

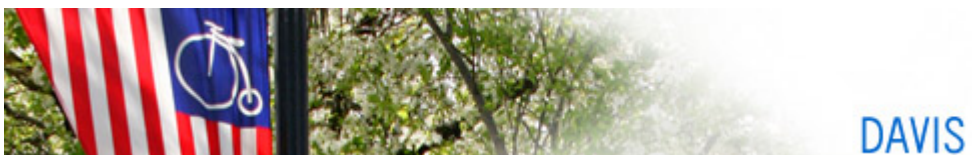
AMGEN
Tour of California
2010 HOST CITIES FACT SHEET



Nevada City – where everything is new, yet history remains – was founded in 1849 during the California Gold Rush. Once the third-largest town in the state, it has been home to eight U.S. Senators and, since 1961, host of the respected and grueling Nevada City Pro/Am Bicycle Classic, which celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2010. Nevada City offers an unparalleled racing backdrop of stately Victorian homes, historic brick commercial buildings, lush green forests, cascading snow-fed creeks and a community of knowledgeable, passionate cycling fans rarely found elsewhere in the United States. Past the historic Nevada Theatre, where Mark Twain and John L. Sullivan dazzled sell-out crowds, and through a charming business district listed on the National Register of Historic Places, before racing (through Grass Valley and Auburn) on to Sacramento, the challenging Nevada County opening stage of the 2010 Amgen Tour of California has the breathtaking scenery of the Tour de France, while offering spectators an opportunity to visit Nevada City, "Queen City of the Northern Mines," considered the best-preserved Gold Rush town in California.



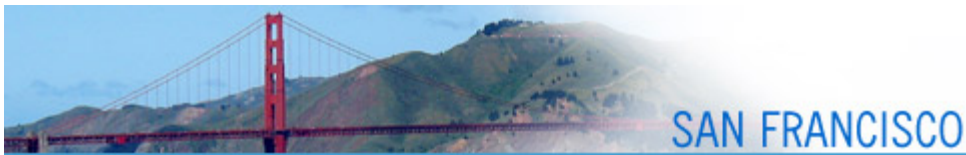
The capital of the Golden State is a unique mélange of old and new, with vestiges from the city's Gold Rush era juxtaposing the thriving metropolitan center that offers more than 150 restaurants, nightclubs and other engaging amenities. Cyclists will enjoy pedaling the 32 scenic miles of the American River bike trail. With downtown Sacramento serving as the hub of Northern California, the region is home to more than 200 wineries, gorgeous golf courses, more than 25 mind-stimulating museums and professional sports teams, including the NBA's Sacramento Kings, the WNBA's Sacramento Monarchs and the back-to-back Pacific Coast League champion Sacramento Rivercats. The city is within short driving distances from Lake Tahoe, Napa Valley and San Francisco.



With a well-deserved reputation as being "the most bicycle friendly community in the country," Davis seems to have been designed with the bike in mind. The town is rich with bike lanes, bicycle traffic signals and scenic trails, and is the new home of the U.S. Bicycling Hall of Fame. Davis is a convenient stop on Highway 80 and those traveling with their bikes can bring them aboard the Capitol Corridor Amtrak route, which stops at the downtown station. Although it boasts a world-class university that just celebrated its centennial anniversary, Davis relishes in its small town flavor. The tree-lined streets feature unique shops, exceptional restaurants, sidewalk cafes and art galleries, while bikes share the roads with red double-decker buses and electric cars. Festivals, theatres and the Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts at U.C. Davis provide a rich variety of entertainment and culture.



Known as one of the top cycling destinations in the world, Santa Rosa is home to three-time Amgen Tour of California winner Levi Leipheimer, and host to training camps for many elite professional cycling teams. Santa Rosa is a vibrant melting pot that provides a panoramic sampling of California's varied terrain: wine country, redwood forests, rivers, lakes and the Pacific Ocean. In the center of it all is a thriving downtown, dynamic with intriguing shops and restaurants that delight both epicureans and casual diners. Whether you're into safaris or spas, golf or gardens, or virtually anything else for the young, old and everyone in between, it can be had in abundance just an hour drive north of San Francisco, in beautiful Santa Rosa.



Voted as the "Best U.S. City" by the readers of *Condè Nast Traveler* magazine for 16 consecutive years, San Francisco is known for its scenic beauty, cultural attractions, diverse communities and world-class cuisine.

Measuring 49 square miles, this walk-able city includes landmarks like the Golden Gate Bridge, cable cars, Alcatraz and the largest Chinatown in the United States. A stroll of the city's streets can lead from Union Square to North Beach to Fisherman's Wharf, Japantown and the Mission District, with intriguing neighborhoods to explore at every turn. Views of the Pacific Ocean and San Francisco Bay are often laced with fog, creating a romantic mood in this most European of American cities.

San Francisco has a colorful past, growing from a small village to a major city nearly overnight as a result of the 1849 Gold Rush. The writers of the "beat" generation, the hippies of the Summer of Love in the late 1960's and the large gay/lesbian population have all contributed to making San Francisco the fascinating place it is today. The city is home to world-class theater, opera, symphony and ballet companies, and often boasts premieres of Broadway-bound plays and culture-changing performing arts. San Francisco is also one of America's greatest dining cities. The diverse cultural influences, proximity of the freshest ingredients and competitive creativity of the chefs result in unforgettable dining experiences throughout the city.



Just over an hour's drive south of San Francisco, Santa Cruz overlooks the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary on the Central Coast. Offering the quintessential California experience, Santa Cruz is the perfect destination for outdoor enthusiasts who will enjoy 29 miles of naturally beautiful coastline, nearby redwood forests and a mild year-round climate with approximately 300 days of sunshine. Hailed by Lance Armstrong as one of his favorite places to ride and designated a "Bicycle-Friendly Community" by the League of American Bicyclists, cyclists have their choice of coastal paths for road and off-road family-friendly rides, as well as challenging single-track and mountainous roads for the hardcore riders. Stroll past exceptional beaches on the century-old Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, visit California's oldest state park, Big Basin Redwoods State Park, Mission Santa Cruz, U.C. Santa Cruz, California's first surfing museum and award-winning wineries all in the city of Santa Cruz.



SAN JOSE

California's oldest city founded in 1777, San Jose, with its population of more than one million, is the tenth largest city in the U.S., the largest city in Northern California and stands as the Capitol of Silicon Valley, the world's leading center of innovation. The city is committed to remaining a top-ranked place to work, live, learn and play.

Historically, San Jose has been vital to the sport of cycling ever since one of the world's first pedal bicycles was engineered there; its first local bicycle club was formed back in 1884. Thirty-eight thousand bike commuters utilize more than 150 miles of on-street bikeways, which led the city to garnering a National Bicycle Friendly Community Award from the League of American Bicyclists. Home to one of only 19 velodromes in the United States, San Jose is an epicenter of cycling in the San Francisco Bay Area and thus part of the largest cycling community in North America.

Inspired by, and produced in anticipation of, the Amgen Tour of California, the annual San Jose Cycling Classic continues the city's long cycling legacy with a multi-pronged event open to all. Encompassing professional, amateur and community cycling activities, the San Jose Cycling Classic will be held May 15-20 throughout San Jose. The multi-pronged event will include the first-ever Mattson Technology San Jose ViaVelo: Urban Free-wheelin' Fun!, The SunPower King of the Mountain Time Trial Ride, the Webcor Builders Executive Challenge, cycling instruction and a cycling film night. The week of amateur and professional cycling events is expected to attract more than 5,000 cycling athletes, 20,000 spectators, participants and cycling-related exhibitors. Funds raised from the San Jose Cycling Classic events will support health, fitness and cycling. In addition, the San Jose Cycling Classic provides a platform to raise awareness about green mobility and the San Jose Green Vision.



MODESTO

Perfectly placed in the center of California, Modesto is a great launching point to all of California's gems. Get a taste of Modesto when driving down one of the many tree-lined streets, shop the local Farmer's Markets, stop off at a Modesto Nuts game, or enjoy a concert in the park. The more than 70 recreation areas, appealing climate and local entertainment complement many celebrations and activities that take place year-round. Considered the cultural hub of the Central Valley, Modesto has something for everyone, including family-friendly attractions, festivals, museums and agriculture tours and tastings. With four-star restaurants and the full spectrum of arts and entertainment, everyone is invited to enjoy all that Modesto has to offer.

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VISALIA

Centrally located in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley, Visalia's picturesque communities and stunning landscapes against the backdrop of the Sierra Nevada Mountains make it a great place to live, work, play...and vacation! Visalia's rich culture, outdoor adventures, family-friendly environment and unusual agricultural experiences make it an ideal city to visit, if only for a day, to enjoy the Amgen Tour of California or the Sequoia National Park, Sequoia National Forest and many other activities as part of a weekend getaway or an extended stay.

Visalia and the surrounding Sequoia area offer amazing rides for everyone from the novice to the professional cyclist. The proof is in the details. Visalia has established itself as the city with the big start not once, but twice as a stage start for the Amgen Tour of California. The city also has played host to the Southern Sierra Cycling Classic for more than 20 years, offering cyclists the best in routes, ambience, accommodations and hospitality.

Experience the ride that *Men's Journal* (May 29, 2009) cited as one of Jonathan Vaughter's favorite rides: the climb from Visalia through the fragrant orange groves into the Sequoia National Park and up to the world's largest living thing, the General Sherman Tree. "You'll be pushed to the limit riding from sea level to almost 7,000 feet - the climbs are steady and long...but once you see the Sequoias, the burn quietly subsides." There are many other less-challenging, but equally as inviting rides in this locale where the ideal year-round climate draws visitors and sports enthusiasts of all kinds.

Make Visalia the start of your next big adventure. Come for the race, stay for the fun, and make memories to last a lifetime.



BAKERSFIELD

The Southern Gateway to the Central Valley, Bakersfield is the 11th largest city in California and one of the fastest growing regions in the nation. Steeped in music history, the city is the birthplace of the country music genre known worldwide as the Bakersfield Sound. Bakersfield is the seat of Kern County, which generates 76 percent of the state's oil supply and ranks third among all counties in the United States in agriculture-related production.

Bakersfield also boasts an impressive collection of locally-owned, authentic restaurants, including more Basque eateries than any other city in the nation. A short drive from the city puts visitors in the Southern Sierra Nevada Mountains where one can experience top-rated whitewater rafting, fly-fishing and hiking.

As the city grows, so does its commitment to cycling. More than 100 miles of bike paths and lanes and the 30-mile Kern River Bike Path traverse the wide range of topography throughout Bakersfield. A quick drive from many California cities, Bakersfield is positioned to be the most centrally located tour stop – the perfect day trip for cycling fans across the state.

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PALMDALE

Nestled in the picturesque and expansive Antelope Valley, the city of Palmdale is located just 60 miles north of Los Angeles. Over the past decade, it has emerged as one of the fastest developing communities in California while maintaining its wholesome, small-town charm.

Palmdale is the birthplace of stealth technology and home to some of the world's largest aerospace companies like Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company, Northrop Grumman, the Boeing Company and NASA.

With a population of more than 151,000, Palmdale offers excellent retail shopping and restaurants, outstanding parks, pools, a water park, an outdoor amphitheatre, skate parks, soccer and softball complexes and a roster of annual events and programs that includes the Palmdale Jazz and Wine Festival, the Starlight Concert Series and Thursday Night on the Square.

Fresh clean air, beautiful blue skies, breathtaking sunsets and more than 300 days of sunshine a year all combine to make Palmdale the perfect backdrop to healthy living.



BIG BEAR LAKE

Nestled high in the San Bernardino Mountains, at 7,000 feet elevation, lays Southern California's only four-season mountain resort community, Big Bear Lake. An outdoor recreation paradise, Big Bear is surrounded by more than a million acres of pristine national forest. Road and mountain bikers abound on Big Bear's scenic roads and trails. A crystal blue alpine lake with 22 miles of shoreline supports water sports enthusiasts of all types. Two unique winter resorts, Bear Mountain and Snow Summit, are havens for skiers and snowboarders from throughout the southwest.

Visitors flock to Big Bear throughout the year. While the many recreational opportunities often bring visitors for the first time, the variety of charming lodges, unique shops, fine dining and friendly locals bring them back again and again. In fact, Big Bear is a favorite place among Southern California residents to purchase a vacation home.

Stop by the Visitor's Center when you visit Big Bear to watch the Big Bear Climb stage of the Amgen Tour of California. We look forward to showing you how to make the most of your visit to Big Bear Lake!



LOS ANGELES

The "Entertainment Capital of the World," Los Angeles is the largest city in the state of California and the second largest in the United States. As one of the most popular destinations in the country, drawing millions of tourists every year, Los Angeles offers a variety of entertainment, such as sporting events, theatre offerings, museums, theme parks, outdoor attractions, shopping, fine dining and much more. Whether searching for celebrities in Hollywood, finding the traditional California surfing lifestyle at the beach, or visiting the world of the rich and famous in Beverly Hills, there is something for everyone.

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THOUSAND OAKS
WESTLAKE VILLAGE
AGOURA HILLS

The City of Thousand Oaks, located in beautiful Ventura County, 12 miles inland from the Pacific Ocean, is nestled against the Santa Monica Mountains and surrounded by nearly 15,000 acres of spectacular publicly owned open space. This open space contains more than 75 miles of trails for all types of recreational pursuits. The city also boasts world-class 1,800 and 300 seat theatres at the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza. Opened in 1994, this jewel of cultural arts has become a beacon for our region, featuring top-notch entertainment, musicals, concerts, children's shows, ballets and much more. Thousand Oaks remains focused on its master-planned roots as a family-oriented community of 128,000. Home to excellent schools, outstanding parks, a myriad of shopping opportunities and a thriving business sector, Thousand Oaks proudly stakes its claim as one of the most vibrant communities in Southern California.

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