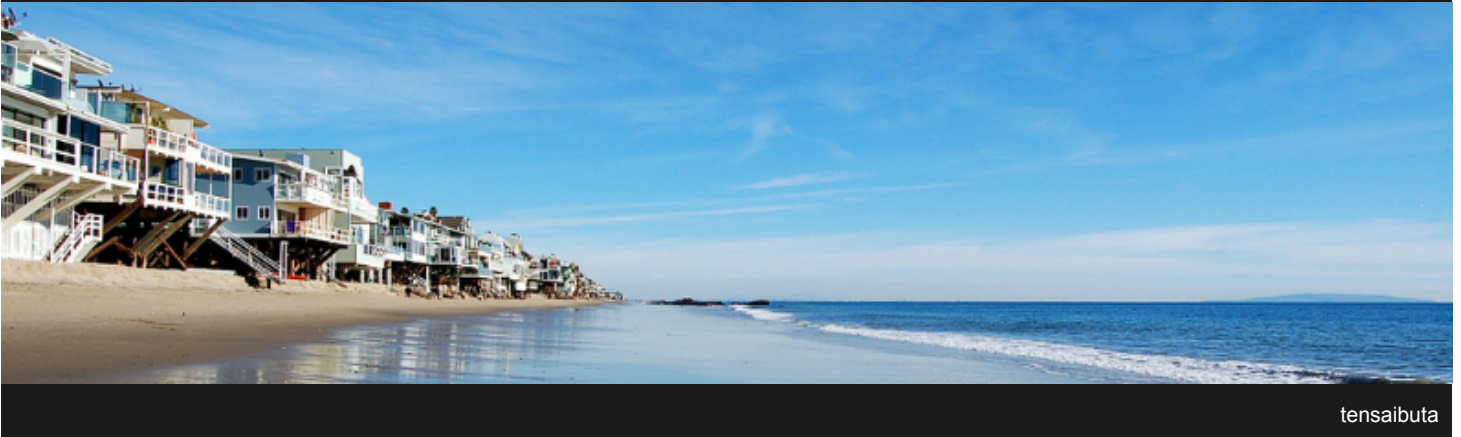




**nileGUIDE**

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



# Pacific Beaches in LA

## **Hermosa Beach, Malibu, Manhattan Beach, Los Angeles, 2 Days**

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# Guide Description



**AUTHOR NOTE:** Day 1 lists the Malibu beaches, starting close to the city and heading up the coast.

Day 2 lists the Santa Monica and beach cities beaches, starting in Santa Monica and heading south.

# Itinerary Overview

things to do  
restaurants  
hotels  
nightlife

## Day 1 - Malibu, Los Angeles

**DAY NOTE:** Heading to Malibu! Its a little bit more of a drive but its worth it. Watch out for the heavy commuter traffic on the 10 (going west in the morning, east in the afternoon). A good route to Malibu is the 101 to Las Virgenes Road. There is a lot of free parking on the highway and streets but you really have to pay attention to the No Parking signs which are very particular.



### Las Tunas State Beach

Less crowded for swimming, surfing



### Topanga State Beach

Great views on a clear day



### Malibu Lagoon State Beach

Surfride Beach is located within the park! And more than 200 species of birds.



### Solstice Canyon Trail

Multi-level ruins beside a shady stream



### Paradise Cove Beach Cafe

Seafood by the sea!



### Point Dume State Beach

Cliffs, secluded coves & tidepools.



### Zuma Beach

Zoom to Zuma



### Broad Beach

Life's a beach



### La Piedra Beach

Picnic spot



### El Pescador State Beach

Fishing



### Nicholas Canyon Beach

Surfers' delight



### Leo Carrillo State Beach

Quiet peaceful beach

## Day 2 - Los Angeles, Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach

**DAY NOTE:** City Beaches! The parking can be tricky but the scene is just what you would expect: surfers, beach volley ball, beautiful people in bathing suits, and lots of convenient bars. The beach biking and walking path goes for miles and miles, from Santa Monica to Redondo Beach.



### Will Rogers State Beach

Below the Pacific Palisades



### Venice Beach's Ocean Front Walk

Great people watching, funky stores, and the beach!



### Dockweiler State Beach

Four miles of sand



### Porto State Beach (El)

Sandwiched between two major beaches



### Hermosa City Beach

Beach tournaments and more



### Manhattan Beach

Beach boys and nightlife



### Malaga Cove

Surfing and seashell collecting



### Redondo State Beach

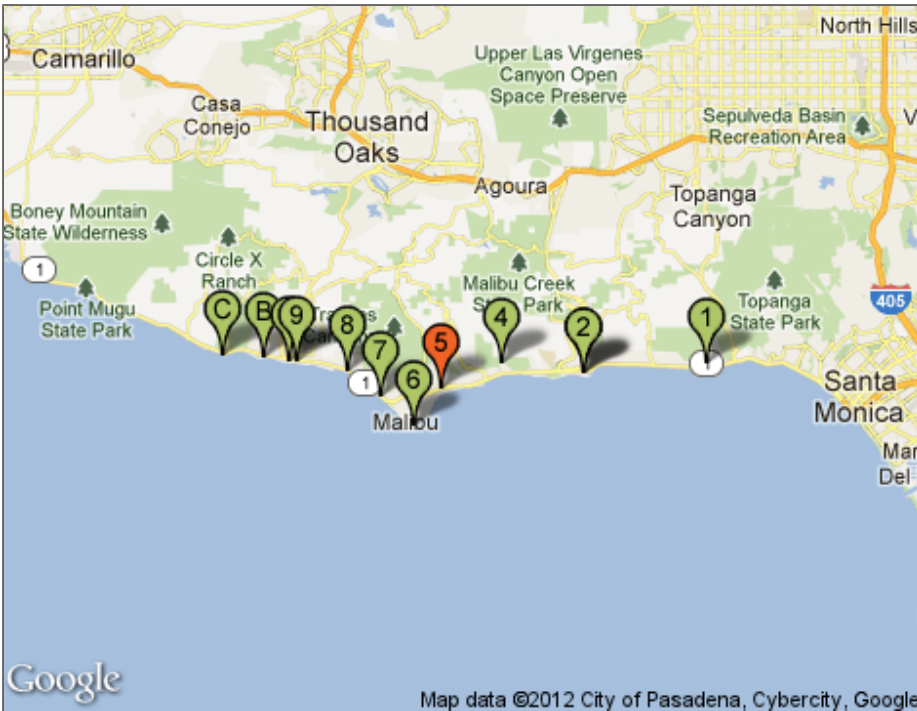
Great beach, sportfishing and pier



### Royal Palms Beach

Secluded beach

# Day 1 - Malibu, Los Angeles



## QUICK NOTE

**DAY NOTE:** Heading to Malibu! Its a little bit more of a drive but its worth it. Watch out for the heavy commuter traffic on the 10 (going west in the morning, east in the afternoon). A good route to Malibu is the 101 to Las Virgenes Road. There is a lot of free parking on the highway and streets but you really have to pay attention to the No Parking signs which are very particular.

**contact:**

tel: +1 310 305 9546 (County Department)  
<http://beaches.co.la.ca.us/BandH/Beaches/LasTunas.htm>

**location:**

19444 Pacific Coast Highway  
Malibu CA 90265

## 1 Las Tunas State Beach

**DESCRIPTION:** This, the southernmost beach in Malibu, is far less populated and much more easily accessible than most of its neighbors. This spot is more popular with fishermen and scuba divers, although swimmers and surfers seeking some private space may flock here as well. The drawbacks are the close proximity to the road, making it rather noisy, and the lack of amenities. There are restrooms, and lifeguards do patrol the beach, but primarily in summer, so call in advance if that is a concern. Parking is on the street. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Beaches: Las Tunas

**contact:**

tel: +1 310 394 3266 / +1 310 305 9503  
<http://beaches.co.la.ca.us/BandH/Beaches/Topanga.htm>

**location:**

18500 Block of Pacific Coast Highway  
Malibu CA 90265

## 2 Topanga State Beach

**DESCRIPTION:** Located where Topanga Canyon Road reaches the ocean, this beach affords views of both Santa Monica Bay and Catalina Island. Lifeguards are on duty here, although the facilities are limited, including only restrooms and a picnic area. This is a popular area with surfers due to the good waves near Topanga Creek. But perhaps best of all, it is



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ideally situated near shopping, hiking and dining—perfect for an entire day at the beach. Paid parking. © wcities.com

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

**location:**  
23300 Pacific Coast Highway  
Malibu CA 90265

### 3 Malibu Lagoon State Beach

#### OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

The "Surfrider Beach" section of this park was a key location during the rise of surfing in the 50's and 60's.

**DESCRIPTION:** As well as being a great beach, this area contains a unique bird sanctuary where more than 200 species stop each year during their annual migrations. The only drawback here is that the water can be polluted at times, and swimming is not really an option when the lagoon is drained (twice monthly). Besides swimming, lounging and bird-watching, this is a popular scuba diving area because the reefs and kelp beds just offshore attract a range of marine life. The lagoon is where Malibu Creek meets the sea. The Adamson House (a National Historic Landmark) on the property was built in 1929 and is known for its decorative Malibu tiles and custom-built features. The home's seven-car garage has been converted into a museum that features displays about the Native Americans who once inhabited the area. Tours of the house are available. Part of the park, including the famous Surfrider Beach, is operated by Los Angeles County. The beach features 22 acres of coastline, offering surfing and bird-watching opportunities as well as fishing off the nearby pier. From Santa Monica, follow the Pacific Coast Highway 13 miles west. © wcities.com



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**contact:**  
tel: 805-370-2301  
fax: 805-370-1850  
<http://www.nps.gov/samo/>

**location:**  
CA 90263

### 4 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: 1 310 457 2503 / 1 310 869 0576  
fax: +1 818 991 7071  
<http://www.paradisecove.org/>

**location:**

28128 Pacific Coast Hwy  
Malibu CA 90265

**hours:**

Daily: Monday - Friday  
8:00am - 10:00pm Saturday -  
Sunday: 7am - 10pm

**5 Paradise Cove Beach Cafe**

**OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:**

The beach here is famously beautiful. The other way to access Paradise Cove is to paddle around the point from Point Dume. Eating dinner here is a much more reasonable option and gets you 4 hours of cheap parking.

**DESCRIPTION:** This restaurant happens to be the quintessential beach restaurant, where the atmosphere is laid-back and the general mood is that of fun and frolic. You can enjoy all the seafood specialities - be it crabs, shrimps or oysters! The fact that the spot is just a few feet away from the sea gives you breathtaking views apart from a unique ambience. What adds to the charm is the hospitable and warm staff, who make your wait for a table seem much shorter and most of all - worthwhile! © wcities.com



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**contact:**

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

**location:**

39996 Pacific Coast Hwy  
Malibu CA 90265

**6 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: +1 310 465 2489(Tourist Information)  
<http://beaches.co.la.ca.us/bandh/beaches/Zuma.htm>

**location:**

30000 Pacific Coast Highway  
Malibu CA 90265

**7 Zuma Beach**

**DESCRIPTION:** Zuma Beach in Malibu is one of the most famous and popular beaches in Southern California. Its white sands go on for almost three miles. The locals refer to it simply as "Zuma" and it has been the site of numerous film and television shoots throughout the years including the 70s film starring Suzanne Somers appropriately titled 'Zuma Beach'. © wcities.com

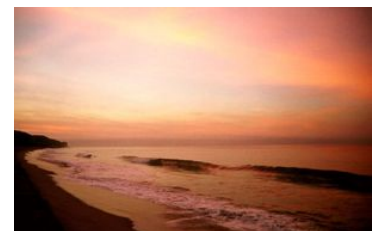


Photo courtesy of rappensuncl

**contact:**

tel: +1 310 305 9503  
fax: +1 310 456 3356(Tourist Information)  
<http://www.broadbeachgoldcoast.com/>

**location:**

31200 Pacific Coast Highway  
Malibu CA 90265

**8 Broad Beach**

**DESCRIPTION:** This beach is private but there is public access to two sections. People come for the tide pools and the great surfing as well as the fishing. This is a nice, quiet place to spend the day away from the hustle and bustle of the city. There are not many huge crowds here so it is also a good place for a romantic picnic lunch for two. The beach is amazingly clean and the sand is white and fine. Get comfortable while you watch the talented surfers do their thing out in the crystal blue waves. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Broad Beach

**contact:**

tel: +1 310 457 8140  
<http://www.lamountains.com/parks.asp>

**location:**

32700 Pacific Coast Highway  
Malibu CA 90265

**9 La Piedra Beach**

**DESCRIPTION:** As one of the "pocket beaches" that make up the Robert Meyer Memorial State Beach, this is the perfect beach for a relaxed, quiet day in the sun. The beach is often not very crowded so you will have some real solitude. This is a popular spot for surfing and fishing and you will see a few lone surfers out in the water hanging ten and looking cool. Take a picnic lunch and lots of refreshments and you will have a great day ahead of you filled with sun, sea, sport and food. Children love the clean sand for building sandcastles. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of la mountains

**contact:**

tel: +1 310 457 8140  
<http://www.lamountains.com/parks.asp>

**location:**

32900 Pacific Coast Highway  
Malibu CA 90265

**A El Pescador State Beach**

**DESCRIPTION:** El Pescador is Spanish for "the fisherman," and this beach, true to its name, is a popular spot for surf fishing. It also attracts diehard surfers who love the great waves. Take a picnic lunch for two or for the entire hungry family, and prepare for a day of sun, fun and sand that will relax you and make you feel that your cares are miles away. The locals love this quiet and secluded beach because you can bask and play in relative privacy. This is one of the small, beautiful "pocket beaches" that make up the Robert Meyer Memorial State Beach. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of LAMountains

**contact:**

tel: +1 310 457 9701  
<http://www.beaches.co.la.ca.us/bandh/beaches/nicholascanyon.htm>

**location:**

33850 Pacific Coast Highway  
Malibu CA 90265

**B Nicholas Canyon Beach**

**DESCRIPTION:** This beach is known as Zeros by locals and is the perfect place for surfing because of its desirable left point break. Sunbathers and joggers appreciate the clean stretch of sand. You will see many families here for the day with their picnic baskets and bathing suits. If you do not want to eat on the sand there are clean picnic tables where you can set up camp. Your kids will love this beach and you will love it too, whether you are there to relax, surf or just kick back. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Nicholas Canyon Beach

**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



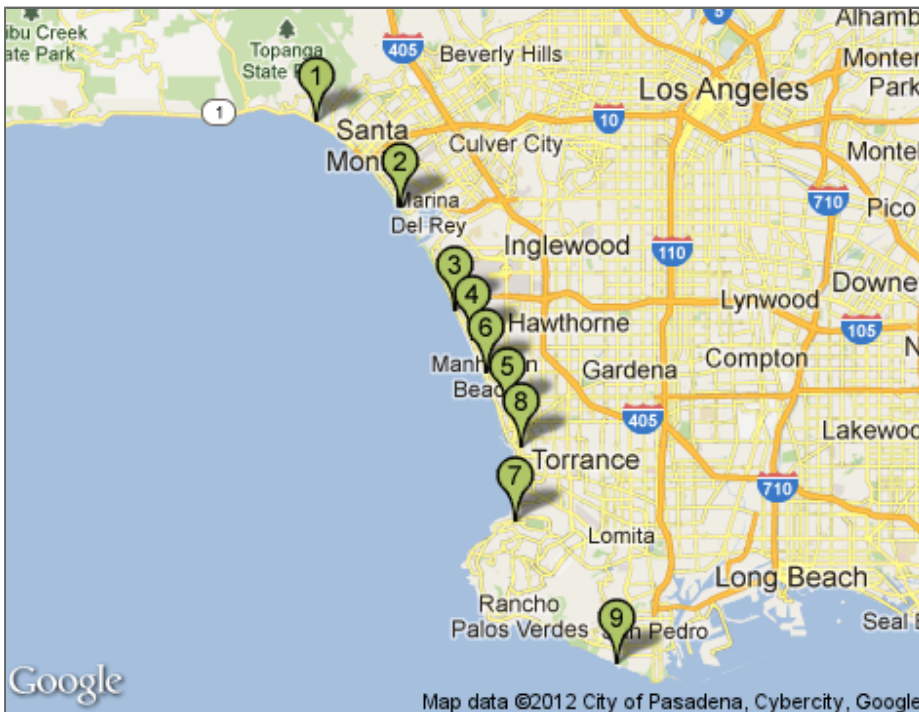
## Leo Carrillo State Beach

**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

# Day 2 - Los Angeles, Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach



## QUICK NOTE

**DAY NOTE:** City Beaches! The parking can be tricky but the scene is just what you would expect: surfers, beach volley ball, beautiful people in bathing suits, and lots of convenient bars. The beach biking and walking path goes for miles and miles, from Santa Monica to Redondo Beach.

### contact:

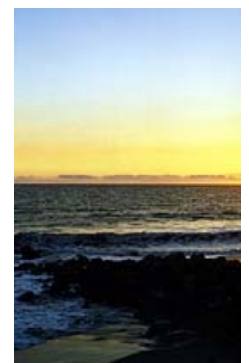
tel: +1 916 653 6995  
(Department of Parks and Recreation)  
fax: +1 916 654 6374  
<http://www.parks.ca.gov/>

### location:

16000 block of Pacific Coast Highway  
Pacific Palisades CA 90272

## 1 Will Rogers State Beach

**DESCRIPTION:** Covering an expanse of 17 miles of coastline, this is a good all-around beach. It stretches from the star-studded Pacific Palisades all the way into Malibu. Along with lifeguards and the usual amenities, the beach features good conditions for surfing and swimming, as well as volleyball courts and a playground. Lush picnic areas are provided within walking distance. Parking is chargeable per vehicle, and cash is the only payment accepted. © wcities.com



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

**location:**  
Los Angeles CA 90013

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



Photo courtesy of v

**contact:**  
tel: +1 310 305 9546  
<http://www.parks.ca.gov/>

**location:**  
Western Terminus of Imperial  
Highway  
Playa Del Rey CA 90293

## 3 Dockweiler State Beach

**DESCRIPTION:** The closest beach to LAX stretches for four miles from El Segundo north to Playa Del Rey. In addition to the normal amenities, this beach accommodates overnight campers with fire pits and RV campsites (reservations required). Other special features of this beach include bike rentals, a bike path, fishing, and scuba diving. But perhaps the best and most surprising feature is the quiet and solitude that can be found here despite its proximity to such a large airport. This park consists of a wide, white-sand beach that extends three-miles between Playa del Rey and El Segundo, California. Facilities at this site include a picnic area, restrooms and playground. Jetties provide the best fishing opportunities. The setting would be ideal were it not for the constant roar of jet engines from Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). This park lies immediately west of the LAX terminal. Visitors to Dockweiler State Beach can enjoy swimming, surfing, fishing and picnicking. Fires are permitted at this State Beach. This beach is located in Los Angeles County, at the western terminus of Imperial Highway along Vista del Mar Boulevard in Playa del Rey. © wcities.com



California State Parks

**contact:**

tel: +1 310 802 5000(Tourist Information)  
fax: +1 310 802 5001(Tourist Information)

**location:**

Vista Del Mar & 45th Street  
Manhattan Beach CA 90266

**hours:**

Dawn-dusk

**4 Porto State Beach (EI)**

**DESCRIPTION:** Located between Dockweiler and Manhattan Beaches (though technically in the city of Manhattan Beach) is this less crowded beach. The sparse crowds are mostly due to its proximity to the Chevron Oil Refinery and the lack of some amenities. Despite these minor drawbacks, the beach has lifeguards, rest rooms and showers, as well as metered parking, which is usually easy to come by. © wcities.com

**contact:**

tel: +1 310 305 9546  
<http://www.hermosabch.org/>

**location:**

Along Pier Avenue at  
Hermosa Avenue  
Hermosa Beach CA 90254

**5 Hermosa City Beach**

**DESCRIPTION:** This is generally considered one of the top beaches in the L.A. area. Hermosa is quite similar to its neighbor Manhattan Beach, though it has the added bonus of pedestrian-only public spaces teeming with shops, restaurants and people. One of the world's beach sports Meccas, this is the site of both beach volleyball's Hermosa Beach Open at the end of August and surfing's International Surf Festival also in August. Just be advised that summer crowds can be frighteningly large. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Hermosa City Beach

**contact:**

tel: +1 310 305 9545  
<http://watchthewater.co.la.ca.us/>

**location:**

500 The Strand  
Manhattan Beach CA 90266

**6 Manhattan Beach**

**DESCRIPTION:** This is one of the best beaches around due to its proximity to shops and restaurants. The constant entertainment here on weekends comes in many forms, most notably as volleyball and surfing tournaments. This stretch of sand can claim to be both the inspiration and hangout of the Beach Boys in their early days, as well as the birthplace of beach volleyball. The oldest beach volleyball tournament in the world, the Manhattan Beach Open, is held here annually in late July. Limited free parking, metered parking and parking lots are available. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Manhattan Beach

**contact:**

tel: +1 310 377 8111(Tourist Information)  
fax: +1 310 377 0614(Tourist Information)

**location:**

Along Paseo del Mar at Via Arroyo  
Palos Verdes Estates CA 90274

**7 Malaga Cove**

**DESCRIPTION:** Heading southbound, this is the first beach on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Like so many of the accessible seaside areas here, this is not really a beach for lounging as much as it is for tide exploring, rock and shell collecting and surfing. Still, basic amenities are provided. For those with rock-climbing wanderlust, head south around Flat Rock Point to Bluff Cove, another popular surf spot. Parking can be found at the Torrance State Beach to the north. No lifeguards are posted here, so swimmers beware! © wcities.com



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**contact:**

tel: +1 310 305 9546  
<http://beaches.co.la.ca.us/BandH/Beaches/Redondo.htm>

**location:**

400 - 1700 Torrance  
Boulevard and Esplanade  
Avenue  
Los Angeles CA 90277

**8 Redondo State Beach**

**DESCRIPTION:** The largest of the southern beach towns, Redondo has a large marina, a wrap-around pier and, of course, the standard boardwalk. The area is more popular for sportfishing and eating out than beachgoing, but this is a fine beach and the fewer surfers here make it better for swimmers. The pier, like many L.A. County beaches, was severely damaged by storms in 1988, but the city spared no expense in rebuilding by constructing an \$11 million maritime-themed complex. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Redondo State Beach

**contact:**

tel: +1 310 577 5700  
<http://beaches.co.la.ca.us/BandH/Beaches/WhitePt.htm>

**location:**

Kay Fiorentino Drive  
Los Angeles CA 90732

**9 Royal Palms Beach**

**DESCRIPTION:** Heading southbound on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, this is one of the last beaches before reaching the port of San Pedro. It's also one of the few on the peninsula with a good stretch of sand. Secluded and primarily frequented by locals, this beach nonetheless provides lifeguards and restrooms, in addition to peace and quiet. Due to the unique land formation (atop which sits the beach), this is one of the best places in the entire area to take in a sunset. © wcities.com

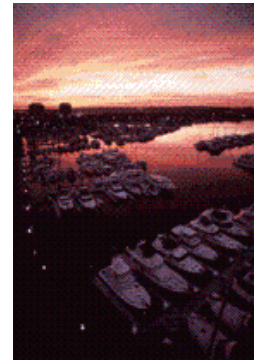


Photo courtesy of Royal Palms Beach

# 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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