



Modesto, CA



Modesto, California, was founded in the San Joaquin Valley along the shore of the Tuolumne River as a railroad stop in October 1870. The town's original proposed name honored William Chapman Ralston, a wealthy banker and director of the Central Pacific Railroad. When he demurred, the town was named Modesto, a Spanish word meaning modest, because of Ralston's modesty. The city is a center for agriculture.

The Modesto Arch, built in 1912, stretches across I Street and displays the city's motto: "Water Wealth Contentment Health." The McHenry Museum is home to many historical artifacts from the early days of Modesto and Stanislaus County. The museum contains a county recorder's office, a general store, and a recreated blacksmith shop using wood and square nails from a century-old house. Other exhibits include gold mining paraphernalia, original firefighting equipment, and turn-of-the-20th century home furnishings. Located at Modesto Junior College, the Great Valley Museum of Natural History exhibits various animals, plants, and cultural artifacts from the valley and around the world. The McHenry Mansion was built in 1883 by Robert McHenry and is decorated with antiques appropriate to the 1883-1896 period.

Castle Air Museum is located in nearby Atwater and displays more than 45 aircraft, including the B-25, the B-24 Liberator, and the B-29.

Modesto has several performing arts venues. The Gallo Center for the Arts features 2 theaters and is home to 6 resident companies: Modesto Community Concert Association, Modesto Performing Arts, Modesto Symphony Orchestra Association, Townsend Opera, Central West Ballet, and Youth Entertainment Stage (YES) Company. Modesto Band of Stanislaus County (Moband) performs summertime concerts at the Mancini Bowl in Graceada Park.

The Art Deco-style State Theatre is now a recognized Landmark Preservation site hosts a variety of live concerts and productions as well as films. The Fat Cat Music House and Lounge is a beautiful 1930s-era venue featuring live music and comedy.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Downtown Modesto is primarily a commercial area but has many residential neighborhoods featuring a wide variety of housing styles. A mix of California Bungalows, large Revival Renaissance custom-built styles, and ranch-styles that date from early-to-mid-20th century can be found along the tree-lined, shady streets of the Hintze-Fairmont neighborhood. Built between 1910 and 1960, the College neighborhood offers such housing styles as California Bungalow, English Tudor, Shingle-Style, and Mission Revival, which reflects California's Spanish missions.

Along the Dry Creek, the La Loma neighborhood has single- and two-story homes from the 1940s and 1950s. Many homes designs were inspired by the organic architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright, such as the Usonian style home and furnishings that he designed and built for Robert and Mary Walton in Modesto. This style usually consists of a single-story home with flat roofs and overhangs that utilizes native materials. On the opposite side of Dry Creek, Wycliffe features large single-story homes built in the 1960s and 1970s in a variety of styles. The large Lakewood neighborhood dates from the same period and features ranch-style and other single-story homes.

Dutchhollow, Dutch Meadow, and Vintage Faire Estates offer contemporary-style custom and semi-custom built single-story and two-story homes built in the 1980s. Houses are located on shady tree-lined streets.

Chateau Provence, Sundance Lake, and Fleur de Ville are gated communities. The large contemporary, custom-built homes in Fleur de Ville were built in the late 1990s. Contemporary homes in Chateau Provence and Sundance Lake were built primarily in the early 2000s.

Established in the 1940s near Modesto, the Del Rio neighborhood offers elegant custom-built homes in stunning neighborhoods with views of the Stanislaus River. Streets entwine throughout the Del Rio Country Club and Golf Course.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Modesto has 76 parks with amenities that include 4 community centers, a swimming pool, 44 tennis courts, 14 lighted ball fields, 3 golf courses, 2 disc golf courses, basketball and volleyball courts, playgrounds, and over 15 miles of bike paths.

Located in the Downtown, the quarter-acre McClatchy Square is home to the Gallo Rose Garden and "The Paper Boy," a bronze statue of a young boy delivering copies of the *Modesto Bee* with a dog at his side.

Also in the Downtown, Graceada is Modesto's oldest city park and was designed by John McClaren, the designer of Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. The park features 6 tennis courts, a wading pool, a playground, and the 1,200 seat Mancini Bowl amphitheater which is home to dozens of special events every year.

Beyer Community Park has 2 softball fields, 6 tennis courts, a volleyball court, playground, horseshoe pits, a pétanque court, and a 13,000 square foot skate park which is open year round. Beyer is the site of a future inclusive playground, The Awesome Spot.

Modesto is home to the American Graffiti Car Show and Festival held annually in June. The film, *American Graffiti*, was based on producer George Lucas' boyhood experiences in Modesto, where cruising was a teenager's way of life in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

The city's John Thurman field is home to the Modesto Nuts, a minor league professional baseball team affiliated with the Colorado Rockies. Many special events and concerts are also held at the field.

EDUCATION

Modesto City Schools educate 30,000 students in 22 elementary schools, 4 junior high schools, 7 comprehensive high schools, and an extensive alternative education program. A variety of specialized academies and specific programs of instruction are available at each high school. Seven other school districts feed into Modesto City Schools at the high school level.

Modesto Junior College is a public, two-year community college that offers a variety of associate degree programs, with many focused on agriculture. Other career-oriented programs are offered at Galen College of Medical and Dental Assistants and Institute of Technology.

HEALTH CARE

Modesto is served by the following health care facilities:

- Memorial Medical Center: 423 licensed beds
- Stanislaus Surgical Hospital: 23 licensed beds
- Doctors Medical Center: 394 licensed beds
- Kaiser Foundation Hospital Modesto: 152 licensed beds
- Central Valley Specialty Hospital: 100 licensed long-term acute care beds
- Doctors Medical Center-Behavioral Health Department: 67 licensed psychiatric beds

CITY STATS

2014

City Population	209,198
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	531,997
Per Capita Personal Income, Modesto, CA, MSA	\$36,356