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# I. GENERAL

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## Area, Geography and Climate

### California

Northern California consists of 258,123 km<sup>2</sup> (99,700 sq. mi.). The nine counties encircling the San Francisco Bay form this area's population centre. Forming one of the world's outstanding harbours, the Bay covers 1,164 km<sup>2</sup> (450 sq. mi.) and ranges from 4.8 km (3 mi.) to 19.3 km (12 mi.) in width, and up to 77 km (48 mi.) in length.

The 10 counties which comprise southern California cover 152,751 km<sup>2</sup> (59,000 sq. mi.). Los Angeles, Long Beach and San Diego have large harbours which play major roles in California's international trade.

The 112,088 km<sup>2</sup> (43,294 sq. mi.) Central Valley in northern California is the state's most predominant geographic feature. Varying in width from 32 to 97 km (20 to 60 mi.) and extending for more than 644 km (400 mi.), this agriculture-rich area has made California the number-one farm state for three decades. Another interesting geographic fact is that California has the highest and lowest points, within only 138 km (85 mi.) of each other, in the conterminous 48 states: Mt. Whitney, 5,418 m (14,494 ft.) high and Death Valley, 86 m (282 ft.) below sea level.

In general, California has one of the most pleasant and livable climates in the world. Los Angeles has a slight edge over the San Francisco Bay area in the number of sunny days. In January, the average temperature for Los Angeles is 13°C (56°F) compared to San Francisco averaging 10°C (50°F). During the summer, Los Angeles has an average of 23°C (78°F) within 32 km (20 mi.) north, east or south of the city.

The light rainy season for northern California begins in October and ends in April, while southern California has a wet season characterized by occasional light rains lasting from November through March.

### Arizona

Arizona is the sixth largest state in the United States with a land area of 295,000 km<sup>2</sup> (113,909 sq. mi.). It is