



nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



rockmixer

Studio Tours

Culver City, Hollywood, Woodland Hills, Burbank, Studio City, Los Angeles, 1 Day

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: Please note the individual details in the entries. Advance tickets are required for the Paramount Tour and recommended for many of the rest. The KCET tour is for KCET members only (membership is \$40 and you need to receive a membership card through the mail). The prices for the other tours vary from free for the Paramount Ranch (which is a park now) to \$35 for the Paramount Tour.

Do not try to do all of these in one day! The tours have just placed on one day for conciseness.

[Photo courtesy of Vanilla Twilight]

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Burbank, Hollywood, Studio City, Culver City, Los Angeles, Woodland Hills



Warner Bros. Studios



Paramount Studio Tour

A walking tour of the studio



NBC Studios

Home of the Tonight Show



Universal Studios Hollywood & CityWalk



Sony Pictures Studio Tour

2 hour studio tour



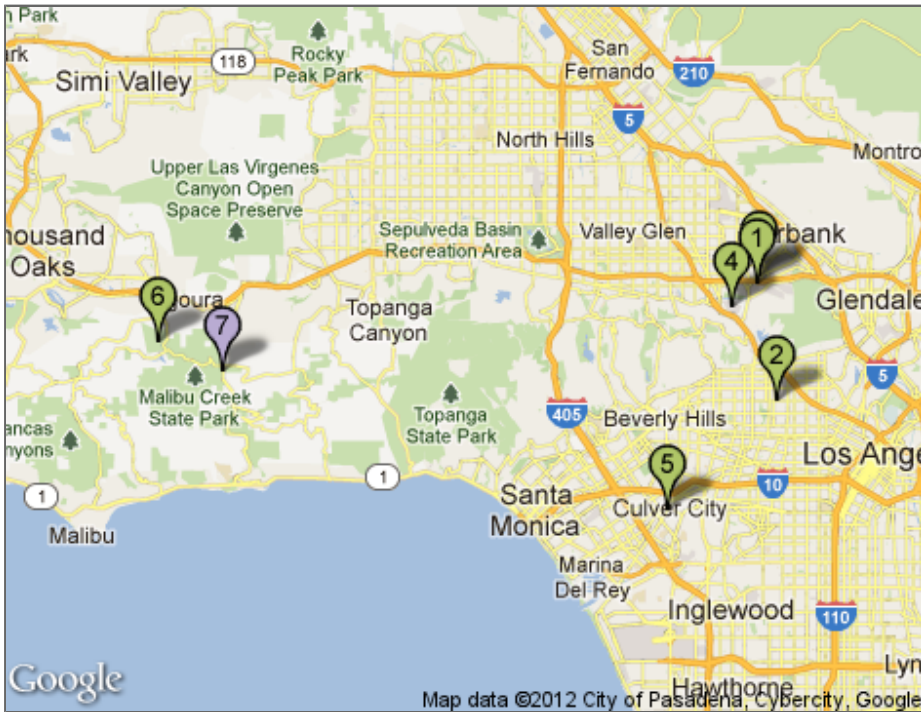
Paramount Ranch

The setting for hundreds of films



Malibu Creek State Park

Day 1 - Burbank, Hollywood, Studio City, Culver City, Los Angeles, Woodland Hills



QUICK NOTE

contact:
tel: 818/972-8687
<http://www.wbstudiotour.com>

location:
3400 Riverside Dr
Burbank CA 91505

hours:
Tours departing Mon-Fri
every half-hour between
8:20am-4pm (extended hours
during spring and summer)

1 Warner Bros. Studios

DESCRIPTION: The Warner Brothers' "VIP Tour" takes visitors on a 2 1/4-hour jaunt around the world's busiest movie and TV studio. After a brief introductory film about the history of WB, groups of 12 pile into stretch golf carts for an intimate view of the inner workings of a motion picture and television studio: back-lot streets, sound stages, sets, and craft shops. Because nothing is staged there's no telling what or who you might encounter, and no two tours are the same. The tour ends with a visit to the Warner Bros. Museum, which contains original costumes, props, sets, scripts, and correspondence from classic WB films and television shows. Advance tickets are recommended and available online via their website, or by calling tel. **866/777-8932**; otherwise, tickets are sold the day of the tour on a first-come, first-served basis, but they recommended arriving at the ticket office early to make sure they don't sell out. Children 7 and under are not admitted, you must bring valid photo ID, and they recommend you show up about 30 minutes before the tour starts. © Frommer's



contact:
tel: +1 323 956 1777
<http://www.paramountstudios.com/special-events/tours.html>

location:
5555 Melrose Avenue
Hollywood CA 90038

hours:
Call for details

2 Paramount Studio Tour

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

From the Paramount studio's website: • 2-hour Tours Available Monday-Friday (except holidays)
• Tour Times - 10am, 11am, 1pm and 2pm • \$35/person • Advance Reservations Required

DESCRIPTION: Unlike other studio tours, this is a walking tour. You do not get herded around in a tram, but actually walk the grounds of the back lot. This can be tiring since the tour lasts two hours, but if you are interested in seeing the inner workings of this famous movie studio then it is worth it. Some sites you will see: New York Street, which includes the building fronts of the Seinfeld set and the Ally McBeal brownstone as well as the Laverne & Shirley building front. Children under 10 are not permitted. Reservations are required; meet at the pedestrian entrance of the main gate. Parking is available across the street. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of zoonabar

contact:
tel: +1 818 840 3614
<http://www.nbc.com/Footer/Tickets/>

location:
3000 West Alameda Avenue
Burbank CA 91523

hours:
Call for details

3 NBC Studios

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Studio tours are offered 9am - 3pm, Monday through Friday. The contact number for Guest Relations is (818)840-3537.

DESCRIPTION: This is the West Coast nerve center of the National Broadcasting Company. Most famous as the home of The Tonight Show, hosted by Jay Leno, this sprawling studio complex also offers compelling walking tours through soundstages and other facilities. Although reservations are always good, tickets for the tour are pretty easy to come by. © wcities.com



contact:
tel: 800-UNIVERSAL
(800/864-8377)
<http://www.universalstudioshollywood.com>

location:
Universal City CA 91608

hours:
Winter daily 10am-6pm;
summer daily 9am-7pm.
Hours are subject to change

4 Universal Studios Hollywood & CityWalk

DESCRIPTION: Believing that filmmaking itself is a bona fide attraction, Universal Studios began offering tours to the public in 1964. The concept worked: Today Universal is more than just one of the largest movie studios in the world -- it's one of the largest theme parks as well. By integrating shows and rides with behind-the-scenes presentations on moviemaking, Universal created a new genre of theme park, stimulating a number of clone and competitor parks. The main attraction continues to be the **Studio Tour**, a nearly 1-hour guided tram ride around the company's 420 acres that's "hosted" (via video screen) by Whoopi Goldberg. En route you pass stars' dressing rooms and production offices before visiting famous backlot sets that include a clean New York City street, the famous town square from the Back to the Future films, and newer sets



Themerica

such as Curse of the Mummy's Tomb, Jurassic Park III, The Grinch, and the airplane crash site from War of the Worlds. Along the way, the tram encounters several staged "disasters," which I won't divulge here lest I ruin the surprise (they're all very tame), and a staged street race "accident" echoing the action in Universal's "Fast and Furious" movie series. Though the wait to board might appear long, don't be discouraged -- each tram carries several hundred people and departures are frequent, so the line moves quickly. Other attractions are more typical of high-tech theme-park fare, but all have a film or TV-oriented slant. The **Simpsons Ride** allows guests to join Homer, Marge, Bart, Lisa, and Maggie as they soar high above the fictional "Krustyland" theme park in a "virtual roller coaster," creating the sensation of thrilling drops and turns and a full 360-degree loop. **Revenge of the Mummy** is a high-tech indoor roller coaster that whips you backward and forward through a dark Egyptian tomb filled with creepy Warrior Mummies (and ends a bit too soon). **Jurassic Park -- The Ride** is short in duration as well but long on dinosaur animatronics; riders in jungle boats float through a world of five-story-tall T-rexes and airborne raptors that culminates in a pitch-dark vertical drop with a splash ending. **Terminator 2: 3D** is a high-tech cyberwar show that combines live action along with triple-screen 3-D technology, explosions, spraying mists, and laser fire (Arnold prevails, of course). **Shrek 4D** is one of the park's best attractions, a multisensory animated show that combines 3-D effects, a humorous story line, and "surprise" special effects -- the flying dragon chase is wild. There are also several live shows performing daily. At the **Fear Factor Live** show -- based upon the NBC hit -- park guests compete against each other in a progression of extreme stunts. **Waterworld** is a fast-paced outdoor theater presentation (and far better than the film that inspired it) featuring stunts and special effects performed on and around a small man-made lagoon (most performances are sold out, so arrive at the theater at least 15 min. before the showtime listed in the handout park map). In **Backdraft**, guests move from theater to theater amid realistic ruptured fuel lines, melting metal, and scorching warehouse scenes. On the **Animal Actors Stage** trained monkeys, pigs, hawks, and other animals perform various entertaining tricks (well, most of the time). Also be sure to check out the **Wardrobe Dept.**, a retail store offering an eclectic array of men's and women's clothing from popular television and movie productions all accompanied by a certificate of authenticity, documenting the television or movie production on which the item was originally worn. Straight ahead of the park's main entrance on Main Street is the **Hollywood Ticket Office**, where you can obtain free tickets (subject to availability) for any TV shows that are taping during your visit -- including the Tonight Show with Jay Leno -- as well as tickets and passes to other local museums, sporting events, and entertainment attractions. Universal Studios is an exciting place for kids and teens, but just as in any theme park, lines can be brutally long; the wait for a 5-minute ride can sometimes last more than an hour. In summer, the stifling Valley heat can dog you all day. To avoid the crowds, try not to visit on weekends, school vacations, and Japanese holidays. If you're willing to pay extra money to skip the hassle of standing in line, the park offers a "**Front of Line**" pass with -- obviously -- front-of-the-line privileges, as well as VIP passes

(essentially private tours). You can also save time standing in line by purchasing and printing your tickets online. Log on to www.universalstudioshollywood.com for more information. Another ticket option is the "**All You Can Eat**" pass, which allows guests to dine all day at selected in-park restaurants for one price. For the freeway-phobic or those car-less at Disneyland, Universal offers an **Anaheim Shuttle Service** available to guests who purchase a full-price admission ticket to Universal Studios online via Print@Home ticketing at www.universalstudioshollywood.com. The shuttle bus departs from various Anaheim-area hotels twice daily. Additionally, the **Southern California CityPass** offers admission to five SoCal attractions including Universal Studios Hollywood and the Disneyland Resort. Located just outside the gate of Universal Studios Hollywood is **Universal CityWalk** (tel. **818/622-4455**; www.citywalkhollywood.com). If you have any money left from the amusement park, you can spend it at this 3-block-long pedestrian promenade crammed thick with flashy name-brand stores (Billabong, Fossil, Skechers, Abercrombie & Fitch), nightclubs (Blues at B. B. King's, Howl at the Moon dueling piano bar, Rumba Room Latin dance club), restaurants (Hard Rock Cafe, Daily Grill, Bubba Gumps, Saddle Ranch), a six-story 3-D IMAX theater, the 18-screen **CityWalk Cinemas**, a 6,200-seat amphitheater, an indoor sky-diving wind tunnel, NASCAR virtual racing, and even a bowling alley (Take that, Disney!). Be sure to stop into the **Zen Zone** (tel. **818/487-7889**) where you can get an inexpensive 20-minute "aqua massage." You lay down fully clothed in what looks like a tanning bed, and strong rotating jets of water massage your backside from neck-to-toe (a blue rubber sheet keeps you dry). Entrance to CityWalk is free; it's open until 9pm on weekdays and until midnight Friday and Saturday. **Tip:** The sushi at the Wasabi at CityWalk restaurant (tel. **818/622-7224**) was surprisingly good and very reasonably priced. © Frommer's

contact:

tel: 310/244-8687

<http://www.sonypicturesstudiostours.com/>

location:

10000 W. Washington Blvd
Culver City CA 90232

hours:

Tours departing Mon-Fri at
9:30am, 10:30am, 1:30pm,
and 2:30pm

5 Sony Pictures Studio Tour

DESCRIPTION: Although it doesn't have quite the same historical cachet as Warner Brothers or Paramount, a lot of movie history was made at this Culver City lot. The 2-hour walking tour includes sets from movies currently in production and an opportunity to drop in on the Jeopardy! or Wheel of Fortune sets. But the main reason for the tour is the chance to catch a glimpse at the stars who work here (it's one of the busiest studio lots in the world). Tours depart from the Sony Pictures Plaza near the parking lot; be sure to call ahead and make a reservation. © Frommer's



Photo courtesy of Sony Pictures Studio Tour

contact:

tel: 805-370-2301

fax: 805-370-1850

http://www.nps.gov/samo/plan_yourvisit/paramountranch.htm

location:

CA 91301

6 Paramount Ranch

DESCRIPTION: American Cinema plays a starring role in the cultural life of the United States and the world. Since before the advent of "talking pictures," Paramount Ranch has served as a setting for hundreds of cinematic productions. Lights! Camera! Action!...In 1927, Paramount Pictures purchased 2,400 acres of the old Rancho Las Virgenes for use as a "movie ranch." For 25 years, a veritable who's who of Hollywood practiced their craft at Paramount Ranch including director Cecil B. DeMille and actors Bob Hope, Gary Cooper and Claudette Colbert. The diverse landscape was the real star of the show. It offered film makers the freedom to create distant locales such as colonial Massachusetts in *The Maid of Salem*, ancient China in *The Adventures of Marco Polo*, a South Seas island in *Ebb Tide* (1937) and numerous western locations including San Francisco in *Wells Fargo*. The art of illusion was mastered on the landscape. Meanwhile, *Back at the Ranch*...The golden era of movie making at Paramount Ranch came to an end when changes to the studio system prompted Paramount Pictures to sell the ranch. Paramount Ranch found renewed life as a film location when William Hertz bought the southeast portion in 1953. An ardent fan of movie westerns, he built a permanent western town utilizing Paramount Pictures' old prop storage sheds. As a result, television companies began producing westerns at the ranch such as *The Cisco Kid* and Dick Powell's *Zane Grey Theatre*. William Hertz sold the property in 1955. The Paramount Racetrack opened a year later, and some considered it one of the most challenging in the U.S. Although it closed a year later, after several fatal accidents, the racetrack was featured in *The Devil's Hairpin*, filmed in 1957. Most of the track still winds through the grasslands of the park. *Ride Off Into the Sunset*...From 1957 to 1980, the ranch changed ownership several times, but filmmaking continued. After purchasing the property in 1980, the National Park Service revitalized the old movie ranch. From 1991 to 1998, Paramount Ranch was used as the setting for the television show, *Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman*. At Paramount Ranch, the National Park Service maintains a connection between past movie productions and place names. Marco Polo Hill is named for the set built there circa 1936. The Hacienda Trail leads past the sites where Paramount built a Hacienda set in the late 1920s. *Witches Wood* received its name from the fortune tellers who set up booths each year for the Renaissance Pleasure Faire during the 1970s and 1980s. The Backdrop Trail recognizes the portion of the ranch that could be used for any type of shot because it had no telephone poles or distinctive features. Whether watching filming or exploring the area, experience the drama and grandeur of the Santa Monica Mountains. Note: Western Town is only a set. Walk carefully on the boardwalks and do not lean or climb on the buildings. Smoking is not allowed on the boardwalks or while traveling on trails. Dogs must be on leash at all times and are allowed on designated trails, access roads and developed areas. For the consideration of others, please clean up after your pet. Trail closures may be in effect during and following significant rainfall to protect park resources. Trails will be re-opened when dry enough to



Photo courtesy of national park service

sustain public use. Wasps and bees are plentiful during the summer months. Please cover foods and sweet beverages while picnicking.

location:
1925 Las Virgenes Road
Calabasas CA 91302

7 Malibu Creek State Park

DESCRIPTION: Situated on a big hunk of the most coveted real estate in Southern California and surrounded by the rapidly encroaching megalopolis of the LA area, Malibu Creek State Park Campground is a precious gem. It is beautiful! Once owned by Bob Hope, Ronald Reagan, and 20th Century-Fox, the park now covers over 7,000 acres. This is a great place to tent camp in fall, winter, and spring. © Roxana Lewis

Burbank Snapshot

Local Info

The “Media Capital of the World” is, in fact, a small city nestled in California’s San Fernando Valley (known as “The Valley” to locals) in the Los Angeles metropolitan area. Just a few miles northeast of Hollywood, Burbank is home to a plethora of big wig media and entertainment companies, among them Warner Bros., Disney, ABC, and NBC.

Although most of these studio headquarters are closed to the public, this is the place to catch a taping of some of the most popular

shows on television, including the Tonight Show with Jay Leno. NBC Studios and Warner Brothers, however, do offer studio tours that take visitors behind the scenes. Although NBC’s tour is the better bargain by far, the iconic Warner Brothers tour, conducted from twelve-person carts that putt around the grounds, is not to be missed.

Entertainment in Burbank is big business, and the locals you run into here are likely to be connected in some way to big motion picture and television studios. People generally choose to live in Burbank

for its small-town feel and proximity to Hollywood’s nightlife and “scene.”

“Beautiful downtown Burbank,” also known as the Burbank Media Center, is the best bet for visitors looking to shop, take in a movie, or have a bite. The oldest remaining Bob’s Big Boy (a classic California burger institution) location is here in Burbank too, near the Warner Brothers Studio main gate. It’s a prime location for some celebrity stalking.

© NileGuide

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 Years' 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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