

# Orange County

**The courthouse in Santa Ana.  
Part 1 of 4: La Habra, Brea, Buena Park, Yorba Linda,  
Stanton, Fullerton, Cypress , Anaheim.**



# Orange County

## Orange County Data

**Population: 2,846,289 ( Rank: 2)**

**Land Area (square miles): 789 (Rank: 47)**

Orange County sits in a coastal plain with the Santa Ana mountains inland. The area is drained by the San Gabriel and Santa Ana Rivers. The coastal plain was inhabited by Shoshone Indians when the Spanish arrived.

The first European to arrive in 1769 was Gaspar de Portola who was traveling north in search of Monterey Bay. Father Serra returned several years later to establish the Mission of San Juan Capistrano. Members of the expedition named the region "The Valley of Saint Anne" (Santa Ana).

The Spanish Governor Pedro Fages awarded two of his sargeants, Nieto and Yorba, large grants of land. Jose Antonio Yorba received the (Santiago de Santa Ana) in what are today the cities of Villa Park, Orange, Tustin, Costa Mesa and Santa Ana. Manuel Nieto receive the largest grant covering all the land from the San Gabriel River to the Santa Ana River, and from the ocean to the road from San Gabriel Mission. In 1834 Manuel Nieto's land was divided into five ranchos.

When the missions were secularized in 1834 more ranchos sprang up. The cattle industry flourished. Hides and tallow were sold to sea captains from New England who brought goods to exchange for hides and tallow. The Spanish California tradition of a carefree lifestyle, fiestas with music and dancing, bear and bullfights, rodeos, and gracious hospitality, survived until the 1860.

What brought an end to the Rancho Life in Southern California was not the American takeover in 1848 but the

drought in 1862. Cattle died and ranchos couldn't pay their mortgages or their taxes. They were sold at bargain basement prices to new immigrants. James Irvine, for example, established a 110,000 acre sheep ranch. These new land companies began to subdivide their holdings and these parcels became the towns that make up Orange County.

In 1887 there was a silver discovery in the Santa Ana Mountains. Suddenly Buena Park, Fullerton and El Toro became boomtowns. Orange County already had 150,000 orange trees as well as avocado, lemon and walnut orchards. It split from Los Angeles County to become Orange County in 1889. It remained an agricultural county until after World War II. Numerous military bases were located here during the World War II.

After the war the population of the county exploded with people spilling over from Los Angeles. The Irvine Land Co. created the City of Irvine. Walt Disney established Disneyland in 1955, and many new towns were created.

**Cities: Aliso Viejo, Anaheim, Buena Park, Costa Mesa, Cypress, Dana Point, Fountain Valley, Fullerton, Garden Grove, Huntington, Irvine, Brea, La Habra, La Palma, Laguna Beach, Laguna Hills, Laguna Niguel, Laguna Woods, Lake Forest, Los Alamitos, Mission Viejo, Newport Beach, Orange, Placentia, Rancho Santa Margarita, San Clemente, San Juan Capistrano, Santa Ana, Seal Beach, Stanton, Tustin, Villa Park, Westminster, Yorba Linda.**

# Orange County

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# La Habra

La Habra became a city in 1925. It has a population of 60,000. (July 2004)



# La Habra

(July 2004)





# La Habra

(July 2004)



# La Habra

(July 2004)





# La Habra

(July 2004)



# La Habra

(July 2004)





# Brea

Brea sprang up when oil was discovered in the area. The community was founded in 1911 and became a city in 1917. The community is famous for its public art. There are 140 public art pieces. (July 2004)







# Brea

(July 2004)



# Buena Park

It is the home to Knott's Berry Farm. It was incorporated as a city in 1953. The population is around 80,000. (July 2004)





# Buena Park

(July 2004)



# Buena Park

(July 2004)



# Buena Park

The theme park began in 1940 as an offshoot of the Knott's restaurant. (July 2004)



# Yorba Linda

The population of the town is around 64,000. It is not only the birth place of Richard Nixon, but also a community with one of the higher household incomes in the nation. (July 2004)



# Yorba Linda

(July 2004)



# Yorba Linda

(July 2004)



# Yorba Linda

The Nixon Museum is a tourist attraction.  
(July 2004)



# Stanton

Stanton is like much of northern Orange County – urban sprawl. (July 2004)





# Stanton

The city hall. (December 2006)



# Stanton

(December 2006)



# Stanton

(December 2006)



# Stanton

The community dates back to 1911. The interurban ran through the community. It became a city then disincorporated. It reincorporated in 1956. The population is now 38,000. (December 2006)



# Stanton



# Stanton

(December 2006)



# Cypress

The town has a population 48,000. It became an incorporated city in 1956. (December 2006)



# Cypress

(December 2006)





# Cypress

(December 2006)



# Cypress

(December 2006)



# La Palma

La Palma became an incorporated city in 1955. It has a population of 15,400. (December 2006)



# La Palma

(December 2006)



# La Palma

(December 2006)



# La Palma

(December 2006)



# Placentia

Placentia is a bedroom community with a population of 50,533.  
(July 2004)



# Placentia

(July 2004)





# Placentia

(July 2004)



# Fullerton

(July 2004)



# Fullerton

The state college was established in 1957. It has grown to about 37,000 students. The architect of many of the futuristic buildings was Howard van Heuklyn. (July 2004)



# Fullerton

Fullerton has a lovely old-town section. The town was founded in 1887 and was incorporated in 1904. The population has climbed to 135,000. (July 2004)



# Fullerton

(July 2004)



# Fullerton

(July 2004)



# Fullerton

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(July 2004)



# Fullerton

(July 2004)





# Anaheim

The Anaheim city hall. Anaheim was founded in 1857 and became an incorporated city in 1870. It was a little farm city until the arrival of Disneyland in 1955. The population is now 336,000. (July 2004)



# Anaheim

(July 2004)



# Anaheim

(July 2004)



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