

The Golden State at a glance



The world-famous Golden Gate Bridge



On the promenade at Venice Beach

**Area:** 164,000 square miles / 424,000 square km (3rd in the US, after Alaska and Texas)

**Became a state in:** 1850 (as the 31st state of the United States)

**Population:** 34 million (1st in the US)

**Capital:** Sacramento

**Official state animal:** California grizzly bear

**Official state flower:** California poppy

**Official state tree:** redwood

**Official motto:** Eureka! (*Greek for 'I have found it!', which is a reference to the discovery of gold in California in 1849*)

**Biggest cities:** Los Angeles, 3.8 million (metropolitan area 15 million); San Diego, 1.4 million (metro area 3 million); San Jose, 1 million (metro area 7 million); San Francisco, 800,000 (metro area 4.2 million)

**Economy:** California is America's largest economy. Important industries: high technology; agriculture; entertainment; tourism. If it were an independent country, California would be the world's 7th largest economy.

**Number of national parks:** Eight: Channel Islands, Death Valley, Joshua Tree, Kings Canyon, Lassen Volcanic, Redwood, Sequoia, Yosemite

**Famous landmarks:** San Francisco's cable cars, the Golden Gate Bridge, the Hollywood Sign in the Hollywood Hills, Hearst Castle, Grauman's Chinese Theater on the Hollywood Walk of Fame

**Famous beaches:** Malibu, Santa Monica Beach, Huntington Beach, Newport Beach

**Movies which have won the most Oscars:** Each of these films has won 11 Oscars: *Lord of the Rings: Return of the King* (2003); *Titanic* (1997); *Ben-Hur* (1959)