



nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



zoonabar

Favorite Kid-Friendly Activities in Los Angeles

Los Angeles, 7 Days

Table of contents:

Guide Description 2

Itinerary Overview 3

Daily Itineraries 5

Los Angeles Snapshot 18

Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: Written by Kristi Marcelle and Cagney Jarvis for Ciao Bambino.

With temperate weather and year-round activities, Los Angeles is a perfect vacation destination. Families should know that the LA area is sprawling and the best way to approach sightseeing is to divide and conquer. Rent a car, figure out what you want to do, and plan accordingly. Do you want beach, museums, or nature?

The beauty of Los Angeles is that there are many diverse and interesting experiences and attractions within driving distance for a day trip. Note, traffic and parking are notoriously horrible—plan for just 1-2 activities per day. Disneyland, of course, is a main kid-friendly attraction, but is located in Orange County and subsequently excluded from list.

Note: Be sure to read the Day Notes for the kid-friendly details on recommended attractions.

Ciao Bambino provides tips and advice around all things related to traveling with kids and is a guide to the best kid friendly hotels.

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Los Angeles

DAY NOTE: Santa Monica Pier and Venice Beach

The Santa Monica Pier is an iconic Los Angeles landmark – it truly appeals to all ages and is a fun outing for the family. Depending on the kids' ages you can stroll the pier, take a ride on the carousel or the world's only solar-powered Ferris wheel, visit the aquarium or play games in the arcade. After you have exhausted your feet or your wallet, grab a bite to eat at one of the pier restaurants and enjoy the view.

If you still have energy, rent a bike and follow the beach trail south to Venice Beach. This is a gorgeous, quintessential California experience; there is a playground on the beach for the little ones and people watching for everyone else.



Santa Monica Pier
Rides & Shopping

Day 2 - Los Angeles

DAY NOTE: La Brea Tarpits

The centrally located La Brea Tar Pits are a popular field trip for school children and families. The museum is home to over 3 million fossils from the last Ice Age; think saber-toothed cats, woolly mammoths and giant ground sloths. Peruse the fossils indoors then walk outside to the tar pits and you may find paleontologists at work excavating Pit 91 (only in the summer). The outdoor grounds are perfect for a picnic or drive to the landmark Los Angeles Farmers Market and The Grove LA for a variety of good ethnic and American fast food or sit-down options.



La Brea Tar Pits
Learn about seismic activities and ice age fossils



Farmers Market and The Grove

Day 3 - Los Angeles

DAY NOTE: Griffith Park and Hollywood

Griffith Park is LA's Central Park. It's an oasis for city residents and many visit simply to hike and take in nature. Highlights of the park include the recently renovated Griffith Park Observatory, the

Los Angeles Zoo and the very popular Travel Town which is every train-fascinated child's dream. The park is large and spread out so it's a good idea to plan your trip ahead of time.

On your way to or from Griffith Park you may want make a detour and visit the renowned Hollywood Walk of Fame and Mann's (formerly Grauman's) Chinese Theater, home to many movie premieres. Dressed up characters like Batman and Spiderman are usually strolling the area, available for photo opportunities. The Hollywood area takes on an adult feel at night so it's best to visit with children during the day.

Across the street from the Chinese Theater, there is the Disney-owned El Capitan Theater which is a beautiful old theater that always features the latest Disney movie – usually with a live show at the beginning. When it's not showing the latest first-run movies, they show the classics – a little bit of Disney in Hollywood.



Griffith Park
Tons of Activities



Los Angeles Zoo
Walk on the Wild Side



Travel Town Museum
Training wheels



Hollywood Walk of Fame
Name & Fame Revisited



Grauman's Chinese Theatre
Hollywood's Premier Movie House

Day 4 - Los Angeles

DAY NOTE: Exposition Park

Exposition Park near downtown Los Angeles is surrounded by the USC campus and is home to the Natural History Museum, the California Science Center (free admission) and IMAX theatre and the Rose Garden - a beautiful spot to picnic and burn off some energy. The Discovery Center in the Natural History museum is a good first stop with younger children who will have fun digging for dinosaur bones and touching everything, including on special days, some freaky looking insects and reptiles.



Exposition Park
Historical Park

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife



Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

Adventure Calls



IMAX California Science Center

Stimulate your curiosity



California Science Center

Science Class was Never this Fun

Day 5 - Los Angeles

DAY NOTE: Huntington Gardens

The Huntington Gardens are located in Pasadena, approximately 30 minutes from downtown LA. There are over 100 acres open to the public with many different gardens—including the kid-appelling Children's, Japanese, Chinese, Jungle and Lily Ponds gardens. Lots of open space means kids can run and explore at their pace. While there is no picnicking on the grounds, The Tea Room and Café serve family-friendly food options. Note: the free admission day here (the first Thursday of the month) is extremely popular and may not be your best bet for a relaxing visit.



Huntington Library, Art Collections & Botanical Gardens

Priceless Sight-Seeing

Day 1 - Los Angeles



QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: Santa Monica Pier and Venice Beach

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If you still have energy, rent a bike and follow the beach trail south to Venice Beach. This is a gorgeous, quintessential California experience; there is a playground on the beach for the little ones and people watching for everyone else.

contact:

tel: +1 310 458 8900

fax: +1 310 656 1698

<http://www.santamoniciapier.org/>

location:

200 Santa Monica Pier
Santa Monica CA 90401

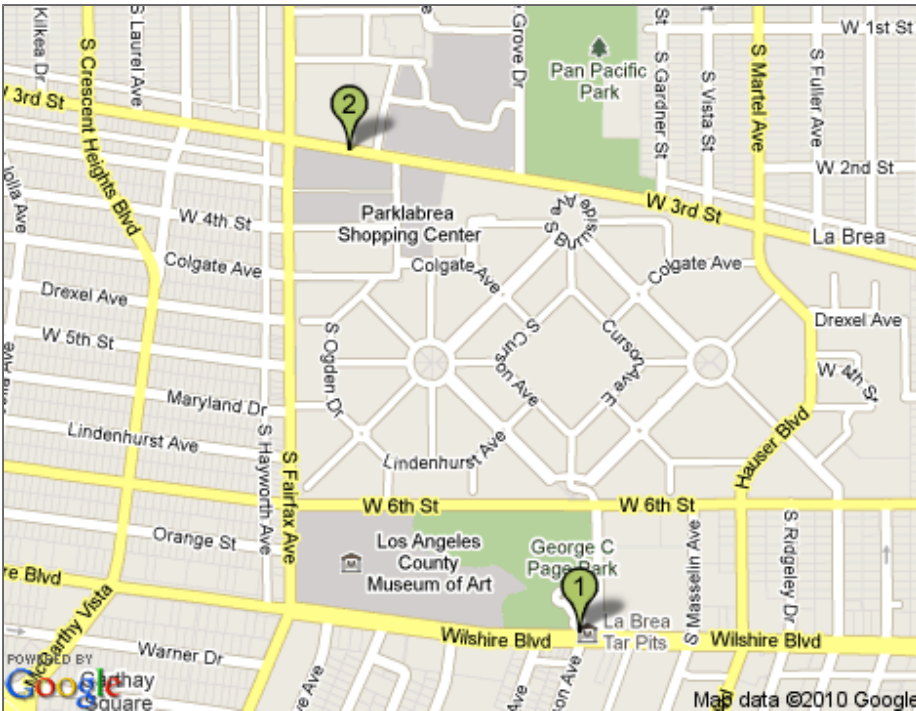
1 Santa Monica Pier

DESCRIPTION: Piers have been a tradition in Southern California since the area's 19th-century seaside resort days. Many have long since disappeared (like Pacific Ocean Park, an entire amusement park perched on offshore pilings), and others have been shortened by battering storms and are now mere shadows (or stumps) of their former selves, but you can still experience those halcyon days of yesteryear at world-famous Santa Monica Pier. Built in 1908 for passenger and cargo ships, the Santa Monica Pier does a pretty good job of recapturing the glory days of Southern California. The wooden wharf is now home to seafood restaurants and snack shacks, a touristy Mexican cantina, a gaily colored turn-of-the-20th-century indoor wooden **carousel** (which Paul Newman operated in *The Sting*), and an **aquarium** filled with sharks, rays, octopus, eels, and other local sea life. Summer evening concerts, which are free and range from big band to Miami-style Latin, draw crowds, as does the



small amusement area perched halfway down. Its name, **Pacific Park** (tel. **310/260-8744**; www.pacpark.com), hearkens back to the granddaddy pier amusement park in California, Pacific Ocean Park; this updated version has a **solar-powered Ferris wheel**, a mild-mannered **roller coaster**, and 10 other rides, plus a high-tech **arcade** shootout. But anglers still head to the end to fish, and nostalgia buffs to view the photographic display of the pier's history. This is the last of the great pleasure piers, offering rides, romance, and perfect panoramic views of the bay and mountains. The pier is about a mile up Ocean Front Walk from Venice; it's a great round-trip stroll. Parking is available for \$6 to \$8 on both the pier deck and the beachfront nearby. Limited short-term parking is also available. For information on twilight concerts (generally held Thurs btw. mid-June and the end of Aug), call tel. **310/458-8900** or visit www.santamonicapier.org.
© Frommer's

Day 2 - Los Angeles



QUICK NOTE

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contact:

tel: +1 323 934 7243

(Museum)

fax: +1 323 933 7546

(Museum Store)

<http://www.tarpits.org/education/guide/index.html>

location:

5801 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles CA 90036

hours:

Mon-Fri 9:30am-5pm Sat-Sun
10am-5pm

1 La Brea Tar Pits

DESCRIPTION: Once upon a time, Rancho La Brea was a Mexican land grant. It is now a park, and the tar pits are the world's richest deposit of Ice Age fossils. More than 40,000 years ago mammoths, saber-toothed cats and dire wolves freely roamed the Los Angeles basin and became entrapped in the natural asphalt of the tar pits. During the summer months, visitors can observe the ongoing excavation from Pit 91. A visit to the on-site Page Museum is a must. © wcities.com



citysearch

contact:

tel: 888/315-8883
www.thegrovela.com

location:

6333 W. 3rd St
Hollywood CA 90036

hours:

Mon-Thurs 10am-9pm;
Fri-Sat 10am-10pm; Sun
11am-8pm

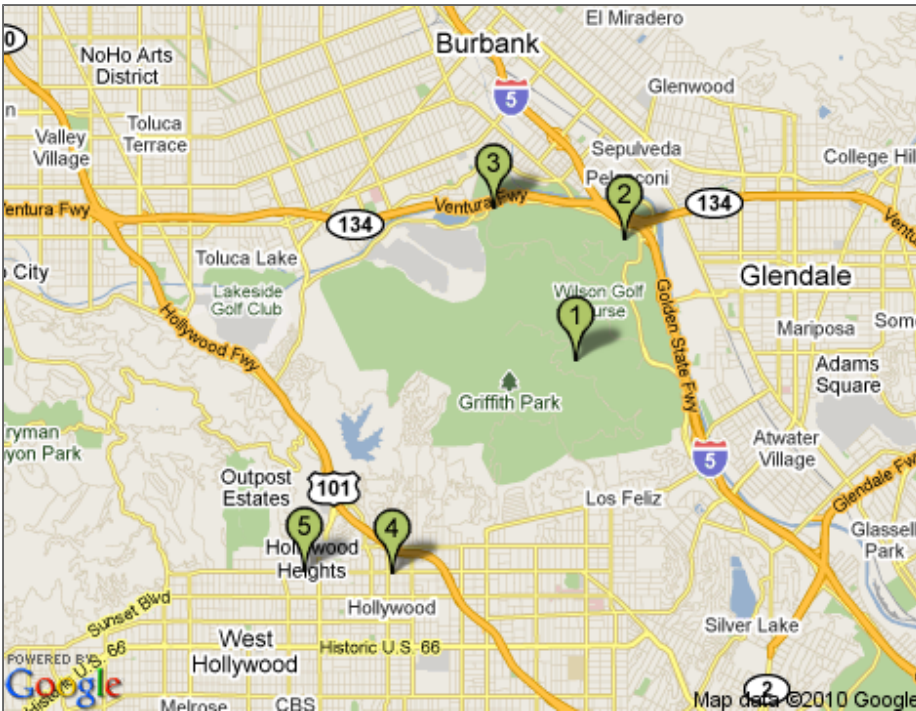
2 Farmers Market and The Grove

DESCRIPTION: Now entering its 8th decade, the original market was little more than an empty lot with wooden stands set up by farmers during the Depression so they could sell directly to city dwellers. Eventually, permanent buildings grew up, including the trademark shingled 10-story clock tower. Today the place has evolved into a sprawling marketplace with a carnival atmosphere, a kind of "turf" version of San Francisco's Fisherman's Wharf. About 70 restaurants, shops, and grocers cater to a mix of workers from the CBS Television City complex, locals, and tourists brought here by the busload. Retailers sell greeting cards, kitchen implements, candles, and souvenirs, but everyone comes for the food stands, which offer oysters, hot doughnuts, Cajun gumbo, fresh-squeezed orange juice, corned beef sandwiches, fresh-pressed peanut butter, and all kinds of international fast foods. You can still buy produce here -- it's no longer a farm-fresh bargain, but the selection's better than at the grocery store. Don't miss **Kokomo** (tel. **323/933-0773**), a "gourmet" outdoor coffee shop that has become a power breakfast spot for showbiz types. Red turkey hash and sweet-potato fries are the dishes that keep them coming back. The seafood gumbo and gumbo ya ya at the **Gumbo Pot** (tel. **323/933-0358**) are also very popular. At the eastern end of the Farmers Market is the **Grove**, a massive 575,000-square-foot Vegas-style retail complex composed of various architectural styles ranging from Art Deco to Italian Renaissance. Miniature streets link the Grove to the Market via a double-deck electric trolley. Granted, it's all a bit Disney-gaudy, but the locals love it. Where else can you power-shop until noon, check all your bags at a drop-off station, get a spa treatment at **Amadeus Aveda Spa** (tel. **323/297-0311**; www.amadeusspa.com), see a movie at the 14-screen **Grove Theatre** (tel. **323/692-0829**; www.thegrovela.com), have an early dinner at **Maggiano's Little Italy** (tel. **323/965-9665**; www.maggianos.com), and be home by 7pm? © Frommer's



Photo courtesy of Farmers Market and The Grove

Day 3 - Los Angeles



QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: Griffith Park and Hollywood

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contact:

tel: 323/913-4688

<http://www.laparks.org/dos/parks/griffithPK/>

location:

4730 Crystal Springs Drive
Hollywood CA 90028

1 Griffith Park

DESCRIPTION: Mining tycoon Col. Griffith J. Griffith donated these 4,107 acres to the city in 1896 as a Christmas gift. Today Griffith Park is the largest urban park in America. There's a lot to do here, including 53 miles of hiking trails (the prettiest is the Fern Dell trail near the Western Ave. entrance, a shady hideaway cooled by waterfalls and ferns), horseback riding, golfing, swimming, biking, and picnicking. For a general overview of the park, drive the mountainous loop road that winds from the top of Western Avenue, past Griffith Observatory, and down to Vermont Avenue. For a more extensive foray, turn north at the loop road's midsection,



Photo courtesy of Griffith Park

onto Mount Hollywood Drive. To reach the golf courses, the **Museum of the American West**, or **Los Angeles Zoo**, take Los Feliz Boulevard to Riverside Drive, which runs along the park's western edge. Near the zoo, in a particularly dusty corner of the park, you can find the **Travel Town Transportation Museum**, 5200 Zoo Dr. (tel. **323/662-5874**), a little-known outdoor museum with a small collection of vintage locomotives and old airplanes. Kids love the miniature train ride that circles the perimeter of the museum. The museum is open Monday through Friday from 10am to 4pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 5pm; admission is free. © Frommer's

contact:
tel: (323) 644-4200
<http://www.lazoo.org>

location:
5333 Zoo Dr
Los Angeles CA 91203

hours:
Daily 10am-5pm (until 6pm
July 1 to Labor Day)

2 Los Angeles Zoo

DESCRIPTION: The L.A. Zoo has been welcoming visitors and busloads of school kids since 1966. In 1982, the zoo inaugurated a display of cuddly koalas, still one of its biggest attractions among 1,200 animals from around the world. Although it's smaller than the world-famous San Diego Zoo, the L.A. Zoo is far more easy to fully explore. As much an arboretum as a zoo, the grounds are thick with mature shade trees from around the world that help cool the once-barren grounds, and new habitats are light-years ahead of the cruel concrete roundhouses originally used to exhibit animals (though you can't help feeling that, despite the fancy digs, all the creatures would rather be in their natural habitat). The zoo's latest attraction is new \$19-million **Campo Gorilla Reserve**, a habitat for six African lowland gorillas that closely resembles their native West African homeland. Visitors partake in a pseudo-African-jungle experience as they journey along a misty, forested pathway with glassed viewing areas for close-up views of the gorillas living in two separate habitats: one for a family troop of gorillas, led by a silverback male; and a separate habitat for two bachelors. Other highlights include the **Sea Lion Cliffs** habitat, home to the zoo's five sea lions where visitors can view the saltwater habitat from an underwater glass viewing area; the **Chimpanzees of the Mahale Mountains** habitat, where visitors can see plenty of primate activity; the **Red Ape Rainforest**, a natural orangutan habitat; the entertaining **World of Birds** show; the **Pachyderm Forest** (climate-controlled digs for the elephants and hippos, complete with an underwater viewing area); and the **Mandrills Exhibit** (the world's largest and most colorful baboons). The gargantuan Andean condor had me enthralled as well (the facility is renowned in zoological circles for the successful breeding and releasing of California condors, and occasionally some of these majestic and endangered birds are on exhibit). Kids will also enjoy the **Winnick Family Children's Zoo**, which contains a petting area, exhibition animal-care center, Adventure Theater storytelling and puppet show, and other kid-hip exhibits and activities. **Tip:** To avoid the busloads of rambunctious school kids, arrive after noon. © Frommer's



Photo courtesy of los angeles zoo & botanical gardens

contact:
tel: (323) 662-5874
<http://www.traveltown.org/>

location:
5200 Zoo Drive
Los Angeles CA 90027

3 Travel Town Museum

DESCRIPTION: This place is heaven for train-loving tots. An interactive museum in the old-fashioned sense of the word, youngsters can climb in, around or on all the attractions, and many of them will want to do so for hours upon end. Kids can even take a mini train ride for a small fee. The antiques, which include artifacts from trains to classic cars to horse-drawn carriages, showcase the country's railway history—which is especially relevant to California. This museum is a treasure for transportation lovers of all ages. © wcities.com



contact:
tel: 323/469-8311
fax: +1 323 469 2805 / +1 323 467 6412(Tourist Information)
www.hollywoodchamber.net

location:
6801 Hollywood Boulevard
Los Angeles CA 90028

4 Hollywood Walk of Fame

DESCRIPTION: When the Hollywood honchos realized how limited the footprint space was at Grauman's Chinese Theatre, they came up with another way to pay tribute to the stars. Since 1960, more than 2,200 celebrities have been honored along the world's most famous sidewalk. Each bronze medallion, set into the center of a terrazzo star, pays homage to a famous television, film, radio, theater, or recording personality. Although about a third of them are just about as obscure as Michael Jackson's sexual preference -- their fame simply hasn't withstood the test of time -- millions of visitors are thrilled by the sight of famous names like **James Dean** (1719 Vine St.), **John Lennon** (1750 Vine St.), **Marlon Brando** (1765 Vine St.), **Rudolph Valentino** (6164 Hollywood Blvd.), **Marilyn Monroe** (6744 Hollywood Blvd.), **Elvis Presley** (6777 Hollywood Blvd.), **Greta Garbo** (6901 Hollywood Blvd.), **Louis Armstrong** (7000 Hollywood Blvd.), **Barbra Streisand** (6925 Hollywood Blvd.), and **Eddie Murphy** (7000 Hollywood Blvd.). **Gene Autry** is all over the place: The singing cowboy earned five different stars (a sidewalk record), one in each category. The sight of bikers, metalheads, homeless wanderers, and hordes of disoriented tourists all treading on memorials to Hollywood's greats makes for a bizarre and somewhat tacky tribute. But the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce has been doing a terrific job sprucing up the pedestrian experience with filmstrip crosswalks, swaying palms, and more. And at least 1 weekend a month, a group of fans calling themselves Star Polishers busy themselves scrubbing tarnished medallions. The legendary sidewalk is continually adding new names, such as Muhammad Ali in front of the Kodak Theatre. The public is invited to attend dedication ceremonies; the honoree -- who pays a whopping \$15,000 for the eternal upkeep -- is usually in attendance. Contact the **Hollywood Chamber of Commerce**, 6255 Sunset Blvd., Ste. 911, Hollywood, CA 90028 (tel. **323/469-8311**), for information on who's being honored this week. © Frommer's



contact:

tel: 323/464-8111

www.manntheaters.com/chinese

location:

6925 Hollywood Blvd
Los Angeles CA 90028

hours:

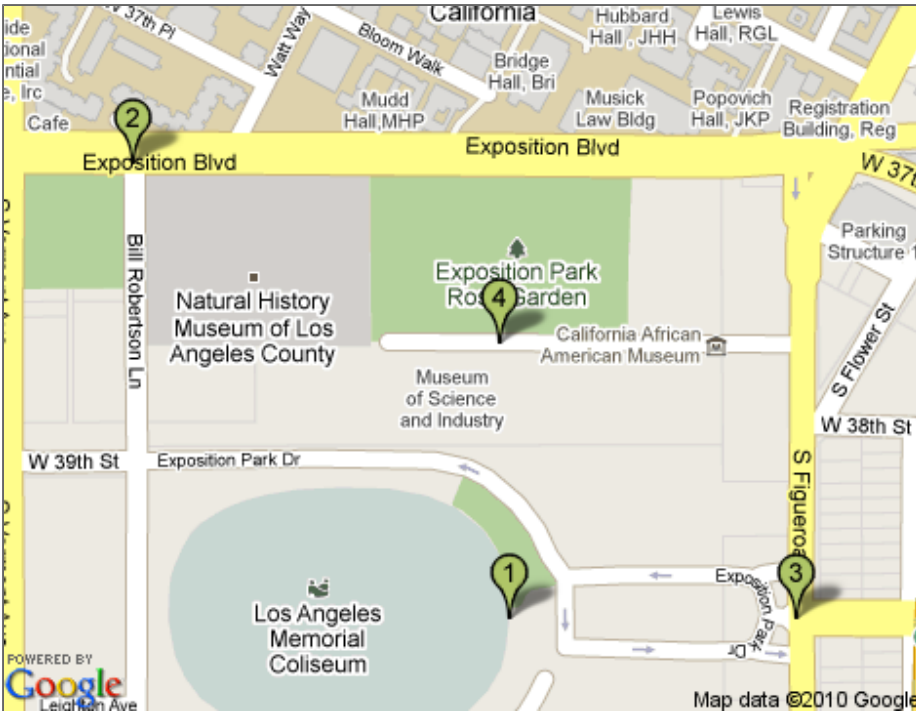
Call for show times

5 Grauman's Chinese Theatre

DESCRIPTION: This is one of the world's great movie palaces and one of Hollywood's finest landmarks. The theater was opened in 1927 by impresario Sid Grauman, a brilliant promoter who's credited with originating the idea of the paparazzi-packed movie "premiere." Outrageously conceived, with both authentic and simulated Chinese embellishments, Grauman's theater was designed to impress. Original Chinese heavenly doves top the facade, and two of the theater's columns once propped up a Ming dynasty temple. Visitors by the millions flock to the theater for its famous entry court, where stars like Elizabeth Taylor, Paul Newman, Ginger Rogers, Humphrey Bogart, Frank Sinatra, Marilyn Monroe, and about 160 others set their signatures and hand-/footprints in concrete (a tradition started when actress Norma Talmadge "accidentally" stepped in wet cement during the premiere of Cecil B. DeMille's King of Kings). It's not always hands and feet: Betty Grable's shapely leg; the hoofprints of Gene Autry's horse, Champion; Jimmy Durante's and Bob Hope's trademark noses; Whoopi Goldberg's dreadlocks; George Burns's cigar; and even R2D2's wheels are all captured in cement. © Frommer's



Day 4 - Los Angeles



QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: Exposition Park

Exposition Park near downtown Los Angeles is surrounded by the USC campus and is home to the Natural History Museum, the California Science Center (free admission) and IMAX theatre and the Rose Garden - a beautiful spot to picnic and burn off some energy. The Discovery Center in the Natural History museum is a good first stop with younger children who will have fun digging for dinosaur bones and touching everything, including on special days, some freaky looking insects and reptiles.

contact:
tel: +1 213 763 3466
<http://www.nhm.org/site/plan-your-visit/exposition-park>

location:
Exposition Park Drive
Los Angeles CA 90007

1 Exposition Park

DESCRIPTION: Built for the 1932 Olympic games, Exposition Park is now a venue for many sports and cultural events. Originally known as 'Agricultural Park', it houses a sports arena, coliseum, museum, science center, a rose garden, a swimming stadium and Expo center. The Park is bustling with activities throughout the year with events like Annual Bug Fair and Science Camp. The Rose Garden can be hired for special events and the Coliseum hosts popular sports events. Check website for details. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Exposition Park.

contact:
tel: 213/763-DINO
(213/763-3466)
<http://www.nhm.org>

location:
900 Exposition Blvd
Los Angeles CA 90007

hours:
Daily 9:30am-5pm

2 Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

DESCRIPTION: The "Fighting Dinosaurs" are not a high school football team, but the trademark symbol of this massive museum: Tyrannosaurus rex and triceratops skeletons poised in a stance so realistic that every kid feels inspired to imitate their Jurassic Park bellows (think Calvin & Hobbes). Opened in 1913 in a beautiful domed Spanish Renaissance building, this massive museum -- it's the largest natural and historical museum in the western United States -- is a 35-hall warehouse of earth's history, chronicling the planet and its inhabitants from 600 million years ago to the present day, and housing more than 33 million specimens and artifacts. There's a mind-numbing array of exhibits of prehistoric fossils, bird and marine life, gems and minerals, and North American mammals. The kid-friendly **Discovery Center** entertains children via hands-on, interactive exhibits: Kids can make fossil rubbings, dig for fossils, and view live animals such as snakes and lizards. **Thomas the T. rex Lab** is a specially designed workroom where visitors can watch the actual work of paleontologists as they prepare and assemble the fossils of a 66-million-year-old Tyrannosaurus rex nicknamed "Thomas." The best permanent displays include the world's rarest shark, a walk-through vault of priceless gems (including the largest collection of gold in the United States), and an Insect Zoo. © Frommer's



contact:
tel: +1 213 744 7400
<http://www.californiasciencecenter.org/Imax/Features/Features.php>

location:
California Science Center
Los Angeles CA 90037

3 IMAX California Science Center

DESCRIPTION: The California Science Center is an ideal destination because it has something for everyone - families, school groups, adults and children. The exhibits change throughout the year, and always offer new and interesting ways to learn about science. When you arrive, be sure to check at the Information Center for the day's special activities. If you are with children under 7, stop by the Discovery Rooms in Creative World or World of Life for some hands-on learning. © wcities.com



Showing

contact:
tel: 323/724-3623
<http://www.californiasciencecenter.org/>

location:
700 State Dr
Los Angeles CA 90007

hours:
Daily 10am-5pm; call or check website for IMAX screenings

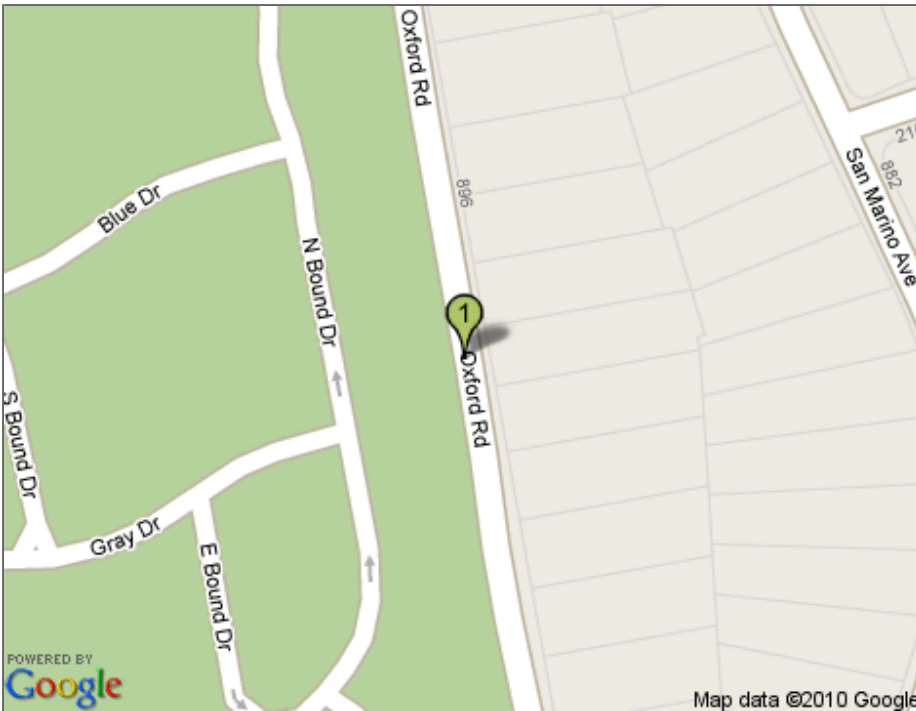
4 California Science Center

DESCRIPTION: A \$130-million renovation -- reinvention, actually -- has turned the former Museum of Science and Industry into Exposition Park's most popular attraction. Using high-tech sleight of hand, the center stimulates kids of all ages with questions, answers, and lessons about the world. The museum is organized into themed worlds, and one of the museum's highlights is Tess, a 50-foot animatronic woman whose muscles, bones, organs, and blood vessels are revealed, demonstrating how the body reacts to a variety of external conditions and activities. (Appropriate for children of all ages, Tess doesn't possess reproductive organs.) Another highlight is the **Air and Space Gallery**, a seven-story space where real air- and spacecraft are suspended overhead. There are



nominal fees, ranging from \$2 to \$5, to enjoy the science center's more thrilling attractions. You can pedal a bicycle across a high-wire suspended 43 feet above the ground (demonstrating the principle of gravity and counterweights) or get strapped into the Space Docking Simulator for a virtual-reality taste of zero gravity. There's plenty more, and plans for expansion are always in the works. The IMAX theater screen is seven stories high and 90 feet wide, with state-of-the-art surround-sound and 3-D technology. Films are screened throughout the day until 9pm and are nearly always breathtaking, even the two-dimensional ones. © Frommer's

Day 5 - Los Angeles



QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: Huntington Gardens

The Huntington Gardens are located in Pasadena, approximately 30 minutes from downtown LA. There are over 100 acres open to the public with many different gardens—including the kid-appealing Children's, Japanese, Chinese, Jungle and Lily Ponds gardens. Lots of open space means kids can run and explore at their pace. While there is no picnicking on the grounds, The Tea Room and Café serve family-friendly food options. Note: the free admission day here (the first Thursday of the month) is extremely popular and may not be your best bet for a relaxing visit.

contact:
tel: 626/405-2100
<http://www.huntington.org/>

location:
1151 Oxford Rd
San Marino CA 91108

hours:
Sept-May Mon and Wed-Fri noon-4:30pm, Sat-Sun 10:30am-4:30pm; June-Aug Wed-Mon 10:30am-4:30pm

1 Huntington Library, Art Collections & Botanical Gardens

DESCRIPTION: The Huntington Library is the jewel in Pasadena's crown. The 207-acre hilltop estate was once home to industrialist and railroad magnate Henry E. Huntington (1850-1927), who bought books on the same massive scale on which he acquired businesses. The continually expanding collection includes dozens of Shakespeare's first editions, Benjamin Franklin's handwritten autobiography, a Gutenberg Bible from the 1450s, and the earliest known manuscript of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. Although some rare works are available only to visiting scholars, the library has a regularly changing (and always excellent) exhibit showcasing different items in the collection. If you prefer canvas to parchment, Huntington also put together a terrific 18th-century British and French art collection. The most celebrated paintings are Gainsborough's *The Blue Boy* and *Pinkie*, a companion piece by Sir Thomas Lawrence depicting the youthful aunt of Elizabeth Barrett Browning. These and other works are displayed in the stately Italianate mansion on the crest of this hillside estate, so you can also get a glimpse of its splendid furnishings. American art and Renaissance paintings are exhibited in two additional galleries.

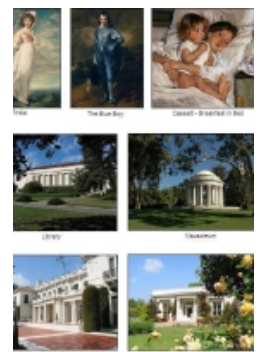


Photo courtesy of The Huntington.

But it's the vast **botanical gardens** featuring more than 14,000 different species of plants that draw most locals to the Huntington. The Japanese Garden comes complete with a traditional open-air Japanese house, koi-filled stream, and serene Zen garden. There's also an exotic **Desert Garden**, intriguing **Jungle Garden**, **Bing Children's Garden** (designed specifically for kids ages 2-7), and the glass-and-steel **Conservatory for Botanical Science** where visitors learn some of the fundamentals of botany via state-of-the-art science stations. The latest addition is a new 12-acre **Chinese Garden**, the largest classical garden outside mainland China and one of the largest of the Huntington's 14 specialized gardens. Highlights include a lake, teahouse, pavilions, and bridges within a landscape of plants native to China. Because the Huntington surprises many with its size and wealth of activities to choose from, first-timers might want to start with a tour. One-hour garden tours are offered daily; no reservations or additional fees are required. Times vary, so check at the information desk upon arrival. I also recommend that you tailor your visit to include the popular **English high tea** served Tuesday through Friday from noon to 4:30pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 10:45am to 4:30pm (last seating at 3:30pm). The tearoom overlooks the Rose Garden (home to 1,000 varieties displayed in chronological order of their breeding), and since the finger sandwiches and desserts are served buffet-style, it's a genteel bargain even for hearty appetites at \$20 per person (please note that museum admission is a separate required cost). Phone tel. **626/683-8131** for tearoom reservations, which are required and should be made at least 2 weeks in advance. © Frommer's

Los Angeles Snapshot

Local Info

People either love it, or they hate it--but no matter what, Los Angeles makes no excuses and changes itself for no one. And you've got to admire that. Made up of dozens of communities, there is no one single experience that can sum up the life and the heartbeat of this city. But what can be noticed about Los Angeles by both tourists and locals alike is the hustle-and-bustle lifestyle, the vibrant and unique neighborhoods, and the extreme diversity that sets it apart from any other city. From the eternal sunshine and Hollywood glitz to all the small communities with their own distinct cultural personalities, this City of Angels will forever be many things to many people.

Downtown

While not exactly in the center of town geographically due to the sprawling nature of the city, Downtown Los Angeles is still teeming with activity. There are cultural hotbeds like Olvera Street and Chinatown that are just minutes away from Los Angeles landmarks such as the Bank of America Building and the Walt Disney Concert Hall. And if you have a hankering for more art and culture while Downtown, the Museum of Contemporary Art(MOCA) is a definite must-see.

Hollywood

The big sign just about says it all--Hollywood is glitz, glamour, and unavoidable. While many people are critical of Hollywood, they still can't help but satiate their curiosity by visiting this busy area. The center of things is, without a doubt, Hollywood Boulevard, location of world-famous tourist spots including Mann's Chinese Theater, the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and the Kodak Theatre where the Oscars are now held annually.

The Miracle Mile/Hancock Park area is another of L.A.'s historical neighborhoods. Here you will find Wilshire Boulevard's Museum Row. The museums are contained within Hancock Park, a small but peaceful oasis in the center of hectic urban activity. To venture into the far distant past, stop by the Brea Tar Pits, La, and to immerse yourself in a famous museum, the LACMA: Los Angeles County Museum of Art is a popular attraction on Miracle Mile.

Ritz West Hollywood is home to one of the city's most famous(or infamous) attractions: the Sunset Strip. Here you'll find most of the city's hippest clubs frequented by up-and-coming actors and socialites, as well as some of the city's finest hotels and shopping, including the upscale Melrose Avenue Shopping District. West Hollywood is also the center of the city's gay and lesbian community, and it puts on one of the flashiest and most exhilarating annual Halloween parades in the state.

Beverly Hills and the Westside

This world-famous city with its world-famous zip code is synonymous with wealth, status, and celebrity. The understated elegance and grace of the residential neighborhoods are balanced out by Rodeo Drive, which offers some of the finest(and most expensive) shopping in the world.

Santa Monica and Beach Cities

Back in the heyday of Route 66, Santa Monica was the end of the line. Today, this beachfront community offers the best in entertainment for all ages on its famous Santa Monica Pier. You can enjoy some carnival-style food and games or take a ride on the ferris wheel for a breathtaking view of the city and shoreline. When you're ready for some shopping, the active Third Street Promenade has a diverse directory of stores and eateries.

The motto of the coastal community of Malibu is "27 miles of scenic beauty," and that about describes it best. The main attraction here is the drive along the Pacific Coast Highway, which takes you past beach after beach on one side of the road and million-dollar hilltop estates on the other. Make sure you have plenty of film and sunscreen. Even at night, the stars just seem brighter.

Venice, just south of Santa Monica, is the city's home to all things eclectic and many things downright bizarre. This small, artsy beach town offers one of the greatest collections of cafes, bars, galleries, antiques and one-of-a-kind shops around. Weekend afternoons on the boardwalk are definitely a memorable experience for any visitor to the city.

San Fernando Valley

On the other side of the Hollywood Hills sits "The Valley," as known by locals. It features a seemingly endless sea of suburban cul-de-sacs, strip malls, funky shops and restaurants. Hollywood makes its presence known in the cities of Burbank and Universal City, which are home to Warner Bros. Studio and Universal Studios. There are two things you can always count on in the Valley: the earthquakes always feel stronger, and the temperature is always 10 degrees hotter.

South Central and Compton

Although the South Central neighborhood of Crenshaw gained worldwide publicity as the center of the infamous 1992 riots, this area is rich in history and culture. South Central also is home to famous Los Angeles landmarks such as the Watts Towers, the historic Shrine Auditorium, and Exposition Park. Within the famed Exposition Park is the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, the California Science Center, and the IMAX California Science Center. It has also long been a place of culture and diversity, as evidenced by the African American Cultural Center.

Long Beach and the South Bay

Long Beach is a fairly large city in its own right and is a neighbor to the well known district of Orange County. Aside from a plethora of shopping and dining options, this beach community is perhaps best known for the Queen Mary, a Titanic-esque ocean liner now permanently docked here and open for tours. They also have many outdoor activities for tourists to take advantage of, as well as museums and beaches that all can enjoy.

The South Bay is made up of smaller beach towns and quiet neighborhoods such as Hermosa Beach, Redondo Beach, Manhattan Beach and Palos Verdes Estates.

Pasadena and Points East

Pasadena is one of the most prominent communities in the entire state of California. Old Town Pasadena provides one of the greatest clusters of bars, shops, cafes and restaurants in the entire L.A. area. The city is also known for the Norton Simon Museum, which is the largest collection

Los Angeles Snapshot continued

of art owned by one man, and the Rose Bowl. And every New Year's Day, this not-so-sleepy town becomes the focus of the entire world for the annual Tournament of Roses Parade.

East L.A., as evidenced by its name, forms the eastern edge of the city and is a great example of a neighborhood rich in cultural expression.

LAX and Inglewood

LAX is one of the largest airports in the United States, when it comes to the sheer number of people passing through its hallways. The airport is the main feature of the otherwise-sleepy, suburban neighborhood of Westchester. This pocket of quiet, tree-lined streets and neighborhood schools and churches is a refreshing oasis in an often-frenetic city.

Inglewood features a wide variety of restaurants, music and sports venues. Here you will find Hollywood Park Racetrack and the The Forum arena, an entertainment hotspot. Inglewood also hosts the annual Hollywood Black Film Festival, which pays homage to African-American filmmakers of past, present and future.

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History

California's earliest residents were Native Americans. Prior to the mid-18th century, several native peoples dominated the area, most notably those from the Tongva nation.

The earliest key date in the development of Los Angeles is August 2, 1769. It was on that afternoon that a group of Spanish explorers from the east, led by Juan Crespi and Captain Gaspar de Portola, entered what came to be known as Los Angeles, in the area around Elysian Park. It was then that Crespi realized the potential the area had to become a sizable settlement. Then in 1771, Junipero Serra created the Mission San Gabriel Archangel in the present day San Gabriel Valley. It wasn't until 1781 that the town was founded and named "El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora la Reina de los Ángeles del Río de Porciúncula"—quite a mouthful to say and subsequently shortened to Los Angeles.

Throughout the late 18th and early 19th centuries, was only a small farm town that remained part of Mexico, until the Mexican-American War. On March

9th, 1842, Francisco Lopez discovered gold in the Santa Clarita Valley and by 1845, U.S. troops began battling for control of California. On January 9, 1847, Commodore Stockton recaptured Los Angeles for the third and final time, and just days later Mexican general Andres Pico surrendered California to U.S. General John Fremont. A subsequent boundary dispute ensued as to where the borders of the city and county should be, but on April 4, 1850, the city of Los Angeles was incorporated, with California officially entering the union five months later.

The late 1800s and early 1900s saw Los Angeles grow exponentially. One reason for this was the railroads, which finally reached Los Angeles from the East. The railroads resulted in a major expansion of economy and population, as evidenced by the fact that L.A.'s population doubled in the last decade of the 1800s and tripled in the first decade of the 1900s. In 1913, William Mulholland built an aqueduct, which allowed water to be brought to Los Angeles from 200 miles north. This important event, coupled with the earlier railroad boom, is considered to be largely responsible for L.A.'s growth into a major population center.

By the 1920s, many industries were beginning to stake their claim in the city. The most popular of these industries was the budding film industry. Filmmakers from the East came to Southern California for its eternal sunshine and varied landscape. Where else in America could they find perfect weather and largely empty surrounding land, as well as mountains, lakes, forests and beaches all within an hour's drive? As movies and movie-making became more ingrained in American culture during the 1940s and 50s, millions began flocking to L.A. in hopes of becoming a star and striking it rich. By the mid-to-late 1950s, the population of L.A. had reached two million and appeared to be going nowhere but up.

As the city grew, more people meant more problems. In 1943, a clash between sailors, marines and local Hispanic gangs broke out, known as the Zoot Suit Riots. For several days and nights, downtown Los Angeles was transformed into a battle-zone. Although the riots were finally quelled by police, this would not be the last time the city witnessed large-scale urban unrest. Devastating race riots erupted in 1965 and again in 1992, after the Rodney

King verdict, giving the city its reputation for being a hotbed of racial tensions. Riots, however, weren't the only problems that affected the history of Los Angeles. Runaway air pollution and the damage caused by several earthquakes—the largest and most memorable of which was the Northridge earthquake in 1994, with a total magnitude of 6.7—have also given the city its fair share of crises to deal with over the years. But with the 21st century has come an increase in the improvement and gentrification in many parts of the city.

Certain things can always be counted on to thrive in L.A.: cultural diversity, beautiful weather, the well-known traffic on the 405 Freeway, and eager souls arriving each day to the City of Angels in search of their own piece of heaven.

©

Hotel Insights

According to the tired but true axiom, the three most important things in real estate are location, location and location. In the universe of Los Angeles, that cannot be stressed enough, and where you stay will have a tremendous impact on your L.A. experience. The following are some of the most-recommended areas to lodge.

Downtown

Downtown Los Angeles contains the heart of the financial and business districts of the city, and is perfect for corporate travelers. All of the best amenities can be found at the swanky The Standard Hotel which truly gives a new meaning to the word "standard," or at the luxurious Millennium Biltmore. Formerly the Regal and famous since 1923, it was home to the Academy Awards during the Golden Age of Hollywood. Those wanting to stay within a budget but who still want singular and eclectic accommodations, might try the charming Best Western Dragon Gate Inn located right in the heart of Chinatown, the Hotel Figueroa with its funky Southwestern motif, or the elegant Miyako Inn and Spa where you can either gratify yourself with a relaxing massage or have a little late night fun at their karaoke bar.

Beverly Hills

For those with means, there is simply no other place to stay in town. World-class luxury and service can be found

Los Angeles Snapshot continued

at the Beverly Hills Hotel, the Beverly Hilton or the Beverly Wilshire Beverly Hills. The world-famous Peninsula is also a high-class, luxurious choice for anyone wanting the best amenities and service. Wherever you choose to stay in this high-end neighborhood, you will be close to some of the very best shopping and dining in the world.

Hollywood

Considering Hollywood's status as a tourist mecca, it should come as no surprise that it offers many places to lodge, especially for those on a budget. The Hollywood Celebrity Hotel and the Best Western Hollywood Hills Hotel offer decent rooms for those who want to keep their costs down. All are close to every famous Hollywood attraction, as well as Universal Studios. You'll be in the thick of the action here, although you may not want to walk alone at night in the darkest parts of Hollywood.

Pasadena

Nestled at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains, Pasadena offers some of the greatest lodging options for those who want to get away from the urban energy of the rest of L.A. If you want only the best, stay in elegant style at the Ritz-Carlton Huntington Hotel. The Pasadena Hilton also offers top-notch amenities and great service. For those looking for something other than a large hotel, try the beautiful and charming Artist's Inn and the Bissell House, both offering personalized luxury and service in a bed-and-breakfast setting.

Santa Monica

Maybe it's the sound of ocean waves that help you sleep easier, or maybe it's being near both shopping and recreation, but either way Santa Monica has proven to be the way to go for many visitors to the area. For those with pockets deeper than the sea, consider the Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel, the Fairmont Miramar or the ultra-luxurious Shutters on the Beach. All three are located within walking distance of all of Santa Monica's wonders, both natural and man-made, and offer the full royal treatment. For those on more of a budget, the Ocean View Hotel and the classic Art Deco Cadillac Hotel (located in nearby Venice) offer more affordable accommodation while sacrificing very little in the way of amenities or location.

West Hollywood

There's always something to be said for being close to the action. For those who long to be in the center of L.A.'s star-studded nightlife, you can't get much closer than a hotel room in West Hollywood. The Chateau Marmont, the Mondrian and the Sunset Tower Hotel offer accommodations fit for a king (with a bill to match). Meanwhile the Hyatt and the rock'n' roll atmosphere of the Standard Hotel offer great rooms at a fraction of the cost of their neighbors. Just about every hotel in the area is located on Sunset and lies within walking distance of the hottest clubs.

Westwood

This high-end neighborhood not only boasts UCLA, but also offers many bars, restaurants and entertainment options. It also features some of the best accommodations at reasonable prices. The Hilgard House offers wonderful accommodations that isn't exactly cheap, but certainly won't cause you to break the bank. The upscale W Los Angeles is a popular choice featuring world-class service and comfort.

©

Restaurants Insights

When it comes to dining and drinking, anything that one can possibly dream up can be found in Los Angeles. Celebrity-only seating on the West Side is countered by family-style seating in Silverlake, and cuisines from Ethiopian to Polish are all here somewhere. With so many choices and a limited time frame, here are some highlights that should not be missed.

Downtown

After a prolonged period of economic hardship, downtown L.A. went in for a facelift, replacing the old shabby buildings with new businesses and recreation centers. One of the establishments that helped the downtown comeback is R-23, which quickly gained a reputation for serving unbelievable sushi. Another downtown hot spot is the Water Grill, which offers upscale seafood for the international dining set. If you're looking for a unique and entertaining experience without the sky-high prices, enjoy a meal at Shabu Shabu House Restaurant—a form of Japanese cooking where servers bring you plates of fresh meat, and the customers cook it

themselves in hot pots. And for a more casual but earth-shaking good time, check out Epicentre, which is designed to look like a cafe, post-earthquake.

La Cienega and Beverly Hills

When dining in this celebrity "hot zone," be sure to bring your high-limit credit cards and your best evening attire. Some great options include Chaya Brasserie for a legendary mix of Californian, French and Italian, and of course, the world-famous Spago Beverly Hills headed by Wolfgang Puck. La Cienega Boulevard offers L.A.'s famed "Restaurant Row," which features The Stinking Rose for all your garlic desires, Tokyo Table for delicious but more affordable Japanese cuisine, and the highly favored Fogo de Chao Churrascaria for some Brazilian fare, and many other local favorites.

Hollywood/Melrose

A small step away from the big money of Beverly Hills, these hot spots offer a warmer and hipper version of the same scene. Musso and Frank's Grill offers American cuisine with an old Hollywood style. Joachim Splichal serves the highest of haute cuisine at Patina, and West Hollywood's Asia de Cuba features Asian-Cuban fusion in a dining room decorated all in white. Also in West Hollywood is perhaps the one of the finest Moroccan restaurants in all of Los Angeles, Dar Maghreb, which is more than just dining—it's an unforgettable experience. Finally, for lowbrow gastronomic pleasure that should not be missed, wait in line for the oldest Hollywood tradition, a Chili Cheese Dog from Pink's.

Santa Monica/Venice/Malibu

These beachfront neighborhoods of Santa Monica, Venice and Malibu offer the full range of dining options from earthy-hippie cuisine in Venice to star-studded glamour in Malibu. When not gazing into the deep blue Pacific, be sure to focus your attention on Babalu for down-to-earth Caribbean cuisine, Chez Mimi for one of the most romantic French experiences you will have this side of Paris and Geoffrey's for fresh cuisine with a heart-stopping view of the California coast. Wolfgang Puck's Chinois On Main is a wonderful choice, as well as

Los Angeles Snapshot continued

The Lobster for some delightfully simple but sophisticated seafood dishes.

©

Nightlife Insights

As the entertainment capital of the world, Los Angeles is overflowing with theater, art, dance, film and television. The city has a variety of options for every entertainment taste.

Theaters

The creative activity in the theaters of Los Angeles proves the naysayers wrong: just because the city's more frivolous side is the most publicized, Los Angeles does indeed have a rich history of culture and soul. The Performing Arts Center of Los Angeles County complex in downtown Los Angeles houses many of the city's major theatre venues, including the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, the Mark Taper Forum, Pantages Theatre, and the Ahmanson Theatre.

Museums

Los Angeles is indeed multi-faceted: with beautiful beaches on one end, trendy clubs on another, and amazing museums spread throughout, it is no wonder people flock here to get a taste of everything it has to offer. The Getty Center is a breathtaking architectural work before you even see the collections inside. The Los Angeles County Museum of Art has impressive permanent collections as well as top-billed shows. If contemporary art is more your cup of tea, then pay a visit to the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) which has featured extremely innovative art exhibitions. L.A. is also home to many smaller, private galleries, concentrated especially in Venice and the Melrose area of Hollywood. If nature and science excite you more than a rare Van Gogh, the California Science Center is a hands-on educational facility that takes science to the extreme while the Natural History Museum has 35 galleries of environmental science displays to explore. For a more serious-minded museum visit, the Los Angeles Museum of Tolerance is a stop for the humanitarian-minded tourist. The museum offers classes in racial diversity and acceptance, and offers tours for school children and interested adults. It is a powerful, moving and informative institution.

For those who have eclectic or more specialized tastes, be sure to check out the Museum of Neon Art, the Vintage Animation Gallery and the Museum In Black.

Cinema

Mann's Chinese Theater on Hollywood Boulevard stands out as one of the most famous cinema houses ever built. Crowds descend upon the faux-Asian theater every day to measure the famous feet and hands imprinted on the sidewalk outside. Across the street from the Mann's Chinese, the Egyptian Theater stands in its Vegas-style glory.

Comedy

With countless small theaters and clubs in Los Angeles, open mic nights for struggling comedians are everywhere. For a more polished performance check out the famous Groundlings. This well-known "training camp" for television shows like Saturday Night Live has an ever-changing lineup of up-and-comers with an occasional star headliner. The Improv and the Comedy Store consistently feature well-known, professional headliners as well as budding new talent.

Music

When they are not out partying on the Sunset Strip, rock and roll musicians can be found performing at several Los Angeles venues. The El Rey Theatre and the Palladium are great for watching shows while in the city. The Forum, the Gibson Amphitheatre and the Staples Center are the location of choice for larger rock shows. Classical and jazz concerts are usually found at the Hollywood Bowl and The Greek Theatre.

Sporting Events

L.A. sports fans have plenty to keep them busy with the Los Angeles Lakers, the Clippers, the WNBA's Sparks, the Dodgers and the Kings. If those sports aren't your bag, check out the Hollywood Park Racetrack for some fast-paced betting fun.

Amusement and Theme Parks

Los Angeles and its surrounding areas are home to many world-famous and exciting amusement parks. The most well-known the world over is Disneyland, America's Magic Kingdom and Disney's

California Adventure. Experience the magic of moviemaking at Universal Studios and check out the good-time rides and attractions of Knott's Berry Farm. For roller-coaster thrills go to Six Flags Magic Mountain, and for watersliding chills, don't miss Raging Waters. **Nightclubs**

What's hot in this city changes almost overnight, and word of mouth is everything. However, for a good sampling of what L.A. has to offer, be sure to check out: Area, The Knitting Factory, LAX, and Beauty Bar.

Shopping and Hanging Out

People-watching in Los Angeles can definitely be considered a spectator sport. Although it bears no resemblance to the former hit television show, Melrose is the best sidewalk spectacle. Crammed full of sidewalk cafes, bars, coffeehouses and boutiques, the street is always full of activity and unusual characters.

If true Hollywood stars and Über-Glam shopping are what you are looking for, Rodeo Drive is the ultimate destination. The world-renowned street is always bustling with film stars in baseball caps trying to blend in and Hollywood wives in diamonds trying to stand out. Gucci, Prada and Tiffany & Co. are all represented here, so if you have buying in mind be sure to bring all of your credit cards.

If the ultra-chic shops and thousand-dollar price tags aren't exactly what you seek, Santa Monica's Third Street Promenade offers shoppers a wide variety of upscale boutiques and well-known chains, all under the shining sun of this beach town. Universal City Walk is the Valley's answer to great shopping and entertainment along a stretch of pedestrian walkways. And if you're looking for something downright bizarre or unique, don't leave town without checking out Necromance for all of your Gothic, bone jewelry and dead animal specimen needs or the Wound & Wound Toy Company specializing in amazing wind-up toys from past and present.

©

Things to Do Insights

Walking around Los Angeles is not an easy task. As the world's largest metropolis, Los Angeles has become as famous for cars and traffic as it is for its film industry. So

Los Angeles Snapshot continued

grab a rental, and make your way out to these tourist hot spots.

Downtown

Located in the heart of downtown, the modest Pueblo de Los Angeles remains the city's oldest structure. Built in 1818, it serves as a historical monument to the mission era of California, and also provides tourists with the perfect reason to visit downtown and not miss one of the city's best-kept sightseeing secrets. Located in the middle of the historic pueblo is Olvera Street, an L.A. landmark since the early 1930s. Any day of the year the cobblestone street is alive with inexpensive Mexican delicacies, kitschy shopping and several wandering mariachi bands. If too many hours on Beverly Hills/Rodeo Drive Shopping District have strained the magnetic strip (or the limit) of your credit card, the Garment District offers a great low-cost shopping alternative. The Cooper Building and Santee Alley house designer outlet stores and clothing in all styles, labels and sizes.

Hollywood

The Griffith Observatory is one of the largest in the country. At night you can stargaze from balconies on the outside of the building, as well as from on the roof. Face north in the parking lot and you will get a spectacular view of the Hollywood Sign. Take Hollywood Boulevard approximately three blocks to Vine. At this famous intersection begins the Hollywood Walk of Fame, so named for the bronzed stars placed into the pavement that bear the name of a legendary entertainer in music, movies and television. L'Orangerie is a classy French restaurant near here. Continuing up Hollywood Boulevard you will come to Mann's Chinese Theater, more famous for the front courtyard than for any film ever shown there. The footprints and handprints outside include so many stars, and create such a stir, it's sometimes hard to squeeze your way in.

Malibu and Santa Monica

The beach community of Santa Monica offers great shopping and dining. The Third Street Promenade and The Pier are major centers of activity. Here you can ride roller coasters, shop, eat, fish or just take in the ocean air. Beurivage is a fantastic restaurant with ocean views. When you're ready to hit the coast, head north on the

beautiful Pacific Coast Highway. A few miles north of Malibu is Leo Carillo State Beach. This unique inlet features rock formations and tide pools overflowing with some of the most unusual aquatic life in the world. If you are lucky, you will also be able to see dolphins frolicking just offshore. When you are done here, head south to Venice City Beach.

Mount Wilson

The 110 freeway north ends at Colorado Boulevard, where you will turn right and head into Old Town. In addition to being a quaint historical city, Old Town Pasadena Shopping District is known for world-class restaurants, thriving theater and many antique shops. One of the best features of Old Town is the architecture. An elegant dining option nearby is Bistro 45, which has contemporary French options on its menu. For those who feel confined by gravity and want to get a different perspective of Pasadena, simply follow signs to the Angeles Crest Highway and head up--straight up! This winding (and at times treacherous) mountain road takes you through the Angeles National Forest en route to the Mount Wilson Observatory, some 5000 feet above sea level.

Museum Row

This stretch of Wilshire Boulevard is also known as Museum Row, and with good reason. Most of the city's main museums are located here, as well as several small but influential, art galleries, such as the Vintage Animation Gallery and the Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions. After checking them out, take a quick drive up Fairfax to another Los Angeles historical monument, Canter's Deli. This Jewish-American diner has been a long Hollywood tradition. After your first bite of a Canter's Deli sandwich you will know why stars, locals and tourists have made this eatery a Los Angeles must-see location. After indulging in all the best that Canter's has to offer, finish the day off with the astounding glamour of the mansions in Hancock Park, a neighborhood dotted with homes built in the golden years of Hollywood. If you'd like to do something more adventurous, the La Brea Tar Pits are just a short drive away.

If you are planning on checking out a few centrally-located things, going on foot is fine. However, if you want to explore the parts of this sprawling city that are hard to

get to, planning a day with a tour company is recommended.

Walking Tours Los Angeles Conservancy(+1 213 623 2489/ <http://www.laconservancy.org/>) OffN Running Tours(+1 310 246 1418/ <http://offnrunningtours.com>) Red Line Tours(+1 323 402 1074 x31/ <http://www.redlinetours.com/>)

Trolley Tours Beverly Hills Trolley Tour(+1 310 285 2438/ http://www.beverlyhills.org/presence/connect/CoBH/Homepage/For+Visitors/What+to+Do/Cultural+Events,+Activities+and+Tours/LG-CM-Trolley_Tours)

Studio Tours Universal Studios(+1 800 8 6483 7725/ <http://www.universalstudioshollywood.com>) Warner Bros. Studio Tour(+1 818 972 8687/ <http://www2.warnerbros.com/vipstudiotour/>) Paramount Studio Tour(+1 323 956 1777/ <http://www.paramount.com/studio/>) Sony Pictures Studio Tour(+1 323 520 8687/ <http://www.sonypicturesstudios.com/>)

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Adventure Tours Catalina Adventure Tours(+1 310 510 2888/ +1 562 432 8828/ <http://www.catalinaadventuretours.com/>) Descanso Beach Ocean Sports(+1 310 510 1226/ +1 310 510 1588/ <http://www.kayakcatalinaisland.com/>)

Fishing Tours Discovery Tours--Flying Fish Boat Trip(+1 310 510 2000)

Boat Tours Los Angeles Harbor Cruise(+1 310 831 0996) Star Party Cruises(+1 562 799 7000/ <http://www.reggae-boat.com/>) Crystal Cruises(+1 866 446 6625/ <http://www.crystalcruises.com/>)

Air Tours Helitac Aviation(+1 213 483 6898/ <http://www.helitac.com>) Hollywood Aviators(+1 818 994 2004/ <http://www.hollywoodaviators.com/>)

Sports Tours Big League Tours(+1 866 619 1748/ +1 317 534 2475/ <http://bigleaguertours.com/>)

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Segway Tours Segway Los Angeles(+1 310 395 1395/ <http://www.segway.la/rental.php>)

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Travel Tips

Getting There

Air

Los Angeles International Airport(LAX)+1 310 646 5252<http://www.lawa.org/lax/>

LAX is located 16 miles from downtown.

Bob Hope Airport(BUR)+1 818 840 8840<http://www.burbankairport.com/>

BUR is located three miles from downtown.

LAX provides service to the following airlines:

Aeromexico(+1 800 237 6639/<http://www.aeromexico.com/>) Air New Zealand(+1 800 262 1234/<http://www.airnewzealand.com/usa/>) Airtran Airways(+1 800 247 8726/<http://www.airtran.com/>) American(+1 800 433 7300/<http://www.aa.com/>) Alaska Airlines(+1 800 252 7522/<http://www.alaskaair.com/>) British Airways(+1 800 247 9297/<http://www.britishairways.com/>) China Airlines(+1 800 227 5118/<http://www.china-airlines.com/>) Continental(+1 800 525 0280/<http://www.continental.com/>) Delta(+1 800 221 1212/<http://www.delta.com/>) Frontier(+1 800 265 5505/<http://www.frontierairlines.com/>) Hawaiian Airlines(+1 800 367 5320/<http://www.hawaiianair.com/>) Japan Airways(+1 800 525 3663/<http://www.jal.co.jp/>) Korean Airlines(+1 800 438 5000/<http://www.koreanair.com/>) Lufthansa(+1 800 241 6522/<http://www.lufthansa-usa.com/>) Northwest(+1 800 225 2525/<http://www.nwa.com/>) QANTAS(+1 800 227 4500/<http://www.qantas.com.au/>) Singapore Airlines(+1 800 742 3333/<http://www.singaporeair.com/>) Southwest(+1 800 435 9792/<http://www.southwest.com/>) Sun Country(+1 800 359 6786/<http://www.suncountry.com/>) United(+1 800 241 6522/<http://www.ual.com/>) US Airways(+1 800 428 4322/<http://www.usairways.com/>)

BUR provides service to the following airlines:

Alaska Airlines(+1 800 252 7522/<http://www.alaskaair.com/>) Aloha

Airlines(+1 800 367 5250/<http://www.alohaairlines.com/>) American(+1 800 433 7300/<http://www.aa.com/>) Southwest(+1 800 435 9792/<http://www.southwest.com/>) United(+1 800 241 6522/<http://www.ual.com/>) US Airways:(+1 800 428 4322/<http://www.usairways.com/>)

Airport Parking Service: Park'N Fly at Park One(+1 800 763 6895/<http://www.pfnetwork.com/>)

Shuttle: A free shuttle bus service provides transportation from the airport to the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Bus Center(+1 800 266 6883/<http://www.mta.net/>). From there, city buses are available to serve the Los Angeles area. Other Public bus companies include Culver City Bus Lines(+1 310 253 6500), Santa Monica Big Blue Bus(+1 800 266 6883) and Torrance Transit(+1 800 266 6883). The shuttle can be picked up under the LAX Shuttle& Airline Connections sign on the Lower/Arrival Level in front of each terminal.

Metropolitan Express(+1 800 338 3898) is a bus service that provides transportation from LAX to downtown Los Angeles. Union Station/LAX FlyAway(+1 866 435 9529) is a 24 hour service that provides airport shuttle service from Union Station to LAX for a small fare.

Taxi: The following companies provide taxis that can easily be located at the Lower/Arrival Level in front of each terminal:

Authorized Taxicab Supervision(ATS) (+1 323 776 5324) Beverly Hills Cab Company(+1 310 273 6611) Independent Taxi Owners Association(+1 213 666 0045) L.A. Taxi/United Checker Cab(+1 213 627 7000;+1 310 715 1968)

Car Rental: Alamo(+1 800 327 9633/<http://www.goalamo.com/>) Avis(+1 800 331 1212/<http://www.avis.com/>) Budget(+1 800 527 0700/<http://www.budget.com/>) Dollar(+1 800 800 4000/<http://www.dollar.com/>) Enterprise(+1 800 736 8222/<http://www.enterprise.com/>) Hertz(+1 800 654 3131/<http://www.hertz.com/>) National(+1 800 227 7368/<http://www.nationalcar.com/>)

Car-Share

Another attractive ground transportation option is Zipcar, which operates in certain U.S. cities. This new breed of rental car allows you to rent on an hourly basis rather

than a daily basis. Be sure to register online before your trip. Zipcar(+1 877 353 9227/<http://www.zipcar.com/>)

Train

Amtrak(+1 800 872 7245/<http://www.amtrak.com/>), located at 800 N Alameda Street, provides service to Los Angeles via several national routes including Coast Starlight, Pacific Surfliner, Southwest Chief and Sunset Limited.

Bus

Greyhound(+1 800 231 2222/<http://www.greyhound.com/>) accesses Los Angeles from major cities around the country. The downtown bus station(+1 213 629 8401), located at 1716 E 7th Street, is open 24 hours daily.

Car

Approach Los Angeles from the east by Interstate 10, from the northeast and southwest by Interstate 5 and south via Interstate 5 and take Interstate 110 from the south.

Getting Around

Public Transit

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority(+1 800 266 6883/<http://www.metro.net/>) provides local and express bus service throughout Los Angeles and to major surrounding attractions including Disneyland and Universal Studios Hollywood. Other services include the Green Line light rail and the Metro Red Line subway.

If rollin' like a celebrity is your wish, call on New Century Limo(+1 800 250 9434/ <http://www.newcenturylimo.com/>).

Traffic Information

To find out city traffic information go to<http://www.traffic.com/>

If traveling overseas, take the safety precaution of registering your trip at<https://travelregistration.state.gov> and for helpful, practical advice about traveling technicalities and safety standards check out<http://travel.state.gov/>.

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Fun Facts

Los Angeles State: California **Country:** United States

Los Angeles Snapshot continued

Los Angeles By The Numbers:

Population: 3,849,368(city);
13,000,000(Metropolitan) Elevation: 256 ft/
78 m Average Annual Rainfall: 14 in/ 36 cm
Average January Temperature: 57°F/ 14°C
Average July Temperature: 72°F/ 22°C

Quick Facts:

Major Industries: tourism,entertainment,
communications, shipping, manufacturing,
finance,oil Electricity: 110 volts, 60Hz,
standard two pin plugs Time Zone:
GMT-8(GMT-7 daylight saving time); Pacific
Standard Time(PST) Country Dialing Code:
1 Area Codes: 213, 310, 323, 626, 818(1
and the area code must be dialed even for
local calls)

Did You Know?

Los Angeles allows visitors to glimpse
millions of years of geologic history. At
theLa Brea Tar Pits you can see residue of
the days when dinosaurs walked the Earth,
and the tar is still oozing in some places.
©

Weather

Statistics	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Temperature C												
Average High	19	20	20	22	23	25	28	29	28	26	22	19
Average Mean	14	15	15	17	18	20	23	23	23	20	17	14
Average Low	9	10	11	12	14	16	18	18	18	15	11	9
Temperature F												
Average High	95	94	98	106	102	112	107	105	110	108	100	91
Average Mean	58	60	60	63	65	69	74	75	73	69	63	58
Average Low	28	34	35	39	46	50	54	53	51	41	38	30
Rainy Days	6	6	6	3	1	0	1	0	1	2	3	5
Rain Fall (cm)	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.5
Rain Fall (in)	2.9	3.1	2.6	1.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.3	2.0	2.0

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