

Los Angeles, California



The clarity of western light renders the city basin bright from foothills to coast. The neon-bedecked ferris wheel turns above the rustic wooden planks of the Santa Monica Pier. From high in the Hollywood Hills, all is laid out in a panorama below. Shaded canyons offer quiet retreat under graceful sycamores and oaks. In downtown, an ever-increasing liveliness invites, from the Flower Mart to the Jewelry District, from entertainment venues to Dodger Stadium. It is frequently been argued that Los Angeles has no center, but this assertion disregards the wealth of discovery in the textures of dozens of unique neighborhoods. It is a place of phenomenal diversity, both of landscape and of culture.

Memorable Experiences

Under the Stars

Enjoy an al fresco picnic during a concert at the Hollywood Bowl.

Classic Tastes

Savor the French dip sandwich with signature hot mustard at Phillippe's.

Pedal Promenade

Rent bicycles and cruise miles of scenic beachside boardwalk.

Desert Interludes

Explore the rich desert landscape at Joshua Tree National Park.

Distinctive Details

Characterized by their minimalism, elegant simplicity in materials and emphasis on indoor-outdoor living, Los Angeles boasts arguably the best collection of mid-century modern architecture in the world.

Starwood Preferred Guest Recommends

Greystone Mansion

The largest home ever built in Beverly Hills, this fifty-five room English Tudor estate was a gift from oil magnate Edward L Doheny Sr. to his son. The set of many films, the grounds and surrounding park are open and free to visitors.

Destination Information

Country United States
State California
Elevation 330 feet
Population 3.8 million
Language English



Area Code: 310
Country Code: 1



Los Angeles International (LAX)



Transportation: Car, Taxi, Metro



US Dollar

Nearby Luxury Collection Hotels and Resorts



SLS Hotel

465 S. La Cienega Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90048
Phone: 310-247-0400



Culture

World-class museums and a dazzling variety of performance offer endless opportunity.

Highly Recommended



MOCA

From the sublime colorfields of Mark Rothko to the witty oversize sculpture of Claes Oldenburg, MOCA's permanent collection of American and European masterworks created from 1940 to the present is comprehensive and world-renowned. With two distinctive locations, downtown's elegant MOCA Grand Avenue, and the Geffen Contemporary in a capacious former industrial space, MOCA also hosts traveling exhibitions and special thematic presentations from its own holdings.

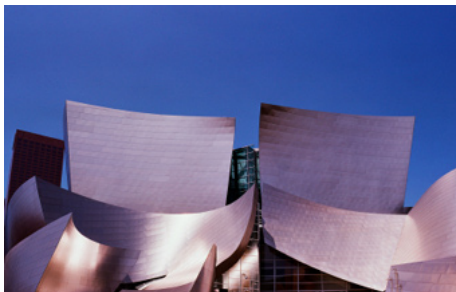
Address: 250 South Grand Avenue, Downtown (MOCA Grand Avenue)
Phone: (213) 626-6222



BCAM

Dramatically punctuated by a fire engine red open-air escalator, clad in Italian travertine and roofed in glass, BCAM is the latest addition to the Los Angeles County Museum Of Art's group of museums. The spiky visual rhythm of the roofline is accentuated by the entrance installation, Urban Light, comprised of two hundred cast-iron street lamps. Residing within the stunning Renzo Piano-designed building, the often large-scale contemporary artworks breathe in six loft-like galleries that comprise one of the largest column-free art spaces in the country. Photo Courtesy of Weldon Brewster

Address: 5905 Wilshire Boulevard
Phone: (323) 857-6000



Walt Disney Concert Hall

An iconic visual hallmark of Los Angeles, the undulating, brushed-titanium walls mesmerize with their muted reflectivity. Inside, gracious concourses and atria usher the guest toward the revelatory main concert space. The strip-laid, caramel-colored woods of the interior convey a sense of being inside the belly of a fantastical sailing ship. The richness of the experience provides the backdrop to the exquisite acoustics of the hall, which hosts a world-class program including performance series from the Los Angeles Philharmonic and Los Angeles Master Chorale.

Address: 111 South Grand Avenue, Downtown
Phone: (323) 850-2000



Getty Villa

Perched high above the sparkling Malibu coastline, with its terracotta-tile roof, long colonnades, formally clipped hedges, and aquamarine central pool, The Villa is a faithful reproduction of a first-century Roman country house, the Villa dei Papiri in Herculaneum, Italy. The echoes of ancient Greece, Rome, and Etruria seem almost palpable when contemplating the collections of monumental sculpture and artifacts of everyday life, as well as treasures such as vessels, Cycladic figures, coins, gems, and jewelry, all dating from 6,500 B.C. to A.D. 400.

Address: 17985 Pacific Coast Hwy (complimentary entrance, but reservations required)
Phone: (310) 440-7300

Local Charms



Bergamot Station

Grouped in a campus-like arrangement, the industrial flavor of corrugated-metal sheathed buildings contrasts with the sophistication of the art housed within this gallery complex. The historical site dates to 1875 when it was a stop for the Red Line trolley running from Los Angeles to the Santa Monica Pier. View a wealth of painting, photography, drawing, sculpture, and installations from acclaimed contemporary artists at noted galleries such as Shoshana Wayne and Bobbie Greenfield Gallery. The complex also hosts the Santa Monica Museum of Art and a cafe.

Address: 2525 Michigan Avenue, Santa Monica
Phone: (310) 828-4001



Shopping

Fine design is emphasized for the most discerning and savvy patrons.

Neighborhoods



Melrose Place

Ivy-clothed storefronts line this compact, eminently strollable shopping street. The coveted names here include Marc Jacobs, Carolina Herrera, Marni, and Me&Ro. The sublime fragrances of bergamot, and lilac waft from the apothecary Santa Maria Novella, founded by Dominican friars in seventeenth century Italy. Exuberant jewelry crafted in Mexico City and composed of gold and colorful gems shine at Colette. Close by, further temptation can be found at APC, Theory and Diane Von Furstenberg.

Address: Between La Cienega Blvd and North Orlando Avenue in West Hollywood

Shops & Boutiques

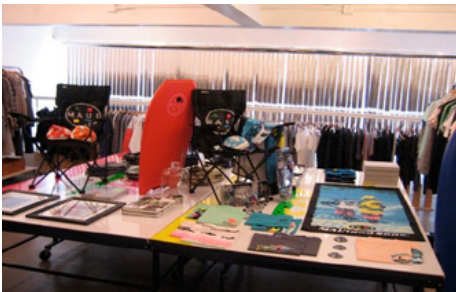


Oliver Peoples

A distinctive hemisphere bay window set off by crisply trimmed boxwood hedging catches the eye. Inside, rows of sinuous white displays set off a profusion of lusciously colored eyewear in this sun-filled jewel box of a boutique. Known for its innovative, highly personalized design, the Oliver Peoples collections are inspired by the confluence of music, fashion, art, and film. Attentive, knowledgeable staff expertly guide you to just the pair that perfectly complements your face and personality.

Address: 8642 Sunset Boulevard, West Hollywood

Phone: (310) 657-2553



Opening Ceremony

Like the door to a secret garden, Opening Ceremony's discreet courtyard entrance leads to a suite of rooms which heighten a sense of exploration and discovery. Located in a building that was formerly Charlie Chaplin's dance studio, Opening Ceremony's collections for men and women are themed around world cities which have hosted Olympic Games. Band of Outsiders, Nom de Guerre, Acne, and Opening Ceremony's own line are among the coveted, directional labels on offer, with individual brands residing in their own distinctive shop-within-a-shop environments.

Address: 451 North La Cienega Boulevard

Phone: (310) 652-1120



Cuisine

Chefs of unmatched creativity pair with ingredients of unparalleled quality.

Acclaimed



Matushisa

Unquestionably the epitome of progressive Japanese and fusion cuisine, chef Nobuyuki Matushisa's dishes were an epiphany when the restaurant first opened in 1987, and they remain so to this day at Matushisa. A diner might opt for a signature dish like black cod in miso glaze or masterfully prepared nigiri such as buttery toro, delicate uni and silky yellow-tail. Or, in the spirit of culinary adventure, choosing omakase, chef's choice, can be the best way to experience the extraordinary flavor juxtapositions on offer here.

Address: 129 North La Cienega Boulevard, Beverly Hills

Phone: (310) 659-0492



Lucques

Warm interior brickwork and exposed golden roof trusses glow with light, conveying the atmosphere of rustic sophistication. Lucques' open-air courtyard complements the Mediterranean-inspired cuisine. A longtime proponent of seasonal cuisine, James Beard Award-winning chef Suzanne Goin is one of the best-known names in fine dining circles. Dishes always provide a piquant balance of flavors, like braised lamb shank with saffron potatoes or alaskan black cod with vanilla potatoes, acorn squash and chorizo-golden raisin vinaigrette.

Address: 8474 Melrose Avenue, West Hollywood

Phone: (323) 655-6277



The Bazaar by José Andrés

Theatrical high playfulness juxtaposed with formal drama is unveiled in the four distinct areas of this Philippe Starck-designed small plates restaurant. Rich, sparkling Rojo, sleek modern Blanco, cinematic Bar Centro and whimsical sugar-pink Patisserie offer myriad dazzling approaches to traditional tapas dishes. Internationally acclaimed master chef José Andrés distills the soul of Spain through the practice of molecular gastronomy. Flavors and textures are refined to their highest essences, and offered in presentations that unflinchingly surprise and delight.

Address: SLS Hotel at Beverly Hills

Phone: (310) 246-5555

Local Specialty



Akasha

A deeply committed approach to sustainability is reflected in everything at Akasha Richmond's restaurant, from locally sourced ingredients to the interior design, from the choice of wines and spirits to the staff uniforms. Produce, meats and seafood are enhanced by the rich flavors of carefully selected artisan sea salt, estate grown olive oils, non-irradiated spices and other organic ingredients. Exquisite desserts and pastries are made with organic flours, sweeteners and frequently feature healthy, but delicious ingredients like spelt, goji berries and acai.

Address: 9543 Culver Boulevard, Culver City

Phone: (310) 845-1700



Joan's On Third

Tantalizing views of pastry in towers beckon from the picture windows of Joan's On Third's gourmet emporium. A pair of cow sculptures add a note of whimsy to the busy outdoor tables nestled on the sidewalk. Inside, gleaming marble counters and an antique wooden communal table set off the abundance of fresh baked goods, cheeses, olives, and other gourmet foods lovingly sourced from around the world. A family business, Joan's has expanded to welcome the neighborhood with an array of signature sandwiches, salads, soups, and seasonally inspired foods.

Address: No.30, 80 Ft Main Road, 4th Block, Koramangala

Phone: (91)(80) 25500426



Noteworthy

Unrivaled destinations offer encounters with the exalted wonders of nature.

Adventure



Museum of Jurassic Technology

In the hushed interior, a warren of dim rooms hosts collections with names like Micromosaics of Harald Henry Dalton and Tell the Bees: Belief, Knowledge & Hypersymbolic Cognition. These profoundly eccentric and obscure exhibits create a cabinet of curiosities atmosphere that captivates, often mystifies, and all but impels one to delve deeper. Founded in the tradition of natural history museums and the private nature history collections of the 18th and 19th centuries, the Museum explores the arcana at the fringes of science and culture.

Address: 9341 Venice Boulevard, Culver City
Phone: (310) 836-6131

Further Afield

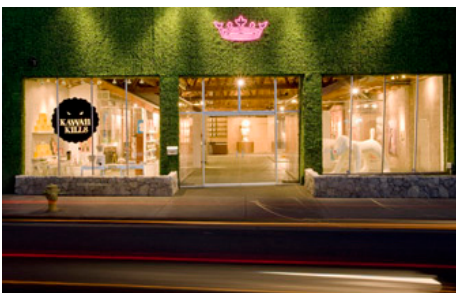


Palm Springs

Long a favored desert getaway, Palm Springs remains a perfect weekend escape to sun-drenched leisure. Beautifully preserved examples of mid-century modern architecture, designed by internationally acclaimed architects like Richard Neutra and John Lautner shine in the sun. For a study in contrasts, the Palm Springs Aerial Trams transport visitors from the desert floor to the cool pine-forest slopes at the summit of Mt. San Jacinto, and at Empire Polo Field in nearby Indio, glowing emerald turf echoes to the thunder of hooves and the crack of polo mallet on ball.

Address: 120 miles east of Los Angeles

Highly Recommended



Royal T Gallery

A glowing pink neon crown marks the entrance of this whimsical art gallery/cafe/boutique, inspired by the Maid Cafes of Tokyo's Akihabara district. Here, Japanese pop culture meets Los Angeles' fascination with the unique. Visitors can explore the art installations and then sample traditional favorites in the cafe like curry rice and Matcha milk tea. A well-curated selection of artist-made consumer goods and design objects, many displaying the hyper-stylized aesthetic of Japanese manga and "cosplay," are on offer in the retail area.

Address: 8910 Washington Boulevard, Culver City
Phone: (310) 559-6300

Indigenous Flavors



Santa Monica Farmer's Market

A sun-warmed peach wafts its sublime fragrance into the air. A mound of emerald snap peas spill over next to lustrous purple-black aubergines. The gift of California's year-round farming climate awaits at Santa Monica's four weekly farmers' markets. Shoppers peruse the stalls for the sweetest field-ripe corn or the first of June's ruby cherries. With the finest of vegetables, fruits, honeys, nuts and flowers at hand, it's no wonder that superstar local chefs are also here, gathering the elements from which they'll create the evening's menu.

Address: Wednesday & Saturday, Arizona and 2nd Avenue;
Saturday, 2200 Virginia Avenue; Sunday, 2640 Main Street