

LOS ANGELES

FALL & WINTER GUIDE 2009/2010



The best places to eat, sleep and play
in Los Angeles this fall and winter

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INTRODUCTION



TripAdvisor, the most trusted source for where to eat, sleep and play in thousands of destinations around the world, has collected the best insider tips from its 35 million monthly visitors to produce a unique series of travel guides. In addition to the best hotels, restaurants and attractions for every type of traveler, you'll get great advice about what to pack, how to get around and where to find the best views. Be sure to check out the guides at www.tripadvisor.com.



You'll find reviews for more than 450,000 hotels, 90,000 attractions and 560,000 restaurants on TripAdvisor.com. Learn from other travelers what to expect before you make your plans.



PACKING TIPS

1. If visiting Disneyland, “wear **good walking shoes**—forget the sandals or flip flops—you'll regret it if you don't.”—TripAdvisor Member, Sacramento, Calif.
2. “Just bring **jeans and great tops**. L.A. is more rock glam than hot black dresses.”—TripAdvisor Member, Santa Monica, Calif.
3. “Whenever you come, bring **sunglasses, comfortable summer clothes and a light jacket**, and you'll be ready to enjoy the great weather.”—TripAdvisor Member

Inside LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles is a city with serious star power. Even street names often take top billing; movies like “Sunset Boulevard,” “Laurel Canyon” and “Mulholland Drive” have added to L.A.'s irresistible allure. In a city of a million storylines, where backdrops are beaches, production sets, famed shopping boulevards, glitzy neighborhoods and top-notch celebrity-studded eateries, every possible dream is played out daily.

The City of the Angels sprawls over 467 miles of desert, canyons and coastline and is home to more than 3.5 million people, while L.A. County's population numbers close to 10 million. The climate ranges from warm and balmy afternoons to cool nights, with some foggy times possible in July and August.

Visitors get to choose where they want to set their L.A. story and how they want to discover the city's secrets. And in your L.A., there's no shortage of options: see the city by stretch limo, bike, helicopter, kayak or cruise boat or catch fleeting glimpses of homes of the rich and famous on a jogging tour.

Top VIEWS



LOS ANGELES BEST VIEWS



“Not only was the **Griffith Park Observatory** the location for movie romance between James Dean and Natalie Wood, but it also offers wondrous views of Hollywood and the surrounding hills.”—TripAdvisor Member

Griffith Park Observatory, 2800 E. Observatory Road, 213 473 0800

A ride on the Ferris wheel takes you 185 feet high for a look down at Santa Monica Bay and the Pacific Ocean. If you're not a fan of heights, “the views off the end of the **Santa Monica Pier** are amazing.”—TripAdvisor Member, California

Santa Monica Pier, Ocean and Colorado avenues, 310 458 8900

“On the access trail to **Leo Carrillo State Beach**, stop for a moment and take in the view with a loved one. On some days, schools of dolphins are visible.”—TripAdvisor Member

Leo Carrillo State Beach, W. 35000 Pacific Coast Hwy., 818 880 0363

“...stop for a moment and take in the view with a loved one.”

Where to PLAY

TOP 10 Attractions

1. J. Paul Getty Center, 1200 Getty Center Dr., 310 440 7300
2. Melting Pot Tours, 424 247 9666
3. Griffith Observatory, 2800 E. Observatory Road, 213 473 0800
4. Page Museum at the La Brea Tar Pits, 5801 Wilshire Blvd., 323 934 7243
5. Westwood Memorial Park, 1218 Glendon Ave., 310 474 1579
6. Getty Villa, 17985 Pacific Coast Hwy., 310 440 7300
7. Universal Studios Hollywood, 100 Universal City Plaza, 800 864 8377
8. Venice Beach Boardwalk, Ocean Front Walk, Venice
9. Petersen Automotive Museum, 6060 Wilshire Blvd., 323 930 2277
10. Simon Wiesenthal Center Museum of Tolerance, 9786 West Pico Blvd., 310 553 8403

FAMILIES



Take a drive to nearby Anaheim, and treat the whole family to the classic theme park—**Disneyland**. “As soon as we entered, the magic happened.”—TripAdvisor Member, Australia

Disneyland, 1313 Harbor Blvd., Disneyland Way, Anaheim, 714 781 4565

Universal Studios “is great. We especially enjoyed Jurassic Park, Back To the Future and Shrek. We even saw some real Oscars, plus extras shooting the sequel to Pirates of the Caribbean.”—TripAdvisor Member, Berkshire, U.K.

Universal Studios, 100 Universal City Plaza, Universal City, 800 864 8377

The **Page Museum at the La Brea Tar Pits** has “lots of gooey tar pits with an excellent museum explaining all about fossils and bones.”—TripAdvisor Member, Jacksonville, Fla.

Page Museum at the La Brea Tar Pits, 5801 Wilshire Blvd., 323 934 7243

“As soon as we entered, the magic happened.”

ROMANCE



Part of the Mulholland Scenic Parkway, the **Hollywood Bowl Overlook** “affords terrific views of the Hollywood Bowl and much of Los Angeles.” On a clear day, you might see past the city all the way to the Pacific.—TripAdvisor Member

Hollywood Bowl Overlook, 7036 Mulholland Dr., Hollywood

Capture the romance of old Hollywood at the **Grauman's Chinese Theatre**, “one of the premium venues in the world to see a movie.”—TripAdvisor Member, Los Angeles

Grauman's Chinese Theatre, 6925 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood, 323 464 8111

“We landed by chance at **El Matador Beach** around sunset—a wondrous beach not to be missed! Very romantic, beautiful, many rocks and caves.”—TripAdvisor Member, Vienna, Austria

El Matador Beach, 32215 Pacific Coast Hwy., Malibu, 818 880 0363

Where to **PLAY**



BUDGET

At the **J. Paul Getty Center**, “the architecture is as stunning as the art. There are fountains and flowers, babbling brooks and tall cactus plants. It’s easy to lose oneself for the day here! Do look inside the buildings; you will be treated to some wonderful art. And it’s all free. What a gift to Los Angeles!”—TripAdvisor Member, Los Angeles

J. Paul Getty Center, 1200 Getty Center Dr., 310 440 7300

“Consider touring the peculiar **Watts Tower**, a series of 17 abstract sculptural structures (one nearly 100 feet tall) composed of steel, wire, seashells and glass shards.”—TripAdvisor Member

Watts Towers, 1765 E. 107th St., 213 847 4646

“No trip to Los Angeles is complete without a stop at the beach, and **Venice Beach** is quintessential L.A.”—TripAdvisor Member, Los Angeles

Venice Beach Boardwalk, Ocean Front Walk, Venice

TripAdvisor members have posted more than 2,000,000 photos on the site. The good, the bad and the very candid. It’s almost like being there!



ADVENTURE

“**Temescal Gateway Park** offers miles of hiking, and rewards explorers with scenic canyons, creeks, waterfalls and a gorgeous view of the city and Pacific Ocean.”—TripAdvisor Member, Los Angeles

Temescal Gateway Park, 15601 Sunset Blvd., Pacific Palisades, 310 454 1395

“**Runyon Canyon** is fun and challenging. You can go for a short walk or for a strenuous hike. It’s also a huge dog park, where dogs run around leash-free! I love it!”—TripAdvisor Member, Culver City, Calif.

Runyon Canyon, Mulholland Highway

“**Griffith Park** is not only the largest municipal park, but it has a lot of fun activities—pony and wagon rides for the kids, a great miniature train ride and a carousel. Also, there’s golfing, horseback riding, hiking trails and many picnic areas—all of this in a wilderness area in Los Angeles!”—TripAdvisor Member, Los Angeles

Griffith Park, 4730 Crystal Springs Dr., 323 913 4688

“...scenic canyons, creeks, waterfalls and a gorgeous view”



EDUCATIONAL/HISTORICAL

“I love how the **California Science Center** has all kinds of little details embedded throughout,” like an exhibit on California’s water flow.—TripAdvisor Member, Los Angeles

California Science Center, 700 State Dr., 213 744 7400

“**MOCA** is the contemporary art museum. It’s pretty great. The shows aren’t just focused on contemporary art, but on history.” Be sure also to check out the Geffen Contemporary in Little Tokyo and the Pacific Design Center in West Hollywood.—TripAdvisor Member, Santa Monica, Calif.

Museum of Contemporary Art, 250 S. Grand Ave., 213 626 6222

“Buried at the **Hollywood Forever Cemetery**, in full view of the Hollywood sign and at the back of Paramount Studios, are some of the most famous and notorious names of ‘Old Hollywood.’”—TripAdvisor Member

Hollywood Forever Cemetery, 6000 Santa Monica Blvd., 323 469 1181



RELAXATION

“The **Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels** is pure and inspiring. The sound and the light and the air all combine to give an experience that can lift up and change your spirit. Everyone will enjoy seeing the innovative and simple design of the building, and those who are seeking a spiritual place will find a refuge.”—TripAdvisor Member, San Pedro, Calif.

Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, 555 W. Temple St., 213 680 5200

Friends of the Vine in South Redondo is “a great place to pop in for a glass before or after dinner or to share a bottle with friends while relaxing.”—TripAdvisor Member, Los Angeles

Friends of the Vine, 221 Avenida del Norte, Redondo Beach, 310 792 5940

“I love **Elysian Park** because of the great views, the trees, the hiking trails and, especially, the view of Los Angeles.”—TripAdvisor Member, Santa Ana, Calif.

Elysian Park, 835 Academy Road, 213 485 5054

What's the **TOUR**

How to Get Around



"The Getty is accessible by **public transport**. Simply take the #2 or any other bus to UCLA and transfer to the #761, which stops right in front of the Getty parking lot and the train."—TripAdvisor Member, Los Angeles

Hollywood's **Holly Trolley** "makes it easy to hop from bar to nightclub and back to your hotel without worrying about valets, parking or drunk driving."—TripAdvisor Member

"A **day pass** is available for all Metro bus and rail lines for \$5."—TripAdvisor Member

Want more information on Los Angeles? TripAdvisor.com offers free weekly e-mail updates filled with new deals, reviews and articles for Los Angeles or any other destination you choose.

WHERE to eat

TOP 10 Restaurants

1. Osteria Mozza, 6602 Melrose Ave., 323 297 0100
2. Sushi Katsu-ya, 11680 Ventura Blvd., 818 985 6976
3. Providence, 5955 Melrose Ave., 323 460 4170
4. Sushi Sasabune, 12400 Wilshire Blvd., 310 820 3596
5. A.O.C., 8022 W. 3rd St., 323 653 6359
6. Omelette & Waffle Shop, 1103 S. Gaffey St., 310 831 3277
7. Angelini Osteria, 7313 Beverly Blvd., 323 297 0070
8. Sushi Nozawa, 11288 Ventura Blvd., Ste. C, 818 508 7017
9. The Farmers Market, 6333 W. 3rd St., 323 933 9211
10. Pizzeria Mozza, 641 N. Highland Ave., 323 297 0101

FAMILIES

"We went to **Loteria Grill** because of all the hype...and we'll make sure to keep spreading the word! This place is delicious."—TripAdvisor Member, San Francisco, Calif.

Loteria Grill, 6333 W. 3rd St., 323 930 2211

At **Canter's Deli** the "chicken soup is sublime and may transport you to another dimension" and the stuffed cabbage is "liable to make you think you're in Lithuania."—TripAdvisor Member

Canter's Deli, 419 N. Fairfax Ave., 323 651 2030

Miceli's features "red and white checkered tablecloths and a maitre d' who treated me like he was hoping I would become a regular."—TripAdvisor Member, Boston, Mass.

Miceli's, 1646 N. Las Palmas Ave., 323 466 3438

ROMANCE

The "food is wonderful" at the **Restaurant at Hotel Bel Air**, and the "old Hollywood setting" is "magical."—TripAdvisor Member, Pasadena, Calif.

Restaurant at Hotel Bel-Air, 701 Stone Canyon Road, 310 472 5234

"We enjoyed a fabulous dinner at **Angelini**. The food was simply the best ever, and that includes a recent trip to Italy! The highlight was the rock salt encrusted sea bass—my wife says it's the best fish she ever had."—TripAdvisor Member, San Diego, Calif.

Angelini Osteria, 7313 Beverly Blvd., 323 297 0070

"You must dine at **Yamashiro!** We finished our holiday here and had the most delicious experience. The setting, looking over the lights of L.A., was breathtaking, as was the food."—TripAdvisor Member, Melbourne, Australia.

Yamashiro, 1999 N. Sycamore Ave., Hollywood, 323 466 5125

BUDGET

"**The Original Pantry** has been open 24 hours/day since 1924, and it has never been remodeled. It's like walking into a Bogart movie from the '30s."—TripAdvisor Member

The Original Pantry, 877 S. Figueroa St., 213 972 9279

A Southern California landmark, "**In-N-Out** is fresh and tasty. Top a Double-Double with some grilled onions and a chocolate milk shake, and I'm a happy man!"—TripAdvisor Member

In-N-Out Burger, 7009 Sunset Blvd., Hollywood, 800 786 1000 (and other locations)

Sanamluang Café "is open VERY late, serving amazing, cheap Thai food. It really has great noodle dishes. The beef stew noodle soup is divine!"—TripAdvisor Member

Sanamluang Café, 5176 Hollywood Blvd., 323 660 8006

WHERE to eat



HEALTH-CONSCIOUS

“Located almost across the street from the famous Ivy restaurant, **Newsroom** was very good! Child-friendly too! Make sure to try the peach bellini - yummy!” — TripAdvisor Member, Alpharetta, Ga.

Newsroom, 120 N. Robertson Blvd., West Hollywood, 310 652 4444

“**Vegan Glory** may not have the best ambiance, but the food is simply superb.” — TripAdvisor Member

Vegan Glory, 8393 Beverly Blvd., 323 653 4900

Real Food Daily offers “up-market dining with a fantastic choice of fresh, organic food - obviously very popular and I doubt if everyone there was vegan!” — TripAdvisor Member, London, England

Real Food Daily, 414 N. La Cienega Blvd., West Hollywood, 310 289 9910

“...up-market dining with a fantastic choice of fresh, organic food”

HIDDEN GEMS

“Each time we sit at the charcuterie bar at **A.O.C.**, we meet some interesting person sitting next to us, ready to share their fave dish, etc. You can count on very fresh, current ingredients.” — TripAdvisor Member, San Antonio, Texas

A.O.C., 8022 W. 3rd St., 323 653 6359

The Little Door is “one of the prettiest restaurants in L.A. As you step in off the street, you’re instantly transported to a Mediterranean paradise. Eat on the gorgeous patio filled with trees and lights all around.” — TripAdvisor Member

The Little Door, 8164 W. 3rd St., 323 951 1210

“Whenever I come home to L.A., I make sure to stop by **Harold and Belles**, the best Cajun restaurant in the area. The portions are big; the food is good and the service is top-notch. The bread will make you sin!” — TripAdvisor Member, Atlanta, Ga.

Harold and Belles, 2920 W. Jefferson Blvd., 323 735 9023

SPECIAL EVENTS



In L.A., nothing says Halloween like dancing the night away at the **Monster Massive**, which transforms the Los Angeles Sports Arena into the Tomb of Doom, with world-famous DJs spinning the night away to an epically spooky sound and light show. (October 31)

Monster Massive, Los Angeles Sports Grounds & Exposition Park, 3911 South Figueroa, <http://monstermassive.com>

Over 50,000 hungry visitors gather annually to celebrate the humble tamale during the **International Tamale Festival**. Chow down at the cook-off or learn to make your own from instructional demos. (November 13 – 15)

Los Angeles International Tamale Festival, Los Angeles State Historic Park, 1245 N. Spring St., <http://www.eastlosangeles.net/tamalefestival>

Join the throngs of people who come out to see Griffith Park illuminated by over a million lights in a mile-long display during the **Griffith Park Holiday Light Festival**. (November - December)

Griffith Park Holiday Light Festival, Griffith Park, 213 367 1255, <http://www.dwplightfestival.com>

Honor one of America’s most important leaders in carnival style at the **Martin Luther King Kingdom Day Parade**, with a procession of hundreds of floats and a multitude of drill teams and dancers commemorating King’s birthday. (January 18)

Martin Luther King Kingdom Day Parade, Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, 323 299 1234, <http://www.thekingcenter.org>

With sand sculpture contests, talks by whale experts, music and food, the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium’s annual **Whale Fiesta** offers fun and education for the entire family. (January)

Whale Fiesta, Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, 3720 Stephen M. White Dr., San Pedro, 310 548 7562 x 223, <http://www.cabrilloaq.org>

Chinatown is the place to be to welcome the **Year of the Tiger** with fashion shows, food, pageants and the famous Golden Dragon Parade, a spectacle of color and sound parading up North Broadway. (February 20 – 21)

Chinese New Year and Golden Dragon Parade, Chinatown, 213 617 0396, <http://www.lagoldendragonparade.com>

Start your engines and head down to the **NHRA Winternationals** at the Pomona Raceway, where drivers will compete for \$2 million in prize money in such categories as Funny Car, Dragster and Stock Car races. (February 11 – 14)

50th annual Kragen O’Reilly NHRA Winternationals, Pomona Raceway, 2780 Fairplex Ave., 909 593 7010, <http://www.nhra.com>, <http://www.pomonaraceway.com>

Where to STAY



FAMILIES

“The **Renaissance Hollywood Hotel** was excellent. We encountered no problems at all during our stay. The room was very clean and spacious and on a high floor with a nice view, as requested. The location is fantastic, right in the heart of Hollywood. All the attractions are close by and easy to get to.”—TripAdvisor Member, Liverpool, U.K.

Renaissance Hollywood Hotel, 1755 N. Highland Ave., Hollywood, 323 856 1200

“The **Hollywood Celebrity Hotel** met and exceeded our expectations! The staff are very friendly and helpful. The location is absolutely brilliant, so central to everything. A great area to walk around and shop and dine until late in the evening.”—TripAdvisor Member, Johannesburg, South Africa

Hollywood Celebrity Hotel, 1775 Orchid Ave., 323 850 6464

The **Magic Castle Hotel** is “amazing. It is a small old-fashioned boutique hotel with the best of everything—not in terms of glitz and glamour—in terms of the things that really matter.”—TripAdvisor Member, Massachusetts

Magic Castle Hotel, 7025 Franklin Ave., Hollywood, 323 851 0800

Have questions about Los Angeles? Get insider advice from local experts in our forums. The majority of questions are answered within 24 hours.

ROMANCE

“Only superlatives will do to describe the **Villa Delle Stelle**. Three luxurious suites, each with a distinctively different design theme, have been fashioned from a historic Hollywood mansion. A beautiful and very interesting lodging alternative to a hotel or bed and breakfast.”—TripAdvisor Member, Austin, Texas

Villa Delle Stelle, 6087 Harold Way, Hollywood, 323 876 8100

“The **Inn at Playa del Rey** is amazing. Who knew L.A. could be relaxing and peaceful?”—TripAdvisor Member, Sun City, Calif.

Inn at Playa del Rey, 435 Culver Blvd., Playa del Rey, 310 574 1920

“Who knew L.A. could be relaxing and peaceful?”

A TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice Award Winner, The **Hotel Bel Air** is “an experience to be remembered. We loved it in every way. The whole team made us feel welcome from the moment we arrived. Our suite was private, exclusive and so comfortable. I want to go back as soon as I can!”—TripAdvisor Member, Northern Ireland

Hotel Bel-Air, 701 Stone Canyon Road, Bel Air, 310 472 1211

BUDGET

“I was on a tight budget and decided to take a chance on the **Howard Johnson Reseda**. All in all, the stay here was amazing for the price. The staff was friendly and always kept our room clean. The best bang for your buck!”—TripAdvisor Member, Toronto, Ontario

Howard Johnson Inn & Suites Reseda, 7432 Reseda Blvd., 818 344 0324

“A lovely little house, conveniently located just off Sunset Boulevard,” the **Sanborn Guest House** “is beautifully decorated with light, simple and elegant furniture. Everything was very clean, and we felt good returning to the place after spending the day outside. A great value for money and a nice alternative to boring, uniform hotels.”—TripAdvisor Member, Zagreb, Croatia

Sanborn Guest House, 1005 1/2 Sanborn Ave., 323 666 3947

“I don't even want to write a review, since it was just a great place to stay. Keep it secret! Right behind the Kodak Theater, the **Hollywood Orchid Suites** is just such a good location to have fun in Hollywood!”—TripAdvisor Member, Tokyo, Japan

Hollywood Orchid Suites, 1753 Orchid Ave., Hollywood, 323 874 9678

“...a total delight from check-in to check-out”

LUXURY

“I can't say enough about how helpful and pleasant everyone at the **InterContinental** was, from the front desk to the bartenders, waitresses and even the valet.”—TripAdvisor Member, Orange County, Calif.

InterContinental Los Angeles Century City, 2151 Avenue of the Stars, 310 284 6500

“The **Beverly Hills Hotel** provides discreet, professional levels of service that are now so rarely seen in American hotels. Set in attractive grounds, the location is superb for exploring the area. Don't come here to watch celebrities—come here to be treated like one.”—TripAdvisor Member, Kent, England

Beverly Hills Hotel, 9641 Sunset Blvd., Beverly Hills, 310 276 2251

“We stayed at the **Omni Hotel Los Angeles** for two nights, and it was one of the best experiences I've ever had! It was a total delight from check-in to check-out.”—TripAdvisor Member, Copenhagen, Denmark

Omni Los Angeles at California Plaza, 251 S. Olive St., 213 617 3300

Where to **STAY**



HIDDEN GEMS

The **Venice Beach House** is “so close to the beach, we left the windows open a while before falling asleep listening to the Pacific Ocean.”—TripAdvisor Member, Derby, U.K.

Venice Beach House, 15 Thirtieth Ave., 310 823 1966

“The **Inn at 657** allows for both privacy and conviviality with comfortable, quiet rooms and inviting communal areas. The host was a great and interesting conversationalist and a goldmine of neighborhood history. L.A. doesn’t seem so daunting to us now.”—TripAdvisor Member, Nashville, Tenn.

Inn at 657, 657 W. 23rd St., 213 741 2200

The **Secret Garden** exudes an “ambiance of gradually fading gentility. But I’m not going to wax too lyrical about this exceptionally delightful B&B—it might lead to over-booking when I want to return. I will say that the Secret Garden and its relaxed, unobtrusive, quiet hospitality will be my first choice, always.”—TripAdvisor Member, Conne de Labarde, France

The Secret Garden B&B, 8039 Selma Ave., 323 656 3888

“...we left the windows open a while before falling asleep listening to the Pacific Ocean.”

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