

LOS ANGELES

1 MINUTE/1 HOUR/1 DAY GETAWAY

Los Angeles rivals New York as a fashion hub, offers some of the nation's best art museums and dining options, and features a stunning coastline for scenic drives and day trips. But it's the myth, magic and make-believe of the entertainment industry that makes L.A. like no other city in the world.

1 MINUTE

Beverly Hills Hotel

9641 Sunset Blvd., Beverly Hills • 310-887-2887

The "Pink Palace" has seen it all through the years—Elizabeth Taylor honeymoons, Howard Hughes business deals, Katherine Hepburn lounging poolside. There's the infamous Polo Lounge for you to sip a refreshing iced tea. (We won't tell if you pretend you're waiting for Garbo or Demille.)

Grauman's Chinese Theatre

6925 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood • 323-463-9576

Exotic, grand and over-the-top, the Chinese Theatre remains perhaps Hollywood's most sought-after theatre for studio premieres. Check out celebrities' cement handprints and footprints immortalized in cement out front, catch a movie in the main theater or (if the timing's right) join the crowds for a red-carpet premiere.

1 HOUR

The Grove Los Angeles

189 The Grove Dr. • 323-900-8000

Open air and low key, this mall has favorites like the Gap, Nordstrom, Crate & Barrel and Banana Republic. You can relax by the fountains—they were designed by the same people who did the ones at the Bellagio Hotel in Las Vegas. There's a show set to music every half hour.

Universal Studios Hollywood

70 Universal City Plz., Universal City • 818-777-6727

This mega-attraction is a mix of movie-themed roller coasters, virtual reality rides and behind-the-scenes productions. Plus, where else can you get attacked by a killer shark, live through natural disasters and meet King Kong? The Studio Tour takes you past famous sets.

Venice Beach/Boardwalk

Pacific Coast Hwy., Venice

What do a chain saw juggler and fire-breathing performer have in common? They're just part of a typical day here. Add in dancers, musicians and tarot card readers to round out the scene. Just don't forget the camera—no one back home will believe what you've seen.

1 HOUR (CONT)

LA County Museum of Art

5905 Wilshire Blvd. • 323-857-6000

In the city's most popular museum, see one of the biggest collections of art in the U.S., including Claude Monet's Water Lilies, works by Degas and a specially designed Japanese art pavilion. Head outside to reflect and people watch in the sculpture park/café.

Page Museum—La Brea Tar Pits

5801 Wilshire Blvd. • 323-934-7243

Get a glimpse of L.A. as it appeared during the Ice Age. One of the world's largest, most diverse fossil sites, La Brea offers extraordinary records of the towering mammoths, saber-toothed cats, and giant ground sloths that were trapped and preserved in the natural asphalt that has seeped out of the ground here for the past 40,000 years. Be sure to check out fossil preparation in the famous "fish bowl" paleontology lab.

1 DAY

The Pacific Coast Highway

Highway 101 runs from Southern California to Northern Washington, past quaint towns and sites in California like the Hearst Castle, complete with backyard zebras, and Big Sur, the house built for Rita Hayworth by her husband Orson Welles. Enjoy the winding view for hours.

J. Paul Getty Museum in the Getty Center

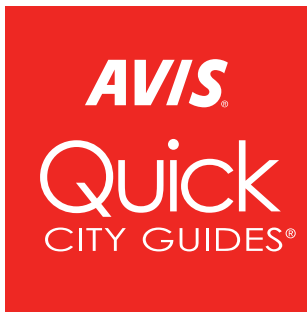
1200 Getty Center Dr. • 310-440-7300

It's free and you can take pictures of everything. What more could you ask out of a museum? Built on a hill overlooking downtown LA, there's a collection of European paintings, Greek sculptures, Roman antiques and changing exhibits. Even the building itself is a work of art, considering its distinct architecture.

Palm Springs

101S to I-10E to CA-111S

Just 90 minutes from L.A., Palm Springs boasts a stunning landscape of snowy peaks, sun-drenched canyons, waterfalls, desert flora and big horn rams. Since the 1940's it has enjoyed a reputation as a celebrity refuge, offering world-class resorts, full-service spas, 100+ championship courses, big-name musical entertainment, fine dining, art galleries, historic sites and hiking and horseback riding galore. Be sure to check out the shopping along Palm Desert's El Paseo, with chic boutiques that rival Rodeo Drive's infamous offerings.



LOS ANGELES

GOURMET DINING AND LOCAL FAVORITES

GOURMET DINING

The Ivy

With its shabby chic decor, the Ivy may not at first strike you as a spot to power-lunch. But don't let this vine-covered garden cottage fool you. The patio, with its white tables, potted roses and white picket fence, is a famous meeting place for models, actors, sports celebrities and industry moguls. Expect American comfort-food classics: Caesar salad, crab cakes, pastas, prime rib and crispy fried chicken. Keep your eyes peeled for your favorite stars—and for the paparazzi lurking across the street. And if you'd prefer to go seaside, there's Ivy at the Shore.

The Ivy

113 N. Robertson Blvd. • 310-274-8303

Ivy at the Shore

1535 Ocean Ave., Santa Monica • 310-393-3113

Providence

Heralded by *Esquire* and *Gourmet*, Providence features a neutral palette and soaring architecture with modern accents. The kitchen specializes in impeccably fresh and innovative seafood, and the menu changes seasonally. Past highlights included Dungeness crab with fennel, tangerine, lemongrass and cilantro and striped bass with English peas, Nantes carrots shimeji mushrooms and truffled lobster juice. Not a seafood person? Providence offers duck, pork, beef and more.

5955 Melrose Ave. • 323-460-4170

Cut, *The Regent Beverly Wilshire*

To truly appreciate the Richard Meier-designed interior of Wolfgang Puck's A-list steakhouse, reserve a table by the window so you can take in all its subtle curves and airy sleekness. Expect rich, innovative fare like foie gras pavé, Japanese Wagyu beef, dry-aged New York sirloin and Kobe short ribs slow-cooked for eight hours in Indian spices. If you're not into steak, you may opt for the rotisserie duckling for two, perfumed with a lavender- and thyme-honey gastrique.

9500 Wilshire Blvd. • 310-276-8500

Whilst, *Viceroy Santa Monica*

Famous for its stylish mix of vintage and modern décor, Whilst features a wall-length display of custom-made china and a unique color palette of black, white and parrot green. Expect Modern American cuisine with a sophisticated twist. Starters include flatbread with smoked marlin, or seared foie gras with pumpkin ice cream and cardamom puff pastry, only to be outdone by main courses like the cassoulet of duck confit, cannellini beans and black truffle sausage. For an extra treat, reserve a poolside table or private dining cabana.

1819 Ocean Ave., Santa Monica • 310-260-7500

LOCAL FAVORITES

Matteo's

Once the playground of greats like Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra, Gregory Peck and Sophia Lauren, this 40+ year-old Rat Pack haunt is the picture of Old Hollywood, complete with original roomy red booths, romantic table lamps and leopard-print carpet. A revamped menu offers pan-roasted Maine mussels and chicken liver crostini, sweetbreads with squash blossom and wild boar sausages with Tuscan beans, tomato and sage and green apple mostarda. Want a taste of the past? Go for something from the "Matteo's Classics" page of the menu.

2321 Westwood Blvd. • 310-475-4521

Sam's by the Beach

This charming neighborhood gem features soothing green walls and leopard print banquettes and enjoys a loyal following of upscale locals. Expect seasonal Mediterranean-inspired cuisine, with seafood dominating the menu. Past highlights include ahi tuna tartare on shredded frisée with mint, grilled escolar with citrus, ravioli with ricotta and asparagus, and smoked quail stuffed with apple and goat cheese in a port wine sauce.

108 W. Channel Rd., Monica • 310-230-9100

A.O.C.

A subtle palette, formidable dark booths and simple, unadorned walls make a handsome backdrop for A.O.C.'s adventurous pan-Mediterranean menu of small-plates. Expect innovative fare inspired by locally grown, humanely farmed ingredients, from the black cod with cabbage, pancetta and crushed grapes to the brioche with prociutto, gruyère and egg. Artisanal cheeses and a charcuterie bar round out the options nicely.

8022 W. Third St. • 323-653-6359

Mélisse Restaurant

A soft color palette, white linens and cozy booths create a soothing and sophisticated atmosphere for diners to enjoy traditional French cuisine with a contemporary American twist. Entrees include lobster Bolognese with fresh cappellini, summer truffles and basil and poached duck breast with Mission figs, turnips and couscous. Mélisse offers two private dining areas: the Olivia room, which accommodates up to 50 and features a retractable glass roof, or the Burgandy Room, an intimate dining area that seats up to 16 and features a fireplace.

1104 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica • 310-395-0881

Katsuya

Ensnconced in L.A.'s lux Brentwood neighborhood, Katsuya's edgy vibe features on an all-glass façade, giant granite boulders, sleek wood accents and enormous photographs of the eyes and mouth of a stunning Geisha. Chef Katsuya Uechi, one of only a handful of master sushi chefs in Los Angeles, delivers haute Japanese cuisine, from the innovative creations of the sushi bar to entrees like Kobe steak to miso-marinated cod.

11777 San Vicente Blvd., Brentwood • 310-207-8744