



Oakland, CA



The land that became Oakland, California, was claimed by Spanish conquistadors in 1772 and later deeded to Luis Maria Peralta. He called the land “encinal,” which is Spanish for the “oak grove” that spread through his property.

Peralta Hacienda Historical Park contains two original adobe structures built in 1820 and 1840 and a reconstruction and outline of the hacienda wall dating from the Spanish and Mexican eras. The 1870 Peralta House is restored to its original appearance and contains permanent and temporary exhibits.

The Oakland Museum of California focuses on Californian art, history, and natural sciences. The African American Museum and Library at Oakland preserves historical and cultural experiences of African Americans in California and the West. The Chabot Space & Science Center is the largest public telescope facility in the country and offers interactive exhibits, displays, and planetarium shows. The Oakland Aviation Museum collects and preserves aircraft and aviation artifacts. Uptown Art Park is a temporary gallery located in a vacant lot that features work from local artists.

Historic homes in Oakland include the Camron-Stanford House, which is the last of the 19th-century mansions that once surrounded Lake Merritt. The 37-room Neoclassical Revival Dunsmuir Hellman mansion was built in 1899 on 50 acres of land. Alaskan scrimshaw, Indian candlesticks, African weapons, Chinese altar pieces, and Californian art are among the diverse collections contained in the Pardee Home Museum. The USS Potomac, also known as the “Floating White House,” served as the Presidential Yacht for Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Jack London Square, named for the author, is a symbol of the city’s history as a seaport. The site was the heart of Oakland’s port operations and remains a working waterfront. In homage to London’s novels, distinctive walk tracks can be found throughout the Square.

Oakland offers many options for enjoying performing arts. Oakland Civic Orchestra performs at the Lake Merritt United Methodist Church. The Prometheus Symphony Orchestra performs at the St. Paul’s Episcopal Church. The Paramount Theatre is home to the Oakland East Bay Symphony as well as popular music concerts, variety shows, theatre, and movies. The Woodminster Amphitheater is home to a summer Broadway musical series and a Sundays in the Redwoods Concert Series. Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts showcases drama, ballet, and African and contemporary dance. Oakland Community Theater performs at the Washington School Gym. Magic Theatre’s free performances are held in conjunction with Laney College Theater Arts. The O.co Coliseum and Oracle Arena host sporting events, concerts, the circus, rodeos, and ice shows.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Although a few single-family Victorian homes remain, most of the available housing within the Downtown, Uptown, Old Oakland, and Chinatown’s areas are condominiums built since 2000.

Several neighborhoods adjacent to Lake Merritt include Lakeside, Grand Lake District, and Adams Point. Housing options include condominiums, apartments, and Craftsman- and Mediterranean-style homes.

The Montclair District is located among the pine trees in Oakland Hills. Housing styles vary between Craftsman bungalows, shingled cottages, Prairie homes, period revivals, ranchers, and split-level homes built during the 1950s through the 1970s. After a fire destroyed much of nearby Upper Rockridge in 1991, the neighborhood was rebuilt with large slate-gabled Tudors and sprawling Mediterranean- and Craftsman-style homes.

Lower Rockridge contains many restored homes that date from 1900 to 1950 in Arts and Crafts style. Temescal is one of the city’s oldest neighborhoods and is located near the Alta Bates Summit Medical Center and Kaiser Permanente Medical Center. Glenview’s homes are modestly sized Craftsman and California bungalows built during the 1920s.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Oakland has 100 parks; 25 recreation, community, and interpretive centers; 7 community gardening locations; 59 outdoor tennis courts; 3 golf courses; 53 athletic fields; 6 swimming pools, including the Jack London Aquatics Center; and 5 leash-free dog parks.

Lake Merritt is a salt-water lake covering 155 acres of land and is a focal point of the city. Its Wildlife Refuge is the nation’s oldest and is registered as a National Historic Landmark. Rotary Nature Center has educational displays, interpretive exhibits, a working observation beehive, freshwater viewing ponds, five habitat islands, and a geodesic dome for injured birds. The seven-acre themed Gardens at Lake Merritt include garden styles from around the world. Children’s Fairyland has approximately 40 storybook sets, kid-size rides, friendly animals, and 10 acres of gardens.

The Morcom Amphitheatre of Roses contains thousands of exotic and delightful roses in bloom from May through October.

Oakland Zoo is located within Knowland Park and is home to more than 660 native and exotic animals.

Professional sports teams include the Oakland Athletics (baseball), Oakland Raiders (football), Golden State Warriors (basketball), and Oakland Outlaws (roller derby).

EDUCATION

Oakland Unified School District educates approximately 37,000 students in 56 elementary schools, 19 middle schools, and 15 high schools.

Oakland has many opportunities for higher education. Mills College is a liberal arts women’s college with graduate programs for women and men. California College of the Arts offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in art, design, architecture, and writing. Holy Names University is a coeducational university affiliated with the Catholic Church and grants bachelor’s and master’s degrees. Samuel Merritt University has undergraduate and graduate programs in nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and podiatric medicine.

Laney College and Merritt College, two of four Peralta Community College District campuses, are located in Oakland.

The Academy of Chinese Culture and Health Sciences is a private, nonprofit graduate institution offering Master of Science in Traditional Chinese Medicine. Business degree programs are available at Lincoln University and Patten University. SUM Bible College & Theological Seminary is connected with its Pentecostal/Charismatic Christian community.

HEALTH CARE

Oakland is served by four hospitals, including a dedicated pediatric facility, which together have approximately 1,300 licensed beds.

CITY STATS

2011

City Population	395,935
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	4,391,037
Per Capita Personal Income, San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA, MSA	\$61,395