has hundreds of other private colleges and universities, including many religious and special-purpose institutions. [TOC](#); [Previous](#); [Next](#); [Economy](#) Main article: [Economy of California](#) See also: [California locations by per capita income](#) The economy of California is large enough to be comparable to that of the largest of countries. As of 2016, the [gross state product](#) (GSP) is about \$2.514 [trillion](#), the largest in the United States.[\[157\]](#) California is responsible for 13.9 percent of the United States' approximate \$18.1 trillion gross domestic product (GDP).[\[157\]](#) California's GSP is larger than the GDP of all but 5 countries in dollar terms (the [United States](#), [China](#), [Japan](#), [Germany](#), and the [United Kingdom](#)),[\[158\]\[159\]](#) larger than Brazil, France, Russia, Italy, India, Canada, Australia, Spain and Turkey. In [Purchasing Power Parity](#),[\[160\]](#) it is larger than all but 10 countries (the United States, China, India, Japan, Germany, Russia, Brazil, France, the United Kingdom, and Indonesia), larger than Italy, Mexico, Spain, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Canada and Turkey.[\[161\]](#) The five largest sectors of employment in California are trade, transportation, and utilities; government; professional and business services; education and health services; and leisure and hospitality. In output, the five largest sectors are financial services, followed by trade, transportation, and utilities; education and health services; government; and manufacturing.[\[162\]](#) As of September 2016, California has an [unemployment](#) rate of 5.5%. California's economy is dependent on trade and international related commerce accounts for about one-quarter of the state's economy. In 2008, California exported \$144 billion worth of goods, up from \$134 billion in 2007 and \$127 billion in 2006.[\[163\]](#) Computers and electronic products are California's top export, accounting for 42 percent of all the state's

exports in 2008.[\[163\]](#) Agriculture is an important sector in California's economy. Farming-related sales more than quadrupled over the past three decades, from \$7.3 billion in 1974 to nearly \$31 billion in 2004.[\[164\]](#) This increase has occurred despite a 15 percent decline in acreage devoted to farming during the period, and water supply suffering from chronic instability. Factors contributing to the growth in sales-per-acre include more intensive use of active farmlands and technological improvements in crop production.[\[164\]](#) In 2008, California's 81,500 farms and ranches generated \$36.2 billion products revenue.[\[165\]](#) In 2011, that number grew to \$43.5 billion products revenue.[\[166\]](#) The Agriculture sector accounts for two percent of the state's GDP and employs around three percent of its total workforce.[\[167\]](#) According to the [USDA](#) in 2011, the three largest California agricultural products by value were [milk](#) and [cream](#), shelled [almonds](#), and [grapes](#).[\[168\]](#) [Per capita GDP](#) in 2007 was \$38,956, ranking eleventh in the nation.[\[169\]](#) [Per capita income](#) varies widely by geographic region and profession. The Central Valley is the most impoverished, with [migrant farm workers](#) making less than [minimum wage](#). According to a 2005 report by the [Congressional Research Service](#), the [San Joaquin Valley](#) was characterized as one of the most economically depressed regions in the United States, on par with the region of [Appalachia](#).[\[170\]](#) California has a [poverty rate](#) of 23.5%, the highest of any state in the country.[\[171\]](#) Many coastal cities include some of the wealthiest per-capita areas in the United States. The high-technology sectors in Northern California, specifically [Silicon Valley](#), in [Santa Clara](#) and [San Mateo counties](#), have emerged from the economic downturn caused by the [dot-com bust](#). In 2010, there were more than 663,000 millionaires in the state, more than any other state in the nation.[\[172\]](#) In 2010, California residents were ranked first among the states with the best average credit score of 754.[\[173\]](#) [TOC](#)[Previous](#)[Next](#)[State finances](#) Main articles: [California state finances](#) and [2008–12 California budget crisis](#) State spending increased from \$56 billion in 1998 to \$127 billion in 2011.[\[174\]](#)[\[175\]](#) California, with 12% of the United States population, has one-third of the nation's [welfare](#) recipients.[\[176\]](#) California has the third highest per capita spending on welfare among the states, as well as the highest spending on welfare at \$6.67 billion.[\[177\]](#) In January 2011 the California's total debt was at least \$265 billion.[\[178\]](#) On June 27, 2013, Governor Jerry Brown signed a balanced budget (no deficit) for the state, its first in decades; however the state's debt remains at \$132 billion.[\[179\]](#)[\[180\]](#) With the passage of [Proposition 30 in 2012](#), California now levies a 13.3% maximum marginal [income tax](#) rate with ten [tax brackets](#), ranging from 1% at the bottom tax bracket of \$0 annual individual income to 13.3% for annual individual income over \$1,000,000. California has a [state sales tax](#) of 7.5%, though local governments can and do levy additional sales taxes. Many of these taxes are temporary for a seven-year period (as stipulated in Proposition 30) and afterwards will revert to a previous maximum marginal income tax bracket of 10.3% and state sales tax rate of 7.25%.[\[181\]](#) All [real property](#) is taxable annually; the tax is based on the property's fair market value at the time of purchase or new construction. Property tax increases are capped at 2% per year (see [Proposition 13](#)). [TOC](#)[Previous](#)[Next](#)[Infrastructure](#) [TOC](#)[Previous](#)[Next](#)[Energy](#) Main article: [Energy use in California](#) Because it is the most populous United States state, California is one of the country's largest users of energy. However because of its high energy rates, conservation mandates, mild weather in the largest population centers and strong environmental movement, its *per capita* energy use is one of the smallest of any United States state.[\[182\]](#) Due to the high electricity demand, California imports more electricity than any other state, primarily hydroelectric power from states in the Pacific Northwest (via [Path 15](#) and [Path 66](#)) and coal- and natural gas-fired production from the desert Southwest via [Path 46](#).[\[183\]](#) As a result of the state's strong environmental movement, California has some of the most aggressive [renewable energy](#) goals in the United States, with a target for California to obtain a third of its electricity from renewables by 2020.[\[184\]](#) Currently, several [solar power plants](#) such as the

[Solar Energy Generating Systems](#) facility are located in the [Mojave Desert](#). [California's wind farms](#) include [Altamont Pass](#), [San Geronio Pass](#), and [Tehachapi Pass](#). Several dams across the state provide [hydro-electric power](#). It would be possible to convert the total supply to 100% renewable energy, including heating, cooling and mobility, by 2050.^[185] The state's crude oil and natural gas deposits are located in the Central Valley and along the coast, including the large [Midway-Sunset Oil Field](#). Natural gas-fired [power plants](#) typically account for more than one-half of state electricity generation. California is also home to two major [nuclear power](#) plants: [Diablo Canyon](#) and [San Onofre](#), the latter having been shut down in 2013. Also voters banned the approval of new nuclear power plants since the late 1970s because of concerns over [radioactive waste disposal](#).^[186]^[note 4] In addition, several cities such as Oakland, [Berkeley](#) and [Davis](#) have declared themselves as [nuclear-free zones](#).^{ }^{TOC}^{ }^{Previous}^{ }^{Next}^{ }^{ }^{Transportation} Main article: [Transportation in California](#) California's vast terrain is connected by an extensive system of [controlled-access highways](#) ('freeways'), [limited-access roads](#) ('expressways'), and highways. California is known for its [car culture](#), giving California's cities a reputation for severe [traffic congestion](#). Construction and maintenance of state roads and statewide transportation planning are primarily the responsibility of the [California Department of Transportation](#), nicknamed "Caltrans". The rapidly growing population of the state is straining all of its transportation networks, and California has some of the worst roads in the United States.^[188]^[189] The Reason Foundation's 19th Annual Report on the Performance of State Highway Systems ranked California's highways the third-worst of any state, with Alaska second, and Rhode Island first.^[190] The state has been a pioneer in road construction. One of the state's more visible landmarks, the [Golden Gate Bridge](#), was once the [longest suspension bridge main span](#) in the world at 4,200 feet (1,300 m) when it opened in 1937. With its orange paint and panoramic views of the bay, this highway bridge is a popular tourist attraction and also accommodates pedestrians and bicyclists. The [San Francisco–Oakland Bay Bridge](#) (often abbreviated the "Bay Bridge"), completed in 1936, transports about 280,000 vehicles per day on two-decks. Its two sections meet at [Yerba Buena Island](#) through the world's largest diameter transportation bore tunnel, at 76 feet (23 m) wide by 58 feet (18 m) high.^[191] The [Arroyo Seco Parkway](#), connecting Los Angeles and [Pasadena](#), opened in 1940 as the first freeway in the Western United States.^[192] It was later extended south to the [Four Level Interchange](#) in downtown Los Angeles, regarded as the first [stack interchange](#) ever built.^[193] [Los Angeles International Airport](#) (LAX), [the 6th busiest airport in the world](#), and [San Francisco International Airport](#) (SFO), [the 23rd busiest airport in the world](#), are major hubs for trans-Pacific and transcontinental traffic. There are about a dozen important commercial airports and many more [general aviation airports](#) throughout the state. California also has several important [seaports](#). The giant seaport complex formed by the [Port of Los Angeles](#) and the [Port of Long Beach](#) in Southern California is the largest in the country and responsible for handling about a fourth of all container cargo traffic in the United States. The [Port of Oakland](#), fourth largest in the nation, also handles trade entering from the Pacific Rim to the rest of the country. The [Port of Stockton](#) is the easternmost port on the west coast of the United States.^[194] The [California Highway Patrol](#) is the largest statewide police agency in the United States in employment with over 10,000 employees. They are responsible for providing any police-sanctioned service to anyone on California's state maintained highways and on state property. The California Department of Motor Vehicles is by far the largest in North America. By the end of 2009, the California DMV had 26,555,006 driver's licenses and ID cards on file.^[195] In 2010, there were 1.17 million new vehicle registrations in force.^[196] Intercity rail travel is provided by [Amtrak California](#), which manages the three busiest intercity rail lines in the United States outside the [Northeast Corridor](#), all of which are funded by Caltrans. This service is becoming increasingly popular over flying and ridership is continuing to set records, especially on the LAX-SFO route.^[197] Integrated [subway](#) and

[light rail](#) networks are found in Los Angeles ([Metro Rail](#)) and San Francisco ([MUNI Metro](#)). Light rail systems are also found in San Jose ([VTA](#)), San Diego ([San Diego Trolley](#)), Sacramento ([RT Light Rail](#)), and Northern San Diego County ([Sprinter](#)). Furthermore, [commuter rail](#) networks serve the San Francisco Bay Area ([ACE](#), [BART](#), [Caltrain](#)), Greater Los Angeles ([Metrolink](#)), and San Diego County ([Coaster](#)). The [California High-Speed Rail Authority](#) was created in 1996 by the state to implement an extensive 700 miles (1,100 km) rail system. Construction was approved by the voters during the November 2008 general election, a \$9.95 billion state bond will go toward its construction. [\[198\]](#) Nearly all counties operate [bus](#) lines, and many cities operate their own city bus lines as well. Intercity bus travel is provided by [Greyhound](#) and Amtrak Thruway Coach. [TOC Previous Next](#) [Water](#) Main article: [Water in California](#) California's interconnected water system is the world's largest, managing over 40,000,000 [acre feet](#) (49 km³) of water per year, centered on six main systems of aqueducts and infrastructure projects. [\[199\]](#) Water use and conservation in California is a politically divisive issue, as the state experiences periodic droughts and has to balance the demands of its large agricultural and urban sectors, especially in the arid southern portion of the state. The state's widespread redistribution of water also invites the frequent scorn of environmentalists. The [California Water Wars](#), a conflict between Los Angeles and the Owens Valley over water rights, is one of the most well-known examples of the struggle to secure adequate water supplies. [\[200\]](#) Former California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger said: "We've been in crisis for quite some time because we're now 38 million people and not anymore 18 million people like we were in the late 60s. So it developed into a battle between environmentalists and farmers and between the south and the north and between rural and urban. And everyone has been fighting for the last four decades about water." [\[201\]](#) [TOC Previous Next](#) [Government and politics](#) [TOC Previous Next](#) [Armed forces](#) In California, as of 2009, the [U.S. Department of Defense](#) had a total of 117,806 [active duty](#) servicemembers of which 88,370 were [Sailors](#) or [Marines](#), 18,339 were [Airmen](#), and 11,097 were [Soldiers](#), with 61,365 Department of Defense civilian employees. Additionally, there were a total of 57,792 [Reservists and Guardsman](#) in California. [\[202\]](#) In 2010, [Los Angeles County](#) was the largest origin of military recruits in the United States by county, with 1,437 individuals enlisting in the military. [\[203\]](#) However, as of 2002, Californians were relatively under-represented in the military as a proportion to its population. [\[204\]](#) In 2000, California, had 2,569,340 veterans of United States [military service](#): 504,010 served in World War II, 301,034 in the [Korean War](#), 754,682 during the [Vietnam War](#), and 278,003 during 1990 – 2000 (including the Persian Gulf War). [\[205\]](#) As of 2010, there were 1,942,775 veterans living in California, of which 1,457,875 served during a period of armed conflict, and just over four thousand served [before World War II](#) (the largest population of this group of any state). [\[206\]](#) California's military forces consist of the [Army and Air National Guard](#), the [naval and state military reserve](#) (militia), and the [California Cadet Corps](#). [TOC Previous Next](#) [Federal representation](#) See also: [California's congressional districts](#) The state of California sends [53](#) members to the [House of Representatives](#), [\[207\]](#) the nation's largest congressional state delegation. Consequently California also has the largest number of [electoral votes](#) in national presidential elections, with 55. California's [U.S. Senators](#) are [Dianne Feinstein](#), a native and former mayor of San Francisco, and [Kamala Harris](#), a native, former District Attorney from San Francisco and former Attorney General of California. In 1992, California became the first state to have a Senate delegation entirely composed of women. [TOC Previous Next](#) [Government](#) Main article: [Government of California](#) The state's capital is [Sacramento](#). California is organized into three [branches of government](#) " the [executive branch](#) consisting of the [Governor](#) and the other independently elected constitutional officers; the [legislative branch](#)

consisting of the [Assembly](#) and [Senate](#); and the [judicial branch](#) consisting of the [Supreme Court of California](#) and lower courts. The state also allows [ballot propositions](#): direct participation of the electorate by [initiative](#), [referendum](#), [recall](#), and [ratification](#). Before the passage of [California Proposition 14 \(2010\)](#), California allowed each political party to choose whether to have a [closed primary](#) or a primary where only party members and [independents](#) vote. After June 8, 2010 when Proposition 14 was approved, excepting only the United States President and county central committee offices,[\[208\]](#) all candidates in the primary elections are listed on the ballot with their preferred party affiliation, but they are not the official nominee of that party.[\[209\]](#) At the primary election, the two candidates with the top votes will advance to the general election regardless of party affiliation.[\[209\]](#) If at a special primary election, one candidate receives more than 50% of all the votes cast, they are elected to fill the vacancy and no special general election will be held.[\[209\]](#) California has a [twinning arrangement](#) with [Catalonia, Spain](#)[\[210\]](#) Executive branch The [California executive branch](#) consists of the [Governor of California](#) and seven other elected constitutional officers: [Lieutenant Governor](#), [Attorney General](#), [Secretary of State](#), [State Controller](#), [State Treasurer](#), [Insurance Commissioner](#), and [State Superintendent of Public Instruction](#). They serve four-year terms and may be re-elected only once.[\[211\]](#) Legislative branch The [California State Legislature](#) consists of a 40-member Senate and 80-member Assembly. Senators serve four-year terms and Assembly members two. Members of the Assembly are subject to [term limits](#) of three terms, and members of the Senate are subject to term limits of two terms. Judicial branch California's legal system is explicitly based upon English [common law](#)[\[212\]](#) (as is the case with all other states except [Louisiana](#)) but carries a few features from Spanish [civil law](#), such as [community property](#). California's prison population grew from 25,000 in 1980 to over 170,000 in 2007.[\[213\]](#) [Capital punishment](#) is a legal form of punishment and the state has the largest "[Death Row](#)" population in the country (though Oklahoma and Texas are far more active in carrying out executions).[\[214\]](#)[\[215\]](#) [California's judiciary system](#) is the largest in the United States (with a total of 1,600 judges, while the federal system has only about 840). At the apex is the seven Justices of the [Supreme Court of California](#), while the [California Courts of Appeal](#) serve as the primary [appellate courts](#) and the [California Superior Courts](#) serve as the primary [trial courts](#). Justices of the Supreme Court and Courts of Appeal are appointed by the Governor, but are subject to retention by the electorate every 12 years. The administration of the state's court system is controlled by the [Judicial Council](#), composed of the Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court, 14 judicial officers, four representatives from the [State Bar of California](#), and one member from each house of the state legislature. [TOC](#)[Previous](#)[Next](#)[Local government](#) Main article: [Local government in California](#) [TOC](#)[Next](#)[Counties](#) See also: [List of counties in California](#) California is divided into 58 [counties](#). Per Article 11, Section 1, of the [Constitution of California](#), they are the legal subdivisions of the state. The county government provides countywide services such as law enforcement, jails, elections and voter registration, vital records, property assessment and records, tax collection, public health, health care, social services, libraries, flood control, fire protection, animal control, agricultural regulations, building inspections, ambulance services, and education departments in charge of maintaining statewide standards.[\[216\]](#)[\[217\]](#) In addition, the county serves as the local government for all [unincorporated areas](#). Each county is governed by an elected [board of supervisors](#).[\[218\]](#) [TOC](#)[Previous](#)[Next](#)[City and town governments](#) Incorporated cities and towns in California are either [charter](#) or general-law municipalities.[\[104\]](#) General-law municipalities owe their existence to state law and are consequently governed by it; charter municipalities are governed by their own city or town charters. Municipalities incorporated in the 19th century tend to be charter municipalities. All ten of the state's most populous cities are charter cities. Most small cities have a [council-manager](#) form of government, where the elected city council appoints

a city manager to supervise the operations of the city. Some larger cities have a directly-elected mayor who oversees the city government. In many council-manager cities, the city council selects one of its members as a mayor, sometimes rotating through the council membership—but this type of mayoral position is primarily ceremonial. The [Government of San Francisco](#) is the only [consolidated city-county](#) in California, where both the city and county governments have been merged into one unified jurisdiction. The [San Francisco Board of Supervisors](#) also acts as the city council and the [Mayor of San Francisco](#) also serves as the county administrative officer. [TOC](#); [Previous](#); [School districts and special districts](#) See also: [List of school districts in California](#) About 1,102 [school districts](#), independent of cities and counties, handle California's [public education](#).^[219] California school districts may be organized as elementary districts, high school districts, unified school districts combining elementary and high school grades, or community college districts.^[219] There are about 3,400 [special districts](#) in California.^[220] A [special district](#), defined by California Government Code Â§ 16271(d) as "any agency of the state for the local performance of governmental or proprietary functions within limited boundaries", provides a limited range of services within a defined geographic area. The geographic area of a special district can spread across multiple cities or counties, or could consist of only a portion of one. Most of California's special districts are *single-purpose districts*, and provide one service. [TOC](#); [Previous](#); [Next](#); [Ideology](#) Main articles: [Politics of California](#) and [Elections in California](#)

California registered voters as of January 5, 2016^[221]

Party Number of Voters Percentage

[Democratic](#) 7,438,655 43.1%
[Republican](#) 4,767,259 27.62%
[No Party Preference](#) 4,141,860 24%
[American Independent](#) 472,019 2.73%
[Libertarian](#) 120,578 0.7%
[Green](#) 102,688 0.59%
[Peace and Freedom](#) 75,579 0.44%

Other 140,775 0.82%

Total 17,259,413 100%

Presidential elections results

Year [Republican](#) [Democratic](#)

[2016](#) 31.62% 4,483,810 61.73% 8,753,788
[2012](#) 37.12% 4,839,958 60.24% 7,854,285
[2008](#) 36.91% 5,011,781 60.94% 8,274,473
[2004](#) 44.36% 5,509,826 54.40% 6,745,485
[2000](#) 41.65% 4,567,429 53.45% 5,861,203
[1996](#) 38.21% 3,828,380 51.10% 5,119,835
[1992](#) 32.61% 3,630,574 46.01% 5,121,325
[1988](#) 51.13% 5,054,917 47.56% 4,702,233
[1984](#) 57.51% 5,467,009 41.27% 3,922,519
[1980](#) 52.69% 4,524,858 35.91% 3,083,661
[1976](#) 49.35% 3,882,244 47.57% 3,742,284
[1972](#) 55.01% 4,602,096 41.54% 3,475,847
[1968](#) 47.82% 3,467,664 44.74% 3,244,318
[1964](#) 40.79% 2,879,108 59.11% 4,171,877
[1960](#) 50.10% 3,259,722 49.55% 3,224,099

California has an idiosyncratic political culture compared to the rest of the country, and is sometimes regarded as a trendsetter.^[223] In socio-cultural mores and national politics, Californians are perceived as more [liberal](#) than other Americans, especially those who live in the inland states. Among the political idiosyncrasies and trendsetting, California was the second state [to recall their state](#)

[governor](#), the second state to legalize abortion, and the only state to ban marriage for gay couples twice by voters (including [Proposition 8 in 2008](#)). Voters also passed [Proposition 71 in 2004](#) to fund [stem cell](#) research, and [Proposition 14 in 2010](#) to completely change the state's [primary election](#) process. California has also experienced [disputes over water rights](#); and a [tax revolt](#), culminating with the passage of [Proposition 13 in 1978](#), limiting state [property taxes](#). The state's trend towards the [Democratic Party](#) and away from the [Republican Party](#) can be seen in state elections. From 1899 to 1939, California had Republican governors. Since 1990, California has generally elected Democratic candidates to federal, state and local offices, including current Governor [Jerry Brown](#); however, the state has elected Republican Governors, though many of its Republican Governors, such as [Arnold Schwarzenegger](#), tend to be considered moderate Republicans and more [centrist](#) than the national party. The Democrats also now hold a majority in both houses of the state legislature. There are 56 Democrats and 24 Republicans in the Assembly; and 26 Democrats and 12 Republicans in the Senate. The trend towards the Democratic Party is most obvious in presidential elections; Republicans have not won California's [electoral votes](#) since 1988. In the United States House, the Democrats held a 34–19 edge in the CA delegation of the [110th United States Congress](#) in 2007. As the result of [gerrymandering](#), the districts in California were usually dominated by one or the other party, and few districts were considered competitive. In 2008, Californians passed Proposition 20 to empower a 14-member independent citizen commission to redraw districts for both local politicians and Congress. After the 2012 elections, when the new system took effect, Democrats gained 4 seats and held a 38–15 majority in the delegation. In general, Democratic strength is centered in the populous [coastal regions](#) of the [Los Angeles metropolitan area](#) and the [San Francisco Bay Area](#). Republican strength is still greatest in eastern parts of the state. [Orange County](#) also remains mostly Republican. One study ranked [Berkeley](#), [Oakland](#), [Inglewood](#) and San Francisco in the top 20 most liberal American cities; and [Bakersfield](#), [Orange](#), [Escondido](#), [Garden Grove](#), and [Simi Valley](#) in the top 20 most conservative cities.^[224] In October 2012, out of the 23,802,577 people eligible to vote, 18,245,970 people were registered to vote.^[225] Of the people registered, the three largest registered groups were Democrats (7,966,422), Republicans (5,356,608), and [Decline to State](#) (3,820,545).^[225] [Los Angeles County](#) had the largest number of registered Democrats (2,430,612) and Republicans (1,037,031) of any county in the state.^[225]

[TOC](#); [Previous](#); [Next](#); [See also](#) [Index of California-related articles](#) [Outline of California](#) – *organized list of topics about California* [TOC](#); [Previous](#); [Next](#); [Notes](#)

[^] *The coordinates of the center of population are at [35.458606°N 119.355165°W](#).*^[103] [^] *behind Nevada and Arizona* [^] *The following are a list of the indigenous languages: Root languages of California: Athabaskan Family: Hupa, Mattole, Lassik, Wailaki, Sinkyone, Cahto, Tolowa, Nongatl, Wiyot, Chilula; Hokan Family: Pomo, Shasta, Karok, Chimiriko; Algonquian Family: Whilkut, Yurok; Yukian Family: Wappo; Penutian Family: Modok, Wintu, Nomlaki, Konkow, Maidu, Patwin, Nisenan, Miwok, Coast Miwok, Lake Miwok, Ohlone, Northern Valley Yokuts, Southern Valley Yokuts, Foothill Yokuts; Hokan Family: Esselen, Salinan, Chumash, Ipai, Tipai, Yuma, Halchichoma, Mohave; Uto-Aztecan Family: Mono Paiute, Monache, Owens Valley Paiute, Tubatulabal, Panamint Shoshone, Kawaiisu, Kitanemuk, Tataviam, Gabrielino, Juaneno, Luiseno, Cuipeno, Cahuilla, Serrano, Chemehuevi* [^] *Minnesota also has a moratorium on construction of nuclear power plants, which has been in place since 1994.*^[187] [TOC](#); [Previous](#); [Next](#); [References](#)

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