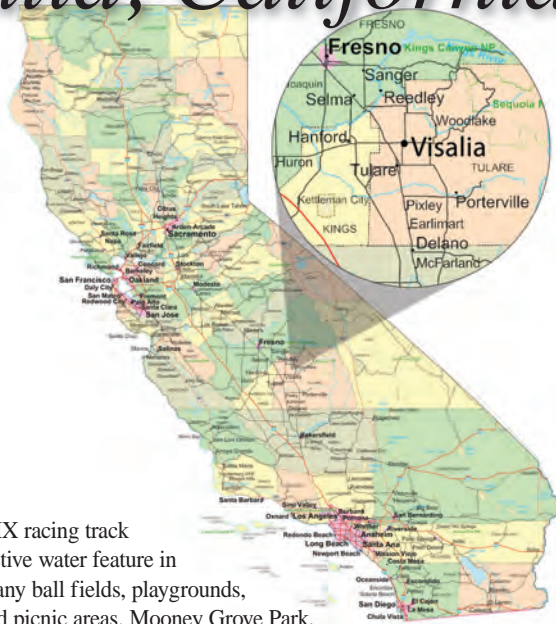




Visalia, California



Visalia, California, is located in one of the country's most productive agricultural areas, with more than 250 different crops harvested. Visalia was named for Visalia, Kentucky, the ancestral home of one of its first inhabitants.

Several museums are located in Visalia. The Tulare County Museum contains 5 separate sections of historical artifacts, with another section for antique farm equipment planned. Design By Arenas displays Richard Arenas's bronze sculptures and tiles, which often portray the life of migrant workers in California. The Central California Chinese Cultural Center, constructed in typical Chinese style, documents the history of 19th-century Chinese immigrants and contains a Confucian temple among its artifacts. Exhibits at the Tulare County Museum of Farm Labor and Agriculture showcase the ethnic groups that helped make Tulare County a major agricultural producer. ImagineU Interactive Children's Museum hosts a variety of interactive educational experiences. The Sam B. Peña Planetarium is another municipal attraction.

Visalia has opportunities for cultural activities, including the Visalia Community Players, a nonprofit theater company; the Enchanted Playhouse, which is dedicated to staging shows specifically for children; and the Tulare County Symphony, which performs in the historic Visalia Fox Theatre. The Visalia Convention Center hosts concerts and sporting events. Concerts and plays are also performed at the College of the Sequoias Theatre Conservatory.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Dating from the 1950s, the Green Acres neighborhood of Visalia offers a mix of vintage homes and new construction. Homes are situated on winding streets that feature mature landscaping. Visalia features many gated neighborhoods. The Lakes, one of the older communities, dates from the 1970s. This neighborhood was built around 9 acres of manmade lake and canals; most homes back onto the waterways and have many amenities. The Chardonnay neighborhood was built in the 1990s and early 2000s and features custom-built homes in various sizes and styles. The nearby Cobblestone Estates neighborhood is slightly newer and larger, and also has custom-built community houses in many styles and sizes which are built on quarter- and half-acre sites. Bella Sera, which has new construction opportunities, is a master-planned community with 2 separately gated neighborhoods: Da Vinci at Bella Sera, which offers custom homes on half-acre sites, and The Villas at Bella Sera, which offers single-family houses in many styles on small lots with privacy gardens.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Visalia has 36 parks and 4 community centers, including Provident Skate park, which is among the largest in the state, and Adventure Park, an amusement park. Amenities at the parks can include playgrounds, ball fields, ball courts, covered picnic areas, and barbecue facilities. Plaza Park also has a golf course, a motor racing arena, a leash-free dog park, lighted tennis courts and ball fields, and a fishing pond. Recreation Ballpark is home to the Visalia Rawhide, a professional minor league baseball team, and also features ball courts and a recreation center. Riverway Sports Park

features a BMX racing track and an interactive water feature in addition to many ball fields, playgrounds, barbecues, and picnic areas. Mooney Grove Park, site of the Tulare County Historical Society and the Tulare County Museum of Farm Labor and Agriculture, features large oak canopies, a lagoon with rental paddle boats, picnic areas, and barbecue facilities.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are close to Visalia. The General Sherman Tree in Sequoia National Park is the largest tree (by volume) in the world and is estimated to be between 1,800 and 2,700 years old.

EDUCATION

Visalia Unified School District educates approximately 27,000 students in 24 elementary schools, 4 middle schools, and 4 high schools. The district also operates 7 special schools, including a technological center, a school for students with orthopedic issues, and a home-school program.

Higher education is available in Visalia. The College of the Sequoias is a public community college that provides inexpensive, lower-division college education to local high school graduates who intend to transfer to a traditional four-year college, as well as vocational education. The Visalia campus of San Joaquin Valley College is a private junior college that offers associate's degrees in business, health care, and technical fields. Fresno Pacific University's Visalia Center is a Christian university that offers bachelor's degree completion programs as well as master's degree programs. Brandman University-Visalia focuses on providing working adults with the opportunity to earn bachelor's degrees, master's degrees, and teaching credentials.

HEALTH CARE

Kaweah Delta District Hospital has 581 licensed beds, including 61 beds at its Kaweah Delta Rehabilitation Hospital, which treats victims of stroke, accidents, brain injury, or other disabling conditions.

CITY STATS

2009

City Population	122,111
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	429,668
Per Capita Personal Income, Visalia-Porterville, CA, MSA	\$27,721