

Where in California is Ria?

By Rianna Bathini

What do the following cities, San Diego, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Sacramento, St. Helena, and Redlands have in common? Did you know they are some of the oldest cities in California and I have visited each one of them among many other cities?

In this paper I'm going to share with you some information on those cities by answering the following questions: When were the cities discovered or built? Where are they located in California? Who were the historical people that discovered or established these cities? How did they help shape California? What were the most interesting things I learned from my research?

San Diego is a port city. It lies along the Pacific Ocean at San Diego Bay, bordering with Mexico. Diegueño, Luiseño, Cahuilla, and Cupeño peoples were among the inhabitants of the region when Europeans arrived in the 16th century. San Diego was discovered by a Spaniard named Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo in 1542. However, the story of San Diego began in 1769 when the Spanish built a chain of missions across California. San Diego was home to several indigenous people and later was administered by Spain, then Mexico, and eventually the United States. Then in 1821 Mexico became independent from Spain. However, in 1846 the USA annexed California. In 1867 Alonzo Horton purchases land establishing "New Town."

San Diego is the largest city in California after L.A. It is one of the best places to live in the world and is a melting pot of cultures and is noted to have ideal climate for most of the year.

San Diego is one of the leading agricultural counties in the country. Citrus, avocados, cut flowers, nursery plants, eggs, cucumbers, tomatoes, and livestock are the major products. The Port of San Diego serves as a berth for cruise ships, and a variety of cargo passes through its

docks, including lumber, automobiles, cement, sand, soda ash, newsprint, fertilizer, and food products. The city has an international airport, and its mass transit system includes trolley service to the Mexican border.

In San Diego I've been to the Zoo, Sea World, Balboa Park, Seaport Village, the beaches and on a harbor cruise. A few historical landmarks of the city are Presidio Park, Gaslamp Quarter and Cabrillo National Monument. Some fun facts about this city are, Ronald Reagan was the first person to drive across the Coronado Bridge when it opened in 1969, The Star of India, which resides in the port of San Diego is the world's oldest active sailing ship. The first drive-in restaurant in the United States was opened in San Diego by the man who later founded Jack in the Box in 1951.

San Francisco is a city port in Northern California, located on a peninsula between the Pacific Ocean and San Francisco Bay. The original people of what is now San Francisco County were called the Yelamu, which is a local tribe within Ramaytush Ohlone territory. It was founded in 1776 and the historical people that discovered and established this city were Lieutenant Moraga and Father Palou who led the colonists to the San Francisco Peninsula. On June 29, 1776, the settlers celebrated a mass at la Laguna de los Dolores. This celebration, held just five days before the Declaration of Independence, is regarded as the official founding of San Francisco.

San Francisco is the cultural, financial, and administrative capital of the western United States and one of the country's most cosmopolitan cities. It is also a center for commerce and manufacturing, home to technology companies and start-ups. Many companies, such as Levi Strauss & Co., producer of one of San Francisco's most famous products, blue jeans, have located their national headquarters in the Bay Area.

Tourism is a major source of income. The bridges, Coit Tower, the museums, the restaurants, Chinatown, North Beach, the Victorian mansions, crooked Lombard Street, and the dazzling Fairmont Hotel are major attractions; Fisherman's Wharf, however, is the most popular.

In my travels to San Francisco my family and I drove across the Golden Gate Bridge. It was very cold and foggy, but I could still see the bright red color of the bridge. I have also been to the crookedest street called Lombard street that had many twists and turns. From Fisherman's Wharf I took a ride on the old-fashioned Cable Car and it took me to Union Square.

Some Historical landmarks in San Francisco are the Golden Gate Bridge, the Conservatory of Flowers, and Mission Dolores. Here are some of the fun facts about this city, San Francisco has more dogs than children. According to Census and Animal Care and Control department data, San Francisco has around 10,000 more dogs than children. The bear used for the image on the California State flag lived in Golden Gate Park. The bear, named Monarch, was one of the last wild grizzly bears in California. Denim jeans were invented in San Francisco by Levi Strauss for the Gold Rush miners who needed tough, comfortable clothing.

Los Angeles is a sprawling Metropolis in southern California. It was founded in 1781. It was originally settled by indigenous tribes, including the Chumash and Tongva hunter gatherers. On September 4, 1781 a group of settlers consisting of individuals of Native American, African and European heritage established a farming community in the area naming it "El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora la Reina de los Angeles de Porciúncula" which gave the city its nomenclature, "Los Angeles" meaning "The city of Angels". Over time this community would grow under the flags of Spain, Mexico and eventually the United States.

This is the largest city in California. It established itself as an important center of commerce, agriculture, tourism, and industry. For more than a century it has been associated with a benign climate, extensive leisure, and outdoor recreation, as well as the special aura of celebrity associated with Hollywood. Los Angeles has many College and Pro sports teams that have many loyal fans and their teams have won many championships.

Los Angeles is a place of extraordinary ethnic and racial diversity, owing largely to immigration. The county features a wide range of financial and business services, high-technology manufacturing, and craft and fashion industries such as jewelry, clothing, toys, music, and, most famously, movies.

My travels to Los Angeles have covered a vast area ranging from beaches, amusement parks and museums. My favorite spot is the Santa Monica Pier. I also watched, “Disney on Ice,” at the famous Staples center in downtown LA. I flew out of the Los Angeles International airport when we took family trips internationally.

Some Historical landmarks of this city are, El Pueblo de Los Angeles, the Hollywood sign, and the Watts tower. Some of the fun facts of Los Angeles are, it is illegal to lick a toad in the City of Angels. The Hollywood sign originally said, “Hollywood land.” If Los Angeles were its own country, its economy would be bigger than Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, and Sweden’s.

Sacramento is the capital of California and is in the north-central part of the State. The land had been inhabited by the Nisenan and Maidu tribes. Sacramento was established in 1839 when John Sutter arrived on the shore near the confluence of the American and Sacramento River. Sutter’s Fort was established with the intent to develop an agricultural community, and the settlement began attracting businessmen looking for opportunities. When gold was discovered in

the nearby foothills at a sawmill in 1848, the proximity to the river transformed the Sutter's Fort community into a trading and mining epicenter of what was later called the 'Gold Rush'.

Sacramento is the seat for Legislature and the state's political center. It has been dubbed the most "hipster city" of California due to its evolving contemporary culture and diversity. It is also the fastest growing major city and a major educational hub, being home to California State University, University of California, Davis, and the UC Davis school of medicine.

I've visited Old town Sacramento. The area resembled more of a cowboy town in the old west. It had a collection of saloons, shops, museums, and stores, all with a facade from an older era. I have been to a School House Museum. It was a living replica of the traditional one room schoolhouse from early days of education. The teacher used a chalkboard to write on while the students used a slate. We also took an excursion train ride that was operated by the California State Railroad Museum. It was a vintage diesel locomotive.

Some Historical landmarks of Sacramento are, Sutter Fort State Historic Park, the Crest Theater, and the Tower Bridge. Some of the fun facts about this city are, Sacramento is home to the original Pony Express. This expansive mail delivery service originated in Sacramento and stretched all the way to Missouri.

St Helena is a city in Napa County, in California's Wine Country, part of the North Bay region of the San Francisco Bay Area. The St. Helena area was home to the Wappo people, a Yukian-speaking group who were the area's earliest inhabitants. It was established in 1854 when Dr. Edward Turner Bale received a Mexican land grant in Napa Valley of 17, 962 acres. The first men to settle within the present town limits of St. Helena were David Hudson and John York and engaged in farming and stock raising. In the year 1853 J. H. Still, of English nativity, purchased

a tract of land within the town limits and erected a building in which he put a small stock of merchandise. A road was laid out to his store shortly after and here the start of the town was made.

St. Helena, a charming town is home to the Spring Mountain wine growing district. Here is where many of St. Helena's best wineries offer a collection of wines and wine tasting experiences. St. Helena also offers sophisticated country living at its best, a vibrant arts scene, boutiques, highly acclaimed restaurants, luxury spas, and outdoor adventures. There are always exciting things to do in St. Helena. Gourmands enjoy award-winning cuisine and plenty of events featuring world class food or you can stay active with hiking, biking, tennis, golf, and swimming. For those interested in rest and relaxation, there are plenty of spas and wellness centers to rejuvenate the spirit. It's also home to friendly neighbors, safe streets, and well-ranked schools.

Whether you are interested in architecture, antiques, church history, or just want to see how some people lived 100 years ago, you are welcome to enjoy the peaceful environment of Elmshaven, just north of downtown St. Helena. Ellen G. White, one of the founders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, purchased the home in 1900 and lived here until her death in 1915. It is a must-see tourist attraction for everyone!

In St. Helena I went to a place called Elmshaven, where I toured Prophet Ellen White's house. In fact, many of the furnishings belonged to her, and still sit where she placed them. During her life, White wrote about 60 religious' books, including nine volumes she penned in the upper writing room at Elmshaven. On the drive to and from St. Helena we saw lots of vineyards. They were so big I thought they would never end.

Some Historical landmarks located in this city are, Elmshaven, Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park, and several wineries. Some fun facts are, if you're a fan of Robert Louis

Stevenson, a museum next to the city library has the largest collection of *Stevensonia* outside of his native Scotland and Freemark Abbey is the historic winery built in 1886 by Josephine Tychson, the first female winemaker in Napa Valley.

Redlands is in Southern California, approximately 60 miles northeast of Los Angeles. The area now occupied by Redlands was originally part of the territory of the Morongo and Aguas Calientes tribes of Cahuilla people. It was established in 1842 when the Lugo family bought the Rancho San Bernardino Mexican land grant, and this became the first fixed settlement in the area. The first settler on the site of the present Redlands is recorded to have erected a hut at the corner of what is now Cajon St. and Cypress Ave.

In 1851, several hundred Mormon pioneers purchased the entire Rancho San Bernardino and established a prosperous farming community watered by the many lakes and streams of the San Bernardino Mountains. The Mormon community left wholesale in 1857.

Redlands was known in 1900's as "The City of Millionaires" and later as "The City of Beautiful Homes," and, is a quintessential "big town" with a "small town" feel. For much of its history Redlands was the "Washington Navel Orange Growing Capital of the World" with the citrus industry as the focus of its economy. In the mid-late 20th Century, Redlands was home to various light manufacturing firms, and became a bedroom community for the military personnel and contractor employees of the aerospace industry that supported missions at Norton Air Force Base, as well as the Lockheed Propulsion Company plant in Mentone. Education levels in Redlands are quite high compared to the national average, and the public-school system is ace. Redlands is still regarded as the "Jewel of the Inland Empire."

I went on a field trip with my 4th grade class in Redlands and we saw a lot of big and old mansions. Redlands is known for its Orange groves and we usually see these while we drive to our Indian Church some Saturdays. I've been to its weekly farmers' market events. I've also visited the San Bernardino County Museum, in Redlands, a regional museum and saw special exhibits, the Exploration Station live animal discovery center, and, extensive research collections.

Some Historical landmarks of Redlands are, The Kimberly Crest House, The Lincoln Memorial Shrine, and the Redlands Bowl. Some fun facts of this city are Redlands was the first city in the state to require driver's licenses. Redlands High School is the oldest high school in California still operating in its original spot, and, Redlands was the first city in California to have the children in schools say the Pledge of Allegiance.

Whether you're talking about the miners and settlers in the 1800's, the early days of Hollywood or the tech industry, California has always been a place where people go to dream. From Hollywood dreams to Silicon Valley start-ups, from Napa Valley vineyards to miles of free beaches, California is one of the most beautiful and livable places in America. The Pacific Coast Highway connects San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego, and it's also one of the best ways to take-in California's diverse natural beauty as I have with my family. From northern California to the southern part of the state, the landscape transforms from high mountains and redwood forests to the foggy, temperate San Francisco Bay, to the desert climate of Los Angeles. California's history shows it attracted people from all over the world, making it the most diverse state in the country. In each city you'll find a wide range of people, languages, traditions, arts, and music. I have traveled and visited many other cities in California, and I am glad to be part of this state where I could live out my dreams.

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