Welcome to

Oakland

A Guide to the City of Oakland

Samuel Merritt University
Premier Health Sciences since 1909
...San Francisco’s eclectic 78-square-mile sister city — conveniently joined together by the sensational San Francisco Oakland Bay Bridge. Founded in 1852, Oakland is said to have the best weather of any city in the United States. And that’s only one of the reasons we attract such an amazing assortment of people from all over the globe. In fact, Oakland is the most ethnically diverse city in the country, with more than 150 languages spoken among its 400,000 residents.
Oakland has lots of reasons to be proud:

- **Underwater Tunnels**: Oakland has two underwater tunnels (going to Alameda island).
- **Charles Lindbergh**: Attended the dedication of the opening of the Oakland Airport in 1927.
- **Amelia Earhart**: Her hanger was at Oakland International Airport.
- **MC Hammer, Green Day, En Vogue, and Sly and the Family Stone**: All emerged from Oakland.
- **Rocky Road Ice Cream**: Invented here.
- **Dreyer’s Ice Cream**: Started here.
- **Oakland A’s**: In 1972, 1973 and 1974, the Oakland A’s won three World Series in a row.
His visit to **Children’s Fairyland** (the 3-d children’s theme park) inspired Walt Disney to build Disneyland.

Oakland is the only city in California with three professional sports teams: **Athletics, Warriors and Raiders.**

More **sourdough bread** is produced in Oakland than any other city in the world.

**Oakland’s Lake Merritt** was America’s first state game refuge in 1870.

**The Port of Oakland** is the fourth busiest container port in the country.

**Mother’s Cookies** (the nation’s largest cookie producer) has been in operation since 1914.
The Huchiun tribe was the first group of Oakland residents. For thousands of years they concentrated in the areas around Lake Meritt and Temescal Creek. They later became known as the Ohlone Indians—Ohlone meaning western people in Miwok. In 1772, the King of Spain’s Conquistadors claimed these Ohlone lands along with the rest of California. In 1820 what came to be known as the East Bay was deeded to Mexico, and once they became independent from Spain, the land was opened to American, European and other settlers.

Eureka! The California Gold Rush began in 1849 and the first local post office opened in 1851. Oakland became the main staging post for treasure seekers headed for the Sierra Foothills. By 1852 the town became officially known as Oakland and by 1869, was the western terminus of the Intercontinental Railroad. In 1891 the first electric street car began running through the city on to Berkeley.

The grave destruction caused by the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake caused an exodus of newly homeless people—and that doubled Oakland’s population!

By the 1920s Oakland was well on its way to becoming a major manufacturing hub in the auto, shipbuilding and canning industries (to name only a few).

One of the engineering wonders of the world: the Oakland-San Francisco Bay Bridge opened to traffic in 1936, and in 1942 the Mai Tai drink made its debut in Oakland at Trader Vic’s Restaurant (now in Emeryville).

In the 1950s, the largest highrise at the time was constructed at 20th and Harrison—the Kaiser Building.

Oakland in the 60s and 70s gave rise to an innovative music scene with Sly and the Family Stone, Graham Central Station and Tower of Power. In the 80s rap music began to emerge from artists like Oakland native MC Hammer and Digital Underground.

Oakland has a history as alluring, diverse and colorful as its wonderful residents, neighborhoods, architecture and geography—come see for yourself!
Oakland is a treasure trove of possibilities and options for having fun, learning, fine dining, hiking, boating, theater, fishing, museum going, bike riding, farmers’ markets, ethnic food discovery, walking by a creek and just about any other activity you fancy.

Here is a list of 14 not-to-be-missed things to do in or around Oakland!

1. Stroll the all-natural habitats of the Oakland Zoo. [OAKLANDZOO.ORG](http://oaklandzoo.org)
   Learn to blow glass or arc weld or even how to properly eat fire at the Crucible, the Bay Area’s only nonprofit sculpture studio, educational foundry and metal fabrication shop offering classes in fine and industrial arts. [THECRUCIBLE.ORG](http://thecrucible.org)

2. Take in a flick at the historic Grand Lake Theater. [RRFILMS.COM](http://rrfilms.com)
   Ride in an Italian Gondola on Lake Merritt at sunset. [GONDOLASERVIZIO.COM](http://gondolaservizio.com)

3. Treat yourself to a summer evening picnic and musical at the Woodminster Amphitheater nestled in the woods in the Oakland hills. [WOODMINSTER.COM](http://woodminster.com)

4. Practice your figure eights or watch a Cal Bears Ice Hockey Game at the Oakland Ice Center. [OAKLANDICE.COM](http://oaklandice.com)
On the **waterfront**, visit Jack London’s hangout — the First and Last Chance Saloon which has been in continuous operation since 1883. [heinoldsfirstandlastchance.com](http://heinoldsfirstandlastchance.com)

Watch **shooting stars** and other celestial objects at the Chabot Space and Science Center. [www.chabotspace.org](http://www.chabotspace.org)

Learn to **windsurf** in the warmer-water Oakland Estuary. [boardsportsschool.com](http://boardsportsschool.com)

Explore the Mountain View Cemetery during one of its twice-monthly free tours. Its splendid grounds nestled in Oakland’s foothills are home to some of Oakland’s most fascinating **historical** gems! [mountainviewcemetery.org](http://mountainviewcemetery.org)

Ride the elevator 317 feet to the top of UC Berkeley's famed Campanile Tower and watch the **61-bell carillon** being played up close and personal! Take ear plugs and marvel at the 360° view. [visitors.berkeley.edu/camp/](http://visitors.berkeley.edu/camp/)

Walk aboard a national treasure — the retired aircraft carrier **USS Hornet** which was involved in World War II and the Apollo manned space mission. [uss-hornet.org](http://uss-hornet.org)

Visit the unique **Oakland Museum of California** with its tiered Babylonian style roof gardens. It is the only museum devoted entirely to the environment, history and art of California. [museumca.org](http://museumca.org)

Step into some of the most beautiful natural settings on earth — 2,500 acres of open space make up the **Oakland Parks and Recreation**. Visit seven community gardens, play tennis in 59 outdoor courts, play golf at three spacious golf courses, grab a ball and choose from 53 athletic fields or dive into a refreshing pool. [oaklandnet.com/parks/inside_oakland/](http://oaklandnet.com/parks/inside_oakland/)

Take the **Oakland/Alameda Ferry** and cruise right into McCovey Cove at AT&T Park for a Giants game. [eastbayferry.com](http://eastbayferry.com)

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Photo: Courtesy Oakland Museum of California
CITY OF OAKLAND
Official City Website
OAKLANDNET.COM
Oakland Convention
& Visitors Bureau
OAKLANDCVB.COM
Oakland Neighborhoods
OAKLAND.COM/NEIGHBORHOODS
Oakland History
OAKLANDHISTORY.COM

ATTRCTIONS
Chabot Space & Science Center
CHABOTSSPACE.ORG
Children's Fairyland
FAIRYLAND.ORG
Chinatown
OAKLANDCHINATOWNCHAMBER.ORG
Gondola Servizio
GONDOLASERVIZIO.COM
Jack London Cabin
JACKLONDSQUARE.COM
Oakland Zoo
OAKLANDZOO.ORG

EDUCATION/CLASSES
Alameda County
Office of Education
ACOE.ORG
The Crucible
THECRUCIBLE.ORG
Oakland Public Library
OAKLANDLIBRARY.ORG
Oakland Unified School District
OUSD.K1Z.CA.US

EVENTS
Annual Lighted Boat Parade
ENCINAL.ORG
Art & Soul Oakland
ARTANDSOULOAKLAND.COM
Chinese New Year Festival
OAKLANDCHINATOWNCHAMBER.ORG
Cinco de Mayo
OAKLANDCINCODEMAYO.COM
Fire Arts Festival
THECRUCIBLE.ORG

HISTORICAL SIGHTS & LANDMARKS
Dunsmuir Historic Estate
DUNSMUIR.ORG
Heinold's First and Last Change Salon
HEINOLDSFIRSTANDLASTCHANGE.COM
Mountain View Cemetery
MOUNTAINVIEWCEMETARY.ORG
Pardini Home Museum
PARDEEHOME.ORG
Peralta Hacienda Historical Park
PERALTAHACIENDA.ORG
Preservation Park
PRESERVATIONPARK.COM
USS Potomac
USSPOTOMIC.ORG

HOUSING
Apartments
APARTMENTS.COM
Apartment Hunterz
APARTMENTHUNTERZ.COM
Craigslist
SFBA.CRAIGSLIST.ORG
For Rent
FORRENT.COM
My New Place
MYNEWPLACE.COM
Sublet
SUBLET.COM

MUSEUMS
African American Museum & Library
OAKLANDLIBRARY.ORG/AAMLO
Museum of Children’s Art
MOCAPH.ORG
Oakland Museum of California
MUSEUMCA.ORG

NEWS
East Bay Express
EASTBAYEXPRESS.COM
The Oakland Tribune
INSIDEBAYAREA.COM
SF Weekly
SFWEELY.COM
SF Gate
SFgate.COM

PERFORMING ARTS
Fox Theater
OAKLANDFOX.COM
Grand Lake Theater
RRFILMS.COM
Oakland-Alameda County
Coliseum and Oracle Arena
COLISEUM.COM
Oakland East Bay Symphony
OESB.ORG
Oakland Opera Theater
OAKLANDOPERA.ORG
Paramount Theatre
PARAMOUNTTHEATRE.COM
Woodminster Amphitheater
WOODMINSTER.COM

SHOPPING
Farmers’ Markets
URBANVILLAGEONLINE.COM
Jack London Square
JACKLONDSQUARE.COM
Montclair Village
MONTCLAIRVILLAGE.COM
Oakland City Center
OAKLANDCITYCENTER.COM
Oakland Unwrapped
OAKLANDUNWRAPPED.ORG
Old Oakland
OLDOAKLAND.ORG
Piedmont Avenue
OAKLANDCVB.COM/MAP.CFM?BID=22
Rockridge
ROCKRIDGEDISTRICT.COM
Shop Oakland
SHOPOAKLAND.COM
Temescal
TEMESCALMERCHANTS.COM

SPORTS
Golden Gate Fields Racetrack
GOLDENGATEFIELDS.COM
Golden State Warriors
NBA.COM/WARRIORS
Oakland Athletics
OAKLANDATHLETICS.COM
Oakland Raiders
RAIDERS.COM

TRANSPORTATION
AC Transit
ACTRANSIT.ORG
Amtrak
AMTRAK.COM
Bay Area Rapid Transit
BART.GOV
East Bay Ferries
EASTBAYFERRY.COM
Greyhound
GREYHOUND.COM
Oakland International Airport
OAKLANDAIRPORT.COM

RECREATION
Bay Area Bikes
BAYAREABIKES.COM
Bay Area Ridge Trail
RIDGETRAIL.ORG
California Canoe & Kayak
CALKAYAK.COM
East Bay Regional Parks
EBPARKS.ORG
Jack London Aquatic Center
JLAC.ORG
Oakland Ice Center
OAKLANDICE.COM
Oakland Parks & Recreation
OAKLANDNET.COM/PARKS/
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<tr>
<th>NEIGHBORHOOD</th>
<th>APPROXIMATE LOCATION</th>
<th>HIGHLIGHTS</th>
<th>DISTANCE TO CAMPUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Downtown</td>
<td>Broadway &amp; 12th Street</td>
<td>12th Street BART station; numerous brand new apartments, downtown shopping and convenience, historic buildings, City Center</td>
<td>5 min by car</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temescal</td>
<td>Telegraph &amp; 42nd to 5th Street</td>
<td>Culturally diverse neighborhood with shops, restaurants and cafés; MacArthur BART station (shuttle to campus)</td>
<td>8 min by car</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lake Merritt</td>
<td>Grand Avenue &amp; Lakeshore Avenue</td>
<td>Walk, run and exercise within the park; many shops, restaurants, cafés, boutiques, historic Grand Lake Theater; Lake Merritt BART station</td>
<td>8 min by car</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adams Point</td>
<td>Grand Avenue &amp; Harrison Street</td>
<td>Quiet and friendly neighborhood with apartments among single family homes; Lakeside Park; Children’s Fairyland</td>
<td>8 min by car</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rockridge</td>
<td>College Avenue &amp; Claremont Avenue</td>
<td>Relaxed urban environment; quaint shops, restaurants and cafés; Rockridge BART station; gourmet marketplace Market Hall</td>
<td>12 min by car</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piedmont Ave</td>
<td>Piedmont Avenue &amp; 41st Street</td>
<td>Vintage and antiques shops, boutiques, Piedmont Theater and great restaurants</td>
<td>12 min by car</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laurel District</td>
<td>MacArthur Boulevard &amp; 38th Avenue</td>
<td>Residential district with several cafés and unique shops, Oakland hills, regional parks and Oakland Zoo</td>
<td>20 min by car</td>
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<tr>
<td>Montclair</td>
<td>Mountain Boulevard &amp; La Salle Avenue</td>
<td>Residential district at the base of the Oakland Hills, with narrow, picturesque streets, shops and cafés; residents can be frequently seen sipping coffee and people-watching</td>
<td>20 min by car</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fruitvale</td>
<td>Fruitvale Avenue &amp; International Boulevard</td>
<td>Fruitvale BART station; ethnic specialty stores, food shops, restaurants and taquerias; host to a number of festivals, including Dia de los Muertos and Cinco de Mayo celebrations</td>
<td>25 min by car</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEARBY CITY</th>
<th>HIGHLIGHTS</th>
<th>DISTANCE TO CAMPUS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alameda</td>
<td>Small island next to Oakland in the San Francisco Bay; wind and kite surfing; Victorian homes divided into small apartments</td>
<td>10–15 min by car</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emeryville</td>
<td>Home to Pixar Animation Studios, Peet’s and Jamba Juice; outdoor mall and movie theater</td>
<td>10–15 min by car</td>
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<tr>
<td>Piedmont</td>
<td>“Best Place to Live” in the US (Forbes, 2007); residential community, fine architecture, tree-lined streets</td>
<td>10–15 min by car</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berkeley</td>
<td>University of California, Berkeley; great places to study; lots of single family homes, apartments and condos</td>
<td>15–20 min by car</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Leandro</td>
<td>Adjacent to Oakland International Airport; suburb of Oakland</td>
<td>10–20 min by car</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orinda</td>
<td>Intimate, small town atmosphere; scenic landscape; Orinda Film Festival; California Shakespeare Theater</td>
<td>15–30 min by car</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walnut Creek</td>
<td>Vibrant downtown shopping and dining; numerous apartment options; Walnut Creek BART station</td>
<td>20–30 min by car</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasure Island</td>
<td>An artificial island between San Francisco and Oakland; home to many San Franciscans and college students</td>
<td>15–60 min by car</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Francisco</td>
<td>Unique and exciting place to live; cost of living generally higher</td>
<td>15–60 min by car</td>
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