

Ventura County

The old Ventura County Courthouse in Ventura.
Part 1 of 3: Ventura, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Hwy 33, Camarillo. The old courthouse is now the Ventura City Hall.



Ventura County Data

Population: 753,197 (Rank: 12)

Land Area (square miles): 1,845 (Rank: 26)

Ventura County is mostly rugged mountains that are located in the Los Padres National Forest. The mountains, which are called the transverse ranges, occupy over half of the northern part of the county. Below the Los Padres is the Santa Clarita Valley. The Santa Clara River drains this fertile valley that is famous for its citrus orchards. At Ventura the valley broadens into an alluvial plain. This is an important farm area growing celery, strawberries, nursery plants and flowers. It is also where the county's largest city is sprawling across farmland.

To the south of the valley are the Santa Susana Mountains. South of the Susanas are narrow valleys that Highway 101 runs through. Here along the Ventura Freeway you see signs of urban sprawl creeping out of the Los Angeles basin.

Agriculture is still important to the county. It ranks 10th in the state in farm receipts. Manufacturing, however, has surpassed agriculture, producing three times as much revenue. Computer electronics, machinery, metal fabrication, paper and plastics lead the list of manufactured products.

The first community was the mission established at San Buenaventura in 1772. The citrus industry did not begin until the 1880's when the railroad pushed through the Santa Clarita Valley. Oil was discovered in the hills north of the Santa Clarita Valley about the same time. The area has remained a sleepy farm area until recent decades with

urban development along the Ventura Freeway and the Oxnard Plain. The most exciting event in the county's bucolic history was the worst disaster in the history of the state.

Los Angeles built the St. Francis dam on San Francisco Creek at the upper end of the Santa Clarita Valley. The purpose was to store water from the Owens Valley Aqueduct. On the night of March 12, 1928 the dam broke without warning and the flood waters swept down the valley destroying the towns of Piru, Fillmore and Santa Paula. The flood killed over 600 people and caused \$20 million in damage.

Cities: Ojai, Ventura, Port Hueneme, Oxnard, Camarillo, Thousand Oaks, Moorpark, Simi Valley, Santa Paula, Fillmore. Towns: Piru, Saticoy.

Ventura County



Ventura

The view from the old courthouse toward the ocean. (March 2004)



Ventura



(March 2004)



Ventura

Ventura

Mission San Buenaventura was built in 1782. (March 2004)



Ventura

The city was incorporated in 1866. It has a population of 106,000. (March 2004)



Ventura



Ventura

(March 2004)



Ventura

(March 2004)



Oxnard

Oxnard is the largest city in the county with a population of about 200,000. It was founded 1903. (March 2004)



Oxnard

(March 2004)



Oxnard

(March 2004)



Oxnard

(March 2004)



Oxnard

(March 2004)



Oxnard

(March 2004)



Oxnard

(March 2004)



Oxnard

(March 2004)



Oxnard

To preserve the old Victorians several were moved to this block where they have become offices. Oakland has a similar heritage square. (March 2004)



Oxnard

(March 2004)



(March 2004)



Oxnard

(March 2004)



Oxnard

(March 2004)



Oxnard

(March 2004)



Oxnard

(March 2004)



Marine Base – Port Hueneme

The Marine Base is where SeaBees – construction battalions – are based. (March 2004)



Marine Base - Port Hueneme

(March 2004)



Marine Base - Port Hueneme

(March 2004)



Port Hueneme

(March 2004)



Port Hueneme

(March 2004)



Port Hueneme

Hueneme is an active port. One of the more interesting imports is luxury cars from Europe. (March 2004)



Port Hueneme

(March 2004)



Port Hueneme

(March 2004)



Port Hueneme

(March 2004)



Port Hueneme

(March 2004)



Highway 33 – Los Padres National Forest

Highway 33 crosses the mountains behind Ventura and works its way up the San Joaquin Valley to Tracy. (May 2002)



Highway 33 – Los Padres National Forest

(May 2002)



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Highway 33 - Los Padres National Forest

(May 2002)



Highway 33 – Los Padres National Forest

(May 2002)



Highway 33 – Los Padres National Forest

The highway is plagued by rock slides. (May 2002)



Camarillo

Camarillo did not develop until the 101 freeway from LA was completed in the 1950's. The town became a city in 1964. It has a population of 65,000. (March 2004)



Camarillo

(March 2004)



Camarillo

(March 2004)



Camarillo

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