

Los Angeles

Hollywood, the sign, Santa Monica's pier and the Getty's marble cliffs

Los Angeles is a hundred neighbourhoods spread over a basin the size of Luxembourg, joined by freeways and sun. Hollywood and the Walk of Fame are the postcard, but the real city is Griffith Observatory at sunset, the Getty Center's travertine cliffs, the Venice boardwalk, and tacos in Boyle Heights. It takes a week to see properly and a car to see at all.

At a glance

AIRPORT	LAX, 30 min to Hollywood off-peak
BEST SEASON	Apr-Jun and Sep-Nov
GETTING AROUND	Car essential · Metro for Hollywood and Downtown

When to go

April to June and September to November are warm and clear. July and August are hot inland and grey on the coast in the morning (the marine layer). January is cool but pleasant.

Getting around

A car is unavoidable outside the Metro rail lines, which connect Downtown, Hollywood and Santa Monica. Parking is expensive in Hollywood and Santa Monica; valet is standard at restaurants. Avoid the 405 and the 101 at rush hour, which is most hours.

What to see

Hollywood	Walk of Fame, TCL Chinese Theatre, the sign hike from Griffith.
Santa Monica	The pier, Third Street Promenade and the beach bike path.
Venice Beach	The boardwalk, canals and Muscle Beach.
Downtown (DTLA)	Grand Central Market, the Broad museum and the Arts District.
Beverly Hills	Rodeo Drive, Greystone Mansion and the Farmer's Market.
Malibu	Zuma and El Matador, and the wine trail at Malibu Family Wines.
Getty Center	Brentwood hilltop, travertine, gardens and the tram.
Universal City	Studio tour and Universal Studios Hollywood.

Tours worth booking

Universal Studios Hollywood day ticket	Full day · Adventure · 4.7/5 (4120 reviews)
Alcatraz Island day tour with ferry	2.5 h · Culture · 4.8/5 (8920 reviews)
Warner Bros Studio Tour Hollywood	3 h · Culture · 4.8/5 (3640 reviews)
San Diego Zoo 1-day admission	Full day · Nature · 4.7/5 (6210 reviews)
Disneyland Park 1-day ticket with Genie+	Full day · Adventure · 4.8/5 (12480 reviews)
Muir Woods redwoods day trip from San Francisco	4 h · Nature · 4.8/5 (5340 reviews)

Where to stay

The Beverly Hills Hotel	Beverly Hills · Sunset Boulevard · Historic · From \$850
Chateau Marmont	West Hollywood · Sunset Boulevard · Historic · From \$720
Hotel Erwin, Venice Beach	Venice Beach · boardwalk · Design · From \$380
Hotel Bel-Air	Bel-Air · canyon · Luxury · From \$1,100
Shutters on the Beach	Santa Monica · beachfront · Resort · From \$650
Fairmont San Francisco	Nob Hill · Historic · From \$480

Day-by-day itineraries

Los Angeles in 1 day	suitesandsunsets.com/itineraries/los-angeles/1-day-itinerary
Los Angeles in 2 days	suitesandsunsets.com/itineraries/los-angeles/2-day-itinerary
Los Angeles in 3 days	suitesandsunsets.com/itineraries/los-angeles/3-day-itinerary

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