

# Imperial County

The Imperial County Courthouse in El Centro.  
Part 1 of 3: El Centro, Brawley, Westmoreland.



# Imperial County

## Imperial County Data

**Population: 142,361 (Rank: 31)**

**Land Area (square miles): 4,175 (Rank: 10)**

There are two ways to drive to Imperial County. From I-10 in the north you can take Highway 86 or Highway 111. In the south I-8 crosses the county from San Diego to Yuma. Highway 86 follows the west side of the Salton Sea. This is mostly desert with a few resort towns along the edge of the sea. Highway 111 goes through the middle of Indio and follows the east side of the Sea. The two highways join at El Centro. There is intensive farming at each end of the Salton Sea. At the southern end pillars of white steam can be seen rising from the Sea's edge. These are from geothermal power plants.

Agriculture is the number-one industry, producing many of the state's winter crops. Imperial County ranks as one of the top 10 agricultural counties in the State of California. Imperial County, originally part of San Diego County, was founded August 7, 1907.

Imperial County lies entirely in the Colorado Desert. The Colorado River flows along the eastern edge of the county. The Chuckwalla, Palo Verde and Chocolate Mountains separate the river from the Salton trough. In the center of the trough is the Salton Sea. The sea was formed by an accidental break in a canal that was being constructed to the Imperial Valley. However, historically, this was a seabed and signs of ancient sea life can be found embedded in the surrounding mountains. The climate is hot and dry, ranging from lows in the mid 30's in January to highs

of 110+ in July with little moisture. The average rainfall is 2.92 inches.

The first European to explore the area was Hernando de Alarcón who discovered the Colorado River. A Butterfield State Route stretched across the desert in the 1850's. Settlement did not take place until water was brought into the area in 1901. With irrigation water from the Colorado River the Imperial Valley became a fertile farm region.

Water is crucial to the valley. The water is delivered through the All American Canal which is operated by the Imperial Irrigation District. The IID also produces the electricity used by the valley.

Imperial County is a vast open area that has many places where people can enjoy the outdoors. These include the Glamis Dunes, the Salton Sea which is the state's largest inland lake, and the Laguna Mountains. To the west is the Anza Borrego Desert.

**Cities: El Centro, Calexico, Brawley, Imperial, Calipatria, Westmorland, Holtville. Towns: Niland.**



# El Centro

El Centro was founded in 1906. Today it has a population of 43,000. (December 2003)



# El Centro

(December 2003)



# El Centro

(December 2003)



# El Centro

(December 2005)



# El Centro

(December 2003)





# El Centro

(December 2003)



# El Centro

December 2003



# El Centro

(December 2003)



# El Centro



# El Centro

(December 2003)



El Centro

(December 2003)





ANGEL  
RESTORATION

**SC AUTO**  
**DOMESTICS - IMPORTS**  
**TUNE-UPS C.V. JOINTS BRAKES**  
**353-6665 ELECTRICAL**



TONY DIAZ

NO PETS

# El Centro

(December 2003)





R I A L C O U N T Y C



# El Centro

(December 2003)



# El Centro

(December 2003)



# Imperial

Life would not exist in the county if it weren't for the IIR. It provides all the water and power for the county. (December 2003)



Imperial



# Imperial

An immigration checkpoint.  
(December 2005)



Imperial

(December 2003)



# Imperial

(December 2003)





# Imperial

(December 2003)



# Imperial

(December 2003)





**Imperial**

*(December 2003)*



Imperial

(December 2003)



# Imperial

(December 2003)



# Imperial

(December 2003)



# Brawley

The city of 25,000 dates back to 1902. The city's most unique feature is that it has both an octagonal post office and city hall. (April 2004)





# Brawley

(April 2004)



# Brawley

(April 2004)



# Brawley

(April 2004)



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(April 2004)



# Brawley

(April 2004)



# Brawley

(April 2004)



# Brawley

(April 2004)



# Westmorland

Westmorland became a city in 1934. It has a population of 2225.  
(April 2004)



# Westmorland

(April 2004)





# Westmorland

(April 2004)



# Westmorland

(April 2004)



# West Shores

This area has a population of 3,763. (December 2015)



(December 2005)



# West Shores

The Salton Sea was created by accident and seems like a great place to put a city or a resort. The problem is that it smells really bad. (December 2005)



# West Shores

(December 2005)



# West Shores

(December 2005)



# West Shores

(December 2005)





# Desert Shores

Desert Shores is on the Salton Sea. It has a population of about 1,100. (December 2005)



# Desert Shores

(December 2005)

