



Los Angeles

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Bestia (p82)
- ➔ Sushi Gen (p81)
- ➔ Q Sushi (p82)
- ➔ Bar Ama' (p82)
- ➔ Connie & Ted's (p119)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Line Hotel (p204)
- ➔ Palihouse (p159)
- ➔ Chateau Marmont (p115)
- ➔ Terranea Resort (p183)
- ➔ Petit Ermitage (p115)

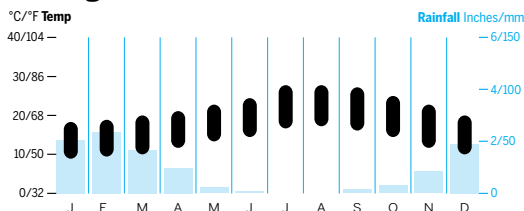
Why Go?

LA runs deeper than her blonde beaches, rolling hills and beamers-for-days would have you believe. She's a myth. A beacon for countless small-town dreamers, rockers and risk-takers, an open-minded angel who encourages her people to live and let live without judgement or shame. She has given us Quentin Tarantino, Jim Morrison and Serena and Venus Williams; spawned skateboarding and gangsta rap; popularized implants, electrolysis and Spandex; and has nurtured not just great writers, performers and directors, but also the ground-breaking yogis who first brought Eastern wisdom to the Western world.

LA is best defined by simple life-affirming moments: a cracked-ice, jazz-age cocktail on Beverly Blvd, a hike high into the Hollywood Hills sagebrush, a swirling pod of dolphins off Point Dume, a pink-washed sunset over a thundering Venice Beach drum circle, the perfect taco. And her night music. There is always night music.

When to Go

Los Angeles



Feb The red carpet is rolled out for the Academy Awards. Prime time for celeb-spotting.

Apr & Sep Most tourists visit when the sun shines the brightest on LA's golden sands.

Oct–Nov & Jan–Mar The region's two distinct wet seasons.

LA Now

Now is an exciting time to visit LA. Downtown is booming, tech money has turned Santa Monica and Venice into Silicon Beach, and Echo Park and Highland Park bring Eastside cool. Recession nightmares are over, the economy is thriving, and an open and experimental climate energizes the art, architecture, music and fashion scenes, while LA's eclectic palate is challenged and sated by progressive chefs who source from local growers that flaunt their earthy goods at hundreds of weekly outdoor farmers markets throughout the city.

WORLD-CLASS MUSIC

The sheer abundance of world-class musicians within LA's orbit, paired with spectacular and historic venues, make it a minor tragedy to leave town without a concert in the memory files. The **Hollywood Bowl**, which aside from being the summer home of the LA Philharmonic, has hosted countless legends from Ella to Radiohead. Sitting beneath and among the stars, in a natural bowl tucked into the Hollywood Hills, while music washes over you, will make you feel all kinds of glamorous. A second, and only slightly less tasty, summertime venue is the **Greek Theatre** – another nature-cupped outdoor amphitheater, which hosts rock and pop acts from MGMT to Gary Clark Jr to Wilco.

The music doesn't stop when the weather turns. The **Walt Disney Concert Hall**, the winter base for the LA Phil, is an architectural masterwork and also hosts jazz giants such as Sonny Rollins and Keith Jarrett.

Crave the ass-shaking underground? Check into **TheLift**, our favorite house music throwdown, co-hosted by KCRW DJ Jeremy Sole. Acoustic troubadours hold pre-tour residencies at the Bootleg Theater (p108) in Silver Lake, and the recently renovated United Artists Theatre (p78), adjacent to uber-cool Ace Hotel Downtown, launched with a stirring show by Spiritualized.

DON'T MISS

On a balmy summer evening, there are few better places to find yourself than at mid-century mod Dodger Stadium (p107), where the sunsets are stunning, the beer cold, the crowd passionate and the ball club a consistent winner.

Fast Facts: LA County

- ✦ Population: 9,963,000
- ✦ Area: 4060 sq miles
- ✦ No of major movie studios: six
- ✦ No of unsold screenplays: countless

Planning your Trip

- ✦ Think about what you want to see and where you want to hang out, and book accommodations accordingly to minimize traffic masochism and maximize joy. We suggest moving around the city, staying for a few nights each in different neighborhoods.
- ✦ Book your accommodations at <http://hotels.lonelyplanet.com>.

LA's Best Beaches

- ✦ Westward Beach is often overshadowed by Zuma to the north, but this wide sweep of sand rambles all the way to Point Dume. Seals, sea lions and dolphins are frequently glimpsed beyond the break.
- ✦ El Matador State Beach is defined by sandstone rock spires that rise from the swirling azure sea, and its topless-optional ethos.
- ✦ Venice Beach offers boardwalk, bodybuilders, streetballers, skate rats and hippies old and new peddling goods bizarre, bland and beautiful. The Sunday drum circle is an institution.

Resources

- ✦ **LA Observed** (www.laobserved.com) offers a high-brow, independent and incisive perspective on the inner workings of the city – from arts to fashion to politics to dining.