# LOS ANGELES

**SPRING & SUMMER GUIDE 2012** 



### The best places to eat, sleep and play in Los Angeles this spring and summer

With more than 60 million reviews and opinions, TripAdvisor makes travel planning a snap for more than 50 million travelers visiting our site each month.





### 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 50 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 555,000 hotels, 200,000 vacation rentals, 175,000 attractions and 780,000 restaurants on TripAdvisor.com. Learn from other travelers what to expect before you make your plans.



- 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

### .OS 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 celebritystudded 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**

- I. Brent's Deli, 19565 Parthenia St., 818 886 5679
- 2. Providence, 5955 Melrose Ave., 323 460 4170
- 3. The Bazaar by Jose Andres, 465 S. La Cienega Blvd., 310 246 5555
- 4. Madeo, 8897 Beverly Blvd., 310 859 4903
- 5. Bottega Louie, 700 S. Grand Ave., 213 802 1470

- 6. In-N-Out Burger, 7009 Sunset Blvd., Hollywood, 800 786 1000
- 7. Gaffey Street Diner, 247 N. Gaffey St., 310 548 6964
- 8. Gjelina, 1429 Abbot Kinney Blvd., 310 450 1429
- 9. Getty Center Restaurant, 1200 Getty Center Dr., 310 440 6810
- 10. Angelini Osteria, 7313 Beverly Blvd., 323 297 0070



### **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 **EI 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, 1727 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 10 million traveler 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

"...scenic canyons, creeks, waterfalls and a gorgeous view"

"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



### **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

"Friendly staff, amazingly inexpensive and wonderful treatments, and the water is magic! And when you leave **Beverly Hot Springs**, you're in vibrant Koreatown, with so many nearby food options, it's sinful. My favorite spa in one of my favorite neighborhoods in my favorite city on earth."—TripAdvisor Member, Los Angeles

Beverly Hot Springs Spa, 308 N. Oxford Ave., 323 734 7000

"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

## What's 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

Try the Paparazzi Tour with **Off 'N Running**. "It's nice to see the city from the sidewalk instead of from the inside of a car. I saw things I never knew were there, and I've lived here for over 50 years."—TripAdvisor Member, Los Angeles

Off 'N Running Tours, 310 246 1418

"A **day pass** is available for all Metro bus and rail lines for \$6."—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

- I. Brent's Deli, 19565 Parthenia St., 818 886 5679
- 2. Providence, 5955 Melrose Ave., 323 460 4170
- 3. The Bazaar by Jose Andres, 465 S. La Cienega Blvd., 310 246 5555
- 4. Madeo, 8897 Beverly Blvd., 310 859 4903
- 5. Bottega Louie, 700 S. Grand Ave., 213 802 1470

- 6. In-N-Out Burger, 7009 Sunset Blvd., Hollywood, 800 786 1000
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#### **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

Take the kids on a picnic LA-style and pick up "terrific (and cheap) burritos and tacos" at **Yuca's**. "The carne asada, the cochinita pibil and the tamales are not to be missed."—TripAdvisor Member, Los Angeles

Yuca's, 2056 Hillhurst Ave., 323 662 1214

"Vito's Pizza did not disappoint! The fresh mozzarella pizza was incredible. Our son had the meat lover's slice and he devoured it."—TripAdvisor Member, Chandler, Ariz.

Vito's Pizza, 846 N. La Cienega Blvd., 310 652 6859



### **ROMANCE**

"Puran's has delicious food and a warm, inviting atmosphere that's great for a first date, because it's romantic but not too formal."—TripAdvisor Member, Los Angeles

Puran's, 2064 Hillhurst Ave., 323 667 1357

"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

"Vibrato Grill Jazz is my new favorite! The music is outstanding, the dining room is gorgeous and the service very attentive. My steak was cooked perfectly! It's expensive,

Vibrato Grill Jazz, 2930 Beverly Glen Circle, 310 474 9400

special."—TripAdvisor Member

but your dinner will be memorable and very



#### BUDGET

"El Tepeyac is our favorite place to eat. Very authentic Mexican food and the plates are huge! There's always a line, but it's worth it."—TripAdvisor Member, La Crescenta, Calif.

El Tepeyac, 812 N. Evergreen Ave., 323 267 8668

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**

Cru was delicious! Everything was so fresh tasting and the service was great."-TripAdvisor Member, Arlington, Va.

Cru Raw Food, 1521 Griffith Park Blvd., 323 667 1551



#### 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

"If you've never experienced good vegan cuisine, please do yourself a favor and visit the Madeleine Bistro. I had a 'scallop' dish made from tofu & seitan. The presentation was simply stunning, and the taste extraordinary."-TripAdvisor Member, Baltimore, Md.

Madeleine Bistro, 18621 Ventura Blvd., 818 758 6971

"Little Next Door is the bistro next door to the fancier Little Door Restaurant. The food was excellent and very reasonably priced; the service top-notch. We sat at one of the delightful outdoor tables—it felt like Paris!"—TripAdvisor Member, Oregon

Little Next Door, 8142 W. 3rd St., 323 951 1010

Bulan Thai has "vegan food that even meat eaters will love. Yes, it's that good. Don't miss their crispy rice salad; it's a true masterpiece!"—TripAdvisor Member, Los Angeles

Bulan Thai Vegetarian Restaurant, 7168 Melrose Ave., 323 857 1882

"Monte Alban is Oaxacan food that Oaxacans rave about. They serve all the regional specialties you should expect, including 3 kinds of homemade mole (negro, colorado and verde), clayudas, molotes, memelas, tamales, tortas, mojarra, etc."-TripAdvisor Member, Santa Monica, Calif.

Monte Alban, 11927 Santa Monica Blvd., 310 444 7736

### SPECIAL EVENTS

Find the perfect summer read at the Los Angeles Times Festival of **Books**, a free event featuring author readings and signings, cooking demos with celebrity chefs, dramatic readings for the kids and even giant crossword puzzles! (April 21 - 22)

Los Angeles Times Festival of Books, USC, 301 Trousdale Pkwy., 213 237 BOOK (2665), http://www.latimes.com/extras/festivalofbooks

Celebrate Mother's Day for mothers and daughters everywhere at the Revion Run/Walk for Women, a charity event raising money for the fight against breast and ovarian cancers. Celebrity hosts and participants bring some star power to the day, with live entertainment and plenty of refreshments awaiting you at the finish line. (May 12)

Revion Run/Walk for Women, Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, 310 322 3344, http://www.revlonrunwalk.org

Venture out to Ventura County for the sweetest celebration in Southern California, the Strawberry Festival. Live music, eating contests, kids' rides and plenty of fruitful family entertainment make this weekend well worth the half-hour trip to Oxnard. (May 19 - 20)

California Strawberry Festival, Strawberry Meadows of College Park, 3250 S. Rose Ave., Oxnard, 805 385 4739, http://strawberry-fest.org

Party in the streets of West Hollywood during Los Angeles LGBT Pride. Kick things off with the revving of motorcycles opening the annual Dyke March, then check out star-studded live entertainment on the Mainstage. Finally, join thousands of LGBT people, businesses, families and friends parading down Santa Monica Boulevard in the annual Pride Parade. (June 8 - 10)

Los Angeles Pride 2011, West Hollywood, 323 969 8302, http://www.lapride.org



Filmmakers and film lovers converge at the Los Angeles Film Festival, where a prize purse totaling \$75,000 is up for grabs for the year's best narrative and documentary features. Meet the professionals, take part in indie film workshops or simply sit back, munch on some popcorn and enjoy the show. (June 14 - 24)

Los Angeles Film Festival, Various venues, 310 432 1240, http://www.lafilmfest.com

The Pasadena Chalk Festival is the world's largest street painting event, attracting artists from around the world. In addition to the art on display, spectators will also enjoy live music and Kid's Chalkland. (June 16 - 17)

Pasadena Chalk Festival, Paseo Colorado, Pasadena, 626 795 9100, http://www.pasadenachalkfestival.com

Revel in the luxury of legendary, classic automobiles during the Rodeo Drive Concours d'Elegance. This year, the theme is "The British Are Coming!" and the featured automobile is the Aston Martin. (June 17)

Rodeo Drive Concours d'Elegance, Rodeo Drive, Beverly Hills, http://www.rodeodrive-bh.com

Where better than L.A. to find sun, sand and surf? Hang Ten at the 2012 International Surf Festival! Thousands of competitors and hundreds of thousands of spectators arrive annually to master the waves along Manhattan, Hermosa and Redondo beaches. For the land-loving set, there are also volley ball matches, beach runs and sandcastle contests. (July 31 - August 5)

2012 International Surf Festival, Manhattan, Hermosa and Redondo Beaches, http://www.surffestival.org

Celebrate Japanese-American culture during Nisei Week. Beginning in 1934 as a way to foster goodwill and attract business to the Little Tokyo area, the festival features a wide array of cultural events, including an exhibition of traditional Japanese ondo. (August 11 - 19)

Nisei Week Japanese Festival, Little Tokyo, 213 687 7193, http://www.niseiweek.org

## Where 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 Mr. C Beverly Hills is amazing in every way. These people know how to treat guests AND run a beautiful and trendy hotel. The decor was uncluttered and sleek. Even my kids were impressed!"—TripAdvisor Member, Chappaqua, N.Y.

Mr. C Beverly Hills, 1224 Beverwill Dr., 310 277 2800

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**

"The **Palomar** is located adjacent to Beverly Hills with access the areas finest restaurants, shopping, and the beautiful UCLA campus. The lobby, elevators, restaurants, bars, and hallways are decorated in a splash of vibrant colors and textures both sophisticated and stylish."—TripAdvisor Member, Boulder, Colo.

Hotel Palomar Los Angeles - Westwood, 10740 Wilshire Blvd. 310 475 8711



"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

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

My daughter and I had a wonderful stay at Jerry's. Everyone was so kind and helpful and we loved the very convenient location. Fantastic value for money - how do they manage to squeeze everything in?"-TripAdvisor Member, Pershore, U.K.

Jerry's Motel, 285 S. Lucas Ave., 213 481 8181



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

"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

"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

"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 checkout."—TripAdvisor Member, Copenhagen, Denmark

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



The Redbury is a real five-star hotel with great character and a tremendous level of service. The rooms are stunning - huge high-ceilinged suites with marvelously decadent decoration and a four-poster bed. Each room is also equipped with a vintage record player and a selection of albums!"-TripAdvisor Member, Paris, France

The Redbury @ Hollywood and Vine, 1717 Vine St., 323 962 1717

## Where 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

"We struggled to find a nice hotel in LA that didn't break the bank, so I decided to check out B&Bs instead and found this gem. The Garden Cottage was reasonably priced and perfect for us. We really liked the location near the farmers' market. The house has a lovely vibe and our room was spacious and had plenty of character."-TripAdvisor Member, Auckland, New Zealand

The Garden Cottage, 8318 W. 4th St., 323 653 5616

a while before falling asleep

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