The land that became Oakland, California, was claimed by Spanish conquistadores 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 interpretive 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 Dunsuirn Hillman 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.

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).

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.

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

### 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.

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### Education

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

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### Health Care

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### City Stats

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2011</th>
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<tr>
<td>City Population</td>
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<td>Metropolitan Statistical Area Population</td>
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<tr>
<td>Per Capita Personal Income,</td>
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<td>San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA, MSA</td>
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