



For additional information, please contact the Stockton Conference & Visitors Bureau @ 877-778-6258. Photos and additional information can be found at [www.visitstockton.org](http://www.visitstockton.org)

*This is a hyperlinked document for your convenience.*

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## Celebrate THE FACTS

**Area Information** - Stockton is centrally located in Northern California.

**Location:** Stockton is located about 75 miles east of the San Francisco Bay Area and 40 miles south of Sacramento. Stockton is home to the largest inland seaport in California. Running through and around Stockton are thousands of miles of waterways, canals, and rivers that comprise the California Delta. The Stockton Deep Water Channel runs behind the Stockton Ballpark, Stockton Arena, right into the heart of Downtown.

**Population** (approximately)

With 290,141 residents, Stockton is the 13<sup>th</sup> largest city in California.

### Climate

The climate for Stockton is temperate, with warm dry days and cool nights in the summer. Winter is usually mild with some light rainfalls during the winter months. Stockton's average annual rainfall is 13.95 inches per year

### Average Temperatures (F):

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
High	58	60	66	66	83	91	94	95	91	81	67	52
Low	35	42	42	48	52	57	60	61	56	50	44	36

## Transportation

Stockton is strategically located between the Bay Area to the west, the Sierras to the east, Sacramento to the north and Fresno to the south. Getting to these places is easy with a wide variety of transportation.

- [SJRTD](#) (San Joaquin Regional Transit District) is the local transit bus service with routes connecting Stockton with such surrounding cities as: Lodi, Tracy, Tracy Depot, Manteca, Ripon, and Lathrop with connecting services to Sacramento, the Bay Area, and BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit).
- [ACE](#) (Altamont Commuter Express) provides train service to: Manteca, Tracy, Livermore, Pleasanton, Fremont, Santa Clara and San Jose.
- [Amtrak](#) provides direct train service as far as Oakland, San Jose, Bakersfield, with connections to San Diego, Oregon, Nevada and everywhere in between.
- [Greyhound](#)
- [Stockton Municipal Airport](#) non-stop flights to Las Vegas available through Allegiant Air.
- **Taxi Services** – Limited Taxi Service is Available

## **Lodging and Meetings**

Get ready to celebrate the history, cultural arts, great food and wine that make Stockton so special. Many of the facilities offer accommodations for meetings, both large and small and are pet friendly. They are located throughout the city. For more information see [“Places to Stay” Hotel Guide](#) and [Facilities Guide](#).

## [Find More About Stockton](#)

# Celebrate HISTORY

**Stockton was founded in 1849** by a German immigrant, Charles M. Weber, who acquired over 49,000 acres of land through a Spanish land grant. Captain Weber tried his hand at gold mining in late 1848, but by the next spring, realized that the true wealth lay in providing for the rush of gold-seekers from all over the world, and established his town to serve those needs. As J. H. Carson, in his LIFE IN CALIFORNIA described it in 1849: "A rush and whirl of noisy human beings were continually before the eye. The magic wand of gold had been shaken over a desolate place, and on it a vast city had arisen at the bidding."

## [Find More on History](#)

*For more downtown history check out: “The City Beneath Your Feet”*

Where the Stockton Cineplex is today was once the first “Chinatown” in the City. During excavations for the downtown Cineplex many exciting archeological finds were uncovered. To learn more go to [“The City Beneath Your Feet”](#)

## LANDMARKS AND HISTORIC BUILDINGS

### [California State Historic Landmarks Located in Stockton](#)

There are six California State Historic Landmarks in Stockton.

### [National Historic Landmarks Located in Stockton](#)

Several buildings in Stockton and San Joaquin County are on the National Register of Historical Landmarks. A couple of gems on the Register include the **Bob Hope (Formerly Fox) Theatre** and the **Hotel Stockton**.

### [The Hotel Stockton](#)

The grand, Mission Revival style, 252-room tourist hotel, Hotel Stockton, was completed in 1910. The proposal for the Hotel Stockton was grand and included a six-story edifice designed by architect Edgar Brown. Overall, it is more than 145,000 sq ft. The initial budget was about \$350,000 but was increased to provide a truly first-class hotel. In 1949 director Robert Rossen used The Stockton (as well as Stockton residents as extras) for the film [All the King's Men](#) the film won the Oscar for Best Picture in 1950. The Hotel Stockton has survived at least two fires and two floods slowed its construction. The Hotel Stockton was completely renovated and opened in 2005 with as senior housing. Lobby tours are available and also highlight a mini-exhibit featuring excavated artifacts for the former Chinese Laundry near the site.

### [Bob Hope \(Fox\) Theatre](#)

On October 14, 1930 the Fox Theatre opened in one of the most grandiose events in the region. Approximately 20,000 people attended the celebration, including some of the most famous stars of the time. Opening acts included the latest “talkie” movies and comedy skits. The Fox was the largest vaudeville house in California and also one of the safest buildings of the time, built entirely with cement and steel, with the ability to evacuate guests within two minutes. In 2004, with an \$8.5 million renovation complete, the Bob Hope Theatre was restored to its grandeur as when it was built in 1930.

## Celebrate FAMILY FUN

### **Fun Celebrations for the Whole Family**

Stockton has many things for families including the [Children’s Museum of Stockton](#), one of the highlights in the Central Valley. Located downtown, across from new Marina, the Children’s Museum is real treasure. Another jewel in downtown is [Pixie Woods Children’s Playland](#). With train rides, a carousel, boat ride and water play features; Pixie Woods is the perfect retreat for the whole family. If you are an animal lover then [Micke Grove Regional Park and Zoo](#) is the place for you. The area has a Japanese Garden, Tea Pavilion, Koi Pond, and Fun Town amusement park.

The [Haggin Museum](#) is one of the most impressive cultural treasures in the Central Valley. Artists such as Albert Bierstadt, Rosa Bonheur, and Jean-Leon Gerome can be found here as well as historical displays from Stockton's past including Stockton's founder Charles Weber; Benjamin Holt, inventor of the Caterpillar track-type tractor; and Tillie Lewis, the "Tomato Queen."

[Oak Grove Regional Park](#) is a wonderful place to spend the day. Located in north Stockton this 180-acre park with beautiful oak-forest setting features several amenities including: a 10 acre lake stocked with catfish and trout as well as paddleboats and aqua cycles; [Oak Grove Nature Center](#); two nature trails (one is handicapped accessible); picnic shelters and the only 18 hole [disc golf](#) course in the area.

If skate boarding is your pleasure, head over to the [Skate Park](#) at Anderson Park on El Dorado between Swain Road and Benjamin Holt Drive. The skate park features: a moon, small bowl, offset steps, half-pipe, rail, EMB, fun box, block, piano, and a star.

[San Joaquin Historical Museum](#) reveals the fascinating history of the region, from the Yokuts and Miwok through Captain Charles Weber, Stockton's founder, and the development of modern agriculture so important to our area.

### **ON THE WATER**

One of the benefits of Stockton's location is the proximity of the [San Joaquin Delta](#). There is never a dull moment with so many possibilities for fun including: boating, fishing, water sports, camping, or just relaxing and the enjoying the warm California sunshine.

A few good places to start include:

[Downtown Stockton Marina and Joan Darrah Promenade](#) opening in the fall of 2009 featuring 66 new berths and over 1,300 f linear feet of guest dock space.

Other Delta Resources:

[Delta Chamber & Visitors Bureau](#)

[Stockton Yacht Club](#)

[Stockton Sailing Club](#)

[Village West Marina](#)

**[Find More Family Fun](#)**

# Celebrate NEIGHBORHOODS

## [DOWNTOWN STOCKTON](#)

Headquarters of both City and County government, Downtown Stockton offers numerous ethnic dining and lively entertainment options. Dine at any one of the more than 30 restaurants in the downtown area, see a musical, theatre performance or classic film at the Bob Hope Theatre or take in one of the many sporting events at the Stockton Arena.

Historically, Downtown Stockton began with a mix of thriving commercial ventures and colorful characters taking advantage of the prime geographic location at the crossroads of California. By the turn of the century, Stockton had grown into an industrial city. Streetcars running down Main Street and the presence of banks, hotels, and theatres, attracted a steady flow of visitors. By the 1930's, Main Street boasted several skyscrapers and became the center of Stockton's leading shops and prominent businesses. Today, with the strong revitalization efforts have brought new life and charm into the heart of Stockton.

[Find More on Downtown Stockton](#)

## **DOWNTOWN GEMS**

[Weber Point Events Center](#) and its towering sail-like cover and intriguing elements including a brick labyrinth, layout of Charles Weber's home, and waterfront promenade.

Must See: [The Historic Hotel Stockton](#), [Bob Hope \(Fox\) Theatre](#)

[Public Art Walking Tour](#) there are more than 30 individual public art elements in the downtown area including manhole covers, murals, sculptures sidewalk elements, tree grates and tree guards. Keep your eyes open for public art surprises around nearly every corner.

The **Magnolia Historic District**, located in Midtown Stockton, encompasses the richest variety of architectural styles found in the City. Primarily composed of single and multifamily homes, most of the neighborhood was designated, the Magnolia Historic District, by the State of California. The tree-lined streets display samples of virtually all the architectural styles of California's most formative period, including Queen Anne, Eastlake, Craftsman, Moderne, Spanish Revival, and Dutch Colonial. Homes dating as early as 1860 still call this neighborhood home. Download a [guide](#) or [brochure](#).

## **MIRACLE MILE**

The [Miracle Mile](#) is a vibrant and pedestrian-friendly place to shop, dine, and explore. It's the local's favorite hangout and has been referred to as "down-to-earth", "pro-culture" and "pro-coolness". The Mile is home to a wide variety of unique and charming shops and some of the best restaurants around for miles. The [Stockton Empire Theatre](#) is a hot spot hosting a wide variety of events from poetry readings and comedy shows to arthouse films, and concerts. The Stockton Art League's Art Gallery, the [Elsie May Goodwin Gallery](#) has wonderful art displays

showcasing the talented artists in Stockton and often host art demonstrations giving insights into how art is made using various techniques.

With more than 20 restaurants on The Mile what ever your taste buds desire, you can find it here!

## **LINCOLN CENTER**

Since 1951 [Lincoln Center](#) has maintained an outstanding reputation as a premier shopping and dining experience. This charismatic open-air mall offers a unique blend of upscale family owned shops and boutiques along with 12 award-winning restaurants in one convenient location.

### **Other Neighborhoods in Stockton to Celebrate**

Shopping and dining areas include:

[Stone Creek Village](#)

[Weberstown Mall](#)

[Park West Place](#)

[Sherwood Mall](#)

*Find More on [Shopping](#) and [Dining](#)*

## **Celebrate FESTIVALS and EVENTS**

Stockton is possibly best known for its annual spring [Asparagus Festival](#) held the last weekend each April (April 23-25, 2010). California's largest charitable food festival, the Asparagus Festival has earned the Best of the West Food Fest with over 110,000 people attending the three-day event. Expect beautiful sunny days, live music, celebrity kitchen, recipe contests, kids asparazone, a 5K run, arts and crafts, delta cruises, and much much more.

**Taste! of San Joaquin** - sponsored by the [Downtown Stockton Alliance](#) is held in July and includes more than 30 food booths from local restaurants. Sampling starts at \$1. 2009 featured a **BBQ Cook-Off** and a **Way Out West BBQ Competition**. To quench your thirst, there is wine & beer tasting from local breweries & wineries. Look for a classic car show in 2010.

The annual [Jewish Food Festival](#), held in June is a wonderful opportunity to learn about the Jewish culture. Browse the Jewish deli & bakery for take-out items, enjoy the bagel making demonstration. This family event includes Temple tours, music, dancing, silent auction, a beer garden and fun & games for the kids.

The **Greek Food Festival** at [St. Basil's Greek Orthodox Church](#) is one not to be missed. Fine Greek cuisine and pasties are available to sample and take home, authentic Greek music and dancing, tours of the incredible church and the impressive mosaics are all worth the low admission price.

Stockton's [Earth Day Festival](#) has a long history of helping people recognize the importance of caring for our earth and natural resources. Through educational programs and fun activities, the Earth Day Festival helps share this vision with thousands of people each year.

[Wine on the Waterfront](#), an elegant evening of wine and gourmet food tasting on the waterfront. A benefit for Big Brothers Big Sisters.

**Family Day at the Park** is FREE to the public. This only day event each September celebrates literacy. Thousands of families converge into University park for Kids Art Projects, Used Book Sale, Storytelling, Live Music and Food & Fun.

**San Joaquin County Fair** - If you are in Stockton at the end of June, your trip isn't complete with a trip to the [San Joaquin County Fair](#) for Five Days of Fun at northern California's premier county fair.

[Click Here For a complete list of Annual Events](#)

## Celebrate CULTURAL ARTS

*Stockton has many reasons to celebrate the cultural arts! Art galleries, public art, symphony, and an international film festival are just the beginning.*

### ART

The [Goodwin Gallery](#), run by the Stockton Art League on the Miracle Mile is a wonderful place to find examples of talented locals. The [Tidewater Art Center and Gallery](#) is a cooperative gallery in the downtown areas. With changing exhibitions every month, there is always something new to see and enjoy at the Tidewater. The [Alan Short Gallery](#) is for adults with developmental disabilities. It features silk scarves, paintings, ceramics, cards, and more. [L.H. Horton Jr. Gallery](#) at San Joaquin Delta College is a premier visual arts exhibition spaced. The primary mission of the gallery is to promote quality and culturally diversified artwork in support of student's education. [Reynolds Gallery](#) at the University of the Pacific is located in the Jeannette Powel Art Center provides a means to develop perceptual skills, a visual arts language, and an understanding of historical and cultural context of the visual arts. The [Haggin Museum](#) is the crown jewel of cultural institutions in the Central Valley. **Sunset Magazine** referred to the Haggin as "one of the undersung gems of California.

Stockton's [Public Art](#) Program started in 2001 has put nearly 100 pieces of public art in Stockton for everyone to enjoy in just about every part of the City. Major pieces can be seen in the downtown, on Interstate 5, Highway 99, next to schools, on underpasses, street meridians, and the walls of public buildings.

### FILM

The [San Joaquin Film Society](#) offers numerous film festivals throughout the year including their flagship, the [San Joaquin International Film Festival](#) in February. Other World Cinema Series film festivals include the **Jewish Film Festival**, **Children's Film Festival**, California Documentary Film Festival, or [CALDOCFEST](#) . Resource: [Film Commission Info](#).

## THEATRE

[Stockton Civic Theatre](#) is a regional showplace for great works of performing art that influence and enhance the lives of all who attend and participate in each performance. In addition to producing six plays a season, SCT conducts a dynamic theatre education program for youth and adults. What community is complete without a children's theatre? [Kudos Children's Theatre Company](#) fills this spot with imagination and joy.

## MUSIC

[Stockton Symphony](#) is one of the pre-eminent performing arts organization in San Joaquin County, and the third oldest orchestra in California. The mission of the Stockton Symphony is to engage, educate, and inspire the community through a commitment to excellence in its performances and programs. [Friends of Chamber Music](#) has presented the finest chamber music to the Stockton community for more than 50 years. The [Stockton Choral](#) has both adult and youth organizations, as well as a Master Chorale. The Chorale offers the performance of great masterworks with orchestra and the finest professional and regional soloists. The [Stockton Opera](#) produces a light or grand opera each year. Performances are held at the lovely Faye Spanos Concert Hall and the University of the Pacific (UOP). The [Conservatory of Music at the University of the Pacific](#) offers a range of high quality performances on the beautiful UOP campus. This includes the spectacular [Brubeck Institute](#) and annual Jazz Festival.

## THE STATUES OF THE CAMBODIAN BUDDHIST TEMPLE

One of the most unique places to visit in the City of Stockton is the [Cambodian Buddhist Temple](#). Over 25 colorful and larger than life jewel toned statues celebrate the life and story of the Cambodian Buddha. You have to see it to believe it...including the 50 foot long recumbent Buddha. The temple is also home to the annual Cambodian New Year Celebration. Featured in Huell Howser's [Road Trip to Stockton](#).

[Find More on Arts & Culture](#)

## Celebrate SPORTS

*Stockton was named California's #1 Minor League Sports City in 2007 with four professional teams that all play at the Downtown Waterfront Events Center*

### MINOR LEAGUE SPORTS

The 10,000 seat [Stockton Arena](#) is home to the [Stockton Thunder](#) (ECHL) professional ice hockey team, the [Stockton Cougars](#) (PASL) indoor soccer team, and the [Stockton Lightning](#) arena football 2 team.

Next to the Stockton Arena is the 5,300 **Stockton Ballpark**, home of the [Stockton Ports](#), major league affiliate of the Oakland A's.

## FISHING

Being located on the San Joaquin Delta has its advantage for those who love to fish. Bass Master Tournaments have been held in Stockton and there are many avid fishing clubs and guides including those devoted to bass fishing, fly fishing, crowdadding and everything in between.

## NASCAR

[Stockton 99 Speedway](#)- Stockton 99 Speedway is the fastest 1/4 mile banked paved NASCAR track, the oldest NASCAR track west of the Mississippi.

## ICE SKATING

[Oak Park Ice Skating Arena](#)

## GOLF

### Public courses

[Swenson Park Course](#) (18 hole & 9 hole Executive Course)

[Van Buskirk Park Golf Course](#) (18 hole)

[Lyons Golf Course on Rough and Ready Island](#) (9 hole)

[The Reserve at Spanos Park](#) (18 hole)

### Private courses

[Brookside Country Club](#) (18 hole)

[Elkhorn Country Club](#) (18 hole)

[Stockton Golf & Country Club](#) (18 hole)

[Oakmoore Golf Course](#) (9 hole)

Venetian Gardens Golf Course (18 hole)

[Find More on Sports](#)

# Celebrate AGRICULTURE

## LOCAL FARMS AND MARKETS

Since 1947 [The Fruit Bowl](#) has been providing the freshest and best local produce, baked goods, nuts, jams, honey, and olive oils. [Phillips Farms](#) is a year round fruit stand and market with an on-site café, bakery, and winery. Hayrides, pumpkin ice cream, and carnival games entertain and educate the kids while grown-ups can sit back and enjoy a taste of **Michael and David's** delicious wines. [Countryside Farms](#) (seasonal) is the perfect place to learn about farming for the whole family. Farm activities include the planting stations, u-pick berries, farm animals, flowers and hayrides. Spring haystack and fall hay tunnels are also fun.

## FARMERS MARKETS

Stockton is the home of the number one favorite Farmer's Markets in [Saveur Magazine's Top 100](#) in 2007 the **Open-Air Asian and Farmer's Market** under the crosstown freeway (Highway 4) and [Stockton's only year-round farmers market](#). Other farmers markets are held regularly from March through November.

[Locations](#) and day of the week:

**Open-Air Asian and Farmer's Market** - Saturdays

**Downtown Stockton** – Fridays

**Weberstown Mall** – Thursday and Sunday

**Park West Place** – Saturday

## WINERIES

There are more than 80 wineries just north and around Stockton. The [Lodi Wine & Visitor's Center](#) is the perfect place to start. If you want to taste a variety of wines in one location [Vino Piazza](#) is for you. With more than 10 wineries and mini-natural history museum with dinosaur replicas, it's a treat for everyone. To the south is [Delicato Family Vineyards](#) offering award winning wines and an annual art show.

[Find More on Farms and Wineries](#)

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[Media Page](#)

[Photo Gallery](#) – HiRes Photos Available Upon Request.

[Additional Resources](#)