



**nileGUIDE**

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



maveric2003

# Walking L.A.

## **Santa Monica, Culver City, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, 2 Days**

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# Guide Description



**AUTHOR NOTE:** Forget about hiking or even taking a steep uphill walk. That all is too much effort!

This list is about places where you can embark on a pleasant, civilized stroll and take in the local scene. The destinations include shopping areas, religious sites, parks, old mansions, and beaches. Get outta the car and experience L.A. by foot at these low-key places!

The walks below are more or less ordered from west to east.


For more walking excursions, check out the Los Angeles Garden Guide. Or if you are feeling more industrious there is also this Hiking Guide.

# Itinerary Overview


things to do  
restaurants  
hotels  
nightlife


## Day 1 - Los Angeles, Santa Monica, Beverly Hills, Culver City

DAY NOTE: Westside


 **Venice Beach's Ocean Front Walk**  
Great people watching, funky stores, and the beach!

 **Lake Shrine**  
Home of Gandhi's ashes

 **Third Street Promenade**  
Open air pedestrian shopping/hangout area in downtown Santa Monica.

 **Greystone Mansion**  
Largest home in Beverly Hills

 **Robinson Estate and Gardens**  
Home open to the public


 **Beverly Gardens Park**  
Gateway to the stars

 **Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook**  
Short uphill hike to a great view.

 **Historic Theater District**  
A strip of downtown theaters

 **Echo Park**  
The echo of silence

 **Elysian Park**  
A blissful spot

 **Descanso Gardens**  
Get Back to Nature


 **Huntington Library, Art Collections & Botanical Gardens**  
Priceless Sight-Seeing

## Day 2 - Los Angeles

DAY NOTE: To the east!

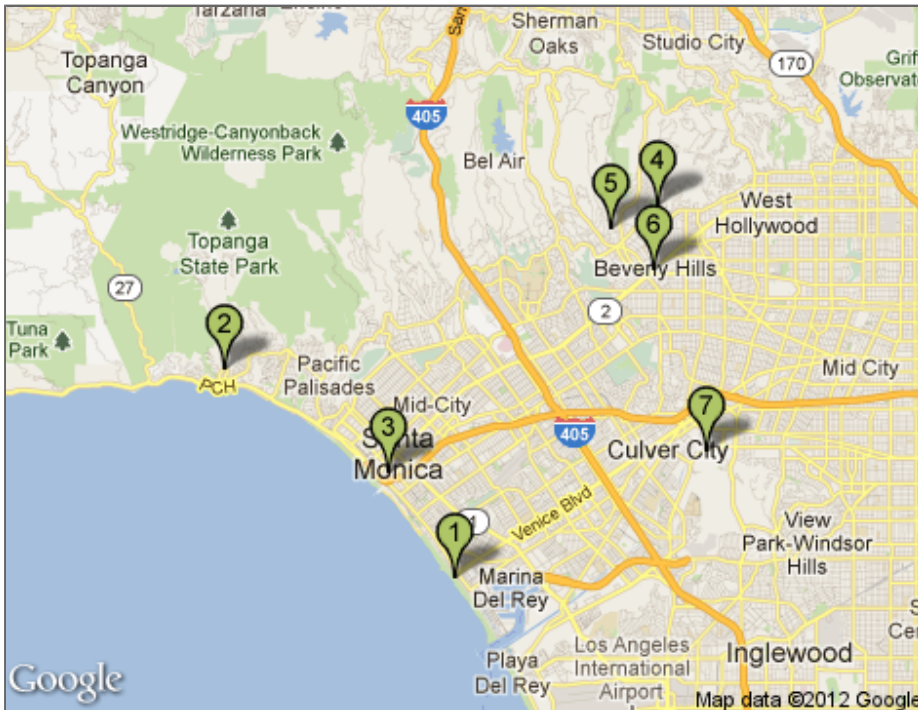
 **Lake Hollywood**  
A Hollywood oasis

 **Hollywood Walk of Fame**  
Name & Fame Revisited

 **Fern Dell Trail**  
(also known as Ferndell) Short shady walk along a stream featuring 50 types of ferns

 **Angels Flight Railway**  
A historic ride up the the hill costs a quarter

# Day 1 - Los Angeles, Santa Monica, Beverly Hills, Culver City



## QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: Westside

contact:  
<http://www.venicebeach.com>

location:  
Los Angeles CA 90013

## 1 Venice Beach's Ocean Front Walk

**DESCRIPTION:** This has long been one of L.A.'s most colorful areas and a must-visit for any first-time tourist. Founded at the turn of the last century, Venice was a development inspired by its Italian namesake. Authentic gondolas plied miles of inland waterways lined with rococo palaces. In the 1950s, Venice became the stamping grounds of Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, William S. Burroughs, and other Beats. In the 1960s, this was the epicenter of L.A.'s hippie scene. Today, Venice is still one of the world's most engaging bohemian locales. It's not an exaggeration to say that no visit to L.A. would be complete without a stroll along the famous paved beach path, an almost surreal assemblage of every L.A. stereotype -- and then some. Among stalls and stands selling cheap sunglasses, Mexican blankets, and "herbal ecstasy" pills swirls a carnival of humanity that includes bikini-clad in-line skaters, tattooed bikers, tan hunks pumping iron at Muscle Beach, panhandling vets, beautiful wannabes, and plenty of tourists and gawkers. On any given day, you're bound to come across all kinds of performers: mimes, break-dancers, stoned drummers, chain-saw jugglers, talking parrots, and the occasional apocalyptic evangelist. **Parking: Better Secure than Sorry** -- If you're driving to Venice Beach, pay the \$5 to \$7 fee for a secured



Photo courtesy of v

lot, hide your valuables, and walk to the beach -- car break-ins aren't uncommon. © Frommer's

**contact:**  
tel: +1 310 454 4114  
<http://www.lakeshrine.org/>

**location:**  
17190 Sunset Boulevard  
Los Angeles CA 90272-3099

## 2 Lake Shrine

**DESCRIPTION:** This memorial is a beautiful place hidden away in Pacific Palisades. It is the resting place for a portion of Mahatma Gandhi's ashes and people from around the world come to pay their respects. The grounds cover ten acres and lie on a former movie set. There is a lake with swans, lush greenery, waterfalls and beautiful statues. A perfect place to spend the day when you need to get away from it all, the memorial is open to visitors of any denomination. This pleasant place was created by Yogi Paramahansa Yogananda in 1950. Services for followers of this yogi are held in a Dutch windmill left over from its days as a movie studio. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Noah Albert

**contact:**  
tel: (310) 393-8355  
<http://downtownsm.com/>

**location:**  
Third Street Promenade & Broadway  
Santa Monica CA 90407

## 3 Third Street Promenade

**DESCRIPTION:** This well-known and popular destination is a pedestrian-only area on 3 blocks of Third Street (from Wilshire to Broadway) in Santa Monica. The attractions here include many stores, restaurants, and street performers. My favorites spots are the art book stores: Arcana and Hennessey & Ingalls. At the Broadway end of the promenade is Santa Monica Place, a modern open-air mall. © NileGuide



Photo courtesy of Third Street Promenade

**contact:**  
tel: +1 310 550 4796  
fax: +1 310 858 9238  
<http://www.greystonemansion.org/>

**location:**  
905 Loma Vista Drive  
Beverly Hills CA 90210

**hours:**  
Daily 10am-6pm

## 4 Greystone Mansion

**DESCRIPTION:** The largest home ever built in Beverly Hills is this 55-room English Tudor Mansion constructed by Edward L. Doheny in 1928. A gift to his son, it was built for more than \$50 million dollars, and includes a 16-acre garden. The grounds have been used as a public park, and the home itself for varying purposes, most recently for the activities of the American Film Institute. Dozens of films have been shot here, including *The Loved One*, *The Bodyguard*, *The Witches of Eastwick* and *Death Becomes Her*. The interior of the mansion is closed to the public, but the exterior and surrounding park is completely open for visitors. Admission is free and complimentary parking is available within the gates. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Noah Albert

**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

**5 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: +1 310 285 1000(Tourist Information)  
[http://www.beverlyhills.org/services/parks/beverly\\_gardens\\_park.asp](http://www.beverlyhills.org/services/parks/beverly_gardens_park.asp)

**location:**

Along Santa Monica Boulevard  
Beverly Hills CA 90210

**6 Beverly Gardens Park**

**DESCRIPTION:** Separating the residential and shopping/city center districts of Beverly Hills is this two-mile long park that runs along Santa Monica Boulevard. Built in 1911 when there were still very few homes in the area, the park runs through the entire city and features a rose garden, a lily pond, tall trees, a path for joggers and one of the most impressive collections of cacti anywhere. Two city festivals are held here each year: the Bi-annual Affaire In The Garden held in May and October and the Beverly Hills Food Festival each June. The park is also the site of the Electric Fountain, which was quite a wonder when its multi-colored lights were unveiled in 1931. Admission is free. © wcities.com



wcities

**contact:**

tel: 310-558-5547  
<http://www.parks.ca.gov/>

**location:**

6300 Hetzler Rd.  
Culver City California 90232

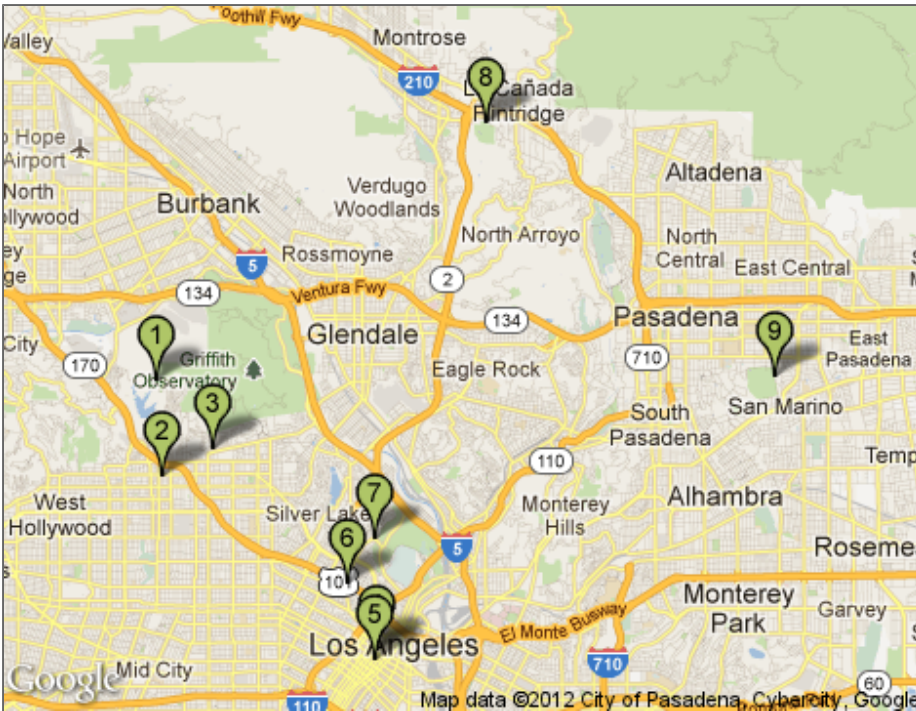
**7 Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook**

**DESCRIPTION:** The highlight of the 57 acre Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook park is the 511 ft elevation hilltop peak with a stupendous view. From this peak you can see downtown, the Pacific Ocean, and many of the various city centers along Wilshire Avenue. It really is a grand 360 degree view! Parking at the top of the hill is limited and costs \$6. Most people park at the foot of the hill on Jefferson Avenue (for free) and hoof it to the top.  
&nbsp;&nbsp; There are a number of ways to make the ascent. If you are full of gusto can you can head straight up the rough staircase with 281 large steps. Alternately, there is a trail that zigzags across the hillside, crossing the stairs a number of times and making the ascent a lot less steep. Finally, you can walk up the paved driveway that leads to the pay parking lot and the visitor's center at the top. © NileGuide



Photo courtesy of Noah Albert

# Day 2 - Los Angeles



## QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: To the east!

### 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

## 1 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: 323/469-8311

fax: +1 323 467 6412(Tourist Information)

[www.hollywoodchamber.net](http://www.hollywoodchamber.net)

### location:

6801 Hollywood Boulevard  
Los Angeles CA 90028

## 2 Hollywood Walk of Fame

**DESCRIPTION:** When the Hollywood honchos realized how limited the footprint space was at Grauman's Chinese Theatre, they came up with another way to pay tribute to the stars. Since 1960, more than 2,200 celebrities have been honored along the world's most famous sidewalk. Each bronze medallion, set into the center of a terrazzo star, pays homage to a famous television, film, radio, theater, or recording personality. Although about a third of them are just about as obscure as Michael Jackson's sexual preference -- their fame simply hasn't withstood the test of time -- millions of visitors are thrilled by the sight of famous names like **James Dean** (1719 Vine St.),



Photo courtesy of Hollywood Walk of Fame

**John Lennon** (1750 Vine St.), **Marlon Brando** (1765 Vine St.), **Rudolph Valentino** (6164 Hollywood Blvd.), **Marilyn Monroe** (6744 Hollywood Blvd.), **Elvis Presley** (6777 Hollywood Blvd.), **Greta Garbo** (6901 Hollywood Blvd.), **Louis Armstrong** (7000 Hollywood Blvd.), **Barbra Streisand** (6925 Hollywood Blvd.), and **Eddie Murphy** (7000 Hollywood Blvd.). **Gene Autry** is all over the place: The singing cowboy earned five different stars (a sidewalk record), one in each category. The sight of bikers, metalheads, homeless wanderers, and hordes of disoriented tourists all treading on memorials to Hollywood's greats makes for a bizarre and somewhat tacky tribute. But the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce has been doing a terrific job sprucing up the pedestrian experience with filmstrip crosswalks, swaying palms, and more. And at least 1 weekend a month, a group of fans calling themselves Star Polishers busy themselves scrubbing tarnished medallions. The legendary sidewalk is continually adding new names, such as Muhammad Ali in front of the Kodak Theatre. The public is invited to attend dedication ceremonies; the honoree -- who pays a whopping \$15,000 for the eternal upkeep -- is usually in attendance. Contact the **Hollywood Chamber of Commerce**, 6255 Sunset Blvd., Ste. 911, Hollywood, CA 90028 (tel. **323/469-8311**), for information on who's being honored this week. © Frommer's

**contact:**

<http://www.laparks.org/dos/parks/griffithpk/ferndell.htm>

**location:**

2150 Fern Dell Drive  
Los Angeles California 90068

**3 Fern Dell Trail**

**DESCRIPTION:** This scenic and shady walk on the edge of Griffith Park starts on the west side of Fern Dell Drive, near the intersection with Black Oak Drive. You follow a man-made creek replete with shade loving vegetation. After a short interval (about a quarter of a mile), the path crosses under Fern Dell Drive and soon after you exit the garden.

From here you can continue for a short hike (about a mile) uphill to Griffith Observatory. If you are braced for the continuous mile going uphill, this is actually great low-stress way to access the observatory. There are two branches of this trail up the ravine, making it feel like more like a loop.

© NileGuide



Photo courtesy of cutglasdecanter

**contact:**

tel: (213) 626-1901  
<http://angelsflight.com/>

**location:**

351 South Hill Street  
Los Angeles CA 90013

**4 Angels Flight Railway**

**OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:**

A functional piece of history

**DESCRIPTION:** The Angels Flight funicular is piece of historic Los Angeles that dates from 1901 when Bunker Hill was an upscale neighborhood. Since that time the Bunker Hill neighborhood first lost its luster and then was completely razed (the area at the top of the hill is now the site of MOCA and a number of concert halls, including the Gehry Disney landmark). In the 1990's the Angels Flight railway was moved half a block south and became more of a historic landmark ride than a day-to-day transportation solution. Recently the track has been



Photo courtesy of LifeSupercharger

rebuilt yet again (it is a state of the art funicular system with computer monitoring and redundant braking systems). The original cars, named Olivet and Sinai, still ferry people up the steep incline for the super affordable fee of a quarter. This is definitely a great way to both navigate downtown Los Angeles and experience a bit of the city as it once was.  
© NileGuide

**contact:**

tel: +1 213 623 2489 (Los Angeles Conservancy)  
[http://www.historicdowntownla.com/broadway\\_theater\\_district/](http://www.historicdowntownla.com/broadway_theater_district/)

**location:**

Along Broadway between 3rd and 9th streets  
Los Angeles CA 90014

## 5 Historic Theater District

**OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:**

Lovely movie palaces of another era

**DESCRIPTION:** This theater district (also known as the Broadway district) stretches from Third Street to Olympic Boulevard. It was the first district of its kind to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. There are a dozen major theaters covering a six-block area. Theaters on this strip include the Million Dollar Theater, the Los Angeles Theater and the United Artists Theater. Recently, the L.A. Conservancy has been working to revitalize this district and make it a center of downtown life. They give tours of the area; call the number listed for more information.

&nbsp;

Also note this guide of historic theaters through-out the Los Angeles area.

© wcities.com



Photo courtesy of laasB

**contact:**

tel: +1 213 847 8524  
<http://www.historicechopark.org/>

**location:**

1632 Bellevue Avenue  
Los Angeles CA 90026

## 6 Echo Park

**OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:**

If you are lucky the boat house will be open and you can bicycle boat around the lake like a happy fool.

**DESCRIPTION:** What started out as a natural arroyo filled with water from a stream is now a notable expansive park and famous neighborhood. Formerly known as Elendale, Echo park consists of 26 acres of greenery and a beautiful lake too. Based on a design by Joseph Henry Tomlinson, the park is beautifully conceptualized. Tours of the park are available, which includes the other neighborhood landmarks like the historic Baxter Steps and the Echo park boathouse. Festivals and other cultural activities too are held in this neighborhood and park with great furor and enthusiasm. © wcities.com



<http://www.historicechopark.org/sitebuildercontent/sitebuilderpictures/ep0602b.jpg>

**contact:**

tel: +1 213 485 5054  
fax: +1 323 221 4695  
<http://www.laparks.org/dos/parks/facility/elysianPk.htm>

**location:**

835 Academy Road  
Los Angeles CA 90012

**7 Elysian Park**

**DESCRIPTION:** Elysian Park is a 600-acre park is the second largest in Los Angeles and has been a public park since 1781. There are several unspoiled hiking trails on which to climb. The area known as the Chavez Ravine Arboretum is covered with rare trees planted in the 19th century. There are plenty of picnic areas and there is an artificial lake. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Elysian Park

**contact:**

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

**location:**

1418 Descanso Dr  
La Canada CA 91011

**hours:**

Daily 9am-5pm

**8 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 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



photo courtesy of Descanso Gardens

**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

**9 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



Photo courtesy of The Huntington.

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 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

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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.

©