



# Los Angeles

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## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Bestia (p368)
- ➔ Sushi Gen (p368)
- ➔ Fishing with Dynamite (p563)
- ➔ Bar Ama' (p369)
- ➔ Elf Cafe (p370)

## Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Palihouse (p367)
- ➔ Chateau Marmont (p364)
- ➔ Terranea (p563)
- ➔ Ace Hotel (p363)
- ➔ Vibe Hotel (p363)

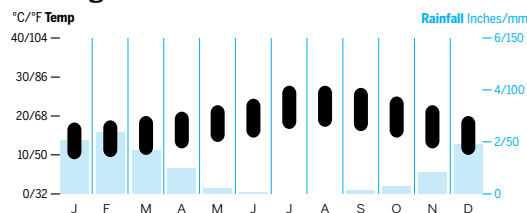
## Why Go?

LA runs deeper than her blonde beaches, bosomy hills and ubiquitous beepers 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 judgment 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 those 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 (not that) wet seasons.

## DON'T MISS

On a balmy summer evening, there are few better places to find yourself than at art deco Dodger Stadium (p376), 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** 4,060 sq miles
- ➔ **Major movie studios** six
- ➔ **Unsold screenplays** countless

## Planning Your Trip

Think about what you want to see and where you want to hang out, and book accommodation accordingly. We suggest moving around the city, staying for a few nights each in different neighborhoods.

Book your accommodation at <http://hotels.lonelyplanet.com>.

## Resources

- ➔ **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.

## 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 the Eastside cool. 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, who flaunt their earthy goods at hundreds of weekly outdoor farmers markets throughout the city.

## DON'T MISS

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 (p374) – 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.

Acoustic troubadours hold pre-tour residencies at the **Bootleg Theater** ([www.bootlegtheater.org](http://www.bootlegtheater.org); 2220 Beverly Blvd) in Silver Lake, and the recently renovated United Artists Theatre (p374) (adjacent to uber-cool Ace Hotel (p363) downtown), launched with a stirring show by Spiritualized.

## 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 top-optional ethos.
- ➔ Venice Beach offers boardwalk, body builders, street ballers, skate rats and hippies old and new peddling goods bizarre, bland and beautiful. The Sunday drum circle is an institution.