

CALISTOGA™

Hot Springs of the West

A Guide to Calistoga

The History of Calistoga in a Nutshell:

The Napa Valley was once the home of a significant population of Indigenous People, those in the Calistoga area being called the Wappo during the Spanish colonial era of the late 1700's. In the Spanish era, the Napa Valley was controlled by the Mission San Francisco de Solano located in the now City of Sonoma. Following Mexican Independence, mission properties were secularized and disposed of by the Mexican government with much of the Napa Valley being partitioned into ranchos in the 1830's and 1840's. The first American settlers began arriving in the 1840's, with several taking up lands in the Calistoga area. Samuel Brannan was the leader of a settlement expedition on the ship *Brooklyn* landing in Yerba Buena (San Francisco) in 1846. He published San Francisco's first English language newspaper, the *California Star*. Following the discovery of gold in Sacramento, Brannan pursued many business ventures which made him California's first millionaire and became a leader in San Francisco's *Committee of Vigilance*. Fascinated by Calistoga's natural hot springs, Brannan purchased more than 2,000 acres with the intent to develop a spa reminiscent of Saratoga in New York. His Hot Springs Resort surrounding Mt Lincoln with the Spa/Hotel located at what is now Indian Springs Resort, opened to California's rich and famous in 1862. Between the Springs Grounds and the County Road (Foothill Blvd) commercial and residential areas were laid out beginning in the 1860's. In 1868 the Railroad was completed to Calistoga which became not only a destination, but the transportation hub for the upper valley and a gateway to Lake and Sonoma Counties. A large scale diorama of this early Calistoga can be seen in the Sharpsteen Museum. Calistoga incorporated as a town in 1885, and as a "City of the Sixth Class" in 1888. Calistoga's economy was based on mining (silver and mercury) agriculture (grapes, prunes and walnuts) and tourism (Robert Louis Stevenson spent his honeymoon here, spending part of the time living in the abandoned bunkhouse of the Silverado mine, the reminisces of which became *Silverado Squatters*.). The population remained near 2,000 until after WWII. Current population (Census 2000) is 5,190.

Today, Calistoga retains its charm of yesteryear with a walkable downtown much as it was when spa visitors arrived by train. In 2001, Calistoga was selected by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as one of twelve Distinctive Destinations.

Location, Location, Location

Calistoga is located 365 feet above sea level at Longitude 106.5, Latitude 37 on the map. At the top of the Napa Valley and only 75 miles North of San Francisco, Calistoga is easily reached from anywhere in the greater Bay Area and is an easy drive from the Capitol (Sacramento) area. Calistoga may be reached from Interstate 80 by exiting on Highway 12 to Napa and following California State Highways 128 and 29 via the Napa Valley. This route takes you through picturesque wine country with miles of premium vineyards that produce wine recognized by connoisseurs as some of the finest in the world. From San Francisco, you may also follow Highway 101 North through Santa Rosa then take Mark West Springs Road East (Then Porter Creek Road and Petrified Forest Road - well marked by road signs) over the Mayacamus Mountains to Calistoga.



A Walkable downtown where you can visit unique stores and galleries or stop after a fine dinner for a *gelato* to eat as you walk over the bridge.

Form of Government

Calistoga is a General Law City with an elected Mayor and four City Council members. Day to day operations are overseen and performed by a City Manager and professional City Staff. A overview of City functions can be viewed on its web site at www.ci.calistoga.ca.us

City Finances

The City adopts two-year budgets for planning purposes. General Fund appropriations for FY 2001/2002 total \$4,789,728. City revenue projections include nearly \$3million in Sales tax and Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) generated by the visitor industry.

Area

Calistoga covers 2.5 sq. miles or 1620 acres.

Climate

Average High	Summer	95	Average Low	Summer	52
	Winter	69		Winter	37
Average Annual Rainfall	34 inches	- almost entirely between November and May.			

Population/Census 2000 Data

Total Population	5,190
Male	2,590
Female	2,600
Median Age	38.1
under 18 years	1,208
65 years or older	1,015
White	3,048
Hispanic/Latino	1,978
Native American	51
Housing Units	2,249
Owner occupied	1,220
Rented	822
Seasonal/Vacant	207

Business enterprise

The primary business of Calistoga is the visitor industry centered on our hot spring spas; wine country ambiance and world renowned food and wine. The primary manufacturing operation is mineral water bottling (*Calistoga Mineral Water* and *Crystal Geyser*). Though located only a few miles from Santa Rosa and its "Big Box" retailing, the City retains a full complement of resident serving businesses, including an auto dealership, drug store, hardware store, supermarket, bookstores, etc.

Financial Facilities

Local banking facilities include branches of **Bank of America**; **Bank of the West** and **WestAmerica Bank**, all with ATM services. See the Chamber web site www.calistogachamber.org

Real-estate Offices

There are several fine real-estate offices which can deal with your property needs. Please see the Chamber web site www.calistogachamber.org

Newspapers

Calistoga is served by the *Weekly Calistogan* (a weekly), *The Napa Register* (daily) as well as Santa Rosa's *Press Democrat* (daily) and the *San Francisco Chronicle* (daily) all of which are available for home delivery.

Transportation

Calistoga is served by **Greyhound Bus Lines** and **Napa Valley Transit** (with the ferry between San Francisco & Vallejo connecting to NVT). In addition, tour companies and limousine services offer Calistoga destinations.

Education

The Calistoga Unified School District serves the Greater Calistoga area including parts of Sonoma County. The District is K thru 12 and consists of a grade school, a middle school (housed on the High School campus) a high school and a continuation school. <http://www.calistoga.k12.ca.us/>

Library

The Calistoga Public Library is located at 1108 Myrtle St and is open 5 days a week (Mon-Thurs & Sat). Services include multi station Internet access and on-line access to all Napa County Library materials. The library has reading and lecture programs and is actively supported by *Friends of the Library*.

Museum

Calistoga's **Sharpsteen Museum** is dedicated to the history of the American emigration to the upper Napa Valley. It originated from the donation and design of Ben Sharpsteen, a Walt Disney Studio animator and producer whose grandparents were early settlers to the area. The Museum incorporates one of the cottages from Sam Brannan's resort. Exhibits include substantial dioramas depicting life in Calistoga in the 1800's, as well as material from the early residents including Donner Party survivors. The Museum is operated by the *Sharpsteen Museum Association* whose volunteers provide docent tour daily from 11am-4pm.

Churches

Calistoga's Churches include: **Baptist**, 1310 Berry; **Catholic**, 901 Washington St; **Eastern Orthodox**, 1421 Washington St; **Episcopal**, 1504 Myrtle St; **Jehovah's Witness**, 1321 Cedar St; **Non-Denominational**, meeting at 1307 Washington St; **Presbyterian**, 3rd and Washington St; **Russian Orthodox**, 1421 Cedar St; **Seventh-Day Adventist**, 2102 Grant St.

Parks

Pioneer Park and its associated playground is located at Cedar St and Elm. The Napa County Fairgrounds is located at 1435 N Oak St and the Mt St Helena Golf course (9 holes) is located on the Fairgrounds with entrance from Grant St.

International Service Organizations

Calistoga's service organizations include **Lion's Club**; **Rotary International** and **Soroptimist International**. Location and time of weekly meetings can be obtained from the Chamber of Commerce.

Medical Services

Emergency Services Emergency services are provided by calling 911. Emergency medical response is provided by Calistoga Fire Department. Ambulance service is provided by a private service under contract with the county with up-valley staffing on a 24hr basis.

Hospitals There are two full service hospitals in the Napa Valley one in Deer Park, the second in Napa, and two others plus numerous clinics available in Santa Rosa (Sonoma County)

The closest hospital to Calistoga is **St Helena Hospital**, 650 Sanitarium Rd, Deer Park, CA 707 963-3611. To reach the hospital drive South towards St Helena on Highway29/128 turning left on Deer Park Road at the north edge of St Helena. Cross Silverado Trail and turn left on Sanitarium Rd proceeding about 1/2 mile to hospital on your right. (the route is well signed).

Physicians The Vermeil House Medical Offices

913 Washington St
707 942 6233

Optometrist Jean Neeley, OD

1220 Washington St
707 942 4674

Dentists LeRoy Bowser, DDS

1619 Washington St
707 942 4621