

Orange County, NY

Established 1683
Population 341,367 (2000 census)

Orange County is a county located at the northern reaches of the New York metropolitan area, it sits in the state's scenic Mid-Hudson Region of the Hudson Valley. Its name is in honor of William III of Orange, who was greatly esteemed by the original settlers of the region.

Orange County was one of the first twelve counties established by the Province of New York in 1683. Its boundaries at that time included present-day Rockland County, which split from Orange County in 1798. The county seat is Goshen.

The center of population of New York is located in Orange County, in Middletown. It is the focus of shoppers throughout the county.

Well-known places:

- The United States Military Academy at West Point
- Brotherhood Winery, America's oldest winery, in Washingtonville
- The birthplace of William H. Seward in Florida
- Orange County Choppers, the popular custom motorcycle shop featured on the Discovery Channel television series *American Chopper* (it is commonly mistaken that the shop is based in the more well-known Orange County, California)
- Monroe, the home and birthplace of Velveeta Cheese
- The Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame in Goshen
- The *Times Herald-Record* newspaper, the first cold press offset daily in the country, in Middletown
- Galleria at Crystal Run, in Middletown
- The Orange County Fair in Middletown
- Bear Mountain - Harriman State Park
- Woodbury Common Premium Outlets

The county is served by Stewart International Airport, located two miles west of Newburgh, New York. Access throughout the county is extremely convenient to the major highways of I-84 traveling east and west, I -- 87 (New York Thruway) going North and South, and Route 17 traversing in a Northwest to Southeast direction. New York City is approximately 1 1/2 hours from the most furthest point.

Despite its rural roots, Orange County is considered to be among the fastest growing suburb of the New York City Metropolitan Area. Real estate pricing has doubled in the past five years due to the large influx of the Metro populus.