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maveric2003

Art Deco LA

Santa Monica, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, 2 Days

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: During the golden years of Art Deco, Los Angeles was growing at a tremendous rate and construction in the area was booming. Accordingly, L.A. is a treasure trove of Art Deco architecture, with buildings in the zigzag, classic moderne, and streamline moderne styles. Downtown and the Mid-Wilshire area are especially rich in this respect, although there is Art Deco everywhere throughout L.A.

Day one concentrates on downtown and shows the locations of many buildings from the LA Conservancy's Art Deco walking tour.

Day two lists additional famous Art Deco buildings all across Los Angeles.













[Photo courtesy of IK's World Trip]

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife















Day 1 - Los Angeles

DAY NOTE: Downtown

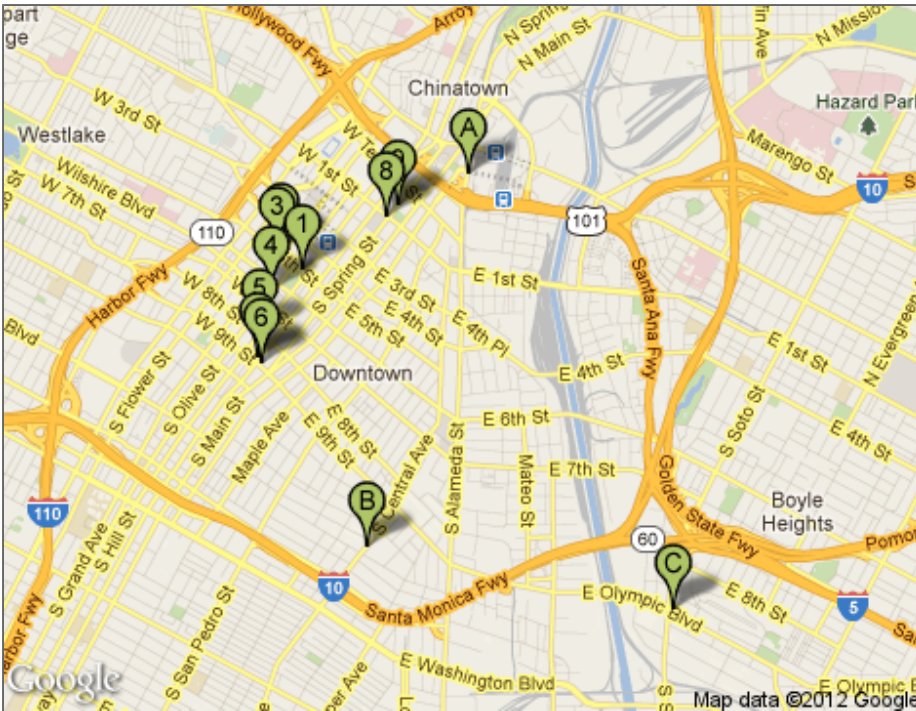
-  **Title Guarantee & Trust Building**
Interesting Art Deco design
-  **Southern California Edison Building**
Classic Art Deco building
-  **L.A. Central Library**
A Literary Treasure
-  **Oviatt Building**
An Art Deco wonder
-  **Garfield Building**
Art Deco building with a classic entrance/lobby
-  **Ninth and Broadway Building**
Art Deco goodness
-  **Eastern Columbia Building**
Grand Art Deco building in turquoise
-  **Los Angeles Times Headquarters**
Largest paper in Southern California
-  **City Hall**
Downtown Landmark
-  **Union Station**
Last Grand Railroad Terminal
-  **Coca-Cola Building**
Grounded ocean liner
-  **Sears**
Old Sears store at the front of a huge building.

Day 2 - Los Angeles, Beverly Hills, Santa Monica

DAY NOTE: Other locations

-  **The Wiltern**
Movie palace turned concert venue
-  **Bullocks Wilshire Building**
Legendary department store
-  **Griffith Observatory**
Panoramic Views & Planetarium Shows
-  **Pantages Theatre**
Art Deco Opulence
-  **Egyptian Theater (The)**
A Hollywood landmark
-  **Crossroads of the World**
Streamline Moderne tower with nautical highlights
-  **Sunset Tower Hotel**
Landmark luxury
-  **O'Neill House**
Art Nouveau memorial
-  **El Rey Theatre**
Pop Music on the Miracle Mile
-  **Helms Furniture District**
Art Deco shopping center
-  **Hotel Shangri-La**
Art deco hotel with ocean views
-  **Casa del Mar**
Art Deco luxury on the beach
-  **Warner Grand Theater**
Historic Performing Venue
-  **The Queen Mary**
Historic luxury liner

Day 1 - Los Angeles



QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: Downtown

contact:

tel: (213)624-7300 (Tourist Information)

location:

411 W. 5th St.
Los Angeles CA 90014

1 Title Guarantee & Trust Building

DESCRIPTION: John and Donald Parkinson designed the notable Title Guarantee and Trust Company Building in 1930. It is one of the more interesting landmark buildings in the downtown Los Angeles area. The crown of the building is Gothic and the facade of the structure features fun zigzagged detailing. Don't neglect this quirky building when you tour important city architecture. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Kent Wang

location:

601 W. 5th Street
Los Angeles California 90014

2 Southern California Edison Building

DESCRIPTION: Built in 1931, this Art Deco building was designed by James and David Allison. This building was once the home of the Southern California Edison company; now it provides office space for a variety of tenants. Notable features of the building include the two story lobby featuring over a dozen types of marble and a large mural by Hugo Ballin titled "The Apotheosis of Power." Other highlights include the stone friezes by Merrel Gage which are located above the octagonal entryway and depict light, energy, and hydroelectric power. The first three stories of this building are limestone, above that the edifice is clad with terra cotta tiles. The street-level shopping arcade was added in 1993.



Photo courtesy of Kent Wang

contact:
tel: 213/228-7168
fax: +1 213 228 7069
www.lapl.org/central

location:
630 W. 5th St
Los Angeles CA 90071

3 L.A. Central Library

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

This is one of the handful libraries in the city that is open on Sunday, from 1 pm to 5 pm.

DESCRIPTION: This is one of L.A.'s early architectural achievements and the third-largest library in the United States. The city rallied to save the library when arson nearly destroyed it in 1986; the triumphant restoration has returned much of its original splendor. Working in the early 1920s, architect Bertram G. Goodhue employed the Egyptian motifs and materials popularized by the discovery of King Tut's tomb, and combined them with a more modern use of concrete block to great effect. Walking tours are the best way to explore this old beauty; they're led Monday through Friday at 12:30pm, Saturday at 11am and 2pm, and Sunday at 2pm. **Warning:** Parking in this area can involve a heroic effort. Try visiting on the weekend and using the Flower Street parking entrance; the library will validate your ticket, and you can escape for only \$2. © Frommer's



Photo courtesy of Central Library

contact:
tel: (213) 624-7300

location:
617 South Olive Street
Los Angeles CA 90014

4 Oviatt Building

DESCRIPTION: Walker and Eisen designed this building in 1928 for businessman James Oviatt and his men's store, Oviatt and Alexander. He had fallen in love with the new Art Deco style on his buying trips to Paris. Most of the fixtures, draperies, stairways, glass fixtures and carpets were made in Paris and then shipped to California. In recent years, architect Brenda Levin has beautifully restored the building. The men's shop is now the restaurant Cicada. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of kent wang

location:
403 W. 8th St
Los Angeles California 90014

5 Garfield Building

DESCRIPTION: This Art Deco building was completed in 1930. The architect was Claud Beelman; he is responsible also for a number of buildings from the same time period in downtown Los Angeles including the Eastern Columbia building. The building itself is a little plain but the lobby is quite formidable with black and purple marble with detailing in silver and gold leaf. The wrought iron entrance canopy and terrazzo sidewalk outside are also notable. The Garfield Building has been vacant since 1991.
© NileGuide



Photo courtesy of Los Angeles at wikimedia

location:
850 S. Broadway
Los Angeles California 90014

6 Ninth and Broadway Building

DESCRIPTION: Another Claud Beelman building, this one built in 1929. There is a lovely terra cotta grill above the entryway and above the first story; the lobby is also worth checking out for the Art Deco detailing.

© NileGuide



Photo courtesy of jimw

contact:
<http://www.thekorgroup.com/condominiums.html>

location:
849 S. Broadway
Los Angeles California 90014

7 Eastern Columbia Building

DESCRIPTION: This building was designed by Claud Beelman and opened as a retail center for the Eastern Outfitting Company and Columbia Outfitting Company in 1930. The funding for this structure came from Adolph Sieroty, a Polish immigrant who started a clock store which quickly grew into these large furniture and clothing businesses. The department stores here closed in 1957, after this the building was used for office space for half a century. In 2004 the Kor Group acquired the place; they renovated it into the current condominium space. This Art Deco masterpiece sheathed with turquoise terra cotta tile is one of the more lovely buildings in the downtown area.

© NileGuide

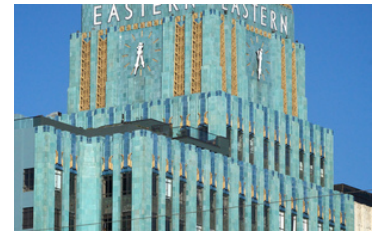


Photo courtesy of Job Garcia

contact:
tel: +1 213 237 5000
fax: +1 213 237 7679
<http://www.latimes.com/about/mediagroup/latimes/tour/>

location:
202 West First Street
Los Angeles CA 90012

8 Los Angeles Times Headquarters

DESCRIPTION: With a daily circulation of more than one million readers, the Los Angeles Times is by far the most popular newspaper in the Southland. Situated on the outskirts of downtown, the publication's headquarters is a massive building that was built in Modern style in 1935. The tour, which meets at the First Street entrance, is an educational trip through the entire publication process as well as a history of this storied American newspaper. Free tours of the original, historic plant are offered to the general public at 1:30p on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Groups of up to 20 can also schedule tours at 9:30a and 11a, as well as 1:30p Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The tours last about 45 minutes, and no children under the age of 10 are admitted. Tours must be reserved at least a week ahead of time. Tours of the actual printing plant are also available; call for details and tour times. Parking is always free at the Times garage, located at 213 South Spring Street. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Jim Winstead at wikimedia

contact:

tel: 213/485-2121
fax: +1 213 473 9938
<http://www.lacityhall.org/>

location:

200 N. Spring St
Los Angeles CA 90012

hours:

Mon-Fri 8am-5pm

9 City Hall

DESCRIPTION: Built in 1928, the 27-story Los Angeles City Hall was the tallest building in the city for more than 30 years. The structure's distinctive ziggurat tower was designed to resemble the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. The building has been featured in numerous films and television shows, but it is probably best known as the headquarters of the Daily Planet in the Superman TV series (or from Beverly Hills Cop, depending on your birth date). When it was built, City Hall was the sole exception to an ordinance outlawing buildings taller than 150 feet. While you're here, be sure to take the elevator to the rarely used 27th-floor Observation Deck -- on a clear day (yeah, right), you can see to Mount Wilson 15 miles away. Free docent-led tours are available at 10 and 11am Monday through Friday, and self-guided tours are available at other times. Call tel. **213/978-1995** for tour information. © Frommer's



contact:

tel: +1 800 266 6883
http://www.metro.net/accessible/gl_union_station.htm

location:

800 N. Alameda St
Los Angeles CA 90012

A Union Station

DESCRIPTION: Union Station, completed in 1939, is one of the finest examples of California mission-style architecture and one of the last of America's great rail stations. It was built with the opulence and attention to detail that characterize 1930s WPA projects, such as its cathedral-like size and richly paneled ticket lobby and waiting area. When you're strolling through these grand historic halls, it's easy to imagine the glamorous movie stars who once boarded The City of Los Angeles and The Super Chief to journey back East during the glory days of rail travel; it's also easy to picture the many heartfelt reunions between returning soldiers and loved ones following the victorious end to World War II, in the station's heyday. Movies shot here include Bugsy, The Way We Were, and Blade Runner. There's always been a restaurant in the station; the latest to occupy this unusually beautiful setting is **Traxx**. © Frommer's



wcities

contact:

tel: +1 213 746 5555
<http://www.cokecce.com/>

location:

1334 South Central Avenue
Los Angeles CA 90021

B Coca-Cola Building

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:
Grand Streamline Moderne building near downtown

DESCRIPTION: Strongly reminiscent of an early 20th century ocean liner, this was indeed the intended effect of architect Robert V. Derrah. Consolidating five ordinary-looking industrial buildings, Derrah created a single structure with soothing streamlined forms, complete with hatch covers and portholes, and crowned by a flying bridge. There are also two giant replicas of Coke bottles flanking the building, which was once the company's headquarters. The interior of the building is not



Photo courtesy of daividavidavidavidavid

open to the public, but the exterior certainly warrants a visit. ©
wcities.com

contact:

tel: (323) 981-2000
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sears,_Roebuck_%26_Company_Mail_Order_Building_%28Los_Angeles,_California%29

location:

2650 East Olympic Boulevard
Los Angeles CA 90023

C Sears

DESCRIPTION: This historic Art Deco Sears building (listed in the National Historical Register of Historic places in 2006) is still a functional Sears store. In fact Sears recently signed a new 99-year lease on the front of the building. However, it remains a mystery what the remainder of the massive 1.8 million square feet building will be used for.

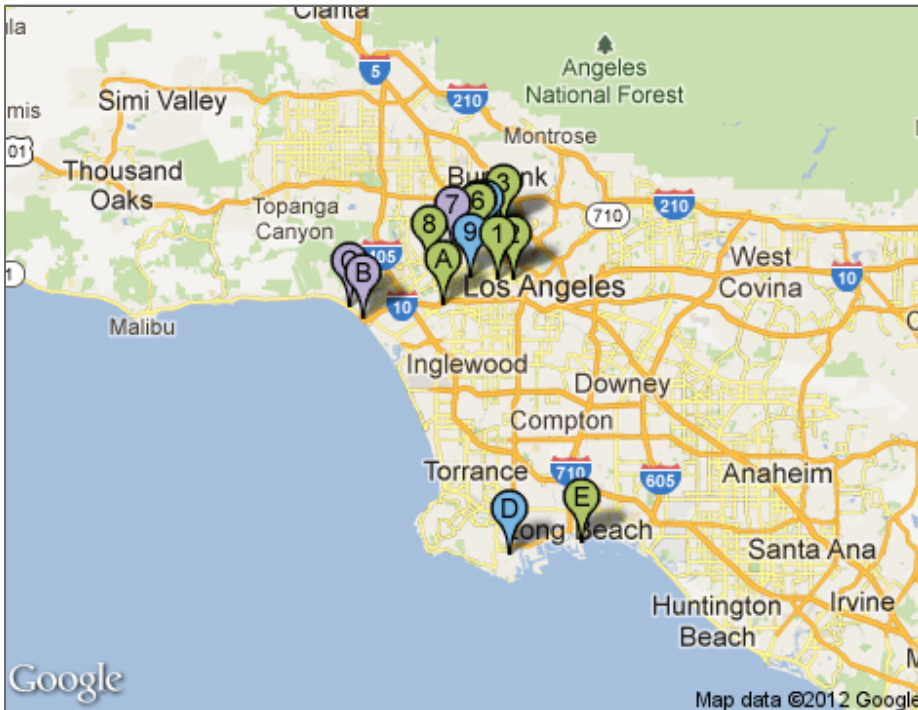
Built in 1927 as a store and regional distribution center for Sears, this place was used that capacity until 1991. At that point, Sears downsized its presence here to a retail storefront and sold the building. Since that time development of the site into a mixed use residential and retail center has been constantly under discussion. It remains unclear who will undertake the re-vitalization of this extremely large building. The site has a lot going for it—it is right off the highway, immediately next to downtown L.A., and an important consumer outlet in the Boyle Heights neighborhood. The downside is so much capitol needed for a project of this size.

© NileGuide



Photo courtesy of Noah Albert

Day 2 - Los Angeles, Beverly Hills, Santa Monica



QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: Other locations

contact:
tel: 213/388-1400
<http://www.wiltern.com>

location:
3790 Wilshire Blvd
Los Angeles CA 90010

hours:
Call for details

1 The Wiltern

DESCRIPTION: According to a security guard, John Wayne and Redd Foxx once got into a fight here after Wayne refused to ride in the same limo as Foxx, who called the movie star a "redneck." Well, your NBC tour will probably be a bit more docile than that. The guided indoor walking tour includes a behind-the-scenes unstaged look at The Tonight Show with Jay Leno set; wardrobe, makeup, and set-building departments; and several sound studios. In fact, NBC is the only TV studio that offers the public a behind-the-scenes look at the inner workings of its television operation, and it's a lot less expensive than the competition's studio tours. Granted, it doesn't have the cachet of a major motion picture studio tour, but it's entertaining nonetheless. Tours depart at the top of the hour Monday through Friday from 9am to 3pm, and tickets are sold at the Guest Relations Department (bring cash -- they don't take credit cards). Also, this is one of the few studio tours that doesn't have a minimum age requirement. **Note:** Before you make the drive to Burbank be sure to call the studio and make sure tours are being offered that day and aren't already sold out. © Frommer's



Photo courtesy of The Wiltern

contact:

tel: +1 213 738 6700
fax: +1 213 383 1688
<http://www.swlaw.edu/campus/building>

location:

3050 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles CA 90010

2 Bullocks Wilshire Building

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Although Nileguide does not official condone this type of behavior, the daring can act like a law student and walk in. Evidently the famous fifth floor Tea Room is now a dining area.

DESCRIPTION: During its heyday, this sprawling department store was dubbed the "Cathedral of Commerce." Opened in 1929, the Bullocks Wilshire Building was one of the most impressive consumer centers that the city had ever seen, an art deco masterpiece adorned with chrome, marble, leather and crystal. The building has since garnered a place on the National Register of Historic Places. It has now been restored and reopened as the Law Library of the Southwestern Law School. The building is open to the public only periodically throughout the year; call the number listed below for recorded information on upcoming tours. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of bossco

contact:

tel: 213/473-0800
<http://www.GriffithObservatory.org/>

location:

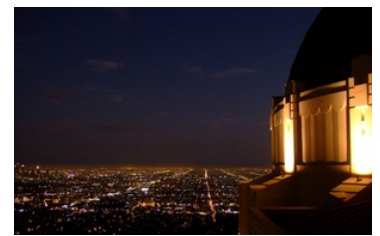
2800 E. Observatory Rd
Los Angeles CA 90027

hours:

Tues-Fri noon-10pm; Sat-Sun 10am-10pm. Call or check website for planetarium showtimes

3 Griffith Observatory

DESCRIPTION: Made world-famous in the film Rebel Without a Cause, Griffith Observatory's bronze domes have been Hollywood Hills landmarks since 1935. Closed for renovation for what seemed like forever, it finally reopened in November of 2006 after a \$93-million overhaul. The central dome houses the 300-seat **Samuel Oschin Planetarium**, where hourly screenings of a narrated half-hour projection show called "Centered in the Universe" reveal the stars and planets that are hidden from the naked eye by the city's ubiquitous lights and smog. The observatory also features 60 space-related exhibits designed to "sparkle your imagination," the highlight being the largest astronomically accurate image ever produced -- a 20*152-foot porcelain enamel dazzler that's cleverly called "The Big Picture." It supposedly encompasses a million galaxies, but I lost count after 11. There's also a new 200-seat Leonard Nimoy Event Horizon Theater (go Spock!), a Wolfgang Puck "Café at the End of the Universe," and several Zeiss and solar telescopes for public use both day and night. Truth be told, most locals never actually go inside the observatory; they come to this spot on the south slope of Mount Hollywood for the unparalleled city views. On warm nights, with the lights twinkling below, this is one of the most romantic places in L.A. © Frommer's



wcities

contact:

tel: 323 468 1770 (Theatre information Hotline)
fax: 323 464 1457
<http://www.pantages-theater.com/>

location:

6233 Hollywood Boulevard
Los Angeles CA 90028

hours:

Box Office: daily 10a onwards

4 Pantages Theatre

DESCRIPTION: Constructed in 1929 in flamboyant art deco style, this marble and bronze theater was one of the most luxurious movie palaces during the golden years of Hollywood. The Academy Awards were held here between 1949 and 1959, when classics like "On The Waterfront" and "Singin' In The Rain" were awarded Oscars. Today, the theater is simply one of the best venues in the area to experience Broadway musicals and intimate concert performances. Plus, its amazing interior design, complete with huge chandeliers and vaulted ceilings, is still in prime condition after a renovation for the theater's 70th anniversary. © wcities.com



wcities

contact:

tel: 323 466 3456
fax: +1 323 461 9737
<http://www.egyptiantheatre.com>

location:

6712 Hollywood Boulevard
Los Angeles CA 90028

5 Egyptian Theater (The)

DESCRIPTION: This theater was opened in 1922 after King Tut's tomb was discovered in Egypt on November 26, 1922, and Egyptian fever was gripping the nation. "Robin Hood", starring Douglas Fairbanks, was the first film to show at the Egyptian. A year later, "The Ten Commandments" had its premiere there. It was eventually sold to American Cinematheque, who restored it to its original glory. Besides screening classic films, new independent films and documentaries, it also occasionally rents out the theater for special events, such as the premiere of "The Prince of Egypt", which re-opened the theater. © wcities.com

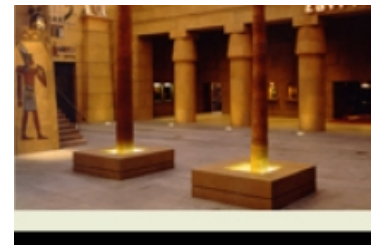


Photo courtesy of Egyptian Theater (The)

contact:

tel: (323) 463-5611
<http://bigorangelandmarks.blogspot.com/2008/04/no-134-crossroads-of-world.html>

location:

6671 West Sunset Boulevard
Los Angeles CA 90028

6 Crossroads of the World

DESCRIPTION: This 1936 tower and outdoor complex was designed by Robert V. Derrah. This place was built as an outdoor shopping mall, with a central Streamline Moderne tower and center piece with additional buildings in French Provincial, Tudor, and Spanish Colonial styles. Now the place is populated by small offices and no longer features many retail establishments. The central 55 foot tower topped by a rotating model of the earth remains a popular and compelling landmark; the Art Deco cruise-boat accents remain stylish even today. Another building by Robert V. Derrah is the downtown Streamline Coca-Cola building. © NileGuide



Photo courtesy of JoshMcConnell

contact:

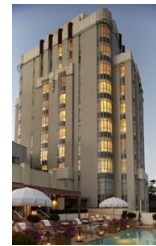
tel: +1 323 654 7100 / +1 800 225 2637 (Toll Free)
fax: +1 323 654 9287
<http://www.sunsettowerhotel.com/>

location:

8358 W Sunset Blvd
Los Angeles CA 90069

7 Sunset Tower Hotel

DESCRIPTION: Built in 1929, this hotel previously known as the Argyle, situated at the base of the Hollywood Hills, provides spectacular city views. The vast collection of film, books and Hollywood portraits at the hotel entices even the most casual observer to pause and browse. Join the ranks of Marilyn Monroe, John Wayne and others who have stayed here, and look around for familiar views from the many movies that were once filmed in this hotel. It is one of those spots where a sense of history clearly pervades the air. Valet parking is additional. © wcities.com



Hotels.com

contact:

tel: +1 213 624 7300 (Tourist Information)
fax: +1 213 624 9746 (Tourist Information)
<http://www.nps.gov/euon/>

location:

507 North Rodeo Drive
Beverly Hills CA 90210

8 O'Neill House

DESCRIPTION: This is certainly one of the more unique structures in Beverly Hills. Heavily reminiscent of Spain's master architect Antonio Gaudi, this home was built in the 1980s by art deco storeowner Don O'Neill. The house is a welcome architectural anomaly amidst the often-boring pseudo-classical style homes of Beverly Hills. Today, no tours are given, but it is still an interesting place to check out from the outside. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of O'Neill House

contact:

tel: 323/936-6400
fax: +1 323 936 5657
<http://www.theelrey.com/index.php>

location:

5515 Wilshire Blvd
Los Angeles CA 90036

9 El Rey Theatre

DESCRIPTION: Another restored relic of L.A.'s old Art Deco movie theaters, this small venue holds about 1,500 for such performers as Lucinda Williams and The Aquabats. It offers upstairs and downstairs views of the stage, but plan on standing all night as there are usually no seats available. © Frommer's

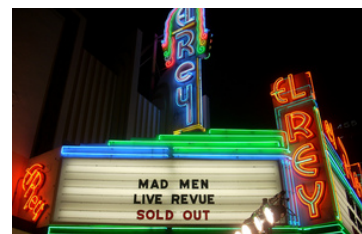


Photo courtesy of watchwithkristin

contact:

tel: +1 213 624 7300 (Tourist Information) / +1 800 228 2452 (Toll Free)
fax: +1 213 624 9746 (Tourist Information)
<http://helmsbakerydistrict.com/>

location:

8758 Venice Boulevard
Los Angeles CA 90034

A Helms Furniture District

DESCRIPTION: This venue traces its beginnings back to the 1930s, when it started out as a humble bakery that shut shop in 1969. Now owned and transformed by Walter N. Marks Inc., the lot has emerged a premier shopping complex, with various retailers, including the huge HD Buttercup, two restaurants—Beacon and La Dijonaise—and a Jazz Bakery, no less! Visit this neighborhood landmark for a day of pleasant shopping. Hours and credit cards vary by store. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Helms Bakery District

hours:

Daily, timing varies by establishment

contact:
tel: (310) 394-2791
www.shangri-la.com

location:
1301 Ocean Ave
Santa Monica CA 90401

B Hotel Shangri-La

DESCRIPTION: A recent \$30 million renovation has made this iconic Santa Monica hotel even more luxurious and impressive. Within walking distance of Santa Monica Pier, and a short drive from Rodeo drive, the Getty and Malibu, the Hotel Shangri-La is ideally located. Sweeping ocean views, a gourmet restaurant, an elevated pool and cabanas and a rooftop bar complete its "air of playful exclusivity." © NileGuide



Photo courtesy of the Shangri-La Hotel

contact:
tel: +1 800 898 6999 / +1 310 581 5533
fax: +1 310 581 5503
<http://www.hotelcasadelmar.com>

location:
1910 Ocean Front Walk
Los Angeles CA 90405

C Casa del Mar

DESCRIPTION: Housed in a former 1920s Renaissance Revival beach club, this Art Deco stunner is a real dream of a resort hotel, equal in every respect to its sister resort, Shutters, located across the street. Which one you prefer depends on your personal sense of style. While Shutters is outfitted like a chic East Coast beach house, this impeccable, villa-like structure radiates period glamour. The building's U-shape awards ocean views to most of the guest rooms, which have summery, European-inspired decor plus abundant luxuries that include sumptuously dressed beds and big Italian marble bathrooms. Rooms are laid out for relaxation, not business, so travelers with work on their minds should stay elsewhere. Downstairs you'll find a big, elegant living room with ocean views, a stylish veranda lounge, and the Catch Restaurant, which has earned justifiable kudos for its beautiful setting, great service, and seasonal seafood. © Frommer's



Hotels.com

contact:
tel: +1 310 833 8333
<http://www.warnergrand.org/>

location:
478 West Sixth Street
Los Angeles CA 90731

D Warner Grand Theater

DESCRIPTION: The Warner Grand Theatre located in San Pedro is placed in a magnificent art-deco building and is one of the last remaining theaters which have been left untouched. This opulent theater hosts the San Diego Opera and is rated as one of the best in the country. The building also plays host to a number of foreign film screenings and live performances. The venue is renowned for its musicals, jazz concerts, operas and orchestras. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of gtail1

contact:
tel: +1 562 435 3511
<http://www.queenmary.com/>

location:
1126 Queen's Hwy
Los Angeles CA 90802

hours:
10am-6pm daily

E The Queen Mary

DESCRIPTION: Long rumored to be haunted, the Queen Mary is a 1019 foot boat that has come to symbolize the city of Long Beach, just south of Los Angeles. The Queen Mary is a retired luxury liner bigger than the Titanic, though less tragic. It has been permanently moored in Long Beach Harbor since 1967 and gone through multiple tourist incarnations. Visitors to the Queen Mary can join a guided tour or book a room in



Photo courtesy of fontplaydotcom

the lower decks which have been converted into a hotel. The Queen Mary is visible from most of Long Beach and is the city's preeminent attraction. Films such as "The Poseidon Adventure" have profited from the Queen Mary's beautiful Art Deco design. Nearby attractions like the Aquarium of the Pacific ensure that a day in Long Beach is not to be missed. © 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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