



Los Angeles

Includes »

| | |
|--|-----|
| Downtown LA | 69 |
| Hollywood | 84 |
| Los Feliz | 99 |
| Silver Lake | 104 |
| West Hollywood & Mid-City | 108 |
| Beverly Hills, Bel Air, Brentwood & Westwood | 129 |
| Malibu & Pacific Palisades | 142 |
| Santa Monica | 151 |
| Venice | 163 |
| Long Beach | 176 |

Best Places to Eat

- » Gjelina (p168)
- » Sushi Ike (p93)
- » Mozza (p93)
- » Ita Cho (p118)
- » Rustic Canyon (p158)

Best Places to Stay

- » Figueroa Hotel (p79)
- » Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel (p92)
- » Chateau Marmont (p116)
- » Terranea Resort (p176)
- » London (p116)

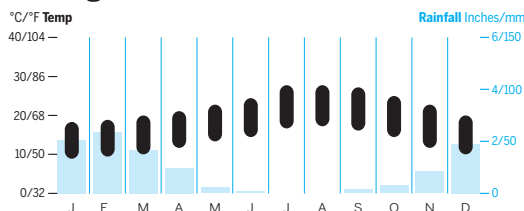
Why Go?

LA runs deeper than her blonde beaches, bosomy, celebri-fied hills and beemers-for-days would have you believe. She's a myth. A beacon for countless small-town dreamers, rockers and daredevils, 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 groundbreaking 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 burrito. And her night music. There is always night music.

When to Go

Los Angeles



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

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

October–November, January–March The region's two distinct wet seasons.

LA is Now

Now is an exciting time to visit LA. Hollywood, Downtown and Echo Park are in the midst of an unstoppable urban renaissance. An open and experimental climate energizes the art, music and fashion scenes, and innovative chefs have infused LA's eclectic palate with creativity and flavor, while increasing their reliance on local growers who flaunt their earthly goods at hundreds of weekly outdoor farmers markets throughout the city.

DON'T MISS

With so many world-class musicians within LA's orbit, and such spectacular and historic venues, it would be a minor tragedy to leave town without a concert in the bank. 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 some tremendous rock and pop acts from MGMT 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 sees its share of intriguing acts, such as jazz giants Sonny Rollins and Keith Jarrett and electro-ambient ambassadors, Air.

Crave the underground? Check into the **Stronghold**, the Venice-based promoter. Though its speak-easy is no more it promotes local up-and-comers in venues across town. Slightly better known acoustic troubadours hold pretour residencies at the **Bootleg Theater** in Silver Lake, and in Lincoln Heights where a handful of DJs have re-imagined dubstep at the weekly club the **Low End Theory**.

DON'T MISS

Kobe Bryant's pure and true jump shot and Jack Nicholson's dark glasses are on display at the Staples Center when basketball season rocks LA from October to April...or June.

Fast Facts: LA County

- » Population: 10,393,000
- » Area: 4,060 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 accommodation 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 accommodation at <http://hotels.lonelyplanet.com>

Resources

- » www.laweekly.com is the best source for LA news, dining and entertainment listings.

LA's Best Beaches

» Westward Beach (p143) is often overshadowed by Zuma to the north, but this wide sweep of sand rambles all the way to Point Dume, and local seals, sea lions and dolphins are frequently glimpsed beyond the break.

» El Matador State Beach (p143) is defined by sandstone rock spires that rise from the swirling azure sea, and its topless-optional ethos.

» Venice Beach (p163) is notable more for its odd pockets of humanity – boardwalk bodybuilders, streetballers, skate rats and hippies old and new peddling goods bizarre, bland and beautiful. The Sunday drum circle is an institution, and the winter sunsets are glorious.