







Los Angeles 'Hollywood Boulevard' Street Sign

### Quick Facts

Country	USA	
Currency	US Dollar \$	
	100 cents makes \$1	
Language	English	
Population	9,818,605	
Time Zone	GMT -8 or GMT -7 (March to November)	

### Climate

Summer Av Max	28°c	
Autumn Av Max	22°	
Winter Av Max	20°c	
Spring Av Max	23°c	

### Introducing Los Angeles

Few cities incite as much excitement in people as Los Angeles. The City of Angeles, known simply as LA, epitomizes the American Dream. It is a city where anything can – and does – happen. From old Hollywood glamour to today’s exhilarating international flavour, you can find it all in this city.

Los Angeles is a city of contrasts; home to Hollywood and its vast entertainment industry, LA is also a global center for business, culture, cuisine, and commerce. With some of the best weather and most gorgeous ocean views in the world, Los Angeles is a city with something for everyone. From frenetic to serene and back again, LA encompasses a wide range of opportunities that appeal to thrill-seekers and sun-seekers alike.

The second largest city in the United States, Los Angeles City stretches from LA County to Orange, Ventura, San Bernardino, and Riverside counties. The sheer size makes it a force to be reckoned with, and each neighbourhood is full of interesting, unique opportunities. Enjoy cool cucumbers and *nam prik* in Thai Town or stroll down luxurious Rodeo Drive. But LA is not all palm trees and shimmering ocean vistas – LA has more museums than any US city and a vibrant and rich theater district. Each street, each beach, each neighbourhood is as different from the next as you can get; turn the corner and discover something completely new. This is the real LA.

### What to See in Los Angeles

The [Getty Center](#) in the Sepulveda Pass in the rugged Santa Monica Mountains houses collections of European paintings from the Renaissance to Post-Impressionism, sculpture, antique French and English furniture, tapestries, chandeliers, illuminated manuscripts and treasures from the Byzantine, Ottoman, Romanesque and Gothic historical periods.

The [Museum of Tolerance](#) in Beverly Hills highlights racial discrimination and the Holocaust, the latter section exhibiting a chilling replica of a gas chamber. There are also the [Armand Hammer Museum of Art and Culture](#), the [Fowler Museum of Cultural History](#), five museums dotted along Miracle Mile on [Wilshire Avenue](#), including an unusual one with millions of fossils found in the La Brea Tar Pits.

World-famous Hollywood Boulevard boasts marble stars of over 2 000 movie celebrities in the Walk of Fame. What most film buffs will explore first is Universal Studios, 415 acres of movie studios and theme park.

Those wanting to enjoy LA’s outdoor attractions should head to the massive [Griffith Park](#) for its Bronson Caves, gold courses and incredible nature. The best surf is said to be found at Malibu beach or Hermosa beach, while Zuma beach is great for those wanting to learn.



## Getting into Los Angeles

From [Los Angeles International Airport](#) **Taxis** to Downtown LA cost from \$42. The **AirportFlyAway Bus** to the same area costs only \$6 and takes 45 minutes. There are many **car rental** offices at the airport as well. It is better to book ahead or [online](#) to ensure you get the best rate. There is also a Metrolink train which

From [Burbank/Bob Hope Airport](#) The easiest way is to use the **Metrolink train**, which has a station close to the terminal and cost \$8 to Union Station. **Taxis** and **car rental** are also available at the airport, as well as several **shared transfer** companies.

From [Union Station](#) Trains leave regularly to San Diego and Seattle. Arriving at the station, you can catch a **taxi**, take the **Metrolink** or the **public bus** to travel around LA. The Metrolink is the most cost-effective option but may not deliver you directly to your location.

## Shopping in Los Angeles

Upscale shoppers flock to [Larchmont Boulevard](#) and [Melrose Avenue](#). Here you will find unique boutiques, chic designs, and maybe a celebrity or two as well. The famous [Rodeo Drive](#) is an excellent place to look over Mark Jacobs, Gucci, Prada, and other world-class designer creations. If you can't afford a Gucci price tag, grab a latte at an outdoor café and watch LA's elite stroll by.

Those searching for a bargain should venture into Broadway in [Downtown LA](#) or Alvarado Boulevard. Unearth excellent deals at flea markets.

[Downtown LA](#) is a shopper's mecca with product-specific districts. Buy flowers in the Flower District or Jewelry in the Jewelry District or art in Gallery Row. Looking for seafood, toys, clothing? Check out these fabulous little enclaves. Even window shopping is an entertaining way to spend an afternoon.

## Getting Around Los Angeles

Los Angeles is a densely populated and often congested city, and its attractions are often quite spread out making walking only a viable option for exploring specific neighbourhoods or boulevards.

**Rail** The Metro Rail and Metrolink systems are a quick and cheap way to travel around LA, and have many connections with the rail service, Amtrack.

**Driving** The easiest way to reach your destination is to drive and explore all that LA has to offer, however be aware of peak congestion times and plan your route carefully.

**Buses** LA has a very vast public bus system however most locals prefer to drive. Combined bus and rail passes cost \$6 for a day or \$20 for a week.

## Annual Entertainment in Los Angeles

LA starts the new year off with a bang, with Los Angeles sports tournaments in Pasadena, Chinese New Year celebrations, and of course, massive New Year parties throughout the city.

April brings a ton of cultural and family-oriented events. From Bugs Bunny's Spring Fling at the LA Zoo to the International Family Film Festival, families will find a lot to do. In May enjoy the Ferio de los Ninos, or Festival of the Children, the Amnesty International Film Festival, and a superb Cinco de Mayo celebration on Olvera Street.

The summer months are packed with events such as Shakespeare by the Sea, the LA Gay and Lesbian Pride Celebration, Hollywood Black Film Festival, July 4th celebrations throughout the city, Summer Nights at the Ford, Children's Festival of the Arts, the Sunset Junction Street Fair, and the Venice Showcase Festival.

## Our Los Angeles Favourites...

### Hotels

\$\$\$ [W Hotel Los Angeles Westwood](#)  
930 Hilgard Ave



\$\$\$ [The Tower Beverly Hills](#) 1224 Beverwil Dr



\$\$ [Ramada Ltd LA Downtown](#)  
611 S Westlake Ave



\$ [Days Inn Hollywood](#)  
5410 Hollywood Blvd



\$ [Travelodge LAX](#)  
5547 W Century Blvd



### Restaurants

\$\$\$ [Craft Los Angeles](#)  
21 West 52nd Street – fine dining, gourmet steaks, smart casual dress



\$\$ [25 Degrees](#)



105 Hudson Street – posh burgers, trendy, fun fusion food

\$ [Yuca's Hut](#)



2056 Hillhurst Ave – roadside food, much-loved, Mexican

## Don't miss...

### Universal Studios

*Universal Studios Blvd*

**Why?** A glimpse of what makes Hollywood so special including behind-the-scenes studio tour, rides and special effect stunts ([buy tickets online](#)).



## One Day Itinerary

**Morning** Head to Hollywood for the Walk of Fame and Chinese Theatre before the crowds arrive.

**Early Lunch** Walk or taxi to Rodeo Drive for window shopping and lunch.

**Afternoon** Drive or take a tour along Sunset Blvd to the mansions of Beverly Hills.

**Dusk** Head to Venice Beach to people watch, have a few drinks and perhaps indulge in a delicious taco or burrito for dinner while you watch the sun set over the ocean.