



# Destination Guide: Los Angeles



**Top Picks From AAA Travel Editors - Travel information you can trust**

## **AAA Destination Guide: Official AAA maps, travel information and top picks**

AAA Destination Guide: Los Angeles includes trip-planning information covering AAA recommended attractions and restaurants, exclusive member discounts, maps and more.



For much of the globe, the stereotypical perception of Los Angeles is one of a superficial city populated by movie stars, plastic surgeons and towering palms. But Angelenos know the entertainment capital of the world is much more than that. From its

glorious natural surroundings and world-class tourist attractions to ethnic neighborhoods with their own unique character, L.A. is a wildly stimulating, very real city where fantasy just happens to be the signature export.

Because L.A. sprawls so vigorously—stretching from the lofty San Gabriel Mountains to the golden shores of the Pacific Ocean—putting together a sightseeing plan is essential. For movie lovers, the Hollywood area should be on the A-list. From the famed Grauman's Chinese Theatre to Universal Studios Hollywood, a close-up encounter with movie myths and magic is a must. Soaking up rays on one of Southern California's beaches is another quintessential L.A. experience, which is best done at vibrant Venice Beach or the ocean bluffs of Malibu. For skeptics who dismiss L.A. as a cultural wasteland, they obviously haven't gawked at the Renaissance art displayed in the Getty Center or heard the Los Angeles Philharmonic at downtown's Walt Disney Concert Hall. Whether it's shopping in Beverly Hills or nightclub-hopping on the storied Sunset Strip, spirits easily soar in the City of Angels.

## **Essentials**

Lace up a pair of rented skates and roll amid the colorful characters on the Venice Boardwalk, then cross the bridges around Dell Avenue for views of the ducks and boats in the area's remaining canals.

Soak up the old-fashioned atmosphere of Santa Monica Pier, browsing the curio shops and mussing your hair while plummeting down the roller coaster. Immerse yourself in the still-thriving surf culture that was born in Malibu in the 1950s and '60s.

Window-shop along Rodeo Drive, a stretch of sidewalk anchored by the glamorous Two Rodeo "mall" on one end and the swank Rodeo Collection on the other.

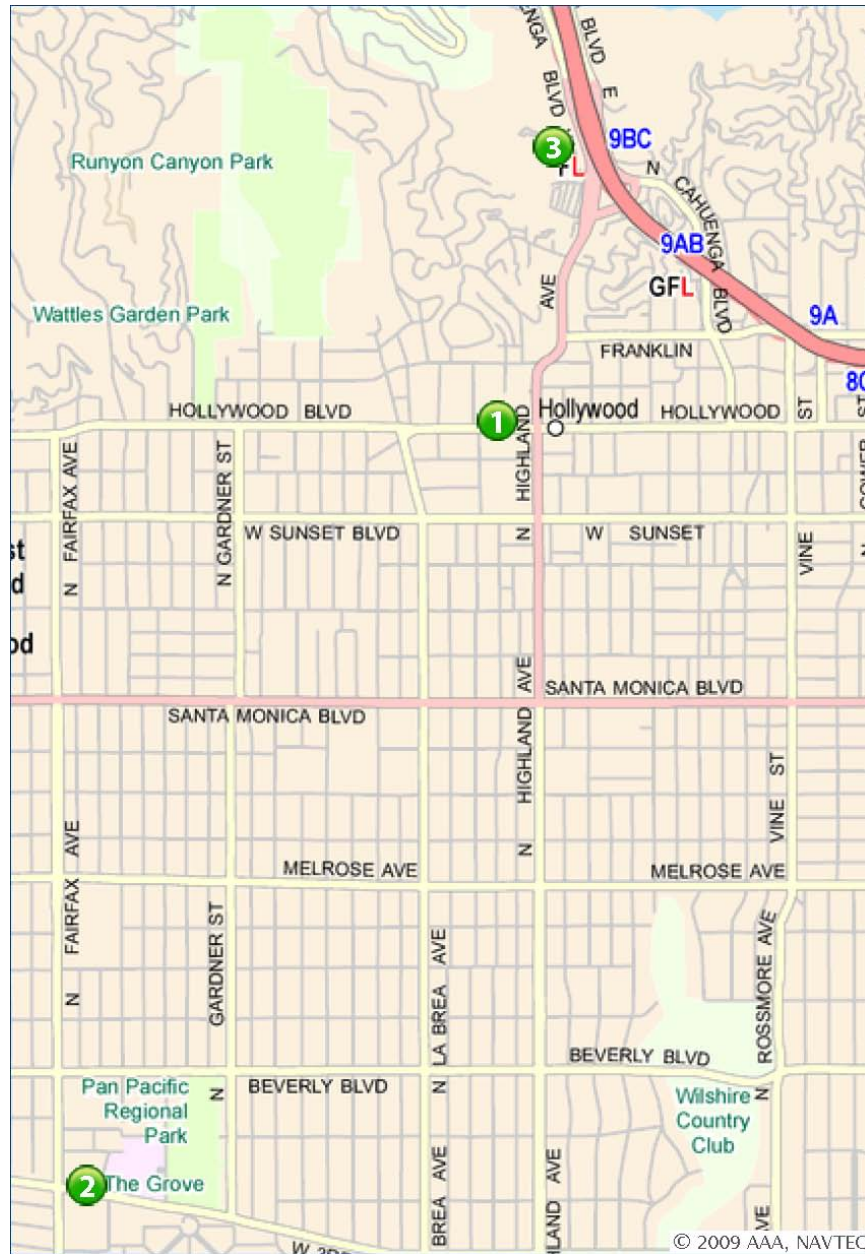
Compare hands and feet with such "Who's Who of Tinseltown" personalities as Judy Garland, Jimmy Stewart, Whoopi Goldberg and Mel Gibson in the forecourt of [Grauman's Chinese Theatre](#).

Rock on in the sizzling nightclubs along the storied Sunset Strip, also home to hip hotels and haute restaurants. Refrain from drooling while gaping at the jaw-dropping grandeur of the palatial estates in exclusive Bel Air.

Admire the pagoda-style rooflines, rich colors and graceful calligraphy on your way to having dim sum in Chinatown. Succumb to the temptations lurking in [Farmers Market](#) food stands or pick up the perfect gift in one of the specialty shops.


Pack a box dinner and a bottle of wine and picnic in the moonlight during a summer concert at the [Hollywood Bowl](#).

**Essentials Map**



Get maps and turn-by-turn directions using TripTik Travel Planner on AAA.com

**Essentials Details - Get additional information on [AAA.com](http://AAA.com)**

 - GEM Attraction offers a *Great Experience for Members*

**1. Grauman's Chinese Theatre**

6925 Hollywood Blvd  
Los Angeles, CA 90028



**3. Hollywood Bowl**

2301 N. Highland Ave  
Hollywood, CA 90068  
Phone: (800) 745-3000



**2. Farmers Market**

6333 W. 3rd St  
Los Angeles, CA 90036  
Phone: (866) 993-9211



**Los Angeles in 3 Days**

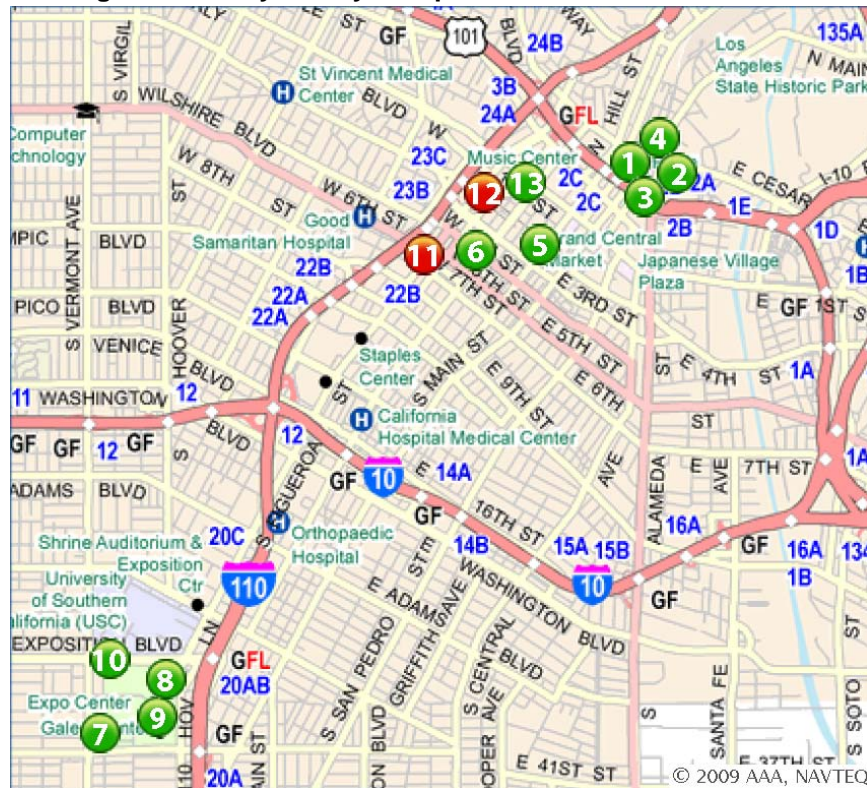
Three days is barely enough time to get to know any major destination. But AAA travel editors suggest these activities to make the most of your time in Los Angeles.

Los Angeles and its vicinity includes Pasadena, Long Beach, Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Santa Monica and dozens of towns and beach communities. You'll need an automobile to conveniently get around most parts of the city and its environs, but you can use public transportation to reach many of the points of interest highlighted in this itinerary.

If you're starstruck, add a fourth day to your agenda to visit Hollywood. If art floats your boat plan a fifth day to take in the city's major art museums: the centrally located Los Angeles County Museum of Art and its latest addition, the Broad Contemporary Art Museum, or the Getty Center on Los Angeles' west side.



Los Angeles in 3 Days – Day 1 Map



Get maps and turn-by-turn directions using TripTik Travel Planner on AAA.com

Day 1: Morning

Begin near the site where the City of the Angels began at El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument, a celebration of the town’s multi-ethnic heritage. Join one of the guided walking tours of the complex, or visit the 1818 Avila Adobe—a replica of the oldest house in the city—along with the Chinese American Museum, the “History of Water” exhibit and other landmarks at your own pace.

Olvera Street, a re-creation of a colorful Mexican marketplace in the midst of El Pueblo, is a perennial favorite with visitors. Here you’ll find sidewalk shops and stalls crammed with silver, turquoise and leather handicrafts, sombreros, pottery, candles and piñatas.

Day 1 Details - Get additional information on [AAA.com](http://AAA.com);  
AAA Diamond Rating information available on [AAA.com/Diamonds](http://AAA.com/Diamonds)



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- Exclusive AAA member discounts available

**1. El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument**

125 Paseo de la Plaza  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Phone: (213) 628-1274



**2. Avila Adobe**

10 E. Olvera St  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Phone: (213) 628-1274

**3. Chinese American Museum**

425 North Los Angeles St  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Phone: (213) 485-8567



**4. Olvera Street**

Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Phone: (213) 628-1274



**5. The Bradbury Building**

304 S. Broadway  
Los Angeles, CA 90013  
Phone: (213) 626-1893

**6. Richard J. Riordan Central Library**

630 W. 5th St  
Los Angeles, CA 90071  
Phone: (213) 228-7000

**7. Expo Center**

Exposition Blvd & Figueroa St  
Los Angeles, CA 90037  
Phone: (213) 763-0114



**8. California African American Museum**

600 State Dr  
Los Angeles, CA 90037  
Phone: (213) 744-7432

**9. California Science Center**

700 State Dr  
Los Angeles, CA 90037  
Phone: (323) 724-3623



**10. Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County**

900 Exposition Blvd  
Los Angeles, CA 90007  
Phone: (213) 763-3466



**11. Engine Company No. 28**



644 S Figueroa St  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
Phone: (213) 624-6996

**12. Patina**



141 S Grand Ave  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Phone: (213) 972-3331

**13. Walt Disney Concert Hall**

135 N. Grand Ave  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Phone: (213) 972-4399

### Afternoon

You can get the whole enchilada on Olvera Street—not to mention burritos and tamales—but for the most authentic fare head for Casa La Golondrina, a historic restaurant situated in the 1855 Pelanconi House. Or hop the Metro Red Line to Pershing Square and grab a bite in the nearby Grand Central Market, a colorful mosaic of cultures with a wide variety of food choices.

From the indoor market—a great spot for people-watching—walk across Broadway to [The Bradbury Building](#), one of the city’s architectural gems. Here you can join Red Line Tours’ “Inside Historic Downtown L.A.” or “Inside Contemporary Downtown L.A.” Or meander over to Maguire Gardens, the front lawn of the [Richard J. Riordan Central Library](#), at the intersection of 5th and Flower streets. You don’t have to be a literary type to enjoy this wonderfully imaginative and inviting greenspace and its eye-catching fountains, pools and sculptures.

There’s still time to enjoy another of Downtown’s highlights. Hop the DASH minibus, Route F, and zip down to [Expo Center](#), this city’s version of Manhattan’s Central Park. Take your pick of three major museums here: the [California African American Museum](#), which offers exhibits in art, culture, and history; the kid-friendly [California Science Center](#), with its wealth of high-tech interactive displays and hands-on labs; and the [Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County](#), which houses everything from dinosaur bones and insect specimens to Gold Rush mementos and vintage Hollywood artifacts.

### Evening

Dine on comfort food in a restored 1912 fire station at the stylish [Engine Company No. 28](#). Or go upscale at Los Angeles’ only 4-Diamond-rated restaurant, Joachim Splichal’s exquisite [Patina](#), at street level in the iconic [Walt Disney Concert Hall](#). End the evening with a stroll through the hall’s elevated urban garden, or head over to the Westin Bonaventure Hotel & Suites, 404 S. Figueroa St., where you can choose between the Bonaventure Brewing Company and the rotating Bona Vista Lounge atop the hotel.

### Day 2: Morning

Today’s agenda takes you to the [Pasadena](#) area. If you know this charming former boomtown only from its annual [Tournament of Roses Parade](#), you’ll find an embarrassment of riches in store (keep in mind that many attractions are open only in the afternoon). While an automobile would come in handy, the Metro Gold Line can take you to within a mile or two of almost any desired destination.

You can easily take in the essence of the [Pacific Asia Museum](#) in an hour or so, though you may have a hard time tearing yourself away. Then work up an appetite with a stroll down Colorado Boulevard through Old Pasadena’s historic district. Keep a grip on your pocketbook (beware of antique shops and bookstores lurking in abundance).

### Afternoon

For lunch, continue the Asian theme with a pleasant sensory experience at [Tibet Nepal House](#), or go Italian with [Mi Piace](#). Its salads, grilled paninos and pasta dishes will more than satisfy your appetite.

No time to dawdle, however, for the wonders of [The Gamble House](#) await you. If it’s a weekend, grab a snack at Old Town Bakery, 166 W. Colorado Blvd., and skip lunch to ensure admittance to this gorgeous Craftsman-style mansion with its stained-glass windows, custom furniture and sculpted woodwork. (The Gamble’s caretakers sell a limited number of tickets to enhance the guided tours, and open the doors for too few hours a week).

Afterward, there’s still time to take in the [Norton Simon Museum](#). If the work of Old Masters and Impressionists—the likes of Rubens, Van Gogh, Degas, Picasso—stirs the soul, there are few places better to view and appreciate it.

## Los Angeles in 3 Days – Day 2 Map



Get maps and turn-by-turn directions using [TripTik Travel Planner on AAA.com](#)

An alternative plan for the day would be to visit the [Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens](#) in the neighboring community of San Marino. The stunning collection of rare books, manuscripts and paintings is outshone only by the gardens of railroad pioneer Henry Huntington's 207-acre estate. The Huntington is truly one of the jewels in Southern California's crown, but it would require the better part of your day. (Depending on the date and time of your visit, it might be possible to squeeze in one of the museums afterwards).

### Evening

Treat yourself to a memorable dining experience at [The Raymond Restaurant](#), a 1901 Craftsman cottage that serves up dishes as distinguished as its surroundings. Or enjoy a down-to-earth meal at [Kathleen's](#), a local favorite that's also popular for Sunday brunch. Then head over to the famed Pasadena Playhouse for an evening of theater, or perhaps the city's renowned comedy club, The Ice House.

## Day 2 Details - Get additional information on [AAA.com](#) AAA Diamond Rating information available on [AAA.com/Diamonds](#)



- GEM Attraction offers a *Great Experience for Members*



- Exclusive AAA member discounts available

### 1. Pacific Asia Museum

46 N. Los Robles Ave  
Pasadena, CA 91101  
Phone: (626) 449-2742



### 2. Tibet Nepal House

36 E Holly St  
Pasadena, CA 91103  
Phone: (626) 585-0955

### 3. Mi Piacce

25 E Colorado Blvd  
Pasadena, CA 91105  
Phone: (626) 795-3131

### 4. The Gamble House

4 Westmoreland Pl  
Pasadena, CA 91103  
Phone: (626) 793-3334

### 5. Norton Simon Museum

411 W. Colorado Blvd  
Pasadena, CA 91105  
Phone: (626) 449-6840



### 6. Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens

1151 Oxford Rd  
San Marino, CA 91108  
Phone: (626) 405-2100



### 7. The Raymond Restaurant

1250 S Fair Oaks Ave  
Pasadena, CA 91105  
Phone: (626) 441-3136

### 8. Kathleen's

595 N Lake Ave  
Pasadena, CA 91101  
Phone: (626) 578-0722

## Day 3: Morning

Of the region's many beach cities and towns, [Long Beach](#) is perhaps the best choice for the first-time visitor. The Metro Blue Line will deliver you to within a mile of most of the city's attractions (and save you some hefty parking fees), although driving is also an option.

Kids of all ages will delight in the [Aquarium of the Pacific](#), a state-of-the-art complex where you'll find more than 12,500 marine animals displayed in dozens of habitats. You can't swim with the sharks, but you can get a feel for them in shallow touch tanks; other highlights include a walk-through aviary.



### Afternoon

Gladstone's Long Beach will fill the lunchtime bill if a visit to the aquarium whets your appetite for seafood (or steak, for those landlubbers in your party). Also nearby is Tequila Jack's, which offers everything from tacos to baby-backed ribs, along with more than 100 varieties of tequila.

If you're in the mood to sail away on an ocean breeze, Harbor Breeze Cruises can accommodate you with a narrated tour of the harbor that will also give you a close-up peek at the Queen Mary. If you're into nautical history, you'll want to make your way to the legendary art deco luxury liner herself. You can explore the ship's colorful history—and the many skeletons in its closet—on a variety of tours.

### Los Angeles in 3 Days – Day 3 Map



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You may still have time to shop for souvenirs in Shoreline Village, or visit the Museum of Latin American Art, a south-of-the border detour that provides a stimulating short course in cultural diversity.

### Day 3 Details - Get additional information on [AAA.com](#) AAA Diamond Rating information available on [AAA.com/Diamonds](#)



- GEM Attraction offers a *Great Experience for Members*



- Exclusive AAA member discounts available

#### 1. Aquarium of the Pacific

100 Aquarium Way  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
Phone: (562) 590-3100



#### 2. Gladstone's Long Beach



330 S Pine Ave  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
Phone: (562) 432-8588

#### 3. Tequila Jack's



407 Shoreline Village Dr  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
Phone: (562) 628-0454

#### 4. Harbor Breeze Cruises

100 Aquarium Way  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
Phone: (562) 983-6880

#### 5. Queen Mary

1126 Queens Hwy  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
Phone: (562) 435-3511

#### 6. Museum of Latin American Art

628 Alamitos Ave  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
Phone: (562) 437-1689

#### 7. The Sky Room



40 S Locust Ave  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
Phone: (562) 983-2703

### Evening

For an exceptional meal with views of the city and the harbor to match, head to The Sky Room, an art deco supper club on the 14th floor of the historic Breakers Hotel. Or head over to Pine Avenue, where the locals go.

Ready to shake, rattle and roll after dinner? Hop into the nearby Blue Café for a nightcap of blues, rockabilly, reggae or samba. If you step to the beat of a different drummer, stroll over to Sea Bird Jazz Club, an intimate lounge where stylings include Latin jazz, salsa and R&B.

## Restaurants



Inside [The Peninsula Beverly Hills](#), [The Belvedere](#) has a longstanding reputation as the area's best hotel dining restaurant. The see-and-be-seen vibe pulsates most strongly in the morning, when Hollywood's elite gather around for breakfast. Soak up the sunshine on the landscaped patio while perusing the "small bites" menu for smoked salmon pancake and the chef's famed truffle macaroni and cheese. If you're on your way to a concert at the Hollywood Bowl, ask about the portable gourmet meals on the Pen-Air menu.

Pleasant surprises of a different variety await at elegant [Porter's Prime Steak House](#), across the lobby of the lovely [Hilton Los Angeles North/Glendale & Executive Meeting Center](#). Posh decor characterizes the dining room, where skilled servers deftly tend to your every need. If your mouth doesn't water at the prospect of perfectly prepared USDA Prime steak, turn your attention to preparations of seafood and chops.

Pleasant surprises of a different variety await at elegant [Porter's Prime Steak House](#), across the lobby of the lovely [Hilton Los Angeles North/Glendale & Executive Meeting Center](#). Posh decor characterizes the dining room, where skilled servers deftly tend to your every need. If your mouth doesn't water at the prospect of perfectly prepared USDA Prime steak, turn your attention to preparations of seafood and chops.

Steak also crowns the menu at [555 East](#), where you'll share the company of Long Beach's movers and shakers in a clubby dining room characterized by plush booths, marble floors and low lighting. Selections from the award-winning wine cellar complement the chicken, seafood and impeccably prepared USDA Prime steak dishes. Although the din of music and chatter may be distracting, you'll nonetheless experience a sumptuous outing here.

Succulent prime rib, served tableside from silver carts, deservedly gets top billing at [Lawry's The Prime Rib](#). The Beverly Hills institution, which operated for many years from a location across the street, complements your food with flavorful sides including seasoned creamed spinach, asparagus with béarnaise and buttered peas. Only half of the tables are reserved, so don't hesitate to stop in on a whim.

[Lucille's Smokehouse Bar-B-Que](#) employs the secrets passed down to Lucille Buchanan from her Granny to kick your salivary glands into

overdrive. Although meats smoked slowly over hickory wood merit pride of place on the menu, your tongue also will dance for pan-blackened catfish, center-cut pork chops, jambalaya and blackened chicken pasta. Southern folk art enhances the down-home feel of the busy Long Beach setting. Made-from-scratch desserts—including peach cobbler, bread pudding and Snickers ice cream pie—provide a great reason for you to linger.

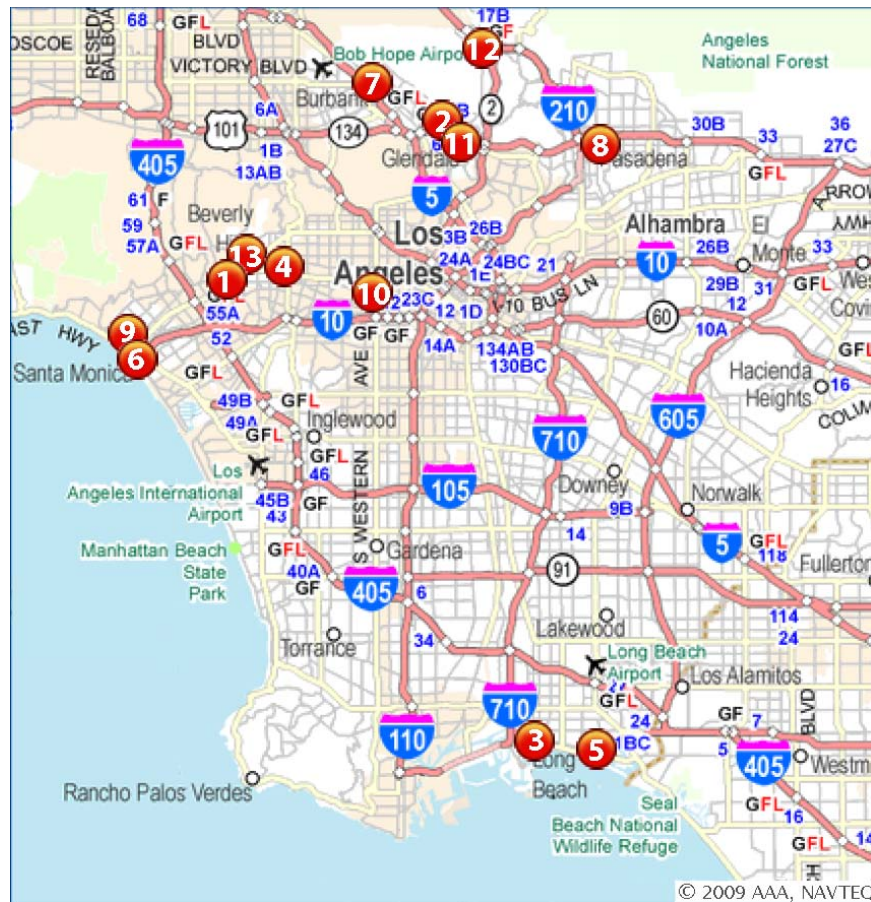
Treat your senses to the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of the Pacific Ocean at Santa Monica's [The Lobster](#), a sophisticated spot for pepper-crusted yellowfin tuna, sesame-roasted black bass, grilled Pacific spiny lobster and jumbo lump crab cakes. If your tastes lean more toward turf than surf, consider New York steak, filet mignon or grilled chicken breast. Inhale the crisp sea air on the inviting patio.

Sink your teeth into savory pastrami on rye at another unpretentious spot: [Ben's Delicatessen](#) in Burbank. Yummy fresh sides—including coleslaw, potato salad and a rotating selection of soups—are made from scratch. Mind your manners at lunchtime, as you'll be surrounded by law-enforcement professionals from the police station across the street and legal types streaming in from the nearby courthouse.

Global influences come into play on the area's multicultural culinary scene. Chef/owner Akira Hirose's impressive *curriculum vitae* incorporates education in France and experience at a veritable "where's where" of fine California restaurants. The latest entry: the eponymous [Maison Akira](#) in Pasadena. Evidence of an Asian influence marks his French creations, including miso-marinated grilled Chilean sea bass and roasted rack of lamb in rosemary sauce. Treat yourself to one of the sublime pastries, which stun in their exquisite visual appeal.

[JiRaffe](#) derives its name from the clever combination of the names of Josiah Citrin and Raphael Lunetta, the longtime friends who founded the place. Citrin has since moved on, but Lunetta continues to share his talents as sole executive chef. French influences dominate in such dishes as crispy salmon, Channel Island spiny lobster and caramelized pork chop with wild rice, smoked bacon, apple chutney and cider sauce. With

## Restaurants Map



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dark wood furnishings and green and brass accents, the dining room achieves an edgy, stylish feel devoid of pretense.

Pasadena's El Cholo Cafe boasts that the number of tortillas it has sold would circumnavigate the globe three times over (and then some) if laid end to end. Don't be surprised if you have to wait at this bustling cafe before you get your chance to slightly extend that distance with your enchilada, taco or chimichanga order. Splurge on a margarita and dig into

**Restaurants Details - Get additional information on [AAA.com](http://AAA.com);  
AAA Diamond Rating information available on [AAA.com/Diamonds](http://AAA.com/Diamonds)**

1. **The Belvedere**

9882 S Santa Monica Blvd  
Beverly Hills, CA 90212  
Phone: (310) 788-2306
2. **Porter's Prime Steak House**

100 W Glenoaks Blvd  
Glendale, CA 91202  
Phone: (818) 551-4074
3. **555 East**

555 E Ocean Blvd  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
Phone: (562) 437-0626
4. **Lawry's The Prime Rib**

100 N La Cienega Blvd  
Beverly Hills, CA 90211  
Phone: (310) 652-2827
5. **Lucille's Smokehouse Bar-B-Que**

4828 E 2nd St  
Long Beach, CA 90803  
Phone: (562) 434-7427
6. **The Lobster**

1602 Ocean Ave  
Santa Monica, CA 90401  
Phone: (310) 458-9294
7. **Ben's Delicatessen**

217 N 3rd St  
Burbank, CA 91502  
Phone: (818) 846-6227
8. **Maison Akira**

713 E Green St  
Pasadena, CA 91101  
Phone: (626) 796-9501
9. **JiRaffe**

502 Santa Monica Blvd  
Santa Monica, CA 90401  
Phone: (310) 917-6671
10. **El Cholo Café**

1121 S Western Ave  
Los Angeles, CA 90006  
Phone: (323) 734-2773
11. **Fortune Inn**

117 E Broadway St  
Glendale, CA 91205  
Phone: (818) 547-2833
12. **Divina Cucina**

3730 N Verdugo Rd  
Montrose, CA 91020  
Phone: (818) 248-3077
13. **Crustacean Beverly Hills**

9646 Little Santa Monica Blvd  
Beverly Hills, CA 90212  
Phone: (310) 205-8990

guacamole as you get caught up in the festivity of the dining room, where affable staffers in traditional Mexican attire punch up the mood.

After pounding the pavement to find deals in the Marketplace area of Glendale's shopping district, take a load off your tired tootsies at Fortune Inn. Both your wallet and taste buds will thank you for such choices as



Mongolian beef, twice-cooked pork, black bean scallops and pot of fortune, a garlicky stir-fried blend of eggplant, chicken and bell peppers.

Family-owned [Divina Cucina](#) in Montrose has caught the fancy of locals, which means you'll be shoulder to shoulder with many of them as you eagerly wait for a table in the dining room or on the covered porch. Bruschetta con pomodori whets your appetite for such dishes as linguine al pesto, pollo alla Gorgonzola, filetto con porcini and the signature tortellini Divina. Most of the wines bear a Californian or Italian label.

Walk on water over the in-floor koi aquarium that curves through [Crustacean Beverly Hills](#). Its Vietnamese/French delights include a "secret kitchen" menu of closely guarded family recipes, most notably the specialty garlic noodles and Dungeness crab roasted in pepper-garlic sauce. The luxe design re-creates a French Colonial plantation in Hanoi.

## Attractions

In a city with dozens of attractions, you may have trouble deciding where to spend your time. Here are the highlights for this destination, as chosen by AAA editors. GEMs are "Great Experiences for Members."



Much of the "Action!" in Los Angeles revolves around the filmmaking industry. When big-screen siren Norma Talmadge stepped in wet cement on the sidewalk around [Grauman's Chinese Theatre](#), a AAA GEM attraction in Hollywood, a tradition was born. Since that 1927 event, nearly 200 celebrities, including Marilyn Monroe, Bob Hope and Arnold Schwarzenegger, have imprinted their palms and soles, while others have left impressions of their trademarks, such as a cigar from Groucho Marx, a fist from John Wayne and braids from Whoopi Goldberg. Tour behind the scenes of a major movie studio at [Universal Studios Hollywood](#), a AAA GEM attraction that also thrills and chills with such hair-raising rides as

Revenge of the Mummy—The Ride and Jurassic Park—The Ride, as well as entertaining shows, including Shrek 4-D and WaterWorld.

[Six Flags Magic Mountain](#), a AAA GEM attraction in Valencia, jostles you with plenty of shakes, rattles and rolls of its own. Sixteen roller coasters—including the floorless Scream!, the wooden Psyclone, the suspended Batman the Ride, the stand-up Riddler's Revenge and the fourth dimensional X—put your stomach to the test. Your little ones will love Goliath Jr., a miniature version of the super-fast Goliath steel coaster; the Canyon Blaster coaster; and the 17 rides and attractions in Bugs Bunny World.

Ethnic diversity punches up the city's metropolitan flavor. [Olvera Street](#), one of L.A.'s oldest streets, radiates Hispanic character. Peek inside the AAA GEM attraction's sidewalk shops, teeming with colorful handicrafts, or take a break for Mexican food at one of the festive eateries. If you're interested in a deeper exploration of the history of this area, drop in the visitor center at [Sepulveda House](#). The hub of the city's Japanese-American community is [Little Tokyo](#), a AAA GEM attraction where you'll find the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center and the [Japanese American National Museum](#). Shopping and dining spots abound in the perimeter defined by First, Alameda, Third and Los Angeles streets.

Trace the state's Catholic heritage at [Mission San Fernando Rey de España](#), a AAA GEM attraction in Mission Hills. Explore the Madonna Room's statues, paintings and plaques inside the 243-foot-long colonnaded convento, said to be the state's largest two-story adobe building. The mission's church was rebuilt after a 1971 earthquake. From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, you can hear the peal of the 35-bell carillon.

The arts thrive in the city's museums and galleries. Explore paintings, sculpture, textiles and decorative pieces dating from ancient times to the present at the [Los Angeles County Museum of Art](#), a AAA GEM attraction. More than 30 exhibitions rotate through the space annually, and lectures, programs and other events complement the displays. Take your children one block west to the West Building, where they can

interact with hands-on exhibits. The striking Getty Center, a AAA GEM attraction, is as known for its exquisite collections as for the graceful feng shui influence of its design. If the creativity of such modern artists as Roy Lichtenstein, Mark Rothko, Jackson Pollock and Willem de Kooning grabs your interest, don't miss the Museum of Contemporary Art, or MOCA Grand Avenue, and its two satellite facilities: Geffen Contemporary at MOCA and West Hollywood's MOCA Pacific Design Center. The Norton Simon Museum, a AAA GEM attraction in Pasadena, lets you ponder paintings by Claude Monet, Vincent van Gogh and Edgar Degas, among many others.

### Attractions Map



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### Attractions Details - *Get additional information on [AAA.com](#)*



- GEM Attraction offers a *Great Experience for Members*



- Exclusive AAA member discounts available

#### 1. Grauman's Chinese Theatre

6925 Hollywood Blvd  
Los Angeles, CA 90028



#### 2. Universal Studios Hollywood

100 Universal Dr  
Universal City, CA 91608  
Phone: (800) 864-8377



#### 3. Six Flags Magic Mountain

26101 Magic Mountain Pkwy  
Valencia, CA 91355  
Phone: (661) 255-4111



#### 4. Olvera Street

Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Phone: (213) 628-1274



#### 5. Sepulveda House

622 N Main St  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Phone: (213) 628-1274



#### 6. Little Tokyo

1st St & Alameda St  
Los Angeles, CA 90012



#### 7. Japanese American National Museum

369 E First St  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Phone: (213) 625-0414



#### 8. Mission San Fernando Rey de España

15151 San Fernando Mission Blvd  
Mission Hills, CA 91345  
Phone: (818) 361-0186



#### 9. Los Angeles County Museum of Art

5905 Wilshire Blvd  
Los Angeles, CA 90036  
Phone: (323) 857-6000



#### 10. Getty Center

1200 Getty Center Dr  
Los Angeles, CA 90049  
Phone: (310) 440-7330



#### 11. MOCA Grand Avenue

250 S Grand Ave  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Phone: (213) 626-6222



#### 12. Norton Simon Museum

411 W Colorado Blvd  
Pasadena, CA 91105  
Phone: (626) 449-6840



#### 13. Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens

1151 Oxford Rd  
San Marino, CA 91108  
Phone: (626) 405-2100



#### 14. The Gamble House

4 Westmoreland Pl  
Pasadena, CA 91103  
Phone: (626) 793-3334

#### 15. UCLA - University of California, Los Angeles

405 Hilgard Ave  
Los Angeles, CA 90024  
Phone: (310) 825-2101



#### 16. California Science Center

700 State Dr  
Los Angeles, CA 90037  
Phone: (323) 724-3623



#### 17. Page Museum at the La Brea Tar Pits

5801 Wilshire Blvd  
Los Angeles, CA 90036  
Phone: (323) 934-7243



Although you can gaze into the eyes of Thomas Gainsborough's "The Blue Boy" at the Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens, a AAA GEM attraction in San Marino, the bigger draw here remains the awe-inspiring collection of more than 4 million library pieces. In addition to one of the world's best collections of early editions from William Shakespeare, the library possesses the handwritten draft of Benjamin Franklin's "Autobiography," a 1455 Gutenberg Bible, William Blake's "Songs of Innocence and Experience" and the "Ellesmere Chaucer," an illuminated draft of the "Canterbury Tales." You won't regret taking the time to tour the botanical gardens, particularly the Desert Garden and Japanese Garden, a Zen-centric (and aesthetically magnificent) haven of rocks and bonsai trees.

**Attractions Map**



Get maps and turn-by-turn directions using [TripTik Travel Planner on AAA.com](#)

**Attractions Details - *Get additional information on [AAA.com](#)***



- GEM Attraction offers a *Great Experience for Members*



- Exclusive AAA member discounts available

**18. Natural History Museum of LA County**

900 Exposition Blvd  
Los Angeles, CA 90007  
Phone: (213) 763-3466



**21. LA County Arboretum and Botanic Garden**

301 N Baldwin Ave  
Arcadia, CA 91007  
Phone: (626) 821-3222



**24. Disneyland**

1313 Harbor Blvd  
Anaheim, CA 92802  
Phone: (714) 781-4565



**19. Griffith Park**

4730 Crystal Springs Dr  
Los Angeles, CA 90027  
Phone: (323) 664-3266



**22. Aquarium of the Pacific**

100 Aquarium Way  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
Phone: (562) 590-3100



**25. Disney's California Adventure**

1313 Harbor Blvd  
Anaheim, CA 92803  
Phone: (714) 781-4565



**20. Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens**

5333 Zoo Dr  
Los Angeles, CA 90027  
Phone: (323) 644-4200



**23. Disneyland® Resort**

1313 Harbor Blvd  
Anaheim, CA 92802  
Phone: (714) 781-4565



**26. Downtown Disney**

1530 S. Disneyland Dr  
Anaheim, CA 92802

From an architectural standpoint, you'd be hard pressed to find a more impressive representative of the Arts and Crafts movement than Pasadena's The Gamble House. In designing the winter getaway for David and Mary Gamble, brothers Charles and Henry Greene fretted over every detail in the 1908 bungalow, from the stained-glass front door and exquisite cabinetry to the hand-shaped beams and original furnishings. The University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) campus, a AAA GEM attraction, also serves as a testimony to the impact of great design. Many buildings reflect the influence of Italian Romanesque architecture. You'll also feel a tug from the verdant paths, which encourage casual strolls, and the many cultural offerings.

Several spots give you insight into science and history. Learn about physics, space, technology and the environment at California Science



Center, a AAA GEM attraction. In the Air and Space Gallery, take a look at an A-12 Blackbird spy plane and the actual Gemini 11 space capsule that carried astronauts Dick Gordon and Pete Conrad into space in 1966. At the AAA GEM Page Museum at the La Brea Tar Pits, reconstructed skeletons of mammoths, birds of prey and saber-toothed cats give you an idea of how the landscape looked in prehistoric times. Stop to watch the paleontologists busily cleaning, identifying and cataloguing fossils in the paleontology laboratory. This focus continues in the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, a AAA GEM attraction that pits replicas of a Tyrannosaurus rex and a Triceratops against each other in the main foyer. The museum further branches out into exhibits of birds and marine life; collections of minerals and cut gemstones; a hall devoted to American Indian culture; the beautifully landscaped Pavilion of Wings, where hundreds of butterflies flutter freely; and the Ralph M. Parsons Insect Zoo, which curbs your appetite with a daunting spread of six-legged “Fear Factor”-esque delicacies on refrigerator shelves.

Wide, open spaces are prized in congested, sprawling Los Angeles. AAA GEM attraction Griffith Park ambles over more than 4,200 acres, with wilderness areas and hiking trails throughout. Educational and cultural institutions, including the Greek Theatre amphitheater and Griffith Observatory and Planetarium, also reside in the park, as do a merry-go-round with nearly 70 elaborately detailed horses and the Griffith Park & Southern Railroad miniature train. In the northeast corner of the park, the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens, a AAA GEM attraction, shelters more than 1,200 mammals, birds and reptiles in such exhibits as Red Ape Rain Forest, Dragons of Komodo and the Winnick Family Children’s Zoo. L.A. County Arboretum and Botanic Garden, a AAA GEM attraction in Arcadia, lets you wander amid 127 acres of greenery in continent-specific arrangements. Bring a picnic meal to enjoy during your self-guided horticulture lesson.

Marine animals from three Pacific Ocean regions—Southern California/Baja, Tropical Pacific and Northern Pacific—swim at Aquarium of the Pacific, a AAA GEM attraction in Long Beach. Interact with the ocean’s ultimate predators in the 10,000-square-foot Shark Lagoon;

discover harbor seals, sea lions, sea otters and vaquita, a type of porpoise; or amble through the Lorikeet Forest aviary. During the summer, take a scientific excursion aboard the research vessel *Conqueror*.

If you don’t mind venturing a bit farther afield, you’ll have opportunities aplenty to reconnect with your inner child at Disneyland Resort, a AAA GEM attraction located in Anaheim that encompasses Disneyland, Disney’s California Adventure, Downtown Disney and three hotels.

## Events

The pageantry of Pasadena’s Tournament of Roses Parade, a 2.5-hour tromp along Colorado Boulevard, precedes the Rose Bowl football game in early January. Festive floats, upbeat bands and high-stepping horses entertain the estimated 1 million attendees who huddle street side in addition to the millions more who watch the AAA GEM event on television.

Sometime between late January and mid-February, Chinatown embraces the spectacle of the Chinese New Year Festival and Parade, a AAA GEM event that includes the Miss L.A. Chinatown Pageant and the Firecracker 5/10K Run/Walk. A panoply of vibrant dragon dancers and martial arts masters commands rapt attention during the Golden Dragon Parade.

The city’s Hispanic heritage shines during Fiesta Broadway and the Cinco de Mayo Celebration, a weeklong event in early May. A 36-square-block area around El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument pulsates to the rhythm of top Latin performers. Runners lace up for the 1-mile Cinco de Mile at Fiesta Broadway, while golfers take to the links for the Fiesta Broadway Charity Golf Tournament.

More than 75,000 participants show their pride in mid-May during the Long Beach Lesbian & Gay Pride Parade and Festival. Marching groups and floats wind along Ocean Boulevard, while a full slate of entertainment takes the stage at Marina Green & Rainbow Lagoon.

Coinciding with the spectacular blooming of Echo Lake's floating lotus grove in mid-July, the [Lotus Festival](#) in Echo Park is a AAA GEM event honoring the Asian and South Pacific Island communities. Lotus-inspired crafts—as well as tropical music, dancing, dragon boat races and exotic birds—tickle festivalgoers pink. The two-day celebration ends with a bang as fireworks light up the night sky.

From mid-July to mid-September, the acclaimed concert season at the [Hollywood Bowl](#), a AAA GEM attraction, invites music lovers to sit under the stars and soak up the sounds of outstanding jazz, classical, world music and other concerts.

Little Tokyo comes alive in mid-August with the [Nisei Week Japanese Festival](#), a AAA GEM event. Celebrants gather in the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center Plaza to explore Japanese culture and heritage via parades, food, music, arts and crafts.

Artisans and African importers replicate an outdoor bazaar for three weekends each August during the [African Marketplace and Cultural Faire](#), a AAA GEM event at Rancho La Cienega Park. Food, dance, music and sports tournaments also play a role in boosting cultural awareness.

The Fairplex in Pomona opens its doors each September for the [Los Angeles County Fair](#), one of the nation's largest county fairs and a AAA GEM event. Experience the hair-raising thrills of carnival rides, browse exhibits, compete in a midway game or nosh on candy apples, funnel cake and cotton candy.

Zaniness spills onto the streets of Pasadena in mid-January for the irreverent [Doo Dah Parade](#). The uproarious spoof of the Tournament of Roses Parade has amused spectators with such outrageous past entries as the Briefcase Precision Drill Team, the Men of Leisure Synchronized Nap Team and a band of marching kazoo players.

## Things to Do

### Shopping

When the going gets tough the tough go shopping, as the saying goes, and it certainly holds true for L.A. The decentralization of Los Angeles has given rise to a number of shopping centers scattered throughout the city and the metropolitan area, despite the rising price of gas.

#### Antiques

You'll find a splendid variety of objects proffered by antiques dealers along Melrose Avenue in West Hollywood, and nearby 3rd Street between Fairfax Avenue and La Cienega Boulevard. Jewelry, furniture and other collectibles are among the offerings at Sherman Oaks Antique Mall, 14034 Ventura Blvd. in Sherman Oaks. Old Towne Orange claims to be the antique capital of the region—and the state—centered around the junction of Glassell Street and Chapman Avenue in the city of Orange. More than 2,000 dealers frequent the Rose Bowl Flea Market the second Sunday of the month at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. You'll find more than 800 sellers at the Outdoor Antique & Collectible Market the third Sunday of the month at Veterans Stadium, which is at Lakewood Boulevard and Conant Street in Long Beach.

#### Malls

The San Fernando Valley, composed mainly of middle-class bedroom communities, is a haven for mall shoppers. On weekends, much-maligned valley girls—and even guys—flock to the trendy boutiques of Fashion Square Sherman Oaks, 14006 Riverside Dr. in Sherman Oaks. Glendale Galleria at Glendale and Hawthorne avenues in Glendale entices shoppers with five department stores and 250 retailers and food outlets.

The Westside also provides a good selection of shopping centers. A vast array of goods, from Disney collectibles to designer duds, distinguishes Westside Pavilion, 10800 W. Pico Blvd., anchored by Macy's and Nordstrom. Santa Monica Place, on Broadway at the south end of the

Third Street Promenade, is a typically suburban mall with two major department stores, some 140 boutiques and a food court.

Even the enclave of the rich and famous embraces the mall experience. Nearly 160 stores offer upscale goodies for self and home at Beverly Center in Beverly Hills. Westfield Century City, 10250 Santa Monica Blvd. in nearby Century City, counts Bloomingdale's and Macy's among the 140 shops, theaters and restaurants at its 18-acre site.

Downtown L.A.'s malls tend to be small but stylish. Tops is 7+FIG at Ernst and Young Plaza, an inviting open-air shopping and dining complex at 735 S. Figueroa St. Macy's Plaza at Seventh and Flower streets, advertised by a flashy neon sign, boasts more than 30 upscale merchants. ARCO Plaza, nearby at 505 S. Flower St., is an underground complex with more than 50 shops and several trendy restaurants.

Other regional shopping centers include Anaheim GardenWalk in Anaheim, Burbank Town Center in Burbank, Del Amo Fashion Center in Torrance, Fashion Island in Newport Beach, Irvine Spectrum Center in Irvine, Los Cerritos Center in Cerritos, Paseo Colorado in Pasadena, SouthBay Pavilion in Carson, South Coast Plaza in Costa Mesa, and Westfield Fox Hills in Culver City.

### **Outlets**

Citadel Outlets, 567 E. Telegraph Rd. in Commerce, has more than 85 stores featuring goods by the likes of Ann Taylor and Benetton. It also has a distinctive façade modeled after a 7th century B.C. Assyrian palace, the restored remains of a 1929 tire factory designed by one of Los Angeles' top architectural firms. Ontario Mills, at the intersection of I-10 and I-15 in Ontario, is the largest outlet mall in the Western United States—or so it says. In any case, it's bursting at the seams with more than 200 shops, eateries and entertainment venues.

### **Specialty Districts**

Where's the hot spot of downtown Los Angeles, where you can best take the pulse of the city? For some, it's the L.A. Fashion District, a 94-block retail area roughly bounded by 7th, 16th, Main and San Pedro streets.

You'll find some of the best bargains in town on clothing and accessories with relatively inexpensive parking.

Check out the California Market Center at 110 E. 9th St., a wholesalers' marketplace with more than 1,000 showrooms. The catch is, it's open to the general public only the last Friday of the month 9-3, when it holds "sample sales." Phone (213) 630-3600. The Alleys are two adjacent outdoor bazaars—sandwiched between Santee Street and Maple Avenue, Olympic and Pico boulevards—where you'll find rejects, closeouts and designer knock-offs at rock-bottom prices, open daily.

Other downtown shopping areas include the Flower District, a pair of huge warehouses crammed with wholesale florists, on Maple Avenue and Wall Street between 7th and 8th streets. The Jewelry District sparkles between 5th, 8th, Broadway and Olive streets. Broadway itself is a historic thoroughfare where the city bustles like there's no tomorrow; its eclectic collage of shops between 2nd and 9th streets offers discount clothing, jewelry, toys and electronics. Don't miss Grand Central Market at 317 S. Broadway, a multicultural mosaic of grocers, meat merchants, delis, bakeries and casual eateries—especially if it's lunchtime.

Born of the Depression when farmers began selling produce from their trucks, Farmer's Market at Fairfax Avenue and 3rd Street has stood the test of time. You'll find everything from gourmet food to hand-crafted wares at this venerable L.A. landmark. The Grove, an adjacent open-air mall anchored by Nordstrom, comprises upscale shops, restaurants and a multiplex theater.

About a mile north are the chichi boutiques and vintage shops of trendy Melrose Avenue, between Fairfax and La Brea avenues, where upscale mingles with funky in vibrant harmony. This stretch of asphalt is also a great spot to hone your people-watching skills.

Hollywood & Highland Center is a complex of boutiques, specialty shops, eateries and theaters at the junction of Hollywood Boulevard and Highland Avenue that looks unlike any other. The retail and entertainment center adjacent to Grauman's Chinese Theatre is modeled after the



extravagant set for D.W. Griffith's 1916 epic film, "Intolerance." A number of nearby stores on the boulevard deal in movie memorabilia, but the cognoscenti know the place to go is Larry Edmunds Bookshop, 6644 Hollywood Blvd. Universal CityWalk Hollywood is a dining and shopping promenade at Universal Studio Hollywood where the shops seem to be outnumbered by the restaurants and nightspots.

Beverly Hills is Mecca for the well-heeled shopper, especially the legendary Golden Triangle, home to some of the brightest stars of the design world. Retail giants Saks Fifth Avenue and Neiman Marcus, respectively at 9600 and 9700 Wilshire Blvd., maintain an upscale presence on the Triangle's fringe.

Rodeo Drive, running through the heart of this moneyed municipality, is a must on any sightseer's list, without regard to the thickness of their wallet. Exclusive boutiques line the pavement, particularly at Two Rodeo, the cobblestone promenade that suggests royal Europe and is graced by the likes of fashion superstars Versace and Porsche design, among others. Nearby Robertson Boulevard between Beverly Boulevard and 3rd Street offers an eclectic mix of hip, cutting-edge shops.

Tree-lined Westwood Boulevard is packed on weekends and summer evenings with the college crowd. The UCLA community frequents the major retailers and independent boutiques of Westwood Village, as well as the 1931 Fox Village Theatre and the 1937 Bruin Theatre. Santa Monica shoppers favor Montana Avenue and Main Street along with the Third Street Promenade they reluctantly share with the rest of the population. Articles in every price range run from current fashions to books to novelty items.

A number of art galleries grace Main Street, Montana Avenue and Lincoln Boulevard, with others scattered throughout the area. Bergamot Station is a complex of galleries at 2525 Michigan Ave., the site of a once-upon-a-time Red Car trolley stop.

Pasadena's Colorado Boulevard is a *mélange* of national chains and local merchants. One Colorado, a complex of lovingly restored vintage

buildings now housing everything from Armani Exchange to Crate & Barrel, is the nucleus of the historic district. Sidewalk cafes sprinkled among the shops afford a welcome respite during power shopping excursions. South Pasadena's Mission West District, stretched along the 900-1200 blocks of Mission Street, offers a similarly charming environment, enhanced by quaint boutiques and eateries.

For a picturesque albeit touristy shopping experience, visit Fisherman's Village, 13755 Fiji Way in Marina del Rey, or Ports O' Call Marketplace, just south of the terminus of I-110 in San Pedro. Both overlook the water and sport a New England-style motif complemented by specialty shops and cozy restaurants.

For a more exotic adventure, explore the cosmopolitan flavor of the region's ethnic neighborhoods. Olvera Street in El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument is a cornucopia of Mexican goods, many of them handmade; Los Angeles Chinatown brims with the colorful wares of its Pan Asian dealers; and shopping centers in Little Tokyo impart the atmosphere of the Far East.

Stroll down Pioneer Boulevard between 183rd and 187th streets in Artesia, and you'll find yourself in spicy Little India; in Orange County, venture along Westminster's Bolsa Avenue between Euclid and Magnolia streets to journey to the heart of Little Saigon, the inviting shopping and dining center of the Vietnamese community.

## Spectator Sports

### Auto Racing

NHRA drag racing has taken place since 1961 at Auto Club Raceway at Pomona (formerly Pomona Raceway), at the Los Angeles County Fairplex; phone (909) 593-7010. NASCAR races are run at Auto Club Speedway (formerly California Speedway) in nearby Fontana; phone (800) 944-7223. Stock cars, sprint cars, midgets, super-modifieds, legends and trucks take to the track at Toyota Speedway at Irwindale (formerly Irwindale Speedway); phone (626) 358-1100.

### **Baseball**

Major League Baseball has been a mainstay at Dodger Stadium, home of the Los Angeles Dodgers, since 1962; phone (866) 363-4377. Angel Stadium of Anaheim has served as home base of the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim since '66; phone (714) 940-2000. New York City's loss was Southern California's gain when the Dodgers emigrated from Brooklyn in 1958; Angelenos instantly became diehard fans. The team hung their caps at Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum for four seasons before getting their own stadium; the Dodgers have garnered numerous National League Pennants and won six World Series Championships (1955, '59, '63, '65, '81 and '88). Fans can take a guided walking tour of Dodger Stadium.

The Angels joined the American League as an expansion team in 1961 and moved from Los Angeles to Anaheim in 1966. They have since won the American League's Western Division championships in 1979, '82, '86, '04, '05, '07 and '08. Their lone World Series title came in 2002. Angel Stadium offers tours Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 9:30, 11 and 1 during the season when the team is out of town; Tuesdays only in the off-season. Tours last 1 hour, 15 minutes and cost \$3 adults and \$2 for ages 17 and under. Reservations are required; phone (714) 940-2070.

### **Basketball**

The Los Angeles Lakers moved from Minneapolis to L.A. in 1960 and got the ball rolling as the NBA's first West Coast team. They hold the distinction of being the winningest team of the '80s, capturing five championships 1980-88. Continuing the tradition in the new millennium, the Lakers took three straight NBA crowns in 2000-2002, then capped off the first decade of the 21st century with another in 2009. Wilt Chamberlin, Jerry West, Magic Johnson, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant are just a few of this franchise's notable players.

The city's other NBA franchise, the Los Angeles Clippers, have played in the Lakers' shadow ever since they moved to L.A. from San Diego in 1984, with only two winning seasons to their credit during that span. The Los Angeles Sparks, established in 1997 as one of the eight original

teams in the Women's National Basketball Assn., claimed WNBA championships in 2001 and '02. Staples Center, which opened in 1999 near the Los Angeles Convention Center at 11th and Figueroa streets, is home court for all three teams. Phone (213) 742-7300 for ticket information.

The UCLA Bruins hold court at Edwin W. Pauley Pavilion. The school earned 10 NCAA championships under legendary coach John Wooden, with such superstars as Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (originally Lew Alcindor), Bill Walton and Jamaal Wilkes; for tickets phone (310) 825-2946. The USC Trojans play at the Galen Center; phone (213) 740-4672 for ticket information.

### **Football**

The Rose Bowl is home to the UCLA Bruins, who take the field in blue and gold uniforms; their illustrious alums include NFL stars Ken Norton Jr. and Troy Aikman; for tickets phone (310) 825-2946. Actor John Wayne and NFL running back Marcus Allen tackled the gridiron for the Bruin's crosstown rivals, the USC Trojans, who play at Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. The school boasts 11 national championships dating to 1928; phone (213) 740-4672 for ticket information.

### **Hockey**

Staples Center hosts the Los Angeles Kings, perhaps best known as the home team of NHL icon Wayne Gretzky; phone (213) 742-7340 for ticket information. Orange County's professional hockey team, the Anaheim Ducks—probably the only sports team whose creation was inspired by a movie (Disney's "The Mighty Ducks")—plays at the Honda Center near Angel Stadium; phone (714) 704-2500 for ticket information.

### **Horse Racing**

Santa Anita Park, 285 W. Huntington Dr. in Arcadia, east of Pasadena near the L.A. County Arboretum and Botanic Garden, is among the country's best known Thoroughbred horse racing tracks. More than a score of \$100,000 racing stakes are run here. Many films have been shot at Santa Anita, including "A Day at the Races" with the Marx Brothers and more recently "Seabiscuit." Thoroughbreds run Thursdays through

Mondays at 12:30 or 1, depending on the season, from late September to early November and again from late December to late April; phone (626) 574-7223.

Many top motion picture stars, producers and directors were original shareholders in Hollywood Park, 1050 S. Prairie Ave. in Inglewood, the other Thoroughbred racing venue of note. Post time is 1:20, Wednesday through Sunday from late April to mid July and early November to late December. Friday night races also are held at 7 p.m.; phone (310) 419-1500. Los Alamitos Race Course gives fans of quarter horse racing a run for their money, at 4961 E. Katella Ave. in Los Alamitos, near Cypress; phone (714) 995-1234.

**Note:** Policies on admitting children to pari-mutuel facilities vary. Phone for specific information.

### **Polo**

Comedian Will Rogers' favorite sport is revived from April through September on the city's only polo field, located—appropriately enough—at Will Rogers State Historic Park in Pacific Palisades. The game is played Saturdays 2-5 and Sundays 10-1 (weather permitting), free to the public; phone (310) 454-8212.

### **Soccer**

The Home Depot Center, a state-of-the-art soccer stadium on the campus of California State University, Dominguez Hills, is home to banana kicks and foot traps when the Los Angeles Galaxy takes to the field. For ticket information phone (877) 342-5299.

### **Recreation**

From the Hollywood Hills to the Pacific Ocean, the Los Angeles Basin and surrounding valleys are blessed with a climate permitting outdoor activities year-round. It is possible to hit the ski slopes in the morning and have dinner at the beach on the same day.

### **Bicycling**

In the city where the car is king, cycling remains a popular pursuit in major parks and recreation areas and along specially designated routes.

Arroyo Seco Trail, north of downtown, runs alongside the Pasadena freeway for 3 miles and then transitions to on-street routes through older L.A. neighborhoods before arriving at Pasadena where it overlooks the Rose Bowl. Coyote Creek Trail traces the Orange County line from the San Pedro Bay to just east of Artesia. Although short, the trail extends into La Mirada on Coyote Creek and offers beautiful park views. At the base of the foothills in Duarte near Irwindale, Duarte Bikeway follows an easy 2-mile route on Royal Oaks Drive into the city of Bradbury.

The flat Legg Lake path, in Whittier Narrows Recreation Area north of Whittier, follows just over 3 miles of lake shoreline. The high country flavor and modest hills of Puddingstone Reservoir in Bonelli Regional Park are a stimulating departure from the flat beach and river trails more prevalent in the area. Flood basins make for an unusual ride along the Rio Hondo Trail from El Monte south to Downey.

Follow the San Gabriel River Trail from where the river emerges from the canyon north of Azusa 38 miles south to its terminus near Long Beach. Shoreline Trail—which passes by the Port of Long Beach, Shoreline Village and Lagoon en route to Alamitos Bay Beach—is noteworthy for the lively pace of life along the way.

Be prepared to share the 22-mile coastal Beach Bike Path/South Bay Beach Bike Path—which stretches from Pacific Palisades through Santa Monica, Venice, Marina del Rey, Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach and Redondo Beach—with skaters and skateboarders, buskers and bodybuilders, and in some areas, crowds of pedestrians. The Sepulveda Basin Bikeway west of Van Nuys navigates the 9-mile perimeter of Sepulveda Dam Recreation Area and connects to the 12-mile Metro Orange Line Bike Path.

The Santa Ana Bike Trail starts adjacent to the Green River Golf Club near Prado Dam, roughly paralleling SR 91 and SR 55 as it cuts a swath



across Orange County. The 30-mile route ends at the Pacific Ocean where it links to the Huntington Beach trail and the Newport/Balboa trail.

Cyclists who prefer more rigorous mountain biking adventures will find off-road trails throughout the area. Typically designated for multiple uses, such trails are open to cyclists, hikers and equestrians. In Angeles National Forest, Mount Wilson Toll Road runs southwest from Mount Wilson; Arroyo Seco Trail runs north from Devils Gate Reservoir; and La Tuna Canyon Trail is pretty much where you'd expect to find it—off La Tuna Canyon Road south of Tujunga. In the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area trails run through Caballero, Cheeseboro and Red Rock Canyons; Canyon Crest; Rocky Oaks; and Zuma Ridge.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) can provide additional information about bicycle paths; phone (213) 922-7023.

### **Fishing**

Anglers can fish in the surf almost anywhere—the question is, should they? Whether you fish from shore or one of the many piers—Santa Monica Pier is a favorite, jutting 2,000 feet into the Pacific—experts advise against eating much of what you catch. Charter a boat out to blue water for a more edible variety of fish; excursions can be booked in Marina del Rey, King Harbor at Redondo Beach, San Pedro and Long Beach, plus several more locations in Orange County. Freshwater enthusiasts have their choice of numerous artificial lakes, including the ever-scenic Big Bear Lake and Lake Arrowhead, both located in the San Bernardino Mountains.

Fishing from public piers is a freebie; you'll need a license to fish from a shoreline, a boat or a jetty if you're age 16 or older. You'll also need an ocean enhancement stamp to cast your line in ocean waters anywhere in Southern California, unless you're using a 1- or 2-day license. A 1-day ocean license, which is good only for fin fish, is \$13.40; a 2-day freshwater license is \$20.75 and a 10-day non-resident license is \$41.20. Licenses can be purchased at most sporting goods stores, bait and tackle shops, or general merchandise warehouse stores; for additional information, phone the Fish and Game Department at (916) 227-2245.

### **Golf**

Angelenos who enjoy hitting little white balls and chasing them—and they are many—take to the links every chance they get, so you're advised to book tee times well in advance, especially on weekends. The following L.A. County courses all offer at least 18 holes and are open to the public year round: City of Pasadena Brookside Golf Courses, (626) 796-8151, 1133 Rosemont Ave.; El Dorado Park Golf Course, (562) 430-5411, 2400 Studebaker Rd. in Long Beach; Harding and Wilson Municipal Golf Courses, (323) 663-2555, 4730 Crystal Springs Dr. in Griffith Park; Recreation Park 18-Hole Golf Course, (562) 494-5000, 5001 Duekmajian Dr. in Long Beach; Sepulveda Golf Complex, (818) 995-1170, 16821 Burbank Blvd. in Encino; and Skylinks Golf Course, (562) 421-3388, 4800 E. Wardlow Rd. in Long Beach. Those who wish to combine golfing with stargazing—TV stars, that is—might want to check out 9-hole Studio City Golf Course, (818) 761-3250, 4141 E. Whitsett Ave. in Studio City. Orange County's beach communities offer some of the area's most scenic courses.

### **Hiking**

Take a hike. Seriously. Despite the vast stretches of asphalt that beribbon the city, there are outstanding places to hike in the mountainous environs around L.A. Numerous state and local parks in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area west of town provide a good workout in a gorgeous setting. Locals favor the loop trail to Inspiration Point at Will Rogers State Historic Park.

Griffith Park, minutes from downtown, serves up 53 miles of trails. Hiking trails also abound in Angeles National Forest in the San Gabriel Mountains, north of Pasadena; one of the most popular is the 3-mile roundtrip Mount Lowe Trail, with its 500-foot elevation gain. Runyon Canyon, in the hills just above Hollywood, provides great views of downtown and West L.A. Temescal Canyon in Pacific Palisades offers the scenery of Malibu.

### **Horseback Riding**

If you're staying in the city, head for the Los Angeles Equestrian Center

at Griffith Park. Trails wind throughout the park's 4,000 acres of gently rolling terrain. Day and evening rides are offered at Sunset Ranch in Hollywood, whose Sunset Dinner ride is a 50-year-plus tradition; phone (323) 469-5450 for information. Trail rides also are offered in Glendale, Malibu, and Topanga Canyon in the Santa Monica Mountains.

### **Jogging and Walking**

Among the best places for a stroll or a jog are Griffith Park, the Hollywood Reservoir and Lake Hollywood Boulevard, Palisades Park along the Santa Monica coast, the UCLA campus in Westwood, the Venice Boardwalk, Crystal Cove State Park in Laguna Beach and the region's plentiful beaches. A sunrise run or late afternoon constitutional on the Pacific shore is a good way to combine exercise with a breathtaking view. A walk from Point Dume to Paradise Cove along the Malibu coast is a delightful way to explore the tide pools.

### **Tennis**

Nearly 300 public tennis courts are available in approximately 70 facilities run by the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks; phone (818) 246-4088 for general information. The majority of these facilities are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Most resorts also offer tennis facilities to their guests.

Among the many facilities that offer at least six lighted courts are Balboa Sports Complex, 17015 Balboa Blvd., Encino; Griffith Park Recreation Center, 3401 Riverside Dr. in Los Angeles; North Hollywood Recreation Center, 11430 Chandler Blvd. in North Hollywood; and Palisades Recreation Center, 851 Alma Real Dr. in Pacific Palisades.

### **Water Sports**

Consider the possibilities—more than 100 miles of shoreline run from Malibu down through Los Angeles Harbor to San Clemente State Beach in South Orange County. There's ample opportunity for swimming, windsurfing, scuba diving, snorkeling, surf fishing, whale watching, sailing, kayaking and surfing, the ultimate California sport. Among the most popular surfing spots are Surfrider Beach, Topanga State Beach and Zuma Beach—all in Malibu—Redondo State Beach, Newport Beach

and San Clemente; don't forget Huntington Beach, which promotes itself as "Surf City USA."

**Note:** Nearly all beaches are open to the public but smoking cigars, cigarettes or pipes on the 13-mile stretch of beach from Malibu to Manhattan Beach is forbidden by county ordinance.

Some coastal areas offer pier or deep sea fishing and have marinas and facilities for boating and water skiing. Numerous concessions sell bait and rent fishing gear as well as surfboards and boats. Higher than average parking fees are sometimes charged at or near the beaches.

State beaches often provide lifeguards and other amenities. The coastal stretches of Malibu, Santa Monica, Hermosa Beach, Huntington Beach, Newport Beach and Laguna Beach are among the most popular spots for beachgoers. For additional information about area beaches, phone L.A. County Department of Beaches & Harbors, (310) 305-9503, or County of Orange Harbors, Beaches & Parks, (714) 973-6865.

Angelenos venture far from shore as well, in whatever floats their boat. Watercraft rentals are available in many coastal cities, especially the harbor towns of Marina Del Rey, San Pedro, Long Beach, Huntington Harbour, Newport Beach and Dana Point.

### **Winter Sports**

Surprisingly, the Los Angeles region offers many wintertime sports. The San Gabriel Mountains above the north edge of the basin generate snow to a depth of 10 feet. There are four designated skiing and snowboarding areas; Mountain High in Wrightwood is Southern California's most popular ski resort. Farther east in the San Bernardino Mountains, the resorts at Big Bear Lake provide slopes for skiers of all skill levels, as well as other cold-weather activities—yet the area doubles as a fair weather destination in summer.

### **Performing Arts**

Los Angeles may be a cultural backwater to New Yorkers but there's far more going on than greets the eye. The arts scene has developed greatly

in recent decades, benefiting from the resident film and television industries. Movie and TV stars with box office appeal often appear with local theater companies, while internationally known entertainers and major touring ensembles visit the area year-round; even the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Bolshoi Ballet drop by from time to time. As stellar as the region's professional companies are, its many storefronts and makeshift playhouses are often home to remarkable artists and surprising performances; the arts districts of Hollywood, North Hollywood (or NoHo, as the locals call it) and Santa Monica are particularly noteworthy.

### Dance

L.A. is stepping up in the world—it no longer has the distinction of being perhaps the only major city without a resident ballet company. Los Angeles Ballet, founded in 2006, is a critically acclaimed group performing a repertoire of classic and contemporary works; phone (310) 477-7411.

Small, itinerant dance companies abound in the area. Among the best places to see them perform are Highways, Santa Monica's cutting edge dance and theater space, (310) 315-1459; Ford Theatres, (323) 461-3673, a complex in the Hollywood Hills with an outdoor amphitheater that also offers music and theater; and REDCAT, a multimedia performance space within The Walt Disney Concert Hall that programs innovative music, theater and dance events; phone (213) 237-2800.

### Film

Los Angeles pays homage to its film heritage at cinemas scattered around the metropolitan area. Home video and cable TV have killed most of the revival theaters, but a hearty few remain. Opened in 1942, The Silent Movie Theatre, 611 N. Fairfax Ave., offers an eclectic bill of periods and genres, with Wednesday nights devoted to movies of the pre-talkie era; phone (323) 655-2520. The Nuart Theatre, 11272 Santa Monica Blvd. at I-405, screens art films, documentaries and foreign fare; phone (310) 281-8223. New Beverly Cinema, 7165 W. Beverly Blvd., also shows a kaleidoscopic mix of programs; phone (323) 938-4038.

American Cinematheque at the Egyptian, 6712 Hollywood Blvd., presents Hollywood classics and art films in the restored Grauman's Egyptian Theatre, first opened in 1922. The venue also plays host to the annual Cinecon festival of rarities on Labor Day weekend; phone (323) 466-3456. UCLA Film and Television Archive, a pioneer in film preservation, showcases restored classics, rediscoveries and foreign films, primarily in the Billy Wilder Theater at the Hammer Museum, 10899 Wilshire Blvd.; phone (310) 206-8013.

Los Angeles County Museum of Art programs retrospectives of classic films at its Bing Theater; phone (323) 857-6010. Filmmakers are regular guests at all three series.

ArcLight Hollywood, 6360 Sunset Blvd., housed partly in the refurbished and upgraded 1963 Cinerama Dome, offers a state-of-the-art experience with a mix of new films and American Film Institute revivals; phone (323) 464-1478. Laemmle Theatres, a chain with locations throughout the area, presents an artsy blend of first-run commercial features, foreign and independent films. The *Los Angeles Times* publishes a complete listing of Los Angeles and Orange County movie theaters in its Sunday Calendar section.

### Music

There's no shortage of music in L.A., from classical to pop to rock to jazz. The Walt Disney Concert Hall, (213) 972-7211, the stainless steel landmark in downtown's Music Center, is home to the Los Angeles Philharmonic—one of the world's leading orchestras by any standard. Founded in 1919, L.A. Phil presents a full classical repertoire at the Frank Gehry-designed concert hall October through May, with a summer season of pops concerts and lighter fare at the venerable Hollywood Bowl, (323) 850-2000. Jazz, blues, rock and world music round out the June-September calendar at the outdoor Bowl, where pre-concert picnicking is a popular activity.

The Los Angeles Master Chorale also performs at the Disney Concert Hall, where it often accompanies the Philharmonic and the Los Angeles Opera, in addition to its own concert programs. Phone (323) 850-2000 for



Philharmonic schedules and tickets; (213) 972-7282 for the Chorale; or (213) 972-8001 for the Opera.

Major L.A. area venues playing host to a wide variety of musical offerings include the Gibson Amphitheatre at Universal CityWalk, (818) 622-4440, an enclosed year-round complex; the outdoor Greek Theatre in Griffith Park, (323) 665-5857; House of Blues on the Sunset Strip, (323) 848-5100; the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood & Highland Center, (323) 308-6363; the Nokia Theatre at the L.A. Live entertainment complex at Olympic Boulevard and Figueroa Street near Staples Center, (213) 763-6020; and the Wiltern Theatre on Wilshire Boulevard, (213) 380-5005, known for its elaborate Art Deco design.

UCLA presents a eclectic lineup of concerts in its “Live” series, along with theater, dance and spoken word events; phone (310) 825-2101. Downtown L.A. percolates with a variety of free concerts, particularly during the summer; Grand Performances is your best bet, offering a diverse program of multicultural entertainment in the Watercourt at California Plaza; phone (213) 687-2159.

Orange County Performing Arts Center in Costa Mesa is the OC’s pre-eminent destination for all manner of music, especially classical, along with musical theater, dance, opera and more. The county’s homegrown Pacific Symphony appears here regularly, as well as at other venues. Phone (714) 556-2787 for OCPAC information and (714) 755-5788 for the Symphony.

### **Opera**

The Los Angeles Opera—led by Placido Domingo, who starred in its debut production of “Otello” in 1986—lights up the stage of the Music Center’s Dorothy Chandler Pavilion from September through June. Top names frequently guest star with America’s fourth largest opera company. Phone (213) 972-8001 for tickets and information.

Long Beach Opera, (562) 432-5934, is known for its bold and unconventional work; the longest established professional opera

company in the L.A. area appears at the Long Beach Performing Arts Center and elsewhere.

### **Theater**

The newly renovated Mark Taper Forum has developed numerous Tony Award- and Pulitzer Prize-winning plays since its 1967 debut, presenting adventurous new work and classic drama and garnering a special Tony itself in the process. The Ahmanson Theatre, the Taper’s sibling venue at downtown Los Angeles’ Music Center complex, offers musicals and Broadway shows on a larger scale. You’ll often see name-brand actors at these houses; both are part of the Center Theatre Group, along with the more intimate Kirk Douglas Theatre in Culver City. Phone (213) 628-2772 for tickets and information on all three theaters.

Movie and TV personalities often turn up in the cast of shows at the Geffen Playhouse, (310) 208-5454, in Westwood near UCLA; and the prestigious Pasadena Playhouse, (626) 356-7529, where William Holden, Eve Arden and many other stars were discovered. Headliners also appear at Hollywood’s Pantages Theatre, (323) 468-1770, a 1929 Art Deco showplace that often features Broadway musicals in their L.A. premieres.

Well-established area theaters include The Actors’ Gang, which stages critically-acclaimed presentations in Culver City, (310) 838-4264; The Groundlings, the L.A. improv comedy troupe that’s proved a breeding ground for the likes of “Saturday Night Live,” (323) 934-4747; Glendale’s A Noise Within, a repertory company focusing on classic drama, (818) 240-0910; and Odyssey Theatre Ensemble in West L.A., which has offered innovative, award-winning theater for four decades, (310) 477-2055.

The Will Geer Theatrical Botanicum is an intimate outdoor amphitheater in Topanga Canyon in western Los Angeles County, founded by the blacklisted star of TV’s “The Waltons.” The parklike grounds provide an inviting setting for Shakespeare and other classic drama; phone (310) 455-3723. Bob Baker Marionette Theater, whose puppet shows have charmed local audiences for decades, offers first-rate family

entertainment on the edge of downtown L.A.; phone (213) 250-9995 for the requisite reservations.

You'll find multicultural theater and performing arts regularly on the bill of fare. Bilingual Foundation of the Arts, (323) 225-4044, presents shows in English and Spanish, just north of downtown in Lincoln Heights. East West Players, the city's pioneering Asian-American theater company, performs in downtown's Union Center for the Arts; phone (213) 625-7000. Nearby in Little Tokyo, Aratani/Japan America Theatre presents a variety of special events and Asian Pacific performers; phone (213) 680-3700.

The brightest star on Orange County's theatrical landscape is Tony Award-winning South Coast Repertory Theatre. The company offers a full season of classics and new plays—many of them world premieres by leading playwrights—at its three-theater complex in Costa Mesa; phone (714) 708-5500. The resilient Laguna Playhouse, founded in 1920, continues to weather the seasons and the trends in Laguna Beach; phone (800) 946-5556.

## AAA Walking Tour - Down Town Los Angeles

The tour takes 6-8 hours, depending on your pace and the number of listed sites you visit along the way.

Having earned a reputation as a place where nobody walks, famously car-oriented Los Angeles may seem like an unlikely place for a walking tour. Yet, while L.A. may indeed sprawl across 467 square miles of Southern California, the downtown area is relatively compact and chock full of attractions within walking distance of each other. From the financial district's hi-tech skyscrapers to historic El Pueblo de Los Angeles—site of the original settlement from which the mighty megalopolis arose—L.A. has a lot to offer a pedestrian with a comfortable pair of shoes and a desire to get acquainted with the heart of America's second largest city.

The tour is designed to return you to the starting point via the Metro Red Line subway, which runs from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. You can pay the \$1.25 one-way fare at any of the automated ticket vending machines located at

each station. The city's subway system has no turnstiles or gates, but hold on to your ticket. If a police officer asks to see proof that you paid the fare and you cannot produce a ticket, you could be issued a citation and fined.

**Note:** Before you begin your tour, please be aware that even on sidewalks, pedestrians will frequently find themselves crossing paths with cars entering and exiting the area's numerous underground parking garages. Many garages feature alarms that sound when a car is about to emerge. Listen for the alarms and be careful.

Begin at one of the city's most treasured landmarks: the Richard J. Riordan Central Library, 630 W. 5th St., between Grand Avenue and Flower Street. Underground parking for the library can be entered from Flower Street between 5th and 6th streets. Other parking facilities are at the corner of Wilshire Boulevard and Hope Street and at 4th and Flower streets across from the Westin Bonaventure Hotel. Please note that parking fees in the area are steep. The underground lot next to the library charges \$4.15 for just 10 minutes with a maximum of \$37.60 per day. An early bird rate of \$13 per day applies to vehicles entering before 9:30 a.m., while a daily rate of \$8 applies for those parking after 4 p.m. or on weekends. The closest Metro Rail stop is 7th Street/Metro Center at 7th and Figueroa streets.

The Richard J. Riordan Central Library is unmistakable. Its squat tower topped by a colorful tiled pyramid has been a city icon since it was built in 1926. Designed by Bertram Goodhue, renowned for his 1920 design for the sky-scraping Nebraska State Capitol, the library is a fanciful hodgepodge of Egyptian, Byzantine and Spanish motifs. Stern-faced terra-cotta busts of allegorical figures representing such lofty endeavors as The Arts, Philosophy and Statecraft peer down at visitors along with likenesses of Homer, Plato, Dante and Milton. Inscriptions lauding contemplation and reading run along the walls. "Books invite all; they constrain none" is a memorable one.

Be sure to visit the elaborate Lodwick M. Cook Rotunda on the second floor. Look up at the domed ceiling and the 2,000-pound bronze

chandelier suspended from it. A painted glass globe in the center shows the continents in amber. An outer ring displays the signs of the zodiac and features 48 light bulbs—one for every state in the union when the library opened. Large murals along the rotunda walls portray phases in California's history including discovery, mission building and the founding of Los Angeles.

You should also stop by the more recently constructed east addition: the Tom Bradley Wing. In 1986 a devastating fire at the library necessitated an extensive restoration. Thanks to library boosters, the restoration included this huge addition, most of which is below ground so as not to detract from the original structure. Completed in 1993, the wing includes a dramatic eight-story sky-lit atrium with three rainbow-hued chandeliers and a series of unusual metallic columns illuminated from within. A 1.5-acre garden outside features fountains and artwork.

Make your way to the library's north (5th Street) entrance. Across 5th and to your right is the U.S. Bank Tower, a cylindrical skyscraper with pleated walls. More than 1,000 feet high, this steel, granite and glass tower is said to be the tallest office building west of Chicago. You may recognize it as the object of alien wrath from the 1996 science-fiction blockbuster, "Independence Day."

Curving around the base of the tower are the lovely Bunker Hill Steps, evocative of Rome's Spanish Steps. Water tumbles and splashes down the center of the staircase within a raised channel designed to look like a natural brook, ultimately pouring into a basin at the bottom. Foliage provides a lush border on either side of the steps. Cross 5th Street and climb these to Hope Street. If you plan on finishing the entire walking tour today, you might want to take it easy and ride the escalators that are to the left of the steps. At the top you'll find "Source Figure," a small bronze statue of a nude female standing on a column in the middle of a fountain by noted artist Robert Graham.

Along the Bunker Hill Steps and throughout downtown, you will see eateries offering a variety of cuisine. Unfortunately many of these cater exclusively to the 9-to-5 crowd and promptly close in the late afternoon or

early evening. If you tour downtown L.A. Monday through Friday, be aware that the cute cafe or elegant bistro you thought you would try out for dinner may lock its doors by 6 p.m.

Heading north, follow the left side of Hope Street to 4th and turn left in front of the Stuart M. Ketchum YMCA. The people you see working up a sweat on the second floor have a great view of the sculpture garden in front of the building. Here you'll find abstract shapes as well as, appropriately enough, human figures running and performing gymnastics. On the YMCA's west side are the frequently photographed glass cylinders of the Westin Bonaventure Hotel.

Stroll across the walkway suspended high above Flower Street for a look at the dramatic six-story, glass-roofed atrium in which massive concrete columns dwarf the trees and fountains at lobby level. Not for the faint of heart, curved catwalks stretch across dizzying spaces, leading to spiral stairways and upholstered balconies called "pods." Designed by John Portman & Associates and completed in 1976, the Bonaventure provides fantastic views of the city from its glass-walled elevators and 34th-floor revolving lounge.

As you return to the front of the Ketchum YMCA via the walkway over Flower Street, pause to notice the numerous rooftop parks connected by footbridges that transform what would otherwise be a harsh urban wasteland into a lush, landscaped vista. From the YMCA, follow Hope Street as it passes above 4th and over to BP Center, which is on the west side of Hope. The green space you see sits atop an eight-level parking garage. A circular court in the center echoes with the sound of water falling from three projecting ledges into a blue-tiled pool a floor below. A few yards farther along Hope stands Alexander Calder's aptly named 1974 sculpture, "Four Arches."

Although high-tech skyscrapers and public art displays characterize the Bunker Hill district now, this wasn't always the case. A ritzy neighborhood of manicured lawns and elaborate Victorian mansions dominated the hill in the late 1800s. By the 1930s the area, hard hit by Depression-era scarcity and the growth of outlying areas, had decayed into a seedy



warren of decrepit houses sheltering all sorts of unsavory characters. With the 1960s came urban renewal and the mechanical growl of bulldozers scraping the area flat. Bunker Hill's high-rise rebirth began in the early 1970s and accelerated through the '80s and '90s, resulting in the futuristic urban setting you see today.

Cross Hope Street, heading east up the steps and through Wells Fargo Center's brick-paved plaza. Once again, artworks make an appearance in various shapes and sizes, providing office workers with an aesthetically appealing backdrop for their lunch breaks. The Wells Fargo History Museum is to your left, in the center's north building at Hope and 3rd. Stop in to see a beautifully restored 19th-century stagecoach and learn about the company's long and colorful history.

From Wells Fargo Center, cross Grand Avenue into California Plaza. You'll recognize the plaza's Watercourt by a circular fountain that tempts children to dodge its ring of spurting jets, especially on hot days. Shops and restaurants line the court, and in back is a larger, terraced fountain along with a stage where afternoon and evening concerts are performed.

The orange and black structure you see behind the stage area is the upper terminus for Angels Flight, a funicular originally installed nearby at the corner of Hill and 3rd streets in 1901. Called the "The Shortest Railway in the World," Angels Flight was restored and reopened in 1996 after being mothballed for the better part of 3 decades. The ride is scheduled to reopen in late 2009 after completion of extensive repairs and modifications begun in February 2001.

If it's running, take Angels Flight down to its Hill Street terminus below; otherwise use the stairs that parallel the tracks. There are more than 150 steps down to the bottom, so if climbing back up again seems daunting, you might want to skip the tour's next leg.

Facing Angels Flight across Hill Street is Grand Central Market. Enter this aromatic realm of food stalls where an international medley of foods is prepared daily. Here you'll find Angelenos shopping for exotic spices, baked goods, fresh meats and colorful fruits and vegetables. Walk

through the market and exit at the opposite end of the building onto Broadway. To your left, at the corner of Broadway and 3rd, is the historic Bradbury Building.

The facade of this Los Angeles landmark may be unassuming, but don't let that fool you; concealed behind that banal exterior is an architectural gem. Step inside for a look at the building's striking five-story, sky-lit atrium, which is lined with open-air walkways bordered by florid, wrought-iron balustrades. Office workers move between floors via marble staircases and two cage elevators. Completed in 1893, the Bradbury is one of the oldest commercial buildings in downtown L.A. Exit through the opposite end of the building onto 3rd Street. Directly across the street at 240 S. Broadway is the "Pope of Broadway" mural, which features actor Anthony Quinn and covers an entire wall of the Victor Clothing Company. A poster-child for pluralism, greater Los Angeles is a mecca for muralists—boasting more than 1,000 murals.

Return to the Watercourt at California Plaza, via Angels Flight if possible. Then head diagonally across the plaza back to Grand Avenue past the red sandstone facade of MOCA Grand Avenue. MOCA stands for Museum of Contemporary Art, and appropriately enough it is filled with modern artworks created since 1940 running the gamut from Abstract Expressionism to Pop Art and beyond. With its distinctive pyramid skylights and sweeping entry staircase, MOCA's exterior has been hailed as a work of art itself.

Continue north on Grand Avenue. If you are a fan of innovative modern architecture, then get ready for an eyeful. In contrast to the geometric simplicity of MOCA, the Walt Disney Concert Hall at Grand and 1st is a massive jumble of complex, stainless-steel-clad shapes flowing together in graceful curves and terminating in sharp edges. Designed by renowned Los Angeles architect Frank O. Gehry, the concert hall looks like a sculpture one might see in a MOCA gallery. Inside the hall, a 2,273-seat auditorium features an open platform stage allowing seating on all sides. The concert hall complex, which opened in 2003, also contains smaller performance spaces and is home to the Los Angeles

Philharmonic. An excellent self-guiding audio tour is available most days at the lobby box office.

Directly across 1st Street are the other three buildings that make up Los Angeles' Music Center: the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, the Mark Taper Forum and the Ahmanson Theatre. The first building you'll come to after leaving the Disney Concert Hall is the lavish Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, which was named for the energetic wife of a *Los Angeles Times* publisher who spearheaded efforts to bring world-class cultural facilities to downtown Los Angeles. Opened in 1964, the pavilion hosted the Academy Awards Ceremony nearly every year from 1969 to 2000. With its polished marble floors and crystal chandeliers, the venue is still going strong as the home of the Los Angeles Opera.

Next, in the middle of a small, moatlike pond, is the Mark Taper Forum, a theater-in-the-round sheathed in glass and concrete and adorned with an abstract bas-relief. Numerous award-winning plays that have gone on to Broadway were first produced here, including "Angels in America," "The Kentucky Cycle," "Jelly's Last Jam" and "Children of a Lesser God." Between the forum and the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, a fountain spurts columns of water into the air. These unpredictable bursts surround a dark, bronze sculpture by Jacques Lipchitz titled "Peace on Earth." On Temple Street right behind the Mark Taper Forum is the center's last venue, the Ahmanson Theatre, where large-scale musicals and other crowd-pleasing productions command the stage. An airy, free-standing colonnade embraces both theaters.

If it's a weekday and time allows, retrace your steps to the Music Center fountain, cross Hope Street and enter the 1960s-era John Ferraro Building, headquarters for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. In the ground floor lobby, a series of excellent exhibits tells the story of the L.A. Aqueduct (built 1908-13) and William Mulholland, the city's legendary water chief from 1886 to 1928.

Walk back to the Ahmanson and proceed to the intersection of Grand and Temple. On the opposite corner stands the austere, asymmetric walls and 120-foot bell tower of the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, a

stunning contemporary interpretation of this very traditional structure. Designed by noted Spanish architect José Rafael Moneo, the cathedral—with its bell tower, arcades and broad plaza—evokes California's mission past with a 21st-century flourish. Completed in 2002, its interior is a vast, awe-inspiring cavern dramatically lit by translucent alabaster windows. The cathedral opens weekdays at 6:30, Saturdays at 9 and Sundays at 7, and closes daily at 6 p.m.

Return to the Music Center and look west. The large rectangular building you see on the other side of Hope Street is the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, completed in 1964. Cantilevered sunshades divide one floor from the next, making the building look like a stack of glass boxes. Surrounding this public utility's headquarters is a reflecting pool and a broad walkway offering views of central Los Angeles and the hills to the north.

Proceed east through the middle of the Music Center and across Grand Avenue. (In addition to the crosswalk, there is a pedestrian tunnel beneath Grand.) You are now in the Civic Center Mall, a verdant promenade lined with shade trees and blocky government buildings. The brilliant orange blooms of the bird-of-paradise—the city's official flower—can be found throughout the grounds from fall to spring.

One of the first civic center landmarks you'll come to is a great bronze dish, which is the Arthur J. Will Memorial Fountain, dedicated to an L.A. County official who was instrumental in creating the surrounding public area. Nearby is a stark memorial to the Ukrainian victims of communism and farther along you'll find statues of Christopher Columbus and George Washington. As you continue east, the Los Angeles County Courthouse will be on your right.

Cross Hill Street and enter the Court of Flags, a display of American flag designs from 1777 to the present. Escalators lead down to the Civic Center Metro Station. Continue east, crossing Broadway, until you are on Spring Street Ahead of you, gleaming white in the California sunshine, is the landmark Los Angeles City Hall. Anchoring the east end of the Civic Center, the 27-story building was dedicated in 1928 and remained the

tallest in Los Angeles for decades until local height restrictions, from which it had been exempted, were repealed.

Odds are you'll recognize this longtime symbol of the city. After all, it has starred in a multitude of movies, from 1945's "Mildred Pierce" to 1997's "L.A. Confidential." It also served as The Daily Planet in TV's "Superman" and as police headquarters on "Dragnet." The building's distinctive, pyramid-topped tower was even blasted apart by alien spaceships in 1953's "The War of the Worlds."

Unfortunately city hall had a close call with real destruction after damage caused by the 1994 Northridge earthquake made extensive renovations necessary. Angelenos then faced a tough choice: tear it down to build a modern, quake-resistant structure or spend many millions more restoring and seismically retrofitting the existing building. They chose the latter course, and city hall now stands as a monument to L.A.'s civic pride.

Seven years and \$300 million dollars later, this architectural masterpiece has been returned to its 1920s grandeur. The exterior now gleams and the great bronze doors at the Spring Street entrance have regained their luster. Inside, decorative friezes and murals have been meticulously restored, and a stunning 17-foot bronze chandelier, removed after the 1933 Long Beach quake, was reinstalled in the domed rotunda. An original Art Deco elevator car, found in a salvage yard, was used to create a mold for replica cars, which now carry visitors to the fully-restored 27th-story observation deck. Even the Lindbergh Beacon, which flashed across L.A.'s nighttime sky until it was extinguished for security reasons during World War II, has been reinstalled atop the tower.

Head south on Spring Street until you reach 1st. The *Los Angeles Times* headquarters, a squat, gray building with a clock near its top, is on your right, at the corner of Spring and 1st streets. Distinguished by a facade of thick pilasters and stylized bas-reliefs, the Times building's design won a gold medal at the 1937 Paris Exposition. Take a peek at the Globe Lobby, named for the rotating aluminum sphere at its center. Embellished with bronze bas-reliefs, Depression-era murals and 13 varieties of marble polished to glossy perfection, this sumptuous chamber also features a

photo display depicting the newspaper's history along with examples of antiquated printing and typesetting equipment.

From the Times building, walk 1 block east on 1st Street to the corner of Main Street. The imposing gray structure on your right is the Caltrans District 7 Headquarters. Designed by Thom Mayne, the 13-story glass-and-steel behemoth houses some 2,000 state and city transportation employees. The \$200 million project completed in 2004 has seen its share of controversy. The postmodern design helped Mayne win the prestigious Pritzker Architecture Prize, while critics, who deem the building a soulless monstrosity, have dubbed it the "Death Star."

From the Caltrans building, walk 1 block east on 1st Street past the New Otani Hotel and make a right onto Astronaut Ellison S. Onizuka Street. This diagonal street, part of L.A.'s Little Tokyo district, honors one of seven astronauts killed in 1986 when the space shuttle *Challenger* exploded. A memorial featuring a replica of the *Challenger* stands in the middle of this landscaped pedestrian mall. Visit the roof garden atop the New Otani's south wing, an excellent spot to take a break. The bustling city below and the skyscrapers on the horizon provide an intriguing contrast to the tumbling waterfalls, placid streams and serene landscaping of the half-acre garden. From your vantage point among the swaying ferns and trees, you also can see a cracked tower topped by a cupola belonging to the former St. Vibiana's Cathedral, built in 1876. The cathedral, damaged in the Northridge earthquake, was replaced by the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels on Temple Street and Grand Avenue.

Within Weller Court, next door to the hotel, are various shops and eateries, including Japanese book stores and sushi restaurants. Return to Onizuka Street and follow it toward 2nd (city hall will be directly behind you). You'll pass a sculpture titled "Friendship Knot" made up of two huge interlocking white pipes. Cross 2nd and San Pedro streets and proceed a half block to the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center's brick-paved plaza. Designed by renowned sculptor Isamu Noguchi, the plaza is centered around his work titled "To the Issei," which consists of



two massive hewn boulders positioned on a raised brick platform, one standing upright and one lying horizontally. At the southern end of the plaza is a lovely garden appropriately named “Garden of the Clear Stream.” Redwoods, Japanese black pines, wooden bridges and stone lanterns create a Japanese-style oasis between the cultural center and the 880-seat Japan America Theatre, where audiences are treated to performances ranging from traditional Kabuki to innovative multicultural dramas.

Leading north from the cultural center, a pedestrian lane traverses 2nd Street at mid-block and enters Japanese Village Plaza, a collection of restaurants and stores with blue-tiled roofs and exposed wooden beams reminiscent of traditional Japanese architecture. When you reach 1st Street, cross over and to your right, where Central Avenue is closed to automobile traffic, to reach the Japanese American National Museum. Housed in a 1996 glass, steel and red-stone pavilion, the museum offers an array of exhibits that relate the Japanese-American experience to visitors, including multimedia presentations, displays of modern art, colorful kimonos and objects from World War II internment camps.

Farther north on Central Avenue is the Geffen Contemporary at MOCA. Intended as a temporary show space while MOCA’s Grand Avenue building was under construction in the early ’80s, this site was so popular that patrons rallied to make it a permanent museum annex. Pieces too large for MOCA’s main location fit easily through the huge doors of this former warehouse and garage. Inside you’ll see railings, ramps and partitions in keeping with the Geffen Contemporary’s industrial origins that were designed by Disney Concert Hall architect, Frank O. Gehry. At the end of Central Avenue is the “Go For Broke” Monument, a semi-circular wedge of black granite inscribed with the names of Japanese Americans who valiantly served their country during World War II.

Return to Central and 1st, and turn right. Heading west on 1st, you’ll get a kind of sidewalk history lesson. Set into the pavement are quotations from people who lived here and the names of Japanese-owned businesses that once existed on this historic block. Continue west, cross

Aiso Way, proceed one block to Los Angeles Street, then turn right. On your left is City Hall East and City Hall South, and on your right stands the administrative headquarters for the Los Angeles Police Department.

When you reach Temple you’ll see a sweeping footbridge spanning it; use the bridge to cross over to Fletcher Bowron Square, which is part of the Los Angeles Mall. A public space designed in the 1960s to serve as a meeting place for Angelenos, the mall never attracted the crowds that optimistic urban planners envisioned, and once area civil servants go home, the mall turns into a desolate stretch of closed doors and empty sidewalks. Stairs lead down to shops and fast food restaurants.

The unusual sculpture at the corner of Temple and Main that looks like three wishbones tied together by a knot of multicolored glass bricks is the Triforium, an often-maligned artwork that has enjoyed even less popularity than the mall in which it stands. Looking at this somewhat-too-tranquil corner now, you might be surprised to learn that it was once ground zero for 19th-century frontier society while it was occupied by the Bella Union Hotel. Before the hotel, California’s last capitol under the Mexican flag stood here.

Go around the Triforium and head north on Main Street. Once you pass over the Santa Ana Freeway, you’ve entered El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument, the city’s birthplace. You’ll notice the Old Plaza first. Tropical foliage and ancient fig trees surround the perimeter of this circular, brick-walled park, which is centered on a large bandstand. It was near here in 1781 that a group of 11 families, recruited by Mexican Governor Felipe de Neve, arrived to establish a town after a more than 3-month journey from Los Alamos, Sonora. Statues of de Neve and King Carlos III, who ruled Spain at the time, stand on opposite sides of the plaza.

Across Main Street you’ll find the Old Plaza Church, built in 1822. A colorful mosaic panel showing the Annunciation adorns the facade. Added in 1981 to commemorate Los Angeles’ bicentennial, it replicates a mosaic from a chapel in Italy that inspired the city’s name. Pico House,

an 1870 Italianate commercial building, forms the south side of the plaza. On the other side is the entrance to Olvera Street.

This Mexican-style marketplace opened in 1930 after a group of prominent citizens campaigned vigorously to save Olvera Street's historic buildings from crumbling into ruin. In addition to visiting crafts booths and vendors of traditional Mexican wares, you should stop by the 1818 Avila Adobe, reputedly the oldest house in Los Angeles. Other significant buildings along this short but picturesque thoroughfare include Sepulveda House, a former boarding house built in 1887 that now houses the pueblo's visitor information center, and next door, the 1855 Pelanconi House, said to be the oldest brick house in the city. The last building on the block is Italian Hall, an Italian-American community center built in 1907. The wooden covering you can see on one side of the second floor protects David Alfaro Siqueiros' controversial 1932 mural titled "La América Tropical," which shows a Mexican peon crucified beneath an American eagle. Rediscovered in the 1960s and currently being restored, it had remained hidden under a layer of whitewash for nearly 40 years.

Return to the Old Plaza via Main Street by making a left at the end of Olvera Street. You might want to cross Main to better see Sepulveda House's Victorian brick-and-wood facade. From the plaza's east side you will see the red tile roofs, clock tower and lofty arched entryway of Union Station, another well-known Los Angeles landmark. Carefully make your way across Los Angeles and Alameda streets to take a closer look at this 1939 beauty.

Built by John and Donald Parkinson, the architects who designed Los Angeles City Hall, this grand building blends Spanish Mission Revival and Art Deco styles. The interior—with its cross-shaped floor plan—seems more like a cathedral than a train station. Broad graceful arches frame your view of an immense interior. A dark wood-beamed ceiling hangs 50 feet above the waiting room's marble floor, while vibrantly hued tiles line walls and drinking fountains. Outside, gated courtyards landscaped with blooming bottlebrush trees and birds of paradise serve as waiting areas for passengers.

Like train stations around the country, Union Station hit upon hard times when air and auto travel became popular after World War II. During the 1990s, however, the station was redeveloped as a transportation hub for buses, Amtrak and commuter trains, and L.A.'s slowly expanding subway. From within the station, follow signs to Metro Rail's Red Line. You'll end up in the East Portal Pavilion, a 1996 addition designed to link the station with the Patsaouras Transit Plaza and the 26-story headquarters of the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA).

Sunlight streaming through panels of translucent glass in the domed ceiling of the pavilion's splendid lobby creates shifting patterns of brightness that dance across its smooth stone walls. Gazing down upon travelers passing through are the polyglot faces of Angelenos, the subject of Richard Wyatt's vast mural, which is part of a project titled "City of Dreams, River of History." One end of the tiled "River Bench" by May Sun incorporates pieces of Chinese crockery and bottles excavated from around the station, which was built on the site of the city's original Chinatown. Not far away is the district currently known as Chinatown, which sprawls along Broadway north of Cesar E. Chavez Avenue.

Outside the pavilion, a palm tree-lined transit plaza serves as a city bus depot, but it performs this utilitarian function with style thanks to its many artist-designed details. Here you'll see a steel fence with whimsical grille work featuring insects, leaves and American Indian-inspired shapes. Fanciful benches supply wild splashes of color to the scenery, and even the bus shelters betray an unusual level of artistry. Shielding benches from the elements beneath a curving sheet of glass, the shelters look like the spine of some prehistoric monster rendered in metal.

The Metro Red Line entrance is within the East Portal Pavilion. Take the train to 7th Street/Metro Center and exit the station at Hope Street. You are 2 blocks south of the Richard J. Riordan Central Library, which is where your tour began.

## Insider Info

### Attraction Passes

The Hollywood CityPass offers a selection of movie and television locations, sets and memorabilia in the heart of historic Hollywood. Sightseeing tours include the Hollywood "Behind-the-Scenes" Tour with Red Line Tours, a 75-minute walking tour of the Hollywood Walk of Fame and a Starline Tours of Hollywood 2-hour narrated movie stars' homes tour. CityPass ticket holders have the option of visiting the Kodak Theatre during a 30-minute guided tour or the Hollywood Museum in the historic Max Factor Building. Ticket holders also have the option of visiting the new Madame Tussauds Hollywood to mingle with more than 100 wax figure celebrities or the Hollywood Wax Museum and Guinness World of Records Museum.

The Hollywood CityPass is valid for 9 days once the first ticket is used; the price through Feb. 28, 2011, is \$64; ages 3-11, \$44. CityPass is available from participating attractions. For information phone (208) 787-4300 or (888) 330-5008.

Go Los Angeles Card is an all-access pass offering admission to 40 L.A.-area attractions. The card is purchased by the day (1, 2, 3, 5 or 7 days) and visitors have 2 weeks to use their days once they activate their card. Attractions include the Kodak Theatre, tours of L.A. and Hollywood, museums such as the California Science Museum, Six Flags Magic Mountain and a whale watch. Priced as low as \$33 per day (based on a 7-day card), Go Los Angeles Card includes an added bonus of Universal Studios Hollywood with the 3-, 5- and 7-day cards. It is available at The L.A. Visitors Information Center at 6801 Hollywood Blvd. in Hollywood; phone (800) 887-9103.

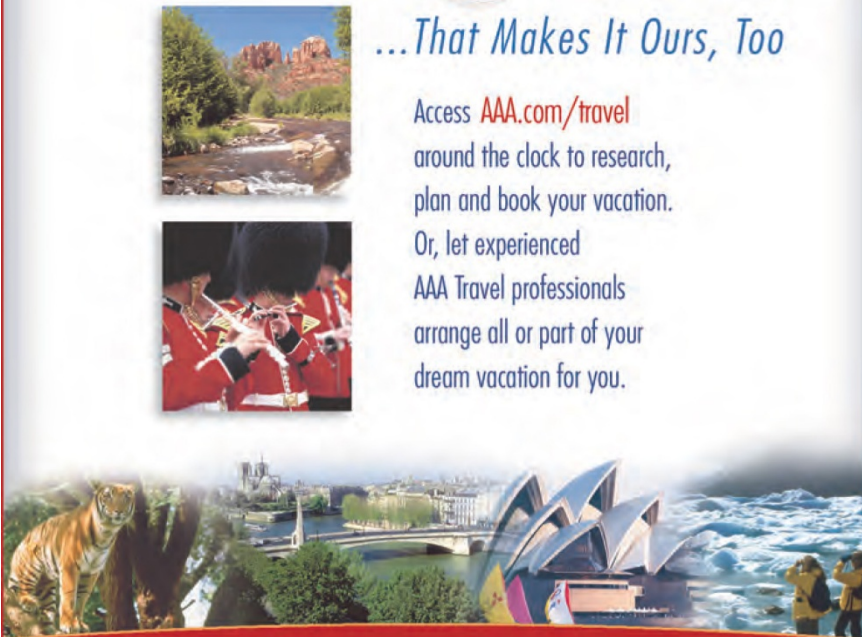
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