

San Bernardino

The courthouse in San Bernardino.

Part 1 of 8: Chino Hills, Chino, Ontario, Upland, Guasti.



San Bernardino County

San Bernardino County Data

Population: 1,709,434 (Rank: 4)

Land Area (square miles): 20,053 (Rank: 1)

San Bernardino County is mostly high desert. The San Bernardino Mountains and the San Gabriel Mountains separate the high desert from the San Bernardino Valley that extends east from the Los Angeles Basin. The alluvial plain that forms the valley was created by the formation and erosion of the San Gabriel Mountains. The San Gabriel Mountains were formed between 12 and 28 million years ago through the geologic activity of the San Andreas Fault. The alluvial plain slopes south from the San Gabriel Mountains to the Santa Ana River and the Santa Ana Mountains. There is a break in the mountain chain that separates the San Gabriels from the San Bernardino Mountains. The break is the famed El Cajon Pass.

Artifacts indicate that Indians lived in the San Bernardino county area for at least 12,000 years. In the past three thousand years various Indian tribes flourished in the area. The Gabrieleños occupied the West Valley. The Serranos lived in the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains. The Vanyumes lived along the Mojave River. The Mohave lived along the Colorado River. In the 1500s the Chemehuevi moved into the Mojave Desert.

The first explorers to enter the area were Pedro Fages, military commander of California, in 1772, and Father Francisco Garces, a missionary priest, in 1774. On May 20, 1810, Franciscan missionary Francisco Dumatz, of the San Gabriel Mission, led his company into a valley. In observance of the feast day of St. Bernardine of Siena, Dumatz named the valley San Bernardino. This name was later given to the nearby mountain range, and eventually the city and county.

In 1842 the Lugo family was granted the Rancho San Bernardino, a holding of 37,700 acres encompassing the entire San Bernardino Valley. Captain Jefferson Hunt led a group of Mormon settlers into San Bernardino. In 1851 the Mormon Colony purchased the Rancho from the Lugos.

Mining became an important activity early on. In 1860 gold was discovered in Holcomb and Bear Valleys in the San Bernardino Mountains, and placer mining began in Lytle Creek. Silver was being mined at Ivanpah in 1870, and the rich silver mines of the Calico district were developed in the 1880s. Borax was first discovered in 1861 in the Searles Dry Lake area near Trona, and transported out by twelve-, eighteen- or twenty-mule team wagons. Mining still continues at Trona and Boron today.

The valley became a major area for growing the navel orange imported from Brazil. By the 1880's oranges and lemons grown in the San Bernardino Valley were being shipped east. Many of the communities in the valley were started in the 1880's with the introduction of orange-growing and the railroad.

In 1850 California was admitted into the United States. On April 26, 1853, San Bernardino County was created from parts of Los Angeles, San Diego and Mariposa Counties. In 1854 the city of San Bernardino was incorporated as the county seat.

Like other places in Southern California, the population has grown dramatically in the valley since World War II. The orange groves have been replaced by subdivisions and the blue skies replaced by smog. The desert remains mostly pristine. Unfortunately several large chunks of desert—Edwards AFB, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, and the Naval Weapons Center Mojave Range, are closed to the public because they are military reservations. The Mojave National Preserve protects a large part of the desert for the public.

Three major freeways traverse the valley from west to east. The 210 runs from along the northern edge next to the mountains. This parallels the old Route 66, which is still there. Interstate 10 goes through the middle of the valley. Freeway 60 runs through the southern part of the valley.

Cities: Adelanto, Apple Valley, Barstow, Big Bear Lake, Chino, Chino Hills, Colton, Fontana, Grand Terrace, Hesperia, Highland, Loma Linda, Montclair, Needles, Ontario, Rancho Cucamonga, Redlands, Rialto, San Bernardino, Twentynine Palms, Upland,

San Bernardino County

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Chino Hills

Chino Hills is an upscale community overlooking Chino. It has a population of 75,000.
(December 2005)



(December 2005)



Chino Hills

The civic center is rather modest. Many of the subdivisions that make up the city are gated. (December 2005)



Chino Hills

(December 2005)



Chino Hills

(December 2005)



Chino

Chino has a population of 78,000. It has a long agricultural history. Its final farm stage is dairy. These are gradually disappearing. The dairy industry is moving to the Central Valley. (December 2005)



Chino

(December 2005)



Chino

(December 2005)



Chino

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Chino

(December 2005)



Chino

(December 2005)



Chino

(December 2005)



Montclair

This town began has a citrus community in the 1880's. When subdivisions sprouted after World War II Montclair became a city in 1956. It has a population of 37,000. (May 2004)



Upland

Upland was originally an irrigation colony that grew citrus and grapes. It became a city in 1906 and now has a population of 68,000. (May 2004)



Upland

(May 2004)



Upland

(May 2004)



Upland

(May 2004)



Upland

(May 2004)



Upland

(May 2004)



Upland

(May 2004)



Upland

(May 2004)



Upland

(May 2004)



Upland

(May 2004)



Upland

(May 2004)



Ontario

Ontario was founded by the Chaffey brothers in 1882. It was incorporated in 1891. It now has a population of 164,000. (May 2004)



Ontario

(May 2004)



Ontario

Euclid is the grand main street of Ontario.
(May 2004)



Ontario

(May 2004)



Ontario

(May 2004)



Ontario

There was still a citrus processing facility in Ontario when this picture was taken. (May 2004)



Ontario

(May 2004)



Ontario

(May 2004)



Ontario

(May 2004)



Ontario

The main street of Ontario and Upland is Euclid, a broad boulevard. This town and Upland to the north were designed by the Chaffey brothers as citrus growing communities. (May 2004)



Ontario

(May 2004)



Guasti

Guasti was a company town that grew grapes and produced wine. It is named after Secondo Guasti. It has had a post office since 1910. (May 2004)



Guasti

(May 2004)





Guasti

This is the Guasti manor house. It is now used for events. (May 2004)



Guasti

(May 2004)



Guasti

(May 2004)



Guasti

(May 2004)



Guasti

Worker housing. (May 2004)



Guasti

(May 2004)



Guasti

(May 2004)



Guasti

(May 2004)



Guasti

(May 2004)



Guasti

(May 2004)



Guasti

(May 2004)

