



**nileGUIDE**

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



maveric2003

# Los Angeles Hikes

## **Malibu, West Hollywood, Pasadena, Woodland Hills, Los Angeles, 3 Days**

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# Guide Description



**AUTHOR NOTE:** Although you may not guess it, there is great hiking very close to the City of Angels. The Los Angeles basin is located immediately next to the rugged Santa Monica and San Gabriel mountain ranges. Outdoor adventure is at hand.

Day 1 -- Malibu and Westside

Day 2 -- near Hollywood

Day 3 -- near Pasadena











Also check out my guide Los Angeles Gardens to find more places to stroll.

# Itinerary Overview

things to do  
restaurants  
hotels  
nightlife


## Day 1 - Malibu, Los Angeles, Woodland Hills

DAY NOTE: Malibu and Westside

-  **Point Mugu State Park**  
A secluded spot
-  **Leo Carrillo State Beach**  
Quiet peaceful beach
-  **Point Dume State Beach**  
Cliffs, secluded coves & tidepools.
-  **Zuma / Trancas Canyons**  
Abundance of plant and animal life
-  **Solstice Canyon Trail**  
Multi-level ruins beside a shady stream
-  **Peter Strauss Ranch**  
Enchanting oak woodland
-  **Paramount Ranch**  
The setting for hundreds of films
-  **Malibu Creek State Park**
-  **Topanga State Park**  
Great hiking trails
-  **Franklin Canyon Site**  
Island of open space, surrounded by city

## Day 2 - Los Angeles, West Hollywood

DAY NOTE: Hollywood area

-  **Runyon Canyon**  
Amazing views and natural beauty in the heart of Hollywood

-  **Lake Hollywood**  
A Hollywood oasis

-  **The HOLLYWOOD Sign**  
Beacon of Tinseltown


-  **Griffith Park**  
Tons of Activities


-  **Bronson Caves**  
An old Hollywood quarry


## Day 3 - Pasadena, Los Angeles

DAY NOTE: Pasadena area

-  **Echo Mountain via Sam Merrill Trail**  
Vigorous hike to the ruins of a resort hotel and railway

-  **Eaton Canyon Nature Center**  
Nature near Pasadena

-  **Millard Canyon Falls Trail**  
A hike by the falls

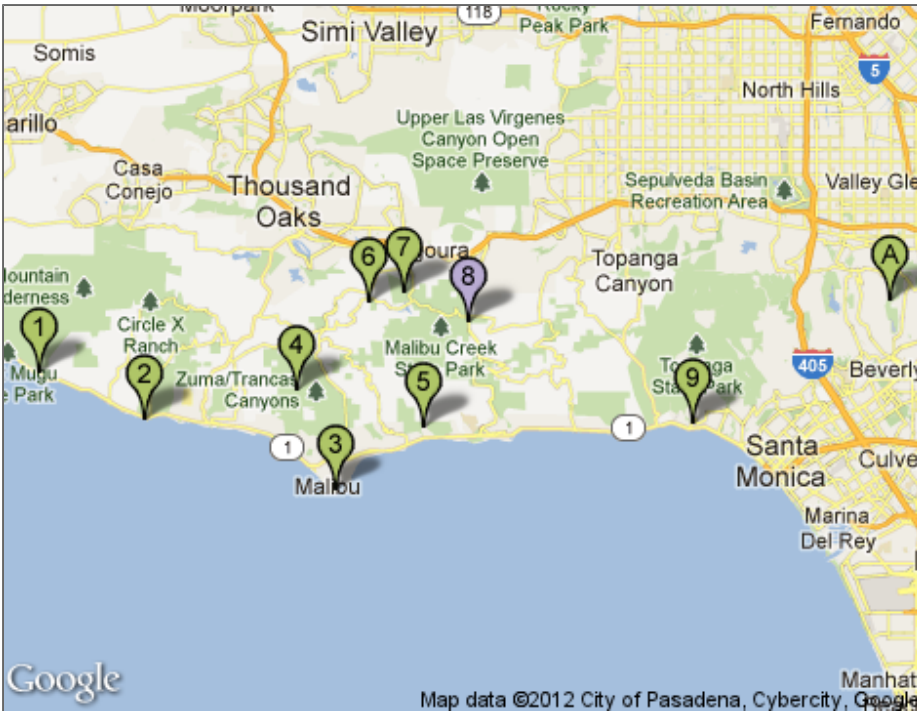
-  **Monrovia Canyon Falls**  
1.5 mile hike to a waterfall

-  **San Gabriel Wilderness**  
Horseback riding, hiking and backpacking

-  **Baldy Notch to Mt. San Antonio Trail**  
Baldy Notch to Mt. San Antonio Trail brings you to the top of the crown jewel of the San Gabriel Mountains, majestic Mt. San Antonio (10,064 ft. elevation) towers over all other peaks in the range.

-  **Cucamonga Wilderness**  
Numerous hiking and backpacking trails

# Day 1 - Malibu, Los Angeles, Woodland Hills



## QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: Malibu and Westside

### contact:

tel: +1 818 880 0350  
<http://www.parks.ca.gov/>

### location:

9000 West Pacific Coast  
Highway  
Malibu CA 90265

## 1 Point Mugu State Park

**DESCRIPTION:** Point Mugu State Park is a secluded spot away from it all. There are 70 miles of hiking trails and camping areas for those who would like to stay for a while. Reservations are necessary for the camping facilities. Also in the park is a tall-grass prairie preserve as well as sycamore trees and beautiful canyons. Whether you are just making a picnic out of it or want to spend a weekend camping, Point Mugu is a beautiful place in which to do it. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Point Mugu State Park

### contact:

tel: 310-457-8143  
fax: 310-589-1522  
<http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp>

### location:

35000 West Pacific Coast  
Highway  
Malibu CA 90265

## 2 Leo Carrillo State Beach

**DESCRIPTION:** This 1.5-mile beach, located 30 miles north of Santa Monica, was named after Leo Carrillo, a radio and TV performer. It allows leashed dogs everywhere except between towers 2 and 3. If you walk up under the freeway you will find lots of nice trails, but be careful of snakes. There's a snack bar across the street at the base of the mountain. The beach also features caves and the potential to observe marine animals as they pass by. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Leo Carrillo State Beach

**contact:**

tel: 310-457-8143

fax: 310-589-1522

<http://www.parks.ca.gov/>

**location:**

39996 Pacific Coast Hwy  
Malibu CA 90265

### 3 Point Dume State Beach

**DESCRIPTION:** Point Dume State Beach preserves a wide strip of white-sand beaches backed by tall bluffs and the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area west of Los Angeles. The park encompasses headlands, cliffs, secluded coves and tidepools. The beach offers views of the coast, including the sight of migrating California gray whales between November and May. Amenities include hiking trails, restrooms and lifeguard stations. Recreation opportunities abound at this State Beach. Visitors can enjoy hiking, sun bathing, viewing scenery, wildlife watching and surfing. Swimming is permitted at Point Dume, but bathers should be aware of strong currents that sometimes exist. This beach is located in Los Angeles County, 18 miles west of Santa Monica. The entrance is on Westward Road.



Photo courtesy of Clinton Steeds

**contact:**

tel: 805-370-2301

fax: 805-370-1850

[www.nps.gov/samo/](http://www.nps.gov/samo/)

**location:**

CA 90265

### 4 Zuma / Trancas Canyons

**DESCRIPTION:** Zuma! It is derived from the Chumash word for "abundance." Certainly, Zuma and neighboring Trancas Canyons satisfy this description. The perennial streams running through these canyons give rise to an abundance of animal and plant life. These same natural resources have influenced and given rise to a long and rich cultural history. While venturing through the canyons, look and listen for the signs of life around you. Walk carefully along the trails and discover tracks of deer, rabbit and coyote. Marvel at the delicate homes of funnel web spiders hiding in the earth's tiny crevices. Listen for the shy wren-tit, the "voice of the chaparral." Though rarely seen, its call sounds like a ping-pong ball echoing throughout the canyon. For more than 10,000 years, Zuma and Trancas Canyons have been home to animal, plant and human communities. Chumash ancestors walked here, gathering food and materials for tools and shelter. During the Spanish period (1769-1848), a Mexican Land Grant united the canyons for the first time under one name—Rancho Topanga Malibu Sequit. The 13,330-acre grant included coastal areas from Santa Monica to Point Mugu. Frederick and May Rindge bought the property in 1892 and renamed it Rancho Malibu. They adopted a policy of no through roads and no right-of-way granted to trespassers. May Rindge continued this policy after her husband's death. As the legendary "Queen of Malibu," she depleted her fortune while trying to maintain the integrity of her property. Still, after twenty years, the U.S. Supreme Court forced her to allow the Pacific Coast Highway through her ranch. This scenic highway made the area more accessible to a greater population, forever changing California's coast. However, Zuma and Trancas Canyons remained minimally developed. Throughout their history, these canyons have had many names, many residents, and many owners. Preserved by the National Park Service, their zuma or their abundance of resources and beauty remain for you to experience. To get there take the Pacific Coast Highway and turn north on Busch Drive right near the entrance to Zuma Beach parking areas. Head north on Busch Drive about 1.5 miles and park in the dirt lot at the Zuma Ridge Trailhead Kiosk.

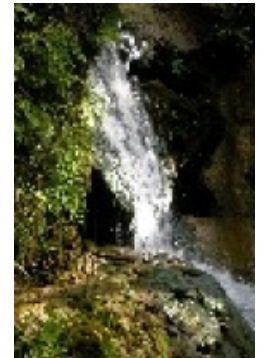


Photo courtesy of Zuma / Trancas Canyons

**contact:**

tel: 805-370-2301

fax: 805-370-1850

<http://www.nps.gov/samo/>

**location:**

CA 90263

**5 Solstice Canyon Trail**

**DESCRIPTION:** Solstice Canyon Trail is an easy 2.1-mile stroll that affords views of Keller House, which is believed to be the oldest existing stone building in Malibu. On your way to Tropical Terrace, see if you can spy the low concrete retaining walls of a former fish pond in a grassy area overlooking the creek. Many other clues to the past remain even though the Roberts' Family home, once located at Tropical Terrace, burned in 1982. Look for house foundations and a concrete bomb shelter. Walk across the creek into a hidden sanctuary and garden. It's hard to imagine now, but at one time giraffes, camels, buffalo, African deer and exotic birds roamed the canyon on the Roberts' Ranch. Solstice Canyon Trail, southwest of Tropical Terrace, is a hike through chaparral and coastal sage scrub to the west ridge of Solstice Canyon. From here you can see some of the best ocean views in the Santa Monica Mountains. Look for "Deer Valley," an area near an oak woodland and meadow known for its abundance of wildlife. From Malibu take the Pacific Coast Highway west to Solstice Canyon. Park in second lot for trail access.



Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Solstice Canyon

**contact:**

tel: 805-370-2301

fax: 805-370-1850

[www.nps.gov/samo/](http://www.nps.gov/samo/)

**location:**

CA 91301

**6 Peter Strauss Ranch**

**DESCRIPTION:** This enchanting oak woodland has long been a source of dreams, visions and memories. Inhabited for thousands of years by the Chumash people, this area became part of Rancho Las Virgenes after Spanish colonization. The original coast live oak, used as the marker in the 1881 land grant survey, still stands just west of the swimming pool. The upside-down letter "T" is still evident in the bark. The "vision of enchantment" continues at this site today with hiking, concerts, picnics, and art exhibits. Explore this peaceful refuge and create some memories of your own. Dreams - At the turn of the century, Harry Miller purchased the ranch as a weekend retreat from his residence and automobile factory in Los Angeles. His patented master carburetor and "Miller Specials," featured at Indianapolis 500 car races, brought him fame. In 1926, Harry built many structures including the stone ranch house, the "look out tower" and the aviary. The Depression and his attempt at aircraft-engine development resulted in financial ruin, the loss of the ranch and an end to his dreams. Visions - In the mid 1930s, Warren Shobert and Arthur Edeson purchased the ranch, transforming the place into "Shoson" a fairyland of charm and a paradise for children and adults. Later, a dam was constructed on Triunfo Creek, creating a small lake. The resort was renamed "Lake Enchanto." Competition from other, larger amusement parks and resorts led to the decline of "Lake Enchanto." It fell into disrepair and closed around 1960. Memories - Actor Peter Strauss was deeply moved by the area's natural beauty while filming the mini-series "Rich Man, Poor Man" at Malibu Lake in 1976. He purchased the property and restored the site to its original splendor, living here until 1983. Due to his sensitivity and concern for the natural environment, Strauss sold the ranch to the Santa Monica



Photo courtesy of Peter Strauss Ranch

Mountains Conservancy. The National Park Service purchased the ranch in 1987 as part of Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, dedicated to the preservation of our natural and cultural history. What to look for today? The Peter Strauss Trail affords a 0.6-mile easy, round trip hike. This pleasant trail is suited for the novice hiker. It traverses chaparral and oak riparian habitats. Late winter and spring are the best times to view native plants in bloom. Flora includes yellow star thistle, golden yarrow, foothill penstemon, horehound, coffeeberry, buckbrush, peony, poison oak, and many others. The Terrazzo Dance Floor / Patio was made in 1939 of imported Italian terrazzo tile with a pointed star to commemorate Hollywood. The patio was a popular place for Big Band concerts and dancing in the 1940s. In the 1950s, country singers such as Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson and the Mandrell Sisters performed here for a local television station. The largest swimming pool on the west coast was built here in 1940. It had a capacity for 650,000 gallons of water and could accommodate up to 3,000 people. Built during the same era was Lake Enchanto Dam. This dam created the centerpiece of Lake Enchanto making it popular for fishing, rowing and swimming. The dam was breached in the late 1960s by severe flooding. Part of the dam structure still exists in the creek bed near the picnic area.

**contact:**

tel: 805-370-2301

fax: 805-370-1850

[http://www.nps.gov/samo/plan\\_yourvisit/paramountranch.htm](http://www.nps.gov/samo/plan_yourvisit/paramountranch.htm)

**location:**

CA 91301

## 7 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



Photo courtesy of national park service

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 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

## 8 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

**contact:**  
tel: +1 310 455 2465  
fax: +1 916 654 6374 (Public  
Information Inquiries)  
<http://www.parks.ca.gov/>

**location:**  
20825 Entrada Road  
Pacific Palisades CA 90272

## 9 Topanga State Park

**DESCRIPTION:** This park covers 9,000 acres and offers spectacular views of both the ocean and the valley. There is a self-guided trail that teaches you about the ecology as you walk along the path. There are pleasant, green meadows that make a great picnic spot. No camping facilities available, but this can be an enjoyable day trip. There is water and sanitary facilities available. The park can also be accessed from Will Rogers State Park. Located in the cliffs and canyons of the Santa Monica Mountains, Topanga State Park features 36 miles of trails through open grassland, live oaks and spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean. The park is located entirely within the Los Angeles city limits and is considered the world's largest wildland within the boundaries of a major city. More than 11,000 acres of land are preserved in the park. The park is bound on the south by Pacific Palisades and Brentwood, on the west by Topanga Canyon, and on the east by Rustic Canyon.



Photo courtesy of Topanga State Park

Numerous geologic formations can be found in the park, including earthquake faults, marine fossils, volcanic intrusions, and a wide variety of sedimentary formations. A good place to start a visit to Topanga State Park is Trippet Ranch, once a "gentleman's ranch" for a weekend getaway from the city. The park offers excellent recreational opportunities for hikers as well as mountain bikers (restricted to fire roads) and equestrians. From Pacific Coast Highway, travel north on Topanga Canyon Boulevard, pass the post office at the center of "town," then turn right on Entrada Road. Keep to the left at every opportunity until you reach the park's main parking lot (about one mile). From the Ventura Freeway (101), exit at Topanga Canyon Boulevard, drive south over the crest of the mountains and proceed three miles to Entrada Road and turn left. © wcities.com

**contact:**

tel: 805-370-2301

fax: 805-370-1850

[www.nps.gov/samo/](http://www.nps.gov/samo/)

**location:**

CA 90210



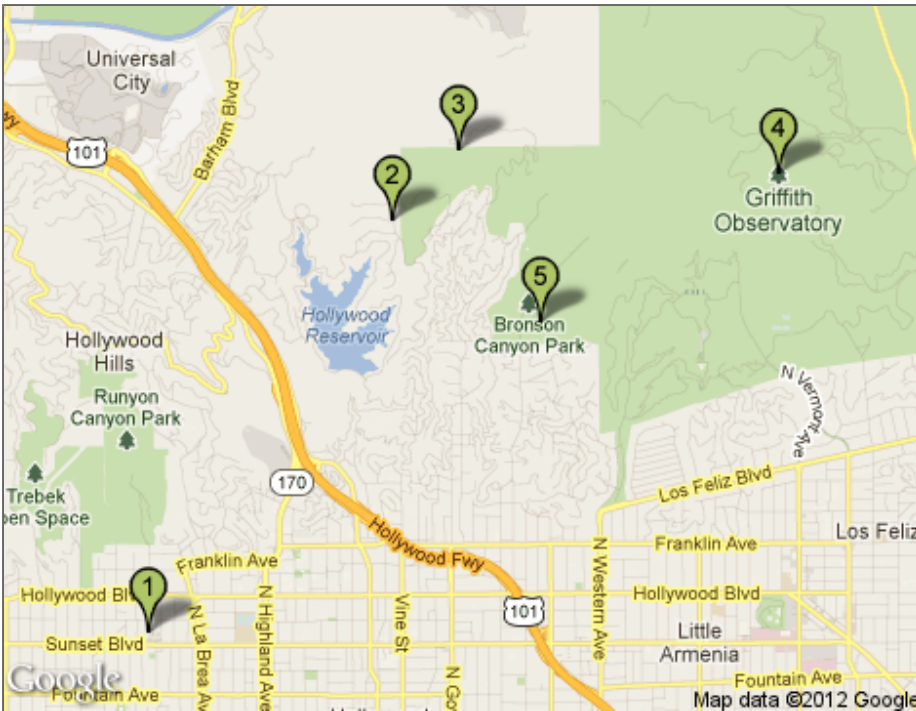
## Franklin Canyon Site

**DESCRIPTION:** Nestled in the heart of Los Angeles is a refuge for wildlife and people known as Franklin Canyon. It is an island of open space surrounded by the city. Picnic under sycamore trees or hike along chaparral covered slopes. Watch for ground squirrels scurrying around their holes or red-tail hawks soaring overhead. The animals who stay in this refuge are little affected by the great events that transformed a small pueblo into a major metropolis. The history of the canyon is separate but inseparable from the city that surrounds it. Edward L. Doheny discovered oil in Los Angeles in 1892. The wealthy Doheny family later owned 6 ranches, including a 400 acre parcel in Beverly Hills purchased in 1912. The Spanish style home in lower Franklin Canyon was built on the northern end of their property around 1935 to serve as a family retreat. Oil provided the fuel for prosperity, but water was scarce in this semi-arid environment. In 1914, William Mulholland and the Department of Water & Power (DWP) began construction of a reservoir in upper Franklin Canyon to distribute water newly brought from the Owens Valley. Water and oil transformed Los Angeles from a small town into a major metropolis. Ironically, DWP ownership of the reservoir and adjoining properties helped discourage further development in this canyon. The National Park Service purchased the Franklin Canyon Ranch in 1981. That year, the William O. Douglas Outdoor Classroom began the continuing service of providing free educational programs to the public and local schools. Today, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy manages daily park operations in Franklin Canyon. As a part of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, this special refuge is available for everyone to enjoy. There are several trails ranging from an easy 0.3-mile woodland walk to a 2.3-mile strenuous stretch through chaparrals. Included in the trail system is a pathway for seniors and a Braille and handicapped path. See links for trail details. Dogs must be on leash at all times and are not allowed to swim in any bodies of water. 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 sustain public use. Bicycles are allowed on fire roads, but not on trails.



Courtesy of NPS

# Day 2 - Los Angeles, West Hollywood



## QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: Hollywood area

### contact:

tel: +1 323 666 5046

fax: +1 213 847 7129

<http://www.laparks.org/dos/parks/facility/runyonCanyonPk.htm>

### location:

2000 North Fuller  
Los Angeles CA 90046

## 1 Runyon Canyon

### OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

This is a beautiful hiking point in the middle of Hollywood. It is also a great place to bring your dogs for some much needed off-leash exercise.

**DESCRIPTION:** Runyon Canyon, nestled in the heart of Hollywood, gives any visitor to Los Angeles the power to enjoy nature and work up a sweat. Situated on 130 acres of protected recreation park land, Runyon Canyon is primarily known for its off-leash hiking, but a secluded children's park also allows families and yoga groups to enjoy the Canyon's natural beauty. Upon entering, visitors can choose three different trails that loop around each other, differing in their intensity and physical impact. Runyon Canyon is essentially off-leash, so dogs and their owners run gleefully and unimpaired. There are no services, so visitors should be prepared to take their own food and equipment. With its proximity to Hollywood, celebrities from across the gamut are seen frequenting the park and exercising to keep their celebrity figures. The Hollywood Sign, Griffith Observatory and Downtown are viewed brilliantly from the Canyon's summit. © NileGuide



**contact:**

tel: +1 213 473 7070

(Information)

<http://www.laparks.org/dos/parks/facility/lakeHollywoodPk.htm>

**location:**

2600 Lake Hollywood Drive  
Los Angeles CA 90068

**2 Lake Hollywood**

**DESCRIPTION:** Head inside the Hollywood Hills and you will be pleasantly surprised by this reservoir from where you can get a great view of the Hollywood sign. It is amazing to realize that this peaceful spot is only a few minutes away from bustling Hollywood Boulevard. There is also a 3.1 mile paved trail around the lake that takes you right across the dam (that broke and flooded Hollywood in the movie *Earthquake*). No dogs are allowed, and the path usually closes at dusk. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Lake Hollywood

**contact:**

tel: +1 323 258 4338

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

**location:**

6342 Mulholland Highway  
Los Angeles CA 90013

**3 The HOLLYWOOD Sign**

**DESCRIPTION:** These famous 50-foot-high white sheet-metal letters have come to symbolize the movie industry and the city itself. The sign was erected on Mount Lee in 1923 as an advertisement for a real-estate development. The full text originally read HOLLYWOODLAND and was lined with thousands of 20-watt bulbs around the letters (changed periodically by a caretaker who lived in a small house behind the sign). The sign gained dubious notoriety when actress Peg Entwistle leapt to her death from the "H" in 1932. The LAND section was damaged by a landslide, and the entire sign fell into major disrepair until the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce spearheaded a campaign to repair it (Hugh Hefner, Alice Cooper, Gene Autry, and Andy Williams were all major contributors). Officially completed in 1978, the 450-foot-long installation is now protected by a fence and motion detectors. The best view is from down below, at the corner of Sunset Boulevard and Bronson Avenue. **Tip:** It may look like it on a map, but Beachwood Drive does not lead to the sign. If you want to reach the sign on foot, it requires a rather arduous 5-mile round-trip hike on the Brush Canyon Trail in Griffith Park -- the trail head is at the end of Canyon Drive. For more information call the Griffith Park headquarters at tel. **323/913-4688**. © Frommer's



**contact:**

tel: 323/913-4688

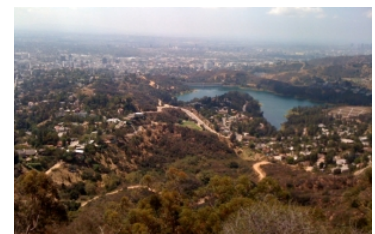
<http://www.laparks.org/dos/parks/griffithPK/>

**location:**

4730 Crystal Springs Drive  
Hollywood CA 90028

**4 Griffith Park**

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



wcities

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

**contact:**

tel: (213) 913-4688 (Ranger Station)  
fax: (213) 847-7129  
<http://www.laparks.org/dos/parks/facility/bronsonCanyonGP.htm>

**location:**

West side of Griffith Park  
Los Angeles CA 90026

**5 Bronson Caves**

**OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:**

Getting to the caves is a short walk. Park your car at the first (larger) parking area and walk onwards (towards Griffith Park). After a short distance turn right onto the road with a red high curb. After another short distance bear left to find the caves. Other paths lead farther into Griffith Park.

**DESCRIPTION:** These caves, located in Griffith Park, are the result of an old quarry dug in 1903 by the Union Rock Company in order to mine materials to use in building the surrounding streets. After the quarry closed in the 1920s, it became a spot for movie shoots. Scenes from *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* were shot here and more recently, the *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers*. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Clinton Steeds

# Day 3 - Pasadena, Los Angeles



## QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: Pasadena area

### contact:

[http://www.localhikes.com/Hikes/EchoMountain\\_4472.asp](http://www.localhikes.com/Hikes/EchoMountain_4472.asp)

### location:

Lake Avenue and E. Loma Alta Drive  
Pasadena California 91001

## 1 Echo Mountain via Sam Merrill Trail

**DESCRIPTION:** This is a popular and accessible hike that starts right where Lake Avenue ends at its intersection with E. Loma Alta Drive. From there you walk 0.2 miles east to the trail head of the Sam Merrill Trail, where you head down into the creek bed and then climb up the east side of Los Flores Canyon. The next 2 1/2 miles are uphill to reach Echo Mountain. At the top are the ruins of the cool and very steep Mt. Lowe Railway, which ran from 1893 to 1936 and once made this place a famous tourist destination. You can also walk around the grounds of Ye Alpine Tavern, long ago destroyed in a fire.

The views from up here are really grand; there is also access to a wide network of trails in the San Gabriel mountains from here.

© NileGuide



6500K

**contact:**  
tel: 626-398-5420  
<http://www.ecnca.org/>

**location:**  
1750 N. Altadena Drive  
Pasadena CA 91107

## 2 Eaton Canyon Nature Center

**DESCRIPTION:** Eaton Canyon Nature Center has a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities, many highlighting nature conservation. Come enjoy a moonlight walk, guided hike or a picnic. The park also provides training programs for naturalist docents and junior park rangers. Be sure to visit the nature center with its informative exhibits, brochures, classroom, auditorium and gift area. The park is open daily, sunrise to sunset. Dogs must remain leashed. Environmental education, guided hikes and walks, and picnicking comprise the outdoor recreation enjoyed at Eaton Canyon. Eaton Canyon Nature Center is located in Pasadena (one block north of New York Drive), a short distance from the Interstate 210 and Route 2 juncture.



citysearch

**contact:**  
tel: 818-790-1151  
fax: 818-790-5392  
<http://tchester.org/sgm/trails/millard.html>

**location:**  
CA 91001

## 3 Millard Canyon Falls Trail

**DESCRIPTION:** The popular Millard Canyon Falls is half a mile east of Millard Campground. The drop is approximately 50 feet in height. Walk past the picnic tables and the camping area 1.25 miles on an easy-to-follow fire road. This route leads past boulders, which may require some scrambling to reach the stunning falls. Caution: Pool at bottom of these falls is not deep enough for swimming. From Pasadena, travel Interstate 210 north, exit Lake Avenue and go north to Loma Alta Drive. Turn west (left) on Loma Alta and drive to the Chaney Trail (flashing yellow light). Follow signs to the campground.



Photo courtesy of Millard Canyon Falls Trail

**contact:**  
tel: (626) 256-8282  
fax: 626-914-3790  
<http://www.ci.monrovia.ca.us/index.cfm/0/Canyon-Park-1.cfm>

**location:**  
91016

## 4 Monrovia Canyon Falls

**DESCRIPTION:** The Monrovia Canyon Falls hike begins behind the Nature Center located in Monrovia Canyon Park. This low impact area is a wilderness park located just south of the Angeles National Forest. There are three trailheads leading to the falls. From behind the Nature Center, the hike is 1.5 miles round trip; from the middle parking lot, the hike is 2 miles; and from the park's entrance station, it is 3.4 miles. When visiting the park, be sure to stop in the Nature Center, which exhibits local flora and fauna. Picnicking is permitted; reservable areas available. The park does charge an entrance fee. The park is open Wednesday through Monday, 8 AM to 5 PM. From the 210 Fwy exit Myrtle Avenue north and drive 2 miles. Turn right on Scenic Drive and follow it east until it turns into Canyon Blvd and drive one mile.



Photo courtesy of Kevitivity

**contact:**

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/angeles/recreation/wild-sangabriel.shtml>

**location:**

CA 91741

**5 San Gabriel Wilderness**

**DESCRIPTION:** Recreational opportunities in this Wilderness Area included numerous hiking and backpacking trails leading to the many peaks, canyons, rivers and streams. Entry points at West Fork/ Lower Bear Creek, Coldbrook/ Upper Bear Creek, Devil's Canyon, Three Points, Mt. Waterman Trail from Buckhorn. Wilderness permits not required for entry. Horseback riding, hiking, and backpacking are enjoyed on this wilderness area. The San Gabriel Wilderness Area is located north of the LA Basin within the Angeles National Forest. A wilderness permit is not required for entry into the San Gabriel Wilderness. The three access points into the Wilderness area from Highway 2 are: (1) near the Chilao Visitor Center at Devil's Canyon Trailhead, (2) at the junction of the Santa Clara Divide Road and Highway 2 at the Three Points Trailhead, and (3) near Buckhorn Campground at the Mt. Waterman Trailhead. An Adventure Pass or Golden Passport is required for parked vehicles at trailheads.



Photo courtesy of San Gabriel Wilderness

**contact:**

tel: 626-335-1251

fax: 626-914-3790

**location:**

91759

**6 Baldy Notch to Mt. San Antonio Trail**

**DESCRIPTION:** From the top of the ski lift, follow a path easterly a few hundred feet then turn left and follow the fire road up the ridge. The fire road ends at the Devil's Backbone, and it is trail from there on up. Total trip one-way is about 3.5 miles and 2,200 feet elevation gain. The first part of the trip is through sparse pine forest, giving way farther up to a few stunted lodgepole and rare limber pines and bare rocky terrain. Keep an eye out for small alpine type plants along the way. An interesting short side trip from the summit is to walk over the nearly barren ridge southwest and half a mile to West Baldy, a slightly lower summit. You may see a few scraps of wrecked aircraft along the way. Enjoy the magnificent view from the top and return the way you came, although it is possible for properly equipped experienced hikers to return by other routes if car shuttles can be arranged. If the ski lift is not operating or if you prefer to hike, you can follow the fire road up from the bottom of the ski lift past San Antonio Falls to Baldy Notch. This will add another 3.5 miles distance each way and about 1,500 feet more climbing. The crown jewel of the San Gabriel Mountains, majestic Mt. San Antonio (10,064 feet) towers over all other peaks in the range. More popularly known as "Mt. Baldy" or "Old Baldy," it is the highest point in the San Gabriel Mountains. It is not, however, the highest mountain in Southern California. That distinction goes to 11,502-foot Mt. San Gorgonio, popularly known as "Old Grayback," which is in the San Bernardino Mountains within the San Bernardino National Forest. Mt. Baldy is visible from much of Southern California and conversely much of Southern California can be seen from its summit, air pollution permitting. Not only is Mt. Baldy high, it is massive, somewhat pyramidal in shape and fairly symmetrical - it looks like a king of the mountains should look. It is one of the most photographed objects of the Southern California landscape. Its snow-covered summit has appeared

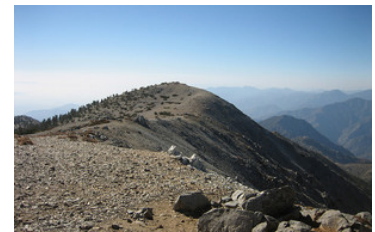


Photo courtesy of The Javelina

on post cards and tourist literature lauding the attractions of Southern California for nearly a hundred years. Seen with its snowy summit glowing like a live coal at sunset or with snow blowing in a great plume from the top, it is an awe-inspiring sight.

**contact:**

<http://www.wilderness.net/index.cfm>

**location:**

CA 91042



## Cucamonga Wilderness

**DESCRIPTION:** Recreational opportunities in this Wilderness Area included numerous hiking and backpacking trails leading to the many peaks, canyons, rivers and streams. Entry points at Icehouse Canyon, Thunder Mountain and Lytle Creek. Wilderness permits required for entry. Permits available at Mt. Baldy Visitor Center, Glendora Ranger Station and Lytle Creek Ranger Station. Horseback riding, hiking, and backpacking are enjoyed on this wilderness area. The Cucamonga Wilderness Area is located northeast of the Los Angeles Basin, within both the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests.



Photo Courtesy of simonov

# 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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