



**nileGUIDE**

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



rockmixer

## Studio Tours

**Culver City, Hollywood, Woodland Hills, Burbank, Studio City, Los Angeles, 1 Day**

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# Guide Description



**AUTHOR NOTE:** Please note the individual details in the entries. Advance tickets are required for the Paramount Tour and recommended for many of the rest. The KCET tour is for KCET members only (membership is \$40 and you need to receive a membership card through the mail). The prices for the other tours vary from free for the Paramount Ranch (which is a park now) to \$35 for the Paramount Tour.

Do not try to do all of these in one day! The tours have just placed on one day for conciseness.

[Photo courtesy of Vanilla Twilight]

# Itinerary Overview

things to do  
restaurants  
hotels  
nightlife

## Day 1 - Burbank, Hollywood, Studio City, Culver City, Los Angeles, Woodland Hills



### Warner Bros. Studios



### Paramount Studio Tour

A walking tour of the studio



### NBC Studios

Home of the Tonight Show



### Universal Studios Hollywood & CityWalk



### Sony Pictures Studio Tour

2 hour studio tour



### Paramount Ranch

The setting for hundreds of films



### Malibu Creek State Park

# Day 1 - Burbank, Hollywood, Studio City, Culver City, Los Angeles, Woodland Hills

QUICK NOTE

**contact:**  
tel: 818/972-8687  
<http://www.wbstudiotour.com>

**location:**  
3400 Riverside Dr  
Burbank CA 91505

**hours:**  
Tours departing Mon-Fri  
every half-hour between  
8:20am-4pm (extended hours  
during spring and summer)

## 1 Warner Bros. Studios

**DESCRIPTION:** The Warner Brothers' "VIP Tour" takes visitors on a 2 1/4-hour jaunt around the world's busiest movie and TV studio. After a brief introductory film about the history of WB, groups of 12 pile into stretch golf carts for an intimate view of the inner workings of a motion picture and television studio: back-lot streets, sound stages, sets, and craft shops. Because nothing is staged there's no telling what or who you might encounter, and no two tours are the same. The tour ends with a visit to the Warner Bros. Museum, which contains original costumes, props, sets, scripts, and correspondence from classic WB films and television shows. Advance tickets are recommended and available online via their website, or by calling tel. **866/777-8932**; otherwise, tickets are sold the day of the tour on a first-come, first-served basis, but they recommended arriving at the ticket office early to make sure they don't sell out. Children 7 and under are not admitted, you must bring valid photo ID, and they recommend you show up about 30 minutes before the tour starts. © Frommer's



**contact:**  
tel: +1 323 956 1777  
<http://www.paramountstudios.com/special-events/tours.html>

**location:**  
5555 Melrose Avenue  
Hollywood CA 90038

**hours:**  
Call for details

## 2 Paramount Studio Tour

### OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

From the Paramount studio's website: • 2-hour  
Tours Available Monday-Friday (except holidays)  
• Tour Times - 10am, 11am, 1pm and 2pm • \$35/  
person • Advance Reservations Required

**DESCRIPTION:** Unlike other studio tours, this is a walking tour. You do not get herded around in a tram, but actually walk the grounds of the back lot. This can be tiring since the tour lasts two hours, but if you are interested in seeing the inner workings of this famous movie studio then it is worth it. Some sites you will see: New York Street, which includes the building fronts of the Seinfeld set and the Ally McBeal brownstone as well as the Laverne & Shirley building front. Children under 10 are not permitted. Reservations are required; meet at the pedestrian entrance of the main gate. Parking is available across the street. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of zoonabar

**contact:**

tel: +1 818 840 3614  
<http://www.nbc.com/Footer/Tickets/>

**location:**

3000 West Alameda Avenue  
Burbank CA 91523

**hours:**

Call for details

**3 NBC Studios**

**OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:**

Studio tours are offered 9am - 3pm, Monday through Friday. The contact number for Guest Relations is (818)840-3537.

**DESCRIPTION:** This is the West Coast nerve center of the National Broadcasting Company. Most famous as the home of The Tonight Show, hosted by Jay Leno, this sprawling studio complex also offers compelling walking tours through soundstages and other facilities. Although reservations are always good, tickets for the tour are pretty easy to come by. © wcities.com



**contact:**

tel: 800-UNIVERSAL  
(800/864-8377)  
<http://www.universalstudioshollywood.com>

**location:**

Universal City CA 91608

**hours:**

Winter daily 10am-6pm;  
summer daily 9am-7pm.  
Hours are subject to change

**4 Universal Studios Hollywood & CityWalk**

**DESCRIPTION:** Believing that filmmaking itself is a bona fide attraction, Universal Studios began offering tours to the public in 1964. The concept worked: Today Universal is more than just one of the largest movie studios in the world -- it's one of the largest theme parks as well. By integrating shows and rides with behind-the-scenes presentations on moviemaking, Universal created a new genre of theme park, stimulating a number of clone and competitor parks. The main attraction continues to be the **Studio Tour**, a nearly 1-hour guided tram ride around the company's 420 acres that's "hosted" (via video screen) by Whoopi Goldberg. En route you pass stars' dressing rooms and production offices before visiting famous backlot sets that include a clean New York City street, the famous town square from the Back to the Future films, and newer sets such as Curse of the Mummy's Tomb, Jurassic Park III, The Grinch, and the airplane crash site from War of the Worlds. Along the way, the tram encounters several staged "disasters," which I won't divulge here lest I ruin the surprise (they're all very tame), and a staged street race "accident" echoing the action in Universal's "Fast and Furious" movie series. Though the wait to board might appear long, don't be discouraged -- each tram carries several hundred people and departures are frequent, so the line moves quickly. Other attractions are more typical of high-tech theme-park fare, but all have a film or TV-oriented slant. The **Simpsons Ride** allows guests to join Homer, Marge, Bart, Lisa, and Maggie as they soar high above the fictional "Krustyland" theme park in a "virtual roller coaster," creating the sensation of thrilling drops and turns and a full 360-degree loop. **Revenge of the Mummy** is a high-tech indoor roller coaster that whips you backward and forward through a dark Egyptian tomb filled with creepy Warrior Mummies (and ends a bit too soon). **Jurassic Park -- The Ride** is short in duration as well but long on dinosaur animatronics; riders in jungle boats float through a world of five-story-tall T-rexes and airborne raptors that culminates in a pitch-dark vertical drop with a splash ending. **Terminator 2: 3D** is a high-tech cyberwar show that combines live action along with triple-



Themerica

screen 3-D technology, explosions, spraying mists, and laser fire (Arnold prevails, of course). **Shrek 4D** is one of the park's best attractions, a multisensory animated show that combines 3-D effects, a humorous story line, and "surprise" special effects -- the flying dragon chase is wild. There are also several live shows performing daily. At the **Fear Factor Live** show -- based upon the NBC hit -- park guests compete against each other in a progression of extreme stunts. **Waterworld** is a fast-paced outdoor theater presentation (and far better than the film that inspired it) featuring stunts and special effects performed on and around a small man-made lagoon (most performances are sold out, so arrive at the theater at least 15 min. before the showtime listed in the handout park map). In **Backdraft**, guests move from theater to theater amid realistic ruptured fuel lines, melting metal, and scorching warehouse scenes. On the **Animal Actors Stage** trained monkeys, pigs, hawks, and other animals perform various entertaining tricks (well, most of the time). Also be sure to check out the **Wardrobe Dept.**, a retail store offering an eclectic array of men's and women's clothing from popular television and movie productions all accompanied by a certificate of authenticity, documenting the television or movie production on which the item was originally worn. Straight ahead of the park's main entrance on Main Street is the **Hollywood Ticket Office**, where you can obtain free tickets (subject to availability) for any TV shows that are taping during your visit -- including the Tonight Show with Jay Leno -- as well as tickets and passes to other local museums, sporting events, and entertainment attractions. Universal Studios is an exciting place for kids and teens, but just as in any theme park, lines can be brutally long; the wait for a 5-minute ride can sometimes last more than an hour. In summer, the stifling Valley heat can dog you all day. To avoid the crowds, try not to visit on weekends, school vacations, and Japanese holidays. If you're willing to pay extra money to skip the hassle of standing in line, the park offers a "**Front of Line**" pass with -- obviously -- front-of-the-line privileges, as well as VIP passes (essentially private tours). You can also save time standing in line by purchasing and printing your tickets online. Log on to [www.universalstudioshollywood.com](http://www.universalstudioshollywood.com) for more information. Another ticket option is the "**All You Can Eat**" pass, which allows guests to dine all day at selected in-park restaurants for one price. For the freeway-phobic or those car-less at Disneyland, Universal offers an **Anaheim Shuttle Service** available to guests who purchase a full-price admission ticket to Universal Studios online via Print@Home ticketing at [www.universalstudioshollywood.com](http://www.universalstudioshollywood.com). The shuttle bus departs from various Anaheim-area hotels twice daily. Additionally, the **Southern California CityPass** offers admission to five SoCal attractions including Universal Studios Hollywood and the Disneyland Resort. Located just outside the gate of Universal Studios Hollywood is **Universal CityWalk** (tel. **818/622-4455**; [www.citywalkhollywood.com](http://www.citywalkhollywood.com)). If you have any money left from the amusement park, you can spend it at this 3-block-long pedestrian promenade crammed thick with flashy name-brand stores (Billabong, Fossil, Skechers, Abercrombie & Fitch), nightclubs (Blues at B. B. King's, Howl at the Moon dueling piano bar, Rumba Room Latin dance club), restaurants (Hard Rock Cafe, Daily Grill, Bubba Gumps, Saddle Ranch), a six-story 3-D IMAX theater, the 18-screen **CityWalk Cinemas**,

a 6,200-seat amphitheater, an indoor sky-diving wind tunnel, NASCAR virtual racing, and even a bowling alley (Take that, Disney!). Be sure to stop into the **Zen Zone** (tel. **818/487-7889**) where you can get an inexpensive 20-minute "aqua massage." You lay down fully clothed in what looks like a tanning bed, and strong rotating jets of water massage your backside from neck-to-toe (a blue rubber sheet keeps you dry). Entrance to CityWalk is free; it's open until 9pm on weekdays and until midnight Friday and Saturday. **Tip:** The sushi at the Wasabi at CityWalk restaurant (tel. **818/622-7224**) was surprisingly good and very reasonably priced. © Frommer's

**contact:**  
tel: 310/244-8687  
<http://www.sonypicturesstudiostours.com/>

**location:**  
10000 W. Washington Blvd  
Culver City CA 90232

**hours:**  
Tours departing Mon-Fri at 9:30am, 10:30am, 1:30pm, and 2:30pm

## 5 Sony Pictures Studio Tour

**DESCRIPTION:** Although it doesn't have quite the same historical cachet as Warner Brothers or Paramount, a lot of movie history was made at this Culver City lot. The 2-hour walking tour includes sets from movies currently in production and an opportunity to drop in on the Jeopardy! or Wheel of Fortune sets. But the main reason for the tour is the chance to catch a glimpse at the stars who work here (it's one of the busiest studio lots in the world). Tours depart from the Sony Pictures Plaza near the parking lot; be sure to call ahead and make a reservation. © Frommer's



Photo courtesy of Sony Pictures Studio Tour

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

**location:**  
CA 91301

## 6 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



Photo courtesy of national park service

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 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.

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**location:**  
1925 Las Virgenes Road  
Calabasas CA 91302

## **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

# Burbank Snapshot

## Local Info

The “Media Capital of the World” is, in fact, a small city nestled in California’s San Fernando Valley (known as “The Valley” to locals) in the Los Angeles metropolitan area. Just a few miles northeast of Hollywood, Burbank is home to a plethora of big wig media and entertainment companies, among them Warner Bros., Disney, ABC, and NBC.

Although most of these studio headquarters are closed to the public, this is the place to catch a taping of some of the most popular

shows on television, including the Tonight Show with Jay Leno. NBC Studios and Warner Brothers, however, do offer studio tours that take visitors behind the scenes. Although NBC’s tour is the better bargain by far, the iconic Warner Brothers tour, conducted from twelve-person carts that putt around the grounds, is not to be missed.

Entertainment in Burbank is big business, and the locals you run into here are likely to be connected in some way to big motion picture and television studios. People generally choose to live in Burbank

for its small-town feel and proximity to Hollywood’s nightlife and “scene.”

“Beautiful downtown Burbank,” also known as the Burbank Media Center, is the best bet for visitors looking to shop, take in a movie, or have a bite. The oldest remaining Bob’s Big Boy (a classic California burger institution) location is here in Burbank too, near the Warner Brothers Studio main gate. It’s a prime location for some celebrity stalking.

© NileGuide

# Los Angeles Snapshot

## Local Info

People either love it, or they hate it--but no matter what, Los Angeles makes no excuses and changes itself for no one. And you've got to admire that. Made up of dozens of communities, there is no one single experience that can sum up the life and the heartbeat of this city. But what can be noticed about Los Angeles by both tourists and locals alike is the hustle-and-bustle lifestyle, the vibrant and unique neighborhoods, and the extreme diversity that sets it apart from any other city. From the eternal sunshine and Hollywood glitz to all the small communities with their own distinct cultural personalities, this City of Angels will forever be many things to many people.

## Downtown

While not exactly in the center of town geographically due to the sprawling nature of the city, Downtown Los Angeles is still teeming with activity. There are cultural hotbeds like Olvera Street and Chinatown that are just minutes away from Los Angeles landmarks such as the Bank of America Building and the Walt Disney Concert Hall. And if you have a hankering for more art and culture while Downtown, the Museum of Contemporary Art(MOCA) is a definite must-see.

## Hollywood

The big sign just about says it all--Hollywood is glitz, glamour, and unavoidable. While many people are critical of Hollywood, they still can't help but satiate their curiosity by visiting this busy area. The center of things is, without a doubt, Hollywood Boulevard, location of world-famous tourist spots including Mann's Chinese Theater, the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and the Kodak Theatre where the Oscars are now held annually.

The Miracle Mile/Hancock Park area is another of L.A.'s historical neighborhoods. Here you will find Wilshire Boulevard's Museum Row. The museums are contained within Hancock Park, a small but peaceful oasis in the center of hectic urban activity. To venture into the far distant past, stop by the Brea Tar Pits, La, and to immerse yourself in a famous museum, the LACMA: Los Angeles County Museum of Art is a popular attraction on Miracle Mile.

Ritz West Hollywood is home to one of the city's most famous(or infamous) attractions: the Sunset Strip. Here you'll find most of the city's hippest clubs frequented by up-and-coming actors and socialites, as well as some of the city's finest hotels and shopping, including the upscale Melrose Avenue Shopping District. West Hollywood is also the center of the city's gay and lesbian community, and it puts on one of the flashiest and most exhilarating annual Halloween parades in the state.

## Beverly Hills and the Westside

This world-famous city with its world-famous zip code is synonymous with wealth, status, and celebrity. The understated elegance and grace of the residential neighborhoods are balanced out by Rodeo Drive, which offers some of the finest(and most expensive) shopping in the world.

## Santa Monica and Beach Cities

Back in the heyday of Route 66, Santa Monica was the end of the line. Today, this beachfront community offers the best in entertainment for all ages on its famous Santa Monica Pier. You can enjoy some carnival-style food and games or take a ride on the ferris wheel for a breathtaking view of the city and shoreline. When you're ready for some shopping, the active Third Street Promenade has a diverse directory of stores and eateries.

The motto of the coastal community of Malibu is "27 miles of scenic beauty," and that about describes it best. The main attraction here is the drive along the Pacific Coast Highway, which takes you past beach after beach on one side of the road and million-dollar hilltop estates on the other. Make sure you have plenty of film and sunscreen. Even at night, the stars just seem brighter.

Venice, just south of Santa Monica, is the city's home to all things eclectic and many things downright bizarre. This small, artsy beach town offers one of the greatest collections of cafes, bars, galleries, antiques and one-of-a-kind shops around. Weekend afternoons on the boardwalk are definitely a memorable experience for any visitor to the city.

## San Fernando Valley

On the other side of the Hollywood Hills sits "The Valley," as known by locals. It features a seemingly endless sea of suburban cul-de-sacs, strip malls, funky shops and restaurants. Hollywood makes its presence known in the cities of Burbank and Universal City, which are home to Warner Bros. Studio and Universal Studios. There are two things you can always count on in the Valley: the earthquakes always feel stronger, and the temperature is always 10 degrees hotter.

## South Central and Compton

Although the South Central neighborhood of Crenshaw gained worldwide publicity as the center of the infamous 1992 riots, this area is rich in history and culture. South Central also is home to famous Los Angeles landmarks such as the Watts Towers, the historic Shrine Auditorium, and Exposition Park. Within the famed Exposition Park is the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, the California Science Center, and the IMAX California Science Center. It has also long been a place of culture and diversity, as evidenced by the African American Cultural Center.

## Long Beach and the South Bay

Long Beach is a fairly large city in its own right and is a neighbor to the well known district of Orange County. Aside from a plethora of shopping and dining options, this beach community is perhaps best known for the Queen Mary, a Titanic-esque ocean liner now permanently docked here and open for tours. They also have many outdoor activities for tourists to take advantage of, as well as museums and beaches that all can enjoy.

The South Bay is made up of smaller beach towns and quiet neighborhoods such as Hermosa Beach, Redondo Beach, Manhattan Beach and Palos Verdes Estates.

## Pasadena and Points East

Pasadena is one of the most prominent communities in the entire state of California. Old Town Pasadena provides one of the greatest clusters of bars, shops, cafes and restaurants in the entire L.A. area. The city is also known for the Norton Simon Museum, which is the largest collection

## Los Angeles Snapshot continued

of art owned by one man, and the Rose Bowl. And every New Year's 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.

©

### History

California's earliest residents were Native Americans. Prior to the mid-18th century, several native peoples dominated the area, most notably those from the Tongva nation.

The earliest key date in the development of Los Angeles is August 2, 1769. It was on that afternoon that a group of Spanish explorers from the east, led by Juan Crespi and Captain Gaspar de Portola, entered what came to be known as Los Angeles, in the area around Elysian Park. It was then that Crespi realized the potential the area had to become a sizable settlement. Then in 1771, Junipero Serra created the Mission San Gabriel Archangel in the present day San Gabriel Valley. It wasn't until 1781 that the town was founded and named "El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora la Reina de los Ángeles del Río de Porciúncula"—quite a mouthful to say and subsequently shortened to Los Angeles.

Throughout the late 18th and early 19th centuries, was only a small farm town that remained part of Mexico, until the Mexican-American War. On March

9th, 1842, Francisco Lopez discovered gold in the Santa Clarita Valley and by 1845, U.S. troops began battling for control of California. On January 9, 1847, Commodore Stockton recaptured Los Angeles for the third and final time, and just days later Mexican general Andres Pico surrendered California to U.S. General John Fremont. A subsequent boundary dispute ensued as to where the borders of the city and county should be, but on April 4, 1850, the city of Los Angeles was incorporated, with California officially entering the union five months later.

The late 1800s and early 1900s saw Los Angeles grow exponentially. One reason for this was the railroads, which finally reached Los Angeles from the East. The railroads resulted in a major expansion of economy and population, as evidenced by the fact that L.A.'s population doubled in the last decade of the 1800s and tripled in the first decade of the 1900s. In 1913, William Mulholland built an aqueduct, which allowed water to be brought to Los Angeles from 200 miles north. This important event, coupled with the earlier railroad boom, is considered to be largely responsible for L.A.'s growth into a major population center.

By the 1920s, many industries were beginning to stake their claim in the city. The most popular of these industries was the budding film industry. Filmmakers from the East came to Southern California for its eternal sunshine and varied landscape. Where else in America could they find perfect weather and largely empty surrounding land, as well as mountains, lakes, forests and beaches all within an hour's drive? As movies and movie-making became more ingrained in American culture during the 1940s and 50s, millions began flocking to L.A. in hopes of becoming a star and striking it rich. By the mid-to-late 1950s, the population of L.A. had reached two million and appeared to be going nowhere but up.

As the city grew, more people meant more problems. In 1943, a clash between sailors, marines and local Hispanic gangs broke out, known as the Zoot Suit Riots. For several days and nights, downtown Los Angeles was transformed into a battle-zone. Although the riots were finally quelled by police, this would not be the last time the city witnessed large-scale urban unrest. Devastating race riots erupted in 1965 and again in 1992, after the Rodney

King verdict, giving the city its reputation for being a hotbed of racial tensions. Riots, however, weren't the only problems that affected the history of Los Angeles. Runaway air pollution and the damage caused by several earthquakes—the largest and most memorable of which was the Northridge earthquake in 1994, with a total magnitude of 6.7—have also given the city its fair share of crises to deal with over the years. But with the 21st century has come an increase in the improvement and gentrification in many parts of the city.

Certain things can always be counted on to thrive in L.A.: cultural diversity, beautiful weather, the well-known traffic on the 405 Freeway, and eager souls arriving each day to the City of Angels in search of their own piece of heaven.

©

### Hotel Insights

According to the tired but true axiom, the three most important things in real estate are location, location and location. In the universe of Los Angeles, that cannot be stressed enough, and where you stay will have a tremendous impact on your L.A. experience. The following are some of the most-recommended areas to lodge.

#### Downtown

Downtown Los Angeles contains the heart of the financial and business districts of the city, and is perfect for corporate travelers. All of the best amenities can be found at the swanky The Standard Hotel which truly gives a new meaning to the word "standard," or at the luxurious Millennium Biltmore. Formerly the Regal and famous since 1923, it was home to the Academy Awards during the Golden Age of Hollywood. Those wanting to stay within a budget but who still want singular and eclectic accommodations, might try the charming Best Western Dragon Gate Inn located right in the heart of Chinatown, the Hotel Figueroa with its funky Southwestern motif, or the elegant Miyako Inn and Spa where you can either gratify yourself with a relaxing massage or have a little late night fun at their karaoke bar.

#### Beverly Hills

For those with means, there is simply no other place to stay in town. World-class luxury and service can be found

## Los Angeles Snapshot continued

at the Beverly Hills Hotel, the Beverly Hilton or the Beverly Wilshire Beverly Hills. The world-famous Peninsula is also a high-class, luxurious choice for anyone wanting the best amenities and service. Wherever you choose to stay in this high-end neighborhood, you will be close to some of the very best shopping and dining in the world.

### Hollywood

Considering Hollywood's status as a tourist mecca, it should come as no surprise that it offers many places to lodge, especially for those on a budget. The Hollywood Celebrity Hotel and the Best Western Hollywood Hills Hotel offer decent rooms for those who want to keep their costs down. All are close to every famous Hollywood attraction, as well as Universal Studios. You'll be in the thick of the action here, although you may not want to walk alone at night in the darkest parts of Hollywood.

### Pasadena

Nestled at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains, Pasadena offers some of the greatest lodging options for those who want to get away from the urban energy of the rest of L.A. If you want only the best, stay in elegant style at the Ritz-Carlton Huntington Hotel. The Pasadena Hilton also offers top-notch amenities and great service. For those looking for something other than a large hotel, try the beautiful and charming Artist's Inn and the Bissell House, both offering personalized luxury and service in a bed-and-breakfast setting.

### Santa Monica

Maybe it's the sound of ocean waves that help you sleep easier, or maybe it's being near both shopping and recreation, but either way Santa Monica has proven to be the way to go for many visitors to the area. For those with pockets deeper than the sea, consider the Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel, the Fairmont Miramar or the ultra-luxurious Shutters on the Beach. All three are located within walking distance of all of Santa Monica's wonders, both natural and man-made, and offer the full royal treatment. For those on more of a budget, the Ocean View Hotel and the classic Art Deco Cadillac Hotel (located in nearby Venice) offer more affordable accommodation while sacrificing very little in the way of amenities or location.

### West Hollywood

There's always something to be said for being close to the action. For those who long to be in the center of L.A.'s star-studded nightlife, you can't get much closer than a hotel room in West Hollywood. The Chateau Marmont, the Mondrian and the Sunset Tower Hotel offer accommodations fit for a king (with a bill to match). Meanwhile the Hyatt and the rock'n' roll atmosphere of the Standard Hotel offer great rooms at a fraction of the cost of their neighbors. Just about every hotel in the area is located on Sunset and lies within walking distance of the hottest clubs.

### Westwood

This high-end neighborhood not only boasts UCLA, but also offers many bars, restaurants and entertainment options. It also features some of the best accommodations at reasonable prices. The Hilgard House offers wonderful accommodations that isn't exactly cheap, but certainly won't cause you to break the bank. The upscale W Los Angeles is a popular choice featuring world-class service and comfort.

©

## Restaurants Insights

When it comes to dining and drinking, anything that one can possibly dream up can be found in Los Angeles. Celebrity-only seating on the West Side is countered by family-style seating in Silverlake, and cuisines from Ethiopian to Polish are all here somewhere. With so many choices and a limited time frame, here are some highlights that should not be missed.

### Downtown

After a prolonged period of economic hardship, downtown L.A. went in for a facelift, replacing the old shabby buildings with new businesses and recreation centers. One of the establishments that helped the downtown comeback is R-23, which quickly gained a reputation for serving unbelievable sushi. Another downtown hot spot is the Water Grill, which offers upscale seafood for the international dining set. If you're looking for a unique and entertaining experience without the sky-high prices, enjoy a meal at Shabu Shabu House Restaurant—a form of Japanese cooking where servers bring you plates of fresh meat, and the customers cook it

themselves in hot pots. And for a more casual but earth-shaking good time, check out Epicentre, which is designed to look like a cafe, post-earthquake.

### La Cienega and Beverly Hills

When dining in this celebrity "hot zone," be sure to bring your high-limit credit cards and your best evening attire. Some great options include Chaya Brasserie for a legendary mix of Californian, French and Italian, and of course, the world-famous Spago Beverly Hills headed by Wolfgang Puck. La Cienega Boulevard offers L.A.'s famed "Restaurant Row," which features The Stinking Rose for all your garlic desires, Tokyo Table for delicious but more affordable Japanese cuisine, and the highly favored Fogo de Chao Churrascaria for some Brazilian fare, and many other local favorites.

### Hollywood/Melrose

A small step away from the big money of Beverly Hills, these hot spots offer a warmer and hipper version of the same scene. Musso and Frank's Grill offers American cuisine with an old Hollywood style. Joachim Splichal serves the highest of haute cuisine at Patina, and West Hollywood's Asia de Cuba features Asian-Cuban fusion in a dining room decorated all in white. Also in West Hollywood is perhaps the one of the finest Moroccan restaurants in all of Los Angeles, Dar Maghreb, which is more than just dining—it's an unforgettable experience. Finally, for lowbrow gastronomic pleasure that should not be missed, wait in line for the oldest Hollywood tradition, a Chili Cheese Dog from Pink's.

### Santa Monica/Venice/Malibu

These beachfront neighborhoods of Santa Monica, Venice and Malibu offer the full range of dining options from earthy-hippie cuisine in Venice to star-studded glamour in Malibu. When not gazing into the deep blue Pacific, be sure to focus your attention on Babalu for down-to-earth Caribbean cuisine, Chez Mimi for one of the most romantic French experiences you will have this side of Paris and Geoffrey's for fresh cuisine with a heart-stopping view of the California coast. Wolfgang Puck's Chinois On Main is a wonderful choice, as well as

## Los Angeles Snapshot continued

The Lobster for some delightfully simple but sophisticated seafood dishes.

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### Nightlife Insights

As the entertainment capital of the world, Los Angeles is overflowing with theater, art, dance, film and television. The city has a variety of options for every entertainment taste.

#### Theaters

The creative activity in the theaters of Los Angeles proves the naysayers wrong: just because the city's more frivolous side is the most publicized, Los Angeles does indeed have a rich history of culture and soul. The Performing Arts Center of Los Angeles County complex in downtown Los Angeles houses many of the city's major theatre venues, including the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, the Mark Taper Forum, Pantages Theatre, and the Ahmanson Theatre.

#### Museums

Los Angeles is indeed multi-faceted: with beautiful beaches on one end, trendy clubs on another, and amazing museums spread throughout, it is no wonder people flock here to get a taste of everything it has to offer. The Getty Center is a breathtaking architectural work before you even see the collections inside. The Los Angeles County Museum of Art has impressive permanent collections as well as top-billed shows. If contemporary art is more your cup of tea, then pay a visit to the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) which has featured extremely innovative art exhibitions. L.A. is also home to many smaller, private galleries, concentrated especially in Venice and the Melrose area of Hollywood. If nature and science excite you more than a rare Van Gogh, the California Science Center is a hands-on educational facility that takes science to the extreme while the Natural History Museum has 35 galleries of environmental science displays to explore. For a more serious-minded museum visit, the Los Angeles Museum of Tolerance is a stop for the humanitarian-minded tourist. The museum offers classes in racial diversity and acceptance, and offers tours for school children and interested adults. It is a powerful, moving and informative institution.

For those who have eclectic or more specialized tastes, be sure to check out the Museum of Neon Art, the Vintage Animation Gallery and the Museum In Black.

#### Cinema

Mann's Chinese Theater on Hollywood Boulevard stands out as one of the most famous cinema houses ever built. Crowds descend upon the faux-Asian theater every day to measure the famous feet and hands imprinted on the sidewalk outside. Across the street from the Mann's Chinese, the Egyptian Theater stands in its Vegas-style glory.

#### Comedy

With countless small theaters and clubs in Los Angeles, open mic nights for struggling comedians are everywhere. For a more polished performance check out the famous Groundlings. This well-known "training camp" for television shows like Saturday Night Live has an ever-changing lineup of up-and-comers with an occasional star headliner. The Improv and the Comedy Store consistently feature well-known, professional headliners as well as budding new talent.

#### Music

When they are not out partying on the Sunset Strip, rock and roll musicians can be found performing at several Los Angeles venues. The El Rey Theatre and the Palladium are great for watching shows while in the city. The Forum, the Gibson Amphitheatre and the Staples Center are the location of choice for larger rock shows. Classical and jazz concerts are usually found at the Hollywood Bowl and The Greek Theatre.

#### Sporting Events

L.A. sports fans have plenty to keep them busy with the Los Angeles Lakers, the Clippers, the WNBA's Sparks, the Dodgers and the Kings. If those sports aren't your bag, check out the Hollywood Park Racetrack for some fast-paced betting fun.

#### Amusement and Theme Parks

Los Angeles and its surrounding areas are home to many world-famous and exciting amusement parks. The most well-known the world over is Disneyland, America's Magic Kingdom and Disney's

California Adventure. Experience the magic of moviemaking at Universal Studios and check out the good-time rides and attractions of Knott's Berry Farm. For roller-coaster thrills go to Six Flags Magic Mountain, and for watersliding chills, don't miss Raging Waters. **Nightclubs**

What's hot in this city changes almost overnight, and word of mouth is everything. However, for a good sampling of what L.A. has to offer, be sure to check out: Area, The Knitting Factory, LAX, and Beauty Bar.

#### Shopping and Hanging Out

People-watching in Los Angeles can definitely be considered a spectator sport. Although it bears no resemblance to the former hit television show, Melrose is the best sidewalk spectacle. Crammed full of sidewalk cafes, bars, coffeehouses and boutiques, the street is always full of activity and unusual characters.

If true Hollywood stars and Über-Glam shopping are what you are looking for, Rodeo Drive is the ultimate destination. The world-renowned street is always bustling with film stars in baseball caps trying to blend in and Hollywood wives in diamonds trying to stand out. Gucci, Prada and Tiffany & Co. are all represented here, so if you have buying in mind be sure to bring all of your credit cards.

If the ultra-chic shops and thousand-dollar price tags aren't exactly what you seek, Santa Monica's Third Street Promenade offers shoppers a wide variety of upscale boutiques and well-known chains, all under the shining sun of this beach town. Universal City Walk is the Valley's answer to great shopping and entertainment along a stretch of pedestrian walkways. And if you're looking for something downright bizarre or unique, don't leave town without checking out Necromance for all of your Gothic, bone jewelry and dead animal specimen needs or the Wound & Wound Toy Company specializing in amazing wind-up toys from past and present.

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### Things to Do Insights

Walking around Los Angeles is not an easy task. As the world's largest metropolis, Los Angeles has become as famous for cars and traffic as it is for its film industry. So

## Los Angeles Snapshot continued

grab a rental, and make your way out to these tourist hot spots.

### Downtown

Located in the heart of downtown, the modest Pueblo de Los Angeles remains the city's oldest structure. Built in 1818, it serves as a historical monument to the mission era of California, and also provides tourists with the perfect reason to visit downtown and not miss one of the city's best-kept sightseeing secrets. Located in the middle of the historic pueblo is Olvera Street, an L.A. landmark since the early 1930s. Any day of the year the cobblestone street is alive with inexpensive Mexican delicacies, kitschy shopping and several wandering mariachi bands. If too many hours on Beverly Hills/Rodeo Drive Shopping District have strained the magnetic strip(or the limit) of your credit card, the Garment District offers a great low-cost shopping alternative. The Cooper Building and Santee Alley house designer outlet stores and clothing in all styles, labels and sizes.

### Hollywood

The Griffith Observatory is one of the largest in the country. At night you can stargaze from balconies on the outside of the building, as well as from on the roof. Face north in the parking lot and you will get a spectacular view of the Hollywood Sign. Take Hollywood Boulevard approximately three blocks to Vine. At this famous intersection begins the Hollywood Walk of Fame, so named for the bronzed stars placed into the pavement that bear the name of a legendary entertainer in music, movies and television. L'Orangerie is a classy French restaurant near here. Continuing up Hollywood Boulevard you will come to Mann's Chinese Theater, more famous for the front courtyard than for any film ever shown there. The footprints and handprints outside include so many stars, and create such a stir, it's sometimes hard to squeeze your way in.

### Malibu and Santa Monica

The beach community of Santa Monica offers great shopping and dining. The Third Street Promenade and The Pier are major centers of activity. Here you can ride roller coasters, shop, eat, fish or just take in the ocean air. Beurivage is a fantastic restaurant with ocean views. When you're ready to hit the coast, head north on the

beautiful Pacific Coast Highway. A few miles north of Malibu is Leo Carillo State Beach. This unique inlet features rock formations and tide pools overflowing with some of the most unusual aquatic life in the world. If you are lucky, you will also be able to see dolphins frolicking just offshore. When you are done here, head south to Venice City Beach.

### Mount Wilson

The 110 freeway north ends at Colorado Boulevard, where you will turn right and head into Old Town. In addition to being a quaint historical city, Old Town Pasadena Shopping District is known for world-class restaurants, thriving theater and many antique shops. One of the best features of Old Town is the architecture. An elegant dining option nearby is Bistro 45, which has contemporary French options on its menu. For those who feel confined by gravity and want to get a different perspective of Pasadena, simply follow signs to the Angeles Crest Highway and head up--straight up! This winding(and at times treacherous) mountain road takes you through the Angeles National Forest en route to the Mount Wilson Observatory, some 5000 feet above sea level.

### Museum Row

This stretch of Wilshire Boulevard is also known as Museum Row, and with good reason. Most of the city's main museums are located here, as well as several small but influential, art galleries, such as the Vintage Animation Gallery and the Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions. After checking them out, take a quick drive up Fairfax to another Los Angeles historical monument, Canter's Deli. This Jewish-American diner has been a long Hollywood tradition. After your first bite of a Canter's Deli sandwich you will know why stars, locals and tourists have made this eatery a Los Angeles must-see location. After indulging in all the best that Canter's has to offer, finish the day off with the astounding glamour of the mansions in Hancock Park, a neighborhood dotted with homes built in the golden years of Hollywood. If you'd like to do something more adventurous, the La Brea Tar Pits are just a short drive away.

If you are planning on checking out a few centrally-located things, going on foot is fine. However, if you want to explore the parts of this sprawling city that are hard to

get to, planning a day with a tour company is recommended.

**Walking Tours** Los Angeles Conservancy(+1 213 623 2489/ <http://www.laconservancy.org/>) OffN Running Tours(+1 310 246 1418/ <http://offnrunningtours.com>) Red Line Tours(+1 323 402 1074 x31/ <http://www.redlinetours.com/>)

**Trolley Tours** Beverly Hills Trolley Tour(+1 310 285 2438/ [http://www.beverlyhills.org/presence/connect/CoBH/Homepage/For+Visitors/What+to+Do/Cultural+Events,+Activities+and+Tours/LG-CM-Trolley\\_Tours](http://www.beverlyhills.org/presence/connect/CoBH/Homepage/For+Visitors/What+to+Do/Cultural+Events,+Activities+and+Tours/LG-CM-Trolley_Tours))

**Studio Tours** Universal Studios(+1 800 8 6483 7725/ <http://www.universalstudioshollywood.com>) Warner Bros. Studio Tour(+1 818 972 8687/ <http://www2.warnerbros.com/vipstudiotour/>) Paramount Studio Tour(+1 323 956 1777/ <http://www.paramount.com/studio/>) Sony Pictures Studio Tour(+1 323 520 8687/ <http://www.sonypicturesstudios.com/>)

**Bus Tours** Starline Tours(+1 800 959 3131/ <http://www.starlinetours.com/>) Columbia Tour Shuttle(+1 213 739 5757) Guideline Tours(+1 800 604 8433/ <http://www.guidelinetours.com/>)

**Adventure Tours** Catalina Adventure Tours(+1 310 510 2888/ +1 562 432 8828/ <http://www.catalinaadventuretours.com/>) Descanso Beach Ocean Sports(+1 310 510 1226/ +1 310 510 1588/ <http://www.kayakcatalinaisland.com/>)

**Fishing Tours** Discovery Tours--Flying Fish Boat Trip(+1 310 510 2000)

**Boat Tours** Los Angeles Harbor Cruise(+1 310 831 0996) Star Party Cruises(+1 562 799 7000/ <http://www.reggae-boat.com/>) Crystal Cruises(+1 866 446 6625/ <http://www.crystalcruises.com/>)

**Air Tours** Helitac Aviation(+1 213 483 6898/ <http://www.helitac.com>) Hollywood Aviators(+1 818 994 2004/ <http://www.hollywoodaviators.com/>)

**Sports Tours** Big League Tours(+1 866 619 1748/ +1 317 534 2475/ <http://bigleaguertours.com/>)

## Los Angeles Snapshot continued

**Segway Tours** Segway Los Angeles(+1 310 395 1395/ <http://www.segway.la/rental.php>)

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### Travel Tips

#### Getting There

##### Air

Los Angeles International Airport(LAX)+1 310 646 5252<http://www.lawa.org/lax/>

LAX is located 16 miles from downtown.

Bob Hope Airport(BUR)+1 818 840 8840<http://www.burbankairport.com/>

BUR is located three miles from downtown.

LAX provides service to the following airlines:

Aeromexico( +1 800 237 6639/<http://www.aeromexico.com/>) Air New Zealand( +1 800 262 1234/<http://www.airnewzealand.com/usa/>) Airtran Airways( +1 800 247 8726/<http://www.airtran.com/>) American( +1 800 433 7300/<http://www.aa.com/>) Alaska Airlines( +1 800 252 7522/<http://www.alaskaair.com/>) British Airways( +1 800 247 9297/<http://www.britishairways.com/>) China Airlines( +1 800 227 5118/<http://www.china-airlines.com/>) Continental( +1 800 525 0280/<http://www.continental.com/>) Delta( +1 800 221 1212/<http://www.delta.com/>) Frontier( +1 800 265 5505/<http://www.frontierairlines.com/>) Hawaiian Airlines( +1 800 367 5320/<http://www.hawaiianair.com/>) Japan Airways( +1 800 525 3663/<http://www.jal.co.jp/>) Korean Airlines( +1 800 438 5000/<http://www.koreanair.com/>) Lufthansa( +1 800 241 6522/<http://www.lufthansa-usa.com/>) Northwest( +1 800 225 2525/<http://www.nwa.com/>) QANTAS( +1 800 227 4500/<http://www.qantas.com.au/>) Singapore Airlines( +1 800 742 3333/<http://www.singaporeair.com/>) Southwest( +1 800 435 9792/<http://www.southwest.com/>) Sun Country( +1 800 359 6786/<http://www.suncountry.com/>) United( +1 800 241 6522/<http://www.ual.com/>) US Airways( +1 800 428 4322/<http://www.usairways.com/>)

BUR provides service to the following airlines:

Alaska Airlines( +1 800 252 7522/<http://www.alaskaair.com/>) Aloha

Airlines( +1 800 367 5250/<http://www.alohaairlines.com/>) American( +1 800 433 7300/<http://www.aa.com/>) Southwest( +1 800 435 9792/<http://www.southwest.com/>) United( +1 800 241 6522/<http://www.ual.com/>) US Airways:( +1 800 428 4322/<http://www.usairways.com/>)

Airport Parking Service: Park'N Fly at Park One( +1 800 763 6895/<http://www.pfnetwork.com/>)

Shuttle: A free shuttle bus service provides transportation from the airport to the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Bus Center( +1 800 266 6883/<http://www.mta.net/>). From there, city buses are available to serve the Los Angeles area. Other Public bus companies include Culver City Bus Lines(+1 310 253 6500), Santa Monica Big Blue Bus( +1 800 266 6883) and Torrance Transit( +1 800 266 6883). The shuttle can be picked up under the LAX Shuttle& Airline Connections sign on the Lower/Arrival Level in front of each terminal.

Metropolitan Express( +1 800 338 3898) is a bus service that provides transportation from LAX to downtown Los Angeles. Union Station/LAX FlyAway(+1 866 435 9529) is a 24 hour service that provides airport shuttle service from Union Station to LAX for a small fare.

Taxi: The following companies provide taxis that can easily be located at the Lower/Arrival Level in front of each terminal:

Authorized Taxicab Supervision(ATS) ( +1 323 776 5324) Beverly Hills Cab Company( +1 310 273 6611) Independent Taxi Owners Association( +1 213 666 0045) L.A. Taxi/United Checker Cab( +1 213 627 7000;+1 310 715 1968)

Car Rental: Alamo( +1 800 327 9633/<http://www.goalamo.com/>) Avis( +1 800 331 1212/<http://www.avis.com/>) Budget( +1 800 527 0700/<http://www.budget.com/>) Dollar( +1 800 800 4000/<http://www.dollar.com/>) Enterprise( +1 800 736 8222/<http://www.enterprise.com/>) Hertz( +1 800 654 3131/<http://www.hertz.com/>) National( +1 800 227 7368/<http://www.nationalcar.com/>)

##### Car-Share

Another attractive ground transportation option is Zipcar, which operates in certain U.S. cities. This new breed of rental car allows you to rent on an hourly basis rather

than a daily basis. Be sure to register online before your trip. Zipcar(+1 877 353 9227/<http://www.zipcar.com/>)

##### Train

Amtrak(+1 800 872 7245/<http://www.amtrak.com/>), located at 800 N Alameda Street, provides service to Los Angeles via several national routes including Coast Starlight, Pacific Surfliner, Southwest Chief and Sunset Limited.

##### Bus

Greyhound( +1 800 231 2222/<http://www.greyhound.com/>) accesses Los Angeles from major cities around the country. The downtown bus station( +1 213 629 8401), located at 1716 E 7th Street, is open 24 hours daily.

##### Car

Approach Los Angeles from the east by Interstate 10, from the northeast and southwest by Interstate 5 and south via Interstate 5 and take Interstate 110 from the south.

#### Getting Around

##### Public Transit

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority(+1 800 266 6883/<http://www.metro.net/>) provides local and express bus service throughout Los Angeles and to major surrounding attractions including Disneyland and Universal Studios Hollywood. Other services include the Green Line light rail and the Metro Red Line subway.

If rollin' like a celebrity is your wish, call on New Century Limo(+1 800 250 9434/ <http://www.newcenturylimo.com/>).

##### Traffic Information

To find out city traffic information go to<http://www.traffic.com/>

If traveling overseas, take the safety precaution of registering your trip at<https://travelregistration.state.gov> and for helpful, practical advice about traveling technicalities and safety standards check out<http://travel.state.gov/>.

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### Fun Facts

**Los Angeles State:** California **Country:** United States

## Los Angeles Snapshot continued

### Los Angeles By The Numbers:

Population: 3,849,368(city);  
13,000,000(Metropolitan) Elevation: 256 ft/  
78 m Average Annual Rainfall: 14 in/ 36 cm  
Average January Temperature: 57°F/ 14°C  
Average July Temperature: 72°F/ 22°C

### Quick Facts:

Major Industries: tourism,entertainment,  
communications, shipping, manufacturing,  
finance,oil Electricity: 110 volts, 60Hz,  
standard two pin plugs Time Zone:  
GMT-8(GMT-7 daylight saving time); Pacific  
Standard Time(PST) Country Dialing Code:  
1 Area Codes: 213, 310, 323, 626, 818( 1  
and the area code must be dialed even for  
local calls)

### Did You Know?

Los Angeles allows visitors to glimpse  
millions of years of geologic history. At  
theLa Brea Tar Pits you can see residue of  
the days when dinosaurs walked the Earth,  
and the tar is still oozing in some places.

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