

# Information about California



This year's HTC Annual Rally will be at [Orange Grove RV Park & Resort](#) in Bakersfield, California. So, here's some background information on California, and Bakersfield.

California is a large state, geographically interesting ... with a coastline of 840 miles, desert lands like Death Valley, Mojave Desert, Joshua Tree National Park, the snow topped Sierra Nevada Mountain Range with Mount Whitney at 14,505 feet being the highest mountain in the lower 48 states, and Lake Tahoe, the largest alpine lake in North America.

California became the 31st state in 1850. Gold was found in 1848 at Sutter's Mill in the Sierra Nevada Foothills. The first transcontinental railroad in the United States opened in 1869. The railroad connected California, particularly Sacramento and San Francisco and it's seaport with the East Coast railroad network providing transportation across the country at a small fraction of the cost of wagon transport; facilitating trade and development of the West Coast. The [California State Railroad Museum](#) in Sacramento is world class and wonderful.

Sacramento, the state capital is at the north end of the Central Valley along the Interstate 5. The Central Valley with more than 7 million irrigated acres is known for it's agricultural productivity (fruits, vegetables, and nuts), it is about 40 to 60 miles wide and runs north to south 450 miles. Water, mostly from the Sierra Nevada Mountains flows for hundreds of miles along the California Aqueduct to farms in the valley, and further south to urban destinations. If you are traveling on I-5, you may notice the aqueduct.

California is the most populated state in the union with 39+ million people. Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego and Sacramento are the 2nd, 13th, 18th, 27th most populated U.S. cities with 12.9m, 4.6m, 3.2m, and 2.4m respectively. For anyone visiting there's plenty to consider seeing. In northern California: State Capital Museum, Crocker Art Museum, California Railroad Museum. In the San Francisco area: Palace of Fine Arts, de Young Art Museum, Fisherman's Wharf, Golden Gate Bridge.





Inland from Frisco, north of Bakersfield is an NPS gem, [Yosemite National Park](#). In Monterey: Monterey Aquarium and Beautiful 17 mile Drive. In the Los Angeles area: Getty Art Museum, Getty Villa, Disneyland, Knott's Berry Farm, and Universal Studios. In the San Diego area: San Diego Zoo, San Diego Safari Zoo, Sea World, Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, USS Midway Museum. California is known for its wineries and grape growing vineyards ... Napa Valley, Sonoma Valley ... Santa Rosa, Healdsburg.

Bakersfield is at the south end of the San Joaquin Valley, within the Central Valley, along the I-5. Bakersfield is well known in country music for the Bakersfield Sound with notable artists: Buck Owens, Merle Haggard, and Wynn Stewart and their songs such as: "Mama Tried," "Streets Of Bakersfield," "Workin Man Blues," "Act Naturally" and "Together Again".

[California State Parks](#) offer many opportunities to experience nature with "280 state park units, over 340 miles of coastline, 970 miles of lake and river frontage, 15,000 campsites" ... "3,195 historic buildings and more than 11,000 known prehistoric and historic archaeological sites". A person with a permanent disability (even if not a resident of California) [can apply for a "lifetme" disabled discount pass](#) allowing a 50% discount when visiting parks. There is an online reservation system for camping sites. California parks are very popular so it's a good idea to make your reservations as soon as possible, generally six months prior to your stay.

The [National Park Service](#) offers discounts to persons with a permanent disability via their "[Access Pass](#)", formerly via "Golden Access Passports". Generally, discounts are 50% off camping sites and free entrance to many park sites. Popular national parks in California include: Yosemite National Park, Joshua Tree National Park, Death Valley National Park.

So ... there's some travel ideas and information on California and Bakersfield, a few sites to consider visiting, to encourage your travel ideas. Of course there are plenty of other places in California and along the way. As you plan your travel routes to and from the HTC Rally in Bakersfield, perhaps you'll see a few sites. Some of you may be passing by Grand Canyon National Park: so beautiful ... always worth a visit. Good Luck and Happy Travels to All of You. — Will





<b>S Points of Interest</b>		
1	California State Parks Disabled Discount Pass Camping Reservations	<a href="https://www.parks.ca.gov/">https://www.parks.ca.gov/</a> <a href="https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=30959">https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=30959</a> <a href="https://www.reservecalifornia.com/">https://www.reservecalifornia.com/</a>
2	San Clemente State	<a href="https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=646">https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=646</a>
3	Morro Bay State Park	<a href="https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=594">https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=594</a>
4	National Parks Service Access Pass NPS Camping Reservations	<a href="https://www.nps.gov/index.htm">https://www.nps.gov/index.htm</a> <a href="#">NPS Access Pass Information</a> <a href="https://www.recreation.gov/">https://www.recreation.gov/</a>
5	Yosemite National Park	<a href="https://www.nps.gov/yose/index.htm">https://www.nps.gov/yose/index.htm</a>
6	Joshua Tree National Park	<a href="https://www.nps.gov/jotr/index.htm">https://www.nps.gov/jotr/index.htm</a>
7	Inyo National Forest	<a href="https://www.fs.usda.gov/r05/inyo">https://www.fs.usda.gov/r05/inyo</a>
8	Death Valley National Park	<a href="https://www.nps.gov/deva/index.htm">https://www.nps.gov/deva/index.htm</a>
9	California State Railroad	<a href="https://www.californiarailroad.museum/">https://www.californiarailroad.museum/</a>
10	Monterey Bay Aquarium	<a href="https://www.montereybayaquarium.org/">https://www.montereybayaquarium.org/</a>
11	17 Mile Drive	<a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/17-Mile_Drive">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/17-Mile_Drive</a>
12	Palace of the Arts	<a href="https://palaceoffinearts.com/">https://palaceoffinearts.com/</a>
13	Getty Art Museum	<a href="https://www.getty.edu/">https://www.getty.edu/</a>
14	The Getty Villa	<a href="https://www.getty.edu/visit/villa/">https://www.getty.edu/visit/villa/</a>
15	Huntington Library, Art Museum, Gardens	<a href="https://www.huntington.org/">https://www.huntington.org/</a>
16	Ronald Reagan Presidential Library	<a href="https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/">https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/</a>
17	Richard Nixon Presidential Library	<a href="https://www.nixonlibrary.gov/">https://www.nixonlibrary.gov/</a>
18	Grand Canyon National Park	<a href="https://www.nps.gov/grca/index.htm">https://www.nps.gov/grca/index.htm</a>
19	San Diego Zoo	<a href="https://zoo.sandiegozoo.org/">https://zoo.sandiegozoo.org/</a>
20	Sea World San Diego	<a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/SeaWorld_San_Diego">https://en.wikipedia.org/SeaWorld_San_Diego</a>
21	USS Midway Museum	<a href="https://www.midway.org/">https://www.midway.org/</a>