



**nileGUIDE**

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



maveric2003

# Gardens of Los Angeles

**Avalon, Orange County, Santa Barbara, Beverly Hills, Arcadia, Montecito, Pasadena, Los Angeles, 3 Days**

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# Guide Description



**AUTHOR NOTE:** All the sunshine here does not go to waste!  
Given a little care and water, plants will thrive in Los Angeles.  
For a break from all that asphalt, here are some gardens worth checking.












Photo of peacock at Los Angeles Arboretum courtesy of Zabowski

# Itinerary Overview

things to do  
restaurants  
hotels  
nightlife


## Day 1 - Los Angeles, Beverly Hills, Pasadena, Arcadia

DAY NOTE: More centrally located

-  **Franklin D. Murphy Sculpture Garden**  
Acres of art
-  **Mildred E. Mathias Botanical Garden**  
Eight shaded acres of vegetation
-  **UCLA, Hannah Carter Japanese Garden**  
Kyoto-style garden
-  **Robinson Estate and Gardens**  
Home open to the public
-  **Fairbanks Garden**  
Garden inside of Hollywood Forever Cemetary
-  **Exposition Park Rose Garden**  
More than 20,000 rose bushes
-  **Wrigley Gardens**  
Blossoming year-round in Pasadena
-  **James Irvine Garden**  
Japanese garden at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center
-  **Descanso Gardens**  
Get Back to Nature
-  **Huntington Library, Art Collections & Botanical Gardens**  
Priceless Sight-Seeing
-  **The Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden**  
Flower Power


-  **Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden**  
Little bit of Japan in Long Beach

-  **Sherman Library & Gardens**  
Botanical collections

-  **Wrigley Memorial and Botanical Gardens**  
William Wrigley memorial on Catalina Island

## Day 3 - Santa Barbara, Montecito

DAY NOTE: Farther flung (north)

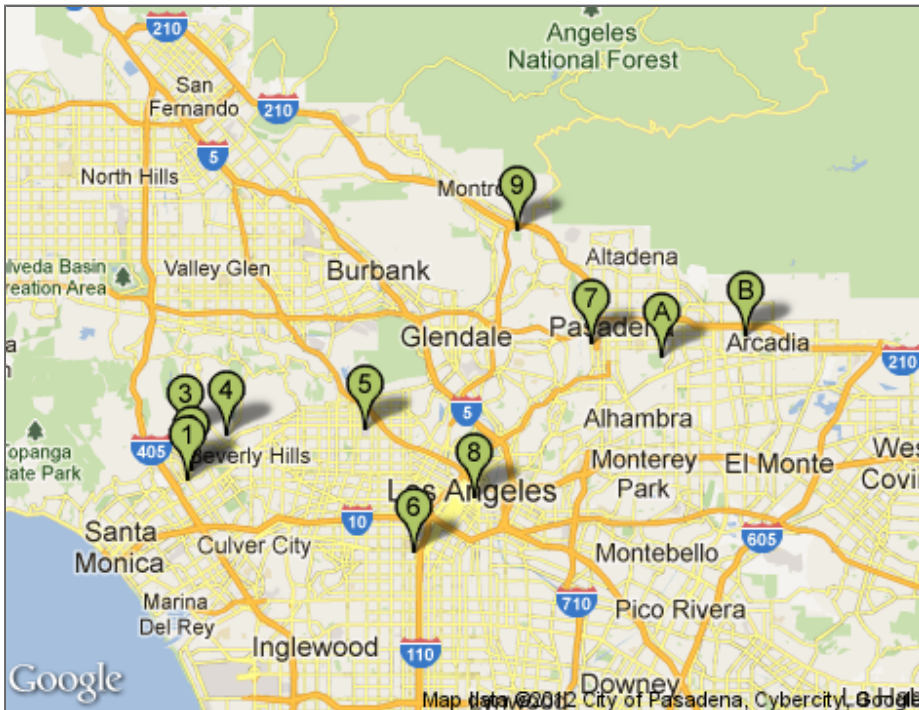
-  **Santa Barbara Botanic Garden**

-  **Ganna Walska Lotusland**

## Day 2 - Los Angeles, Orange County, Avalon

DAY NOTE: Farther flung (south)

# Day 1 - Los Angeles, Beverly Hills, Pasadena, Arcadia



## QUICK NOTE

**DAY NOTE:** More centrally located

**contact:**  
tel: +1 310 443 7000  
<http://www.hammer.ucla.edu/collections/4/>

**location:**  
10899 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles CA 90024

## 1 Franklin D. Murphy Sculpture Garden

**DESCRIPTION:** Encompassing more than five acres on UCLA's North Campus, this is considered by many to be one of the premier sculpture collections in the country. The garden features more than 70 sculptures by such names as Alexander Calder, Auguste Rodin, David Smith and Francisco Zuniga, just to name a few. The garden's collection is maintained by UCLA and continues to grow with each passing year, so there is usually something new to see each visit. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Franklin D. Murphy Sculpture Garden

**contact:**  
tel: +1 310 825 1260 / +1 310 206 6707 (Tours)  
<http://www.botgard.ucla.edu/>

**location:**  
Near Hilgard Avenue and Le Conte Avenue  
Los Angeles CA 90024

## 2 Mildred E. Mathias Botanical Garden

**DESCRIPTION:** With more than 5,000 species of plants on eight acres, this primarily tropical and subtropical garden is one of the finest in the area. It was started in 1929, shortly after UCLA itself started in Westwood, and has since served as an important experimental garden. Among its achievements, it can boast growing vegetation like the eucalyptus, which has since become a Southern California staple. Originally called the UCLA Botanical Garden, it was renamed after Dr. Mildred



Photo courtesy of Mildred E. Mathias Botanical Garden

Mathias in 1979, who made noted advances in horticultural studies during her almost 20 years as director of the garden. Admission is free. © wcities.com

**contact:**

tel: +1 310 794 0320  
fax: +1 310 267 2247  
<http://www.japanesegarden.ucla.edu/>

**location:**

10619 Bellagio Road  
Los Angeles CA 90077

**3 UCLA, Hannah Carter Japanese Garden**

**DESCRIPTION:** This Kyoto-style rock garden features a teahouse, bridges, a shrine and a central pond, and is located about a mile away from the UCLA campus in Bel Air. It contains antique Japanese carvings and structures, some dating back more than 1,000 years. Many of the modern structures here were constructed in Japan and then transported to this site. Although admission is free, you must make a reservation to visit the garden. Visits are self-guided, but docents are also available to answer any questions you may have. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of UCLA, Hannah Carter Japanese Garden

**contact:**

tel: +1 310 276 5367  
[http://www.robinsongardens.org/index\\_files/VRGaboutus.htm](http://www.robinsongardens.org/index_files/VRGaboutus.htm)

**location:**

1008 Elden Way  
Beverly Hills CA 90210

**4 Robinson Estate and Gardens**

**DESCRIPTION:** The Virginia Robinson Estate is the only home in Beverly Hills open to the public. The property consists of a modest 6,000 square-foot mansion with pristine grounds. Virginia Robinson was one of the premier party hosts in Beverly Hills. She played bridge with the likes of Fred Astaire and Charles Boyer on a regular basis. The 90-minute walking tour visits the parlor that provides views into most of the other main rooms, but the real attraction is the six acres of landscaped grounds, which include an Italian terraced hillside, a tropical area and a rose garden. The estate is located just off North Crescent Drive. Reservations must be made several weeks in advance as there are no walk-in visitors allowed. © wcities.com



Robinson Estate and Gardens

**contact:**

tel: +1 323 469 1181  
<http://www.hollywoodforever.com>

**location:**

6000 Santa Monica Boulevard  
Los Angeles CA 90038

**5 Fairbanks Garden**

**DESCRIPTION:** The Fairbanks Garden located in Hollywood Forever Cemetary is a memorial garden dedicated to the legendary actor Douglas Fairbanks. The garden has a 120 feet long reflecting pool that beautifully mirrors the images of the marble sarcophagus, three marble columns and the actor's brass profile. The garden is a beautiful eulogy to the great actor. © wcities.com

Photo courtesy of Fairbanks Garden

**contact:**  
tel: +1 213 763 0114  
<http://www.laparks.org/exporosegarden/rosegarden.htm>

**location:**  
701 State Drive  
Los Angeles CA 90037

## 6 Exposition Park Rose Garden

**DESCRIPTION:** At the north end of Exhibition Park, which isn't really a park at all, sits this sunken garden. It features more than 20,000 rose bushes, made up of more than 190 different varieties of roses. During blooming season from March to November, the smell here can be incredibly strong. This spot is popular for picnics and weddings, the latter of which is available by reservation. Admission is free. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Anika Malone

**contact:**  
tel: +1 626 449 4100  
(Tournament Office)  
fax: +1 626 449 9066  
<http://www.tournamentofroses.com>

**location:**  
391 South Orange Grove Boulevard  
Pasadena CA 91184

## 7 Wrigley Gardens

**DESCRIPTION:** The Wrigley Gardens are located on the grounds of the Tournament House, the mansion formerly belonging to chewing gum tycoon William Wrigley, Jr. and now home to the Tournament of Roses Association. The gardens are open to the public year-round except for Dec 31 and Jan 1. Open 24 hours a day it provides a beautiful and relaxing spot to get away from it all for a few hours. The landscaping is beautiful and features plants indigenous to Southern California. © wcities.com



Rose Parade

**contact:**  
tel: (213) 628-2725 x113  
fax: (213) 617-8576  
<http://www.jacc.org/garden.php>

**location:**  
244 South San Pedro Street  
Los Angeles CA 90012

## 8 James Irvine Garden

**DESCRIPTION:** The James Irvine Garden, also known as Seiryu-en or "Garden of The Clear Stream" is a peaceful oasis in the middle of the city. It is a mix of Eastern and Western landscaping styles and is located in a sub-ground level of the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center. The garden was made possible by volunteer Japanese-American gardeners, landscape contractors and nurserymen. In 1981, it won the "National Landscape Award" of the American Association of Nurserymen and presented by First Lady Nancy Reagan at the White House. The park is closed to the public when rented for special occasions. Hours vary, but it is usually open. Stop by for a relaxing stroll and enjoy the beautiful landscaping and plants. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of James Irvine Garden

**contact:**  
tel: 818/949-4200  
[www.descansogardens.org](http://www.descansogardens.org)

**location:**  
1418 Descanso Dr  
La Canada CA 91011

**hours:**  
Daily 9am-5pm

## 9 Descanso Gardens

**DESCRIPTION:** Camellias -- evergreen flowering shrubs from China and Japan -- were the passion of amateur gardener E. Manchester Boddy, who began planting them here in 1941. Today his 160-acre Descanso Gardens contain more than 100,000 camellias in more than 600 varieties, blooming under a canopy of California oak trees. The shrubs now share the limelight with a 9-acre International Rosarium, home to hundreds of varieties. This is a very relaxing place, with paths and streams that wind through the towering forest, bordering a lake, bird sanctuary, Japanese Garden & Tea House, and



photo courtesy of Descanso Gardens

Boddy House art museum. Each season features different plants: daffodils, azaleas, tulips, and lilacs in the spring; chrysanthemums in the fall; and so on. Monthly art exhibits are held in the garden's hospitality house, and the Courtyard Café offers light meals daily from 10am to 3pm. Guided tram tours, which cost \$3, run Tuesday through Friday at 1, 2, and 3pm, and Saturday and Sunday at 11am and 1, 2, and 3pm. Picnicking is allowed in specified areas. © Frommer's

**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

## **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. 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



Photo courtesy of The Huntington.

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

**contact:**

tel: 626/821-3222

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

**location:**

301 N. Baldwin Ave  
Arcadia CA 91007

**hours:**

Daily 9am-5pm. Last admission 4:30pm

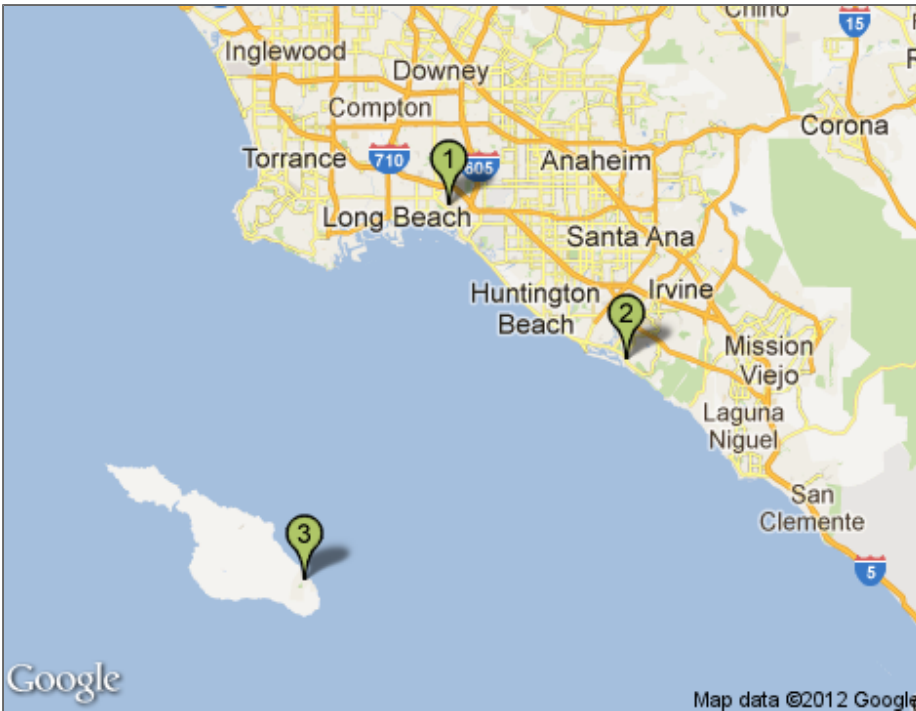


## The Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden

**DESCRIPTION:** Tucked into the hillsides of the San Gabriel Mountains, this sprawling horticultural and botanical center was formerly the estate of silver magnate "Lucky" Baldwin -- the man responsible for bringing horse racing to Southern California -- who lived until 1909 on these lushly planted 127 acres overlooking the Santa Anita racetrack. You might recognize Baldwin's red-and-white Queen Anne cottage from the opening sequence of *Fantasy Island* ("de plane, de plane"); the gardens are also a favorite location for movie filming and local weddings. In addition to spectacular flora (every continent is represented here), the Arboretum boasts a bevy of resident peafowl who seem unafraid of humans -- one of the best treats here is being up close when the peacocks, attempting to impress passing hens, unfold their brilliant rainbow plumage. Avid gardeners will want to visit the nursery-like gift shop on the way out. Admission is free every third Tuesday from 9am to 4:30pm. © Frommer's



# Day 2 - Los Angeles, Orange County, Avalon



QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: Farther flung (south)

**contact:**

tel: +1 562 985 5930  
<http://www.csulb.edu/~jgarde>  
n/

**location:**

1250 Bellflower Boulevard  
Los Angeles CA 90840

## 1 Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden

**DESCRIPTION:** Located on the western edge of the campus at California State University, this garden with its Japanese touch, provides a tranquil setting. Built in the name of the late Mr. Miller, the funds were contributed to the University by his wife. It remains closed in the months of December and January, though the times it is open a lot of weddings are held here. A romantic touch lies in the fact that most of the past students choose this place for a marriage function due to the sentimental value attached. The pond has a lot of Japanese fish in it and the greens stay well-maintained. Check the website for a list of closed days. © wcities.com



hoto courtesy of Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden

**contact:**

tel: +1 949 673 2261 / +1 949 673 1880  
fax: +1 949 675 5458  
<http://www.slgardens.org/>

**location:**

2647 East Coast Highway  
Corona Del Mar CA 92625

**hours:**

## 2 Sherman Library & Gardens

**DESCRIPTION:** Sherman Library and Gardens is located on Pacific Coast Highway and has extensive botanical collections with examples of plant life from desert regions to tropical regions. It is a veritable outdoor museum of plants. Walk along the paths and smell the fragrant flowers and listen to the bubbling fountains. It really is an oasis that will take you away to a calmer, more peaceful place. Guided tours are available by calling the number listed below. © wcities.com



wcities

Daily 10:30a-4p

**contact:**

tel: (310) 510-2595  
<http://www.catalina.com/memorial.html>

**location:**

One and a half miles up  
Avalon Canyon Road  
Avalon CA 90704



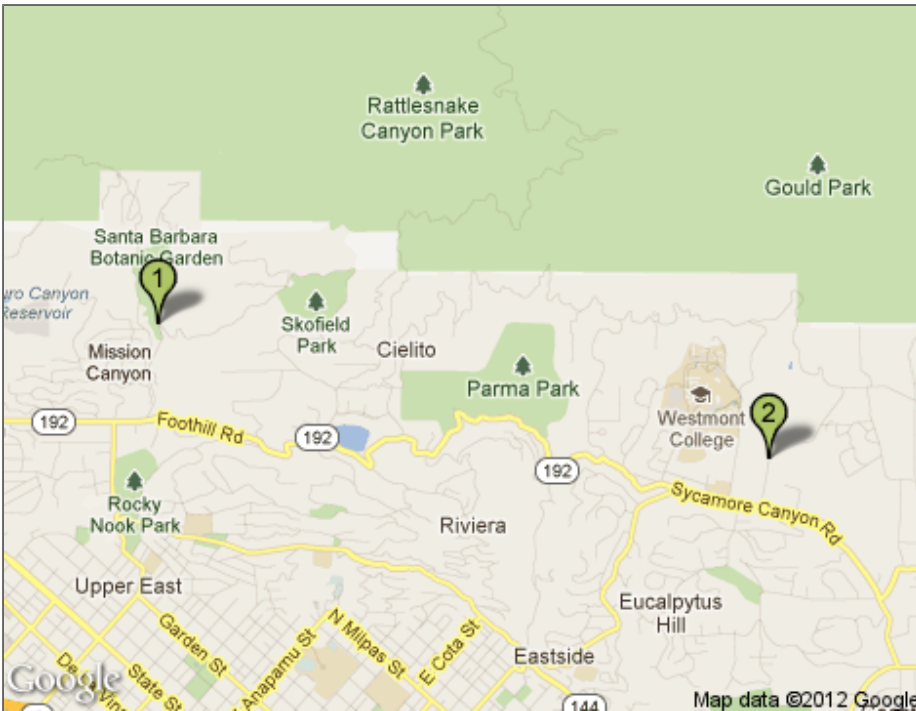
## Wrigley Memorial and Botanical Gardens

**DESCRIPTION:** This garden was created between 1933 and 1934 in memory of William Wrigley Junior, the chewing gum magnate and patron saint of Catalina Island. Wrigley did much to improve the island, including adding public utilities, building new steamships, constructing the Casino building, and planting extensive plants and flowers. The memorial is set in the center of the Botanical Garden with beautiful views of Avalon Bay. The different stones used to build it all come from various parts of the island. Children under 12 are admitted free. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Wrigley Memorial and Botanical Gardens (The)

# Day 3 - Santa Barbara, Montecito



## QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: Farther flung (north)

**contact:**  
tel: 805/682-4726  
<http://www.sbbg.org>

**location:**  
1212 Mission Canyon Rd  
Santa Barbara CA 93103

**hours:**  
Daily 9am-5pm (till 6pm Mar-Oct)

## 1 Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

**DESCRIPTION:** The Botanic Garden is devoted to indigenous California plants. More than 5.5 miles of meandering trails on 65 acres offer glimpses of cacti, redwoods, wildflowers, and much more, many arranged in representational habitats or landscapes. The gardens were established in 1926. You'll catch the very best color and aroma just after spring showers. © Frommer's



Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

**contact:**  
tel: 805/969-9990  
[www.lotusland.org](http://www.lotusland.org)

**location:**  
695 Ashley Rd  
Montecito CA 93108

**hours:**  
2-hr. guided tours mid-Feb to mid-Nov Wed-Sat 10am and 1:30pm

## 2 Ganna Walska Lotusland

**DESCRIPTION:** This secluded, lavishly landscaped 37-acre estate is renowned for exotic plants and mysterious garden paths. Named for the estate's vivacious European-born mistress and the romantic, lotus-filled ponds in her gardens, the estate reflects the late Madame Walska's eccentricity and the skill of her prestigious gardeners. She was especially fond of succulents and cacti, interspersing them artistically among native plants and decorative objects. Assembled when money was no object and import regulations were lenient (mostly in the 1940s), the garden contains priceless rare specimens -- even prehistoric plants that are extinct in the wild. Advance reservations are required. Montecito is a 5-minute freeway drive south of downtown Santa Barbara. **Note:** Advance reservations are required and are available up to 6 months in advance. © Frommer's

# Orange County Snapshot

## Local Info

The picture today of Orange County is much different than its image from when the Beach Boys were big. The world famous beaches, bleached blonde locals, original Magic Kingdom, and entrenched conservatism still remain, but the years have brought gradual, beneficial change. The Democrats achieved unprecedented success in Orange County during the 2008 presidential election, while the social and cultural demographics are also much changed from Nixon's day with, for example, a strong Vietnamese presence now established in the City of Westminster.

While the Beach Boys (none of whom could actually surf) continue to be played every third song on a local radio station, K-Earth, a younger generation of locals are more likely to think of No Doubt as the representative OC-born band of recent years: inventive, exciting, and with a definite global appeal.

### OC geography

This substantial 948 square mile rectangle of California, with the Pacific Ocean along the west and the San Bernardino Forest in the east, contains 34 towns within its borders with the capabilities to cater to almost any taste. With shopping, restaurants, and plenty of outdoor activities, the main draw remains the unending coastline.

Stretching the full length of the county, from the OC's southernmost city of San Clemente (aka: the Spanish Village by the Sea) and the westernmost tip of Seal Beach (home to a National Wildlife Preserve), the beach is the focal point for much of life in the OC. Millionaire homesteads in Newport and Laguna Beach cap the semi-arid hills of the OC, battling for the best ocean views. Choice surf spots such as Huntington Beach, Salt Creek, and San Onofre are never without their attendant pods of wetsuit-wearing surfers, often in the water from as early as 6am to avoid the crowds and lay claim to the best waves.

Surfin' USA

Surfing being what it is in Orange County (Huntington Beach, proudly known as "Surf City USA" lays claim to the origins of the practice in the US), it's also possible to come across surfing competitions throughout the year at any of these prime surf spots. Two competitions particularly worth catching are the Huntington Beach-located US Open (mid-July), like a local festival with live music and a skateboarding arena included, and the Hurley Pro Trestles (mid-Sept), held at Lower Trestles near San Clemente.

### Historical pockets

If you're looking for more history than the ongoing surfing traditions (although Huntington does have an International Surfing Museum), there are some historical pockets of interest around the OC. Mission San Juan Capistrano is always a popular choice, famous for its classic Spanish Colonial architecture and the Return of the Swallows celebration which marks the annual migration of the swallows from Argentina to the OC. Nearby Dana Point also holds its own historical "hidden secret" - a replica of the brig Pilgrim (the boat upon which Richard Henry Dana rode in on to eventually write "Two Years Before the Mast", and who Dana Point is named after).

If you are a presidential history buff, be sure to stop by the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum in Yorba Linda, situated on the land where Nixon family lived until 1922. You can't miss the building - it has an actual Army One helicopter outside (and yes, you are able to step aboard).

History can also be uncovered in unexpected places, such as along the hiking trails (or dirt bike tracks, depending on your perspective) that wind throughout the beautiful canyons that you can find just a few miles inland from the coast. The Dripping Cave (found in Aliso and Wood Canyons Park), a prime example of the wind-carved sandstone caves that litter the region, was the hideout for stagecoach

bandits, reminding you of wilder times in this now most settled of regions.

### Top stops

Nowhere is more settled than the most popular areas of the region: Laguna Beach and Newport Beach (the latter incorporating Balboa Island and the Balboa Peninsula). These two towns, on the surface, are distillates of old school Orange County, with millionaire residents and, in the case of Newport's Balboa Island, gleaming powerboats docked at the end of private piers. But look closer, and you see what the super-rich are buying here is the cozy, local feel that sets these towns apart from their in-county cousins. Laguna, home to a stretch of stunning beaches backed by sea-cliffs (1,000 Steps Beach is a perennial local favorite), is also Orange County's local artist epicenter, with a small gallery almost every second shop (for a closer look, attend the annual Sawdust Festival when local artists open their studios to the public or their weekly Art Walk during the summer). Walking around Newport's Balboa Island feels like stepping backwards into a more innocent time - at the Fun Zone there's a big wheel, a 50's style diner on the pier, and stands at which to buy the local specialty of frozen bananas.

If that all sounds a little too nostalgic, South Coast Plaza, the great commercial heart of Orange County, awaits just off the I-5 for all those keen to indulge in some serious mall-time. For the wandering gourmand, increasing ethnic diversity coupled with OC resident Michelin-starred chefs ensure a galaxy of choice (for all budgets) when it comes to deciding where to eat. Oenophiles, unsure whether to go straight to Napa, can find local wineries in Orange County (Laguna Canyon for one), and are also within easy striking distance of the many vineyards found in the Temecula Valley.

The thing about Orange County is that it's full of surprises. Yes, there's Disneyland (now expanded to include the rides of sister-park, California Adventure,

## Orange County Snapshot continued

and the music of the House of Blues), coastline to die for, and the laid-back surfer vibe. But there are also intense chilli cook-

offs, bizarre traditions like the Laguna Niguel annual mooning of the Amtrak train service, and America's richest two-day rodeo. Remember that when deciding your

itinerary, leave a couple of days free to explore and find out what you can uncover.  
© NileGuide

# Santa Barbara Snapshot

## Local Info

Situated along an east-west section of the Pacific Ocean and the Santa Ynez Mountains, Santa Barbara stretches from pristine south-facing shores to the rugged San Rafael Wilderness Area. Known for its creative and diverse population of free-thinking hippies, dedicated farmers, surfing cowboys, inspired artists, discreet celebs, fabled eccentrics, and students from all over the world, this town was built upon the dreams of an industrious bunch—a requisite trait needed to come up with ways to afford the seaside enclave's ever increasing cost of living. But whether dwelling high on the hog in the coveted Hope Ranch, Riviera, and Montecito neighborhoods, or in a modest pad on the westside of State Street, north in Goleta, or on the breezy Mesa, Santa Barbara residents love their town and it's evident in the city's boisterous festivals. The annual Summer Solstice Celebration is a pagan paradise, Old Spanish Days Fiesta is a nod to the city's roots, and Earth Day began in town as a response to the area's devastating 1969 oil spill. In between festivals you can always count on weekly farmers markets to bring together chefs, shoppers, and the soil-tilling growers in the community—including winemakers from the renowned Santa Ynez Valley grape-growing region, and ranchers who work the same land founded by the city's earliest Spanish inhabitants.

With Brooks Institute of Photography, Santa Barbara City College, University of California Santa Barbara, and Westmont College within a stone's throw of each other, heaps of students frequent State Street's quaint coffee shops, bookstores, restaurants, music venues, and of course, the many clubs and bars that come alive at night. But not all of the city's favorite

haunts are reserved for student life; locals favor off the beaten path pubs, cafes, and wine bars that serve up Central Coast vintages, creative farmers market inspired dishes and cocktails, and live music. The legendary Santa Barbara Bowl is an intimate amphitheater nestled into a neighborhood hillside and draws big names to the stage, including well-known music makers that call the county home—think David Crosby, Jack Johnson, and Kenny Loggins. Historic downtown theaters including the Arlington and the recently refurbished Granada host dance and theater companies, comedians, authors, politicians, and more, who are wooed by UCSB's celebrated Arts & Lectures program.

The intrepid traveler will be glad to know that outdoor adventures are also on the menu in Santa Barbara. Hiking, mountain biking, and rock climbing are favorite activities in the Santa Ynez Mountains, while Pacific waters are prime for surfing, stand up paddling, kayaking, diving, and more. The mountains are a few miles from the heart of town and offer everything from short day hikes and bike rides, to multi-day backpacking trips. Famed wave riders Kelly Slater and Bobby Martinez have been known to ride local point breaks, but plenty of nearby waves are slow and safe for beginners. If you'd rather enjoy a dry day on the water, charter a sailboat from the Santa Barbara Sailing Center or head to the harbor and hop on a water taxi for a sunset cruise. Of course, you can always get your aquatic fix with a stroll along the shore and fish'n' chips from Harbor haunts Brophy Bros. and Longboards, or even on the sand at Shoreline Beach Cafe.

If shopping and eating are your main concern, look no further than downtown's State Street—home to boutiques, cafes, and bookstores. Pick up Santa Barbara

styles at local shops such as Wendy Foster and Blue Bee, or hit the bigger department stores in Paseo Nuevo—a mall of cobble stone pathways that lead to a movie theater, restaurants, salons, and more. To indulge in the city's gastronomic delights, stay on State Street for authentic Italian cuisine and wine on tap at Palazzo, or walk a few blocks off State for melt-in-your-mouth butternut squash ravioli with sage butter sauce at family-owned Ca Dario. With the city's strong Latin roots, you can count on epic Mexican eats at Carlitos Cafe and Cantina and Los Arroyos, and Argentinian treats and flamenco dancing at Cafe Buenos Aires. Local fish and California fare (think salads and anything with avocado) are also around every corner—The Hungry Cat serves up the freshest fish and imaginative cocktails, and Milk & Honey specializes in wine and tapas. If you dare to venture away from downtown, you'll find fabled haunts that have been serving Santa Barbara for decades. Arnoldi's is a classic Italian eatery with fierce bocce ball tournaments out back, and Harry's has served its hearty sandwiches and cocktails to everyone from Robert Mitchum to Bo Derek. Once the lights go down, dusty pubs, sleek bars, and live music venues open for business around State Street. Since 1928, Joe's Cafe has maintained its reputation for the stiffest drinks around, while across the street the James Joyce is known for big band tunes, peanut husk-covered floors, and Santa Barbara Blondes (by the pint and on the dance floor).

From historic watering holes, fine dining, wild nightlife, and rootsy bands to notable landmarks and adventure on both land and sea, Santa Barbara has a little something for everyone.

© NileGuide

# Montecito Snapshot

## Local Info

Located on the South Coast of Santa Barbara County, Montecito is a lush, seaside enclave, where you'll find ambling homes tucked into the mountainside, cozy eateries, and quaint boutiques that beckon you (and your pocket book).

Before Hollywood was Hollywood, Montecito was the choice playground for filmmakers, starlets, and leading men who came to town to shoot films—and take five from the limelight. While the filmmaking industry did not stick, the town has a colorful history and many celebs still call Montecito home. Charlie Chaplin laid down roots with his Montecito Inn—still a popular hideaway—and The Four Seasons Biltmore's Coral Casino was recently refurbished to its glory days, when the likes of Lana Turner sipped bubbly by the pool, and Robert Mitchum and Gregory Peck held court at fanciful theme parties. Hidden in the Montecito hills, the San Ysidro Ranch has hosted everyone from John and Jacqueline Kennedy to Gwyneth Paltrow and Chris Martin, and their cozy restaurant, Plow & Angel, is a choice spot for special occasions or a quiet meal by the fire. The area's estates are home to ex-pats of Los Angeles and household names looking to get away—including the media queen herself, Oprah Winfrey. Behind the shady trees you'll find the area's trademark Spanish Revival

Colonial-style homes and buildings, built by renowned architect George Washington Smith in the early twentieth century. One of the more well-known homes in town was once owned by a fabled former opera singer who devoted her life to creating a blooming oasis of gardens in her yard. Now open to the public, visitors can tour the lush landscapes of Madame Gana Walska's Lotusland.

Times may have changed from Montecito's early days, but it's easy to forget the year while winding through the sycamore-lined lanes and strolling along the town's quaint main street, Coast Village Road. Walking the short distance from one end of the stretch to the other can take hours if you choose to peek into the street's many galleries, boutiques, and intimate restaurants. Maison K carries chic accents for your home, while shops like Angel and Dressed are the spots to find threads of the moment. For an authentic Italian feast day or night, stop into Tre Lune, where the dishes are hot and delicious and the black and white photos on the wall tell the history of the haunt. Grab a pizza to-go or enjoy a glass of wine with pasta at Pane e Vino, a more casual Italian option nearby. In the middle of Coast Village, Lucky's is always packed. Not only are their steaks thick and juicy, the drinks are mixed to a tee and the crowd is a cross section of the community—from retired locals and twenty-something couples on date night, to families

out for dinner and neighbors in for a quick drink. Mexican fare can be found at Cava and Los Arroyos, and cozy breakfast spots like Jeanine's serve strong coffee and sweet treats to kick off the day.

A short drive into the hills takes you to hiking trails that wind up to plateaus with panoramic views of the city, the ocean, and the Channel Islands just off shore. South of Montecito Peak in Hot Springs Canyon, the Hot Springs Hotel once attracted visitors to the area's natural springs, which the native Chumash frequented for healing soaks. After the hotel burned in 1920, the land was eventually purchased for private use and the sulfuric pools now sit untouched—save for the daring hiker or college student who knows where to find them. For a less hidden (and legal) soak, head to town's pristine shores. Butterfly Beach is a popular stretch in front of the Biltmore hotel, which leads southeast toward more off the beaten track beach options including Hammonds and Miramar (both favorites for surfers).

Whether stopping through or staying in town, visitors are welcome to step into Montecito's picturesque surroundings to enjoy the beauty of its mountains and ocean, bustling main street, indulgent resort offerings, or simply to sit back and recall its storied past.

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# 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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