

# Things To Do In And Around Los Angeles

Here are a few suggestions for day trips. Most of the links are found under “Day Trips/Outings.”

## Gardens:

**Descanso Gardens** (La Canada-Flintridge)

<http://www.descansogardens.org/>

**The Huntington** (San Marino)

<http://www.huntington.org/>

You can easily spend an entire day wandering around the spectacular botanical gardens, but save a little time to also visit the library and art collections.

**L.A. Arboretum** (Arcadia)

<http://www.arboretum.org/>

Not as manicured as the other gardens, but the entrance fee is lower, and the gardens are filled with wild peacocks that are interesting to tourists.

## Parks:

**Lacy Park** (San Marino)

<http://www.cityofsanmarino.org/277/Lacy-Park>

This small park is hidden in a residential area of San Marino, so the parking is limited. The open green areas are perfect for playing with balls and running around, and the looped road is perfect for bicycles and scooters. Dogs are welcome. They collect an entrance fee on the weekends.

## Hiking/Wilderness:

**Big Santa Anita Canyon** (a.k.a. Chantry Flats in Arcadia)

<http://www.bigsantaanitacanyon.com/>

Follow Santa Anita Avenue up into the mountains, past the Santa Anita Dam, to the picnic grounds and parking lot. This section of the Angeles National Forest is open from 6am-8pm daily and fills up quickly on weekends. There are over 40 miles of trails that lead down into the canyon, and private cabins along the stream.

**Eaton Canyon Natural Area** (Pasadena)

<http://www.ecnca.org/>

This 190-acre nature preserve is located in the San Gabriel Mountains. They have a nature center, hiking trails, and picnic areas. It is open daily from sunrise to sunset. It is located at 1750 North Altadena Drive, one block north of New York Drive in Pasadena.

**Monrovia Canyon Park**

<http://www.cityofmonrovia.org/recreation/page/monrovia-parks-0>

This park is just 5 minutes from Downtown Monrovia. Take Canyon Blvd. north off Foothill Blvd. and drive through the residential area for about 1 mile, staying to the right. Turn right into Canyon Park at the 3-foot-tall sign, then enjoy the 80 acres of trails in the San Gabriel Mountains. The short trail leading to the 30-foot waterfall is shaded, so makes for a comfortable outing even in the summer. Canyon Park is closed on Tuesdays, but is open the other weekdays from 8am-5pm, and from 7am-5pm on weekends. There is a nature center and a

statue of "Samson, the Hot Tub Bear" just outside in the parking lot. If you do not know the story of Samson, you will love the book by Wendy Tokuda (*Samson the Hot Tub Bear: A True Story*).

## Beaches for Tide Pooling and Sea Caves:

**Leo Carrillo State Beach** (NORTH: Malibu, just north of Zuma)

[http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=616](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=616)

**Corona del Mar Beach** (SOUTH)

[http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=652](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=652)

Also check out neighboring "Little Corona" (Marine Life Refuge) for marine life pools and ranger tours.

**Crystal Cove State Beach** (SOUTH: between Laguna and Corona del Mar)

[http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=644](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=644)

**Main Beach, Laguna** (SOUTH)

[http://www.orangecounty.net/html/beaches-lb\\_main.html](http://www.orangecounty.net/html/beaches-lb_main.html)

## Zoos and Aquariums:

**Aquarium of the Pacific** (Long Beach)

<http://www.aquariumofpacific.org/visit/families>

**Cabrillo Marine Aquarium** (San Pedro)

<http://www.cabrillomarineaquarium.org/education/programs-individual-family.asp>

**L.A. Zoo and Botanical Gardens** (Griffith Park)

<http://lazoo.org/visit/showsandactivities/index.html>

## Museums:

### Art Museums:

#### **Getty Center**

<http://www.getty.edu/>

Art museum with an incredible view and super family room, and children love the little tram ride up the hill. Ask for the Art Detective Cards to help your children explore galleries throughout the museum. Admission is **FREE**, but you pay for parking.

#### **LACMA (Los Angeles County Museum of Art)**

<http://www.lacma.org/programs/education/arts-nexgen-lacma/nexgen-boone-childrens-gallery>

Ask for a Family Guide and Art Tote at the Welcome Center

#### **MOCA (The Museum of Contemporary Art)**

<http://www.moca.org/education/teens>

There is a teen program that runs through the school year.

#### **Norton Simon Museum** (Pasadena)

<http://www.nortonsimon.org/>

This art museum displays collections of European paintings and sculptures from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

#### **Pacific Asia Museum** (Pasadena)

<http://www.pacificasiamuseum.org/>

This art museum displays collections from Asia and the Pacific region, from ancient times to today.

## Children's Museums:

#### **Kidspace Children's Museum** (Pasadena)

<http://www.kidspacemuseum.org/>

This hands-on museum at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena is a great place for young children to learn through play.

#### **Pretend City Children's Museum** (Irvine)

<http://www.pretendcity.org/>

## Natural History Museums:

#### **La Brea Tar Pits and the Page Museum** (Wilshire Blvd. in LA)

<http://www.tarpits.org/>

#### **Natural History Museum**

<http://www.nhm.org/site/activities-programs>

They have an impressive room of rocks and minerals, as well as a room of live insects for Life Sciences.

## History Museums:

### **The Autry in Griffith Park**

(Cowboys and Indians, Westward Expansion)

Same parking lot as the L.A. Zoo

<http://theautry.org/>

### **Museum of Tolerance (Holocaust) FOR TEENS AND ADULTS ONLY**

<http://www.museumoftolerance.com>

### **Olvera Street**

<http://olvera-street.com/>

Original center of Los Angeles. Nowadays it is a Mexican market with old homes. There are walking tours available or you can just explore by yourselves.

### **Wells Fargo History Museum**

[https://www.wellsfargo.com/about/history/museums/los\\_angeles](https://www.wellsfargo.com/about/history/museums/los_angeles)

Behind the bank on First Avenue (opposite MOCA, the Museum of Contemporary Art)

**FREE.** Ask them to put on the Gold Rush movie and let you ride in the stagecoach. The audio tour is good too. The museum is small, but is filled with Gold Rush, Pony Express, and Transcontinental Railroad information.

\*Very close to Disney Hall and quite close to Olvera Street, so you can visit all of these in one trip.

## Science Museums:

### **California Science Center and Imax**

<http://www.californiasciencecenter.org/>

Inexpensive (**donation only**) and loaded with hands-on activities. There is a fee for parking.

-Check out the gigantic 50-foot human body called "Tess" in Body Works.

-Check out the area where you can construct your own building with blocks and wood sticks, and then turn on the earthquake machine. Will your building withstand the earthquake?! Enter the earthquake simulation room too.

### **Discovery Cube (Santa Ana)**

<http://www.discoverycube.org/>

Hands-on science museum.

### **Griffith Observatory and Planetarium**

<http://www.griffithobs.org/>

-Admission to the observatory building and grounds is **FREE**. There is a fee for the movie, but it is definitely worth the money. There is a phenomenal area downstairs about space.

-Make time to walk along the hiking trails. The one leaving from the parking lot gets you pretty close to the Hollywood sign.

\*Close to Hollywood Walk of Fame

## Best Deals:

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## Theme Parks/Entertainment Industry:

### Disneyland (Anaheim)

[https://disneyland.disney.go.com/destinations/disneyland/?CMP=OKC-dlr\\_gmap\\_38](https://disneyland.disney.go.com/destinations/disneyland/?CMP=OKC-dlr_gmap_38)

### Universal Studios Hollywood

<http://www.universalstudioshollywood.com/>

### Warner Bros. Studios Tour (Burbank)

<https://www.wbstudiotour.com/>

## San Diego Area:

\*\*\*Check online for San Diego Fun Passes . They include the San Diego Zoo, Wild Animal Park and Sea World for a reduced price.

### **San Juan Capistrano Mission** (San Juan Capistrano)

<http://www.missionsjc.com/>

The 21 Spanish Missions are studied by all 4<sup>th</sup> Grade students in the state as they were among the first permanent settlements in California. San Juan Capistrano is one of the best preserved missions. The train stop is right there, so consider taking the train. The stop is called San Juan Capistrano.

### **San Diego Zoo Safari Park** (Escondido) (Formerly known as the Wild Animal Park)

<http://www.sdzsafari.org/>

Train ride is a must. Go on it right away because the lines get longer and longer later in the day. Like a safari vs. a zoo.

### **San Diego Zoo**

<http://zoo.sandiegozoo.org/>

### **Sea World**

<https://seaworldparks.com/en/seaworld-sandiego/>

Definitely sit in the "Soak Zone" for added excitement and yes, you will get wet.

### **Legoland** (Carlsbad)

<http://www.legoland.com/california/>

## Palm Springs/Palm Desert:

### **Joshua Tree National Park**

<http://www.nps.gov/jotr/index.htm>

-Inexpensive day trip because you only pay for your vehicle. Bring food and water because there is nothing to buy within the park.

-Fun to climb on the gigantic boulders in the desert. The Colorado Desert part is the "low" desert. This is where the creosote bush, ocotillo and cholla cacti grow. The Mojave Desert part is the higher desert which is a little cooler and has a little more moisture. This is where the Joshua trees grow.