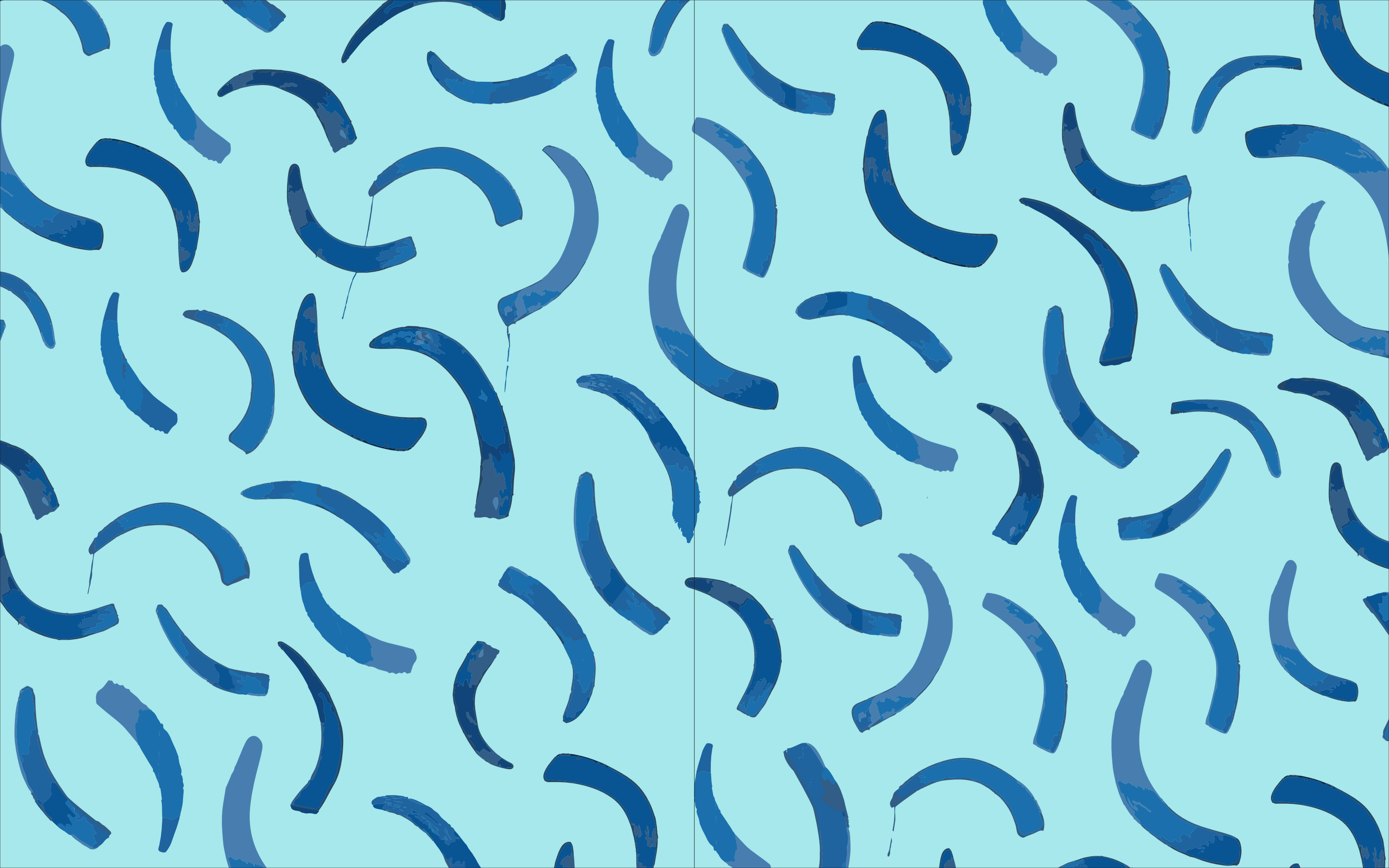


LA

KEY TO THE CITY



Los Angeles





LA



FAIRMONT CENTURY PLAZA

LA

KEY TO THE CITY





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There's no city on earth more closely associated with glamour and celebrity than Los Angeles. This buzzing, beautiful metropolis on the coast—with its glorious beaches, chic hillside neighborhoods, and broad boulevards lined with soaring palm trees and posh boutiques—has been a playground for the fabulous and famous for generations. In LA, tapping into luxe experiences fit for a big-screen star is as easy as being in the know.

From high-flying adventures that put you in the cockpit of a helicopter to bespoke spa treatments intended to keep you grounded, this guide is brimming with opportunities to explore the city like a VIP. Put dinner in the hands of one of the country's finest fish handlers and opt for the omakase at a cozy, exclusive sushi bar, or take up the tongs and throw some dry-aged cuts on the fire at one of the best Korean steakhouses. Plan the shopping day of a lifetime by booking a visit with the stylists overseeing a fashion “library” nestled in a midcentury mansion, or broaden your sensory horizons with a private lesson in the art of perfumery.

The finer things in life are everywhere you look in Los Angeles. Get ready to experience luxury the only-in-LA way.



THE GETTY CENTER

In sparkling hilltop museums and
hip art galleries and workshops,
a vibrant cultural scene awaits.
Explore LA's most inspiring spaces
like a VIP with after-hours tours,
private sessions, and other exclusive
offerings that illuminate a city that's
a work of art in its own right.

Arts and Culture

Night at the Museum

TAKE A BEFORE- OR AFTER-HOURS TOUR OF THE BROAD

A private tour of this stunning Downtown museum is a crash course in contemporary art, minus the crowds.

Musicians take their places in separate rooms. One sits near a window with an accordion on her knee; another strums a guitar while submerged in a bathtub. This transcendent 2012 video installation by artist Ragnar Kjartansson—presented on several screens in a single gallery space—feels downright prescient in the era of remote conferencing and live-streamed concerts, and it's one of the many beautiful things that will transfix you at the Broad.

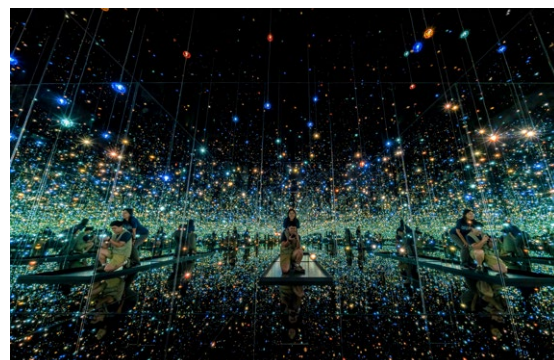
Since it opened in a jaw-dropping honeycomb-style structure on Grand Avenue in 2015, the museum has been a mandatory stop for contemporary art enthusiasts and anyone who has been dying to get a taste of eternity inside one of Yayoi Kusama's Instagram-friendly mirrored infinity rooms. A one-hour or ninety-minute tour before or after the museum opens is the ultimate way to take it all in.

"Visitors can enjoy the Broad museum without the usual crowds, with ample opportunity to admire the unique Diller Scofidio + Renfro architecture and exclusive access to one of the world's leading collections of postwar and contemporary art," says Stacy Lieberman, the museum's deputy director.

The tours—which range from \$100 to \$150 a person—are designed with every kind of guest in mind. Guides with encyclopedic knowledge of contemporary art and the museum's collection lead groups and individuals on personalized tours that take into account the audience's familiarity with the landscape. That means guests who slept through art history class won't feel out of their element, while those who wrote a master's thesis on Andy Warhol will still learn something new. According to Lieberman, guides are full of insights and fun facts about the works on view. They can even tailor the focus of the tour, whether it's highlights from the Broad collection or works in a special exhibition.

But some pieces in the collection are essential for every visitor. Lieberman says most groups will likely learn more about Jeff Koons' *Balloon Dog (Blue)* (1994–2000), Robert Therrien's *Under the Table* (1994), and Barbara Kruger's

Untitled (Your body is a battleground) (1989). In the quietude of an otherwise empty museum, the works take on a whole new light.

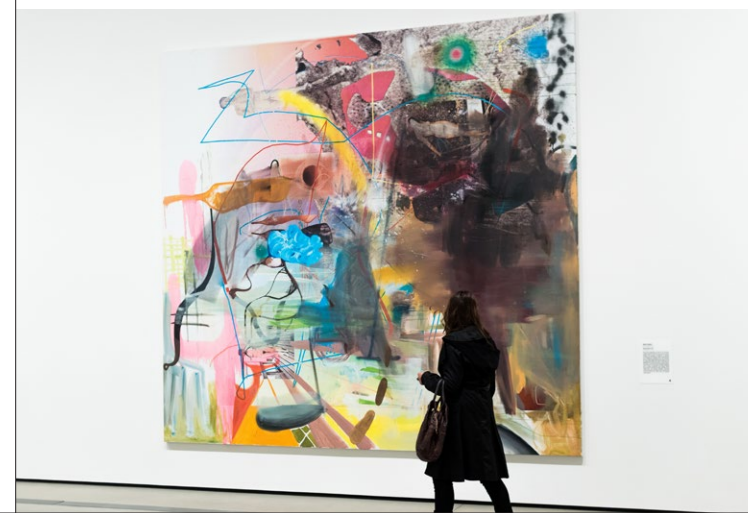


INSIDER INFO

Private tours include exclusive access to Yayoi Kusama's glittering experiential artwork *Infinity Mirrored Room—The Souls of Millions of Light Years Away*. Typically, a special ticket is required for admission.

WHILE YOU'RE THERE

Plan ahead and make a reservation at Otium (otiumla.com), Chef Tim Hollingsworth's shrine to contemporary American cuisine nestled right next to the Broad. With its soaring wood-and-glass facade and elegant outdoor dining areas, the restaurant is a work of art in its own right. If you're in the mood for something more casual (or if everyone in your party can't agree on what they want to eat), the massive Downtown food hall Grand Central Market is just a few blocks away.



Drive Me Crazy

HOW TO SEE THE PETERSEN AUTOMOTIVE MUSEUM LIKE A VIP

Customizable private tours are a luxe way to get a closer look at some extraordinary vehicles.

Even when its engine is off and it's parked safely behind ropes in a brightly lit gallery, you can practically feel the rumbling roar of the Ferrari Enzo piercing the air. The rare sports car—only four hundred were produced between 2002 and 2004—is one of hundreds of unreal rides in the collection at Petersen Automotive Museum, an audacious shrine to the most impressive automobiles ever to grace the roadways. Launched by magazine publisher Robert E. Petersen in a former department store at the corner of Wilshire and Fairfax in 1994, the museum is a crash course in one hundred and twenty years of automotive history.

Few people will ever get to climb behind the wheel of their own Enzo, and taking a personalized VIP tour of the museum is a similarly exclusive experience. You know how you can basically build a car from top to bottom to your own specifications, from trim to wheels to transmission? Well, the museum's customizable tours are kind of like that. À la carte options for both individuals and groups include a guided tour with one of the museum's historians, dinner up on the flashy structure's fourth-floor terrace, and transportation to and from the museum in one of the cars from its collection. For a little more privacy, they'll even accommodate VIPs before or after the museum's regular hours.

For an everyday upgrade, pay a small additional charge on top of museum admission for an exclusive, no-photos-allowed, ninety-minute tour of the vault, where the museum keeps hundreds of eye-popping cars that aren't currently on display in the museum's galleries. Don't miss their Round Door Rolls-Royce or their 1939 Bugatti Shah, and check out highlights like the Batmobile that Michael Keaton's Batman used to cruise the streets of Gotham in 1989 and the funky 1981 DeLorean that Doc Brown turned into a time machine in *Back to the Future*.

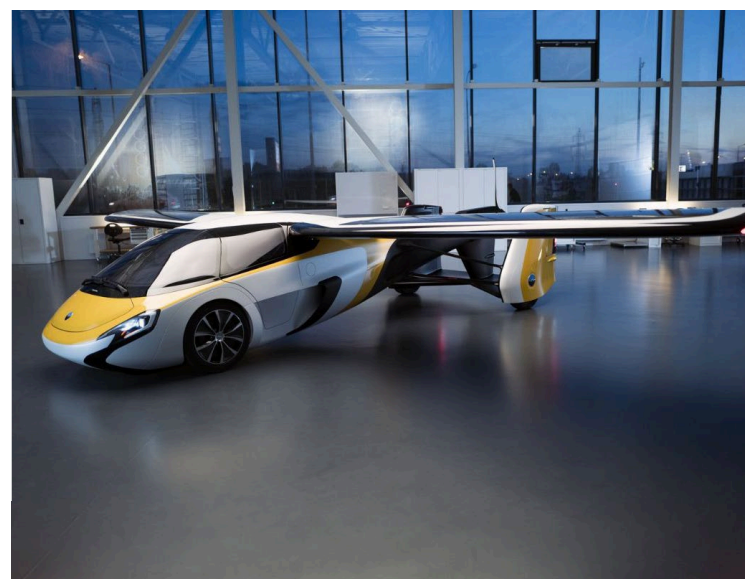


INSIDER INFO

The museum's eye-catching look was part of a major 2015 makeover by architecture firm Kohn Pedersen Fox. The distinctive steel ribbons that enrobe the structure are meant to convey movement and speed.

WHILE YOU'RE THERE

Just a short walk up Fairfax Avenue, you'll find the Original Farmers Market (farmersmarketla.com), a culinary wonderland that's home to destinations like Monsieur Marcel (mrmrmarcel.com). The upscale market and bistro serves French favorites like fondue and escargot, along with awe-inspiring seafood platters.



Magnate Program

TAKE A PRIVATE, DOCENT-LED TOUR OF THE GETTY CENTER OR THE GETTY VILLA

Art history gets a personal touch at two of LA's most beautiful museums.

High in the hills above Brentwood, a modernist Valhalla designed by architect Richard Meier sprawls across 110 acres. With its lush gardens, glittering travertine facade, and spectacular views of the city in every direction, the campus itself is a masterpiece—but that's just the beginning. Inside the Getty Center's confines is a dizzying array of priceless art: manuscripts from the Middle Ages, clay figurines that date back to the sixth millennium BCE, Paul Cézanne's *Still Life with Apples*, Van Gogh's *Irises*. If the sheer vastness of the collection seems overwhelming, experts can help visitors home in on what's most essential to see.

The museum offers private, docent-led tours that unlock the mysteries and histories of both its collections and its grounds and can be personalized to your interests. Into the Impressionists? Down with the decorative arts? Members of the museum's knowledgeable team are ready to step in.

Docents are also on hand at the Getty Villa, the sumptuous museum that oil magnate J. Paul Getty opened in Pacific Palisades in 1974. Inspired by the Villa dei Papiri at Herculaneum, a grand home buried by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius, the villa contains Getty's priceless collection of ancient Greek, Etruscan, and Roman artifacts. Outside, a fragrant herb garden that mimics a Roman kitchen garden circa 79 CE brims with plants that are still widely used today—thyme, rosemary, oregano—as well as rarer plants, like lamb's ear and costmary, which people once used to make a sedative tea. Book a docent and meander through the three-hundred-foot-long peristyle surrounding a glittering reflecting pool, or rent out the whole place to throw a lavish party for the ages.

"Tours are designed to enrich the visitor experience at both sites," says Eric Bruehl, manager of the Getty's docent program. "Tours essentially become conversations around the works of art. While the docent does impart important and necessary information about the art during the tour, the experience is driven by the visitors' ideas and opinions."

To arrange a tour, email visitorservices@getty.edu; for rental info, email events@getty.edu.



INSIDER INFO

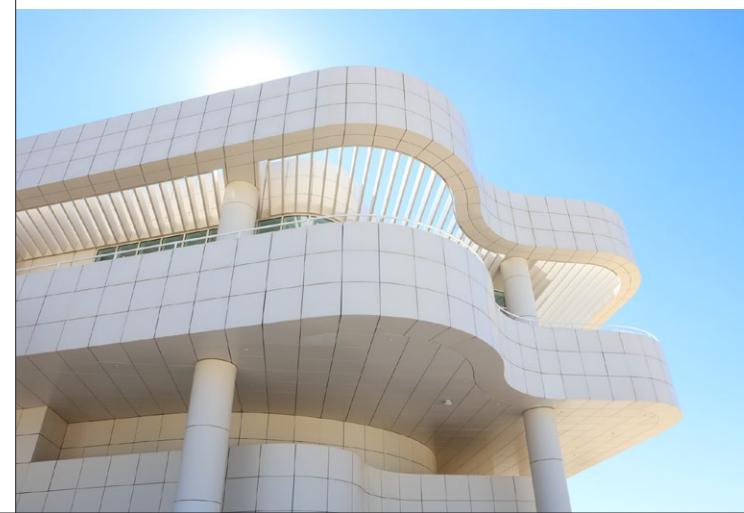
You can nosh on finger sandwiches and lovingly baked pastries during Garden Tea at the Getty Villa. The spread is inspired by the herbs, fruits, and veggies grown in the Villa's own gardens. (Check getty.edu for ticketing info.)

WHILE YOU'RE THERE

The Skirball Cultural Center (skirball.org), another of the city's premier museums, is just a short drive up the 405 from the Getty Center. The institution, which beautifully illuminates Jewish culture, heritage, and ideals, has one of the largest collections of Judaica in the world, and it frequently hosts fascinating touring exhibits. Recent highlights include *Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg* and *Paul Simon: Words & Music*.



THE GETTY VILLA



THE GETTY CENTER

Screen Time

HOW TO EXPERIENCE THE ACADEMY MUSEUM OF MOTION PICTURES LIKE A VIP

An award-winning experience awaits at this shrine to cinema on Wilshire Boulevard.

In 1939, Judy Garland's Dorothy wore a pair of glittering ruby slippers that magically transported her back to Kansas from Oz. Today, those iconic heels have a home befitting their place in pop-culture history.

Opened in 2021 in a spectacularly retrofitted art deco department store on the corner of Wilshire and Fairfax, the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures bursts with priceless costumes, props, and instruments from the earliest days of the film industry—and, of course, Oscar statuettes. Bruce, the last surviving fiberglass shark model created for Steven Spielberg's *Jaws*, is suspended from the ceiling in a museum where he's joined by "Rosebud" the sled from *Citizen Kane*, the typewriter used to write Hitchcock's horror classic *Psycho*, and both C-3PO and R2-D2 from the Star Wars franchise. But the experience of visiting is about way more than seeing objects at arm's length.

In the museum's Oscars Experience (which the *Los Angeles Times* likened to the thrill of a theme-park attraction), you can channel the excitement of winning the award yourself—lights, music, crowd applause, and all. Then, immerse yourself in a movie by catching a screening in either of the museum's state-of-the-art theaters. The David Geffen Theater is a thousand-seat stunner inside the museum's sphere building, a jaw-dropping orb-shaped structure with a rooftop terrace and views of the Hollywood Hills beyond.

Treat yourself or another to a one-of-a-kind gift from the gift shop, where all the offerings are designed by the same folks who make the movies. Of special note is the jewelry collection by Ruth E. Carter, Academy Award-winning art director, fashioned from the gold tiles saved from the building's facade.

Check the website for upcoming events, such as VIP event openings, concierge services, tickets to the annual director's dinner, behind-the-scenes experiences, and curator-led tours of the museum's exhibits. Face time with curators is

sure to make you feel like a celeb—and you don't even have to have an agent to set it all up.



INSIDER INFO

Keep an eye out for a bird on duty at the Academy Museum. A hawk named Spencer watches over the museum's distinctive sphere building to make sure it isn't besieged by pigeons.

WHILE YOU'RE THERE

Plan ahead and make a reservation at Fanny's, named after the original "Funny Girl," Fanny Brice. The museum's exquisitely designed onsite restaurant and lounge, helmed by Chef Raphael Francois, serves classics for brunch, and, for dinner, wood-fire-grilled meats and à la carte sides that pair perfectly with the artisan cocktails. Or you can walk east on Wilshire for a quick bite and a view of Chris Burden's *Urban Light* at Ray's and Stark Bar, nestled in the courtyard at Los Angeles County Museum of Art (lacma.org).



On the Nose

DABBLE IN THE OLFACTORY ARTS WITH A PRIVATE PERFUMERY LESSON

In Chinatown, the Institute for Art and Olfaction gives everyone the tools to tell a scent story.

On warm, late-summer nights, the air across Los Angeles grows fragrant with the smell of night-blooming jasmine, an aroma so alluring and sweet you'll wish you could bottle it. That's where the Institute for Art and Olfaction comes in.

Tucked into Chinatown pedestrian walkway Chung King Road, the workshop and gallery hosts sessions that allow anyone to get creative with scent, whether they want to replicate a precious sense memory or create something unique. Proprietor Saskia Wilson-Brown founded the institute a decade ago so that she could learn more about the olfactory arts. "I thought maybe other people would like to learn as well," she says.

And Wilson-Brown was right. The institute hosts regular courses on perfumery as well as lectures and exhibitions from perfume artists. For Wilson-Brown, developing scents is a creative practice on par with painting and making music. "In every other field, people have access to this knowledge and tools. In perfumery, up until fairly recently, that wasn't the case," she says. "Why not add the tools of working with scent to your creative arsenal?"

What makes the space special is that anyone can make their own unique fragrance. The institute's longest-running program is its open session series, informal classes intended for people of all skill levels, where you learn how to make perfume simply by doing it. The shelves lining the workshop's walls are populated with an endless array of fragrance oils and aroma chemicals. You'll sniff through them, pick out your favorites, and start playing with them, learning more about the process as you channel the aroma of your grandma's Christmas cookies or the smell of a garden after the rain. In the end, you'll learn how to bottle the fragrance you created.

For more personalized attention, the institute offers private sessions geared toward individuals and very small groups. "We tailor these small groups to people's specific needs," says Wilson-Brown. That could be how to

broadcast scent throughout a space or how to translate the smell of a specific place, culture, or experience.

The institute's mix of art and science is a particularly LA convergence. "LA has a specific culture that is quite experimental," says Wilson-Brown. Call or email in advance to schedule a visit.

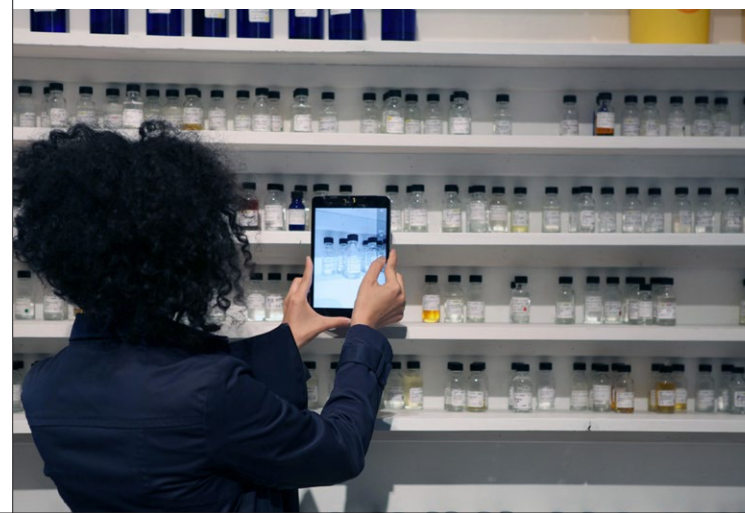


INSIDER INFO

Each year, the institute doles out Golden Pear statuettes at its annual awards ceremony. One of the awards, the Sadakichi Award, is named for an artist who staged the first "scent concert" in 1902.

WHILE YOU'RE THERE

Chinatown is one of the city's premiere dining destinations. Sip soup on the lantern-lit patio at Foo-Chow (foochowla.com), have a glass of wine and escargot in garlic butter at French bistro Oriel (orielchinatown.com), or queue up for a legendary hot chicken sandwich at Howlin' Ray's (howlinrays.com).



Building Blocks

SEE LA'S LANDMARKS AND HIDDEN GEMS WITH ARCHITECTURE TOURS LA

The decades-old tour company offers customizable crash courses in LA's most stunning buildings.

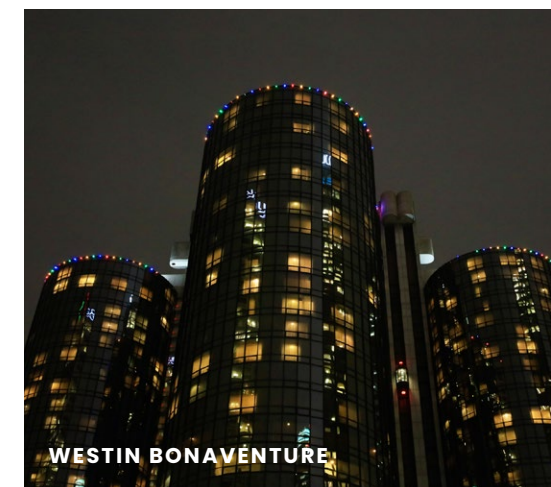
What do you picture when you think of Los Angeles architecture? Perhaps you see low-slung midcentury homes perched on hillsides in Silver Lake and the Hollywood Hills, quaint bungalows by the beach, or the soaring steel-and-glass skyscrapers that populate the Downtown skyline. The fact is, architecture in LA doesn't conform to a single era or aesthetic—and even design buffs are surprised to discover a proliferation of stately Victorian mansions in Downtown-adjacent Angelino Heights.

"It's certainly not what first comes to mind when people think of LA architecture," says architectural historian Laura Massino Smith. For more than two decades, Smith has been treating visitors to customizable tours of Los Angeles with her company Architecture Tours LA. Hop into a comfortable van to enjoy local views with Smith or another architectural historian on her team and learn about the history and culture of the city through its buildings.

Most tours are neighborhood-centric, so pick a route that best aligns with your interests. If you're a midcentury modern fanatic, settle in for a drive through Silver Lake. For Craftsman lovers, head to Pasadena to see the work of Greene and Greene. If you're looking for something more eclectic, try Downtown: that's where you'll get to see those gorgeous Victorian homes as well as the lavish theaters along Broadway and contemporary buildings like the Broad museum and the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels. Plan to spend between two and three hours on your excursion.

If you're looking specifically for the works of either Frank Lloyd Wright or Frank Gehry, there are tours dedicated to the two world-famous architects. Feeling indecisive? Ask for a hybrid Wright-Gehry tour to catch a glimpse of both the UNESCO-sited Hollyhock House and Walt Disney Concert Hall.

Architecture Tours LA are offered daily at 10 a.m. Reach out to info@architecturetoursla.com if you're requesting a custom tour.



WESTIN BONAVENTURE

INSIDER INFO

Prefer to explore the city's architecture on foot? Los Angeles Conservancy—a nonprofit that works to preserve LA's historic buildings—frequently hosts docent-led walking tours of historically significant buildings, like Wilshire Boulevard's Art Deco landmarks, Broadway's beautiful theaters, and Union Station. Visit laconservancy.org/tours for more info.

WHILE YOU'RE THERE

If you opt for a Downtown tour, follow it up with a meal in an architecturally significant space. LA Prime (laprimesteakhouse.com) is located on the thirty-fifth floor of the Westin Bonaventure Hotel & Suites, a postmodern vision of the future designed by architect John Portman in the 1970s.



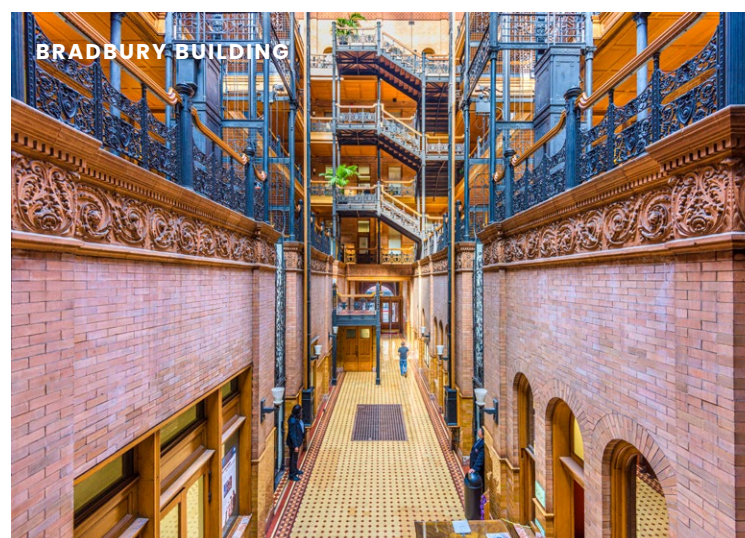
HOLLYHOCK HOUSE



CAPITOL RECORDS



WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL



BRADBURY BUILDING



Los Angeles is a vast melting pot of cultures and flavors. From the playful sizzle of the country's best Korean steakhouses to the indulgence of a multicourse tasting menu crafted by a culinary powerhouse, dinner becomes an unforgettable experience in restaurants across LA.

Food and Drink

Go Fish

THE MULTICOURSE KAISEKI AT HAYATO MAKES FOR A LIFE-CHANGING MEAL

A stool at Chef Brandon Go's seven-seat counter has become one of the most coveted reservations in LA.

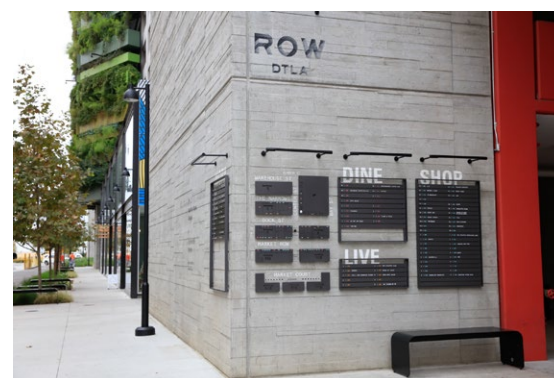
Chef Brandon Hayato Go stands patiently before an open fire as flames lick a rich, pink slab of fish. He removes fish from flame at precisely the right moment and carefully plates it for the few guests lucky enough to find themselves at his counter that evening. At his cozy yet elegant seven-seat restaurant Hayato, Go serves a precisely plotted kaiseki, a multicourse fine-dining meal that lets the chef showcase a variety of preparations and, more importantly, the freshest seasonal ingredients. In Go's hands, the experience is nothing short of transformative.

"I want you to forget the outside world for three hours," says Go. "I am not trying to put my personal stamp on any of the dishes here. It's my intention that the menu at Hayato will always be more about ingredients than any special technique we use in preparing them."

While Hayato's intricate daytime bento boxes are the stuff of legend (and an unparalleled pandemic-era treat), it's dinner service that earned the restaurant, nestled in ROW DTLA, a pair of Michelin stars. Chef Go uses fish and other ingredients flown in from Japan the very morning before dinner service, so the freshness of the ingredients is the meal's centerpiece. The ceramic dinnerware on which the meal is plated is thoughtfully tailored to each course, just as a frame might be customized to the prized artwork it presents. With only seven people in the room besides Go and his staff, the vibe is quiet and relaxed, with soft lighting and a minimalist look that reflects the simplicity on the plate.

During the meal, Go serves as a narrator of sorts, explaining the seafood he's procured and the techniques he's used to enhance their flavor as he sets each course before you. As diners progress through the meal, they'll notice an artful simplicity to each slice of sashimi, piece of nigiri, bowl of soup, and scoop of rice. Though the meal is fourteen courses, the experience is so transcendent you'll find yourself plotting future visits before you've even left.

"At the end of the day, I don't want the guest experience to be about myself or our staff," Go says. "I want it to be about you."

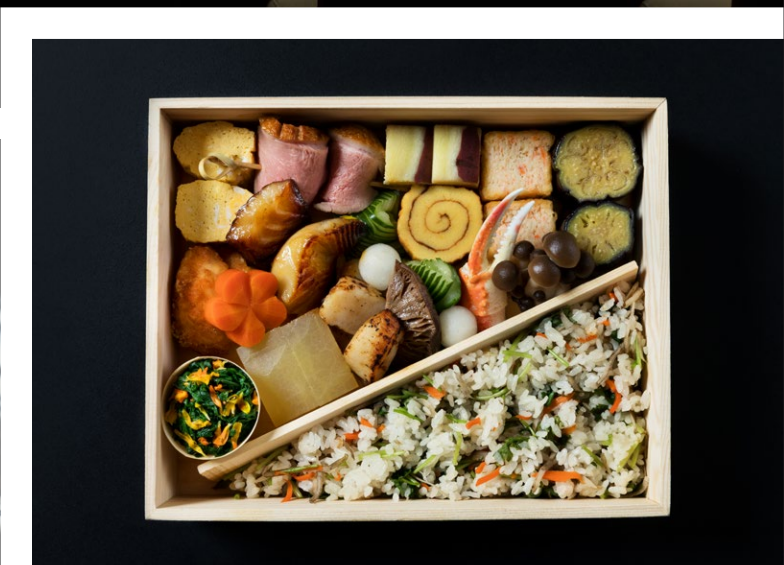
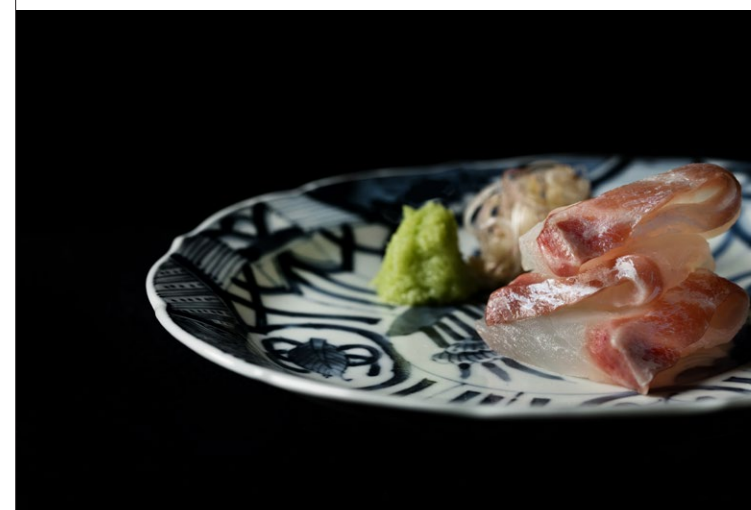


INSIDER INFO

Hayato recently got a new (and delicious) neighbor. Kato (katorestaurant.com), Chef Jon Yao's omakase-style Taiwanese destination, opened at ROW DTLA in early 2022 after a run on the Westside that earned it a Michelin star. In the mood for East Coast-style seafood? Dine on something from the raw bar at Rappahannock Oyster Bar (rroysters.com).

WHILE YOU'RE THERE

ROW DTLA (rowdtla.com), the former industrial compound where Hayato is located, is packed with upscale stores. Browse modern furniture and decor at A+R, ogle jewelry at Dylan Lex, or try on designer duds at Pantora, founded by *Making the Cut* season two winner Andrea Pitter.



Nice Catch

LA'S BEST OMAKASE EXPERIENCES

Across the city, seats at these sushi bars have become the hottest reservations in town.

Behind the counter of a minimalist-chic sushi bar, a man in a tan apron passes his knife through a fresh, succulent piece of uni. He cradles a lump of toothsome rice in his hand, gingerly forms a piece of nigiri, and plates it on an earthenware dish he made with his own two hands. In Los Angeles, Chef Morihiro Onodera's name has become synonymous with the omakase experience—in which a diner allows the chef to dictate what lands on their plate—but his Atwater Village hotspot isn't the only place in the city to enjoy a succession of meticulously crafted bites of fish and rice. From Downtown LA to the Westside, counter seats at these sushi spots have become the most coveted reservations in town, booking up weeks in advance. If you can secure a spot, here's where to get a fresh, outstanding chef's-choice meal in LA.

1 NOZAWA BAR WESTSIDE

212 N. Canon Dr.

A meaty slab of fatty tuna cradled on a bed of rice becomes a work of art at this intimate, ten-seat sushi restaurant

hidden inside the Beverly Hills location of Sugarfish. Though Nozawa Bar bears Master Chef Kazunori Nozawa's famous name, you'll find executive chef Osamu Fujita at the helm, serving an omakase menu of mostly nigiri and temaki. This Michelin-starred spot bears little resemblance to Sugarfish, an LA favorite of its own. If you're lucky enough to snag a seat at Chef Fujita's counter (reservations are a must), watching him prepare fish with extreme concentration and precision is worth the price of the meal. [nozawabar.com](#)

2 SUSHI GINZA ONODERA GREATER HOLLYWOOD

609 La Cienega Blvd.

A man in a white coat, the light glinting off his freshly shaved head, surveys the week's catch: tuna, rockfish, hairy crab. Chef Yohei Matsuki takes the briny haul seriously, importing his fish from Toyosu Fish Market and sourcing rice from Niigata prefecture before seasoning it with red vinegar. The West Hollywood location of Tokyo-based Sushi Ginza Onodera has

amassed a pair of Michelin stars, a feat achieved by only a handful of restaurants in all of Los Angeles. A chef's-choice meal here is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for serious sushi lovers. [sushiginzaonodera.com](#)

3 MORIHIRO GREATER HOLLYWOOD

3133 Glendale Blvd.

Chef Onodera's newest restaurant was open for less than a year when it earned its first Michelin star in 2021—but acclaim is nothing new for the four-decade veteran of LA's sushi scene. At Morihiro (pictured on page 28), Onodera crafts his omakase and prix fixe menus with sustainability in mind (for instance, you won't find overfished bluefin tuna on offer here). Every bite of food has been carefully considered and labored over, down to the individual grains of rice, which Onodera sources from Ibaraki prefecture and polishes in-house using his own milling machine. [morionodera.com](#)





3



5



6



4

4

Q
DOWNTOWN
521 W. Seventh St.

Orbs of light dangle over the dining room in chef Hiroyuki Naruke's Downtown restaurant, casting a glow on glistening pieces of fish that stray from what you'll find at other high-end sushi spots. Naruke, a Tokyo native, serves Edo-style sushi, which employs techniques like curing, aging, marinating, and even pickling to coax the most flavor out of a piece of fish. The chef prides himself on precision, and he has a Michelin star to show for it. qsushila.com

5

MASAKAZU
WESTSIDE
1911 Westwood Blvd.

This hidden gem has limited space, with a bar that seats eleven. Its unassuming Westwood Boulevard storefront and generic "Sushi" sign betray major elegance within, from the decor to what lands on your plate. Chef and owner Shinichi "Shin" Akazawa specializes in a nigiri-focused omakase that's quite a bang for a diner's buck, running roughly \$100 for ten to fourteen courses. 310-421-9779

6

SUSHI
KANEYOSHI
DOWNTOWN
250 E. First St. B1

With just eight seats in its gleaming, minimalist dining room, Sushi Kaneyoshi is one of the most exclusive reservations in all of Los Angeles. Nestled in an office building in Little Tokyo, this Edo-style sushi spot helmed by chef Yoshiyuki "Yoshi" Inoue shoots for a fully immersive dining experience with immaculately prepared fish as the centerpiece. If a seat at the counter eludes you, Inoue offers several takeout options, including premium nigiri boxes and sake to pair with the meal. kaneyoshi.us

The Life Aquatic

THE TASTING MENU AT PROVIDENCE IS THE ULTIMATE IN LA FINE DINING

Chef Michael Cimarusti sets out to make his multicourse sustainable seafood feast an immersive experience.

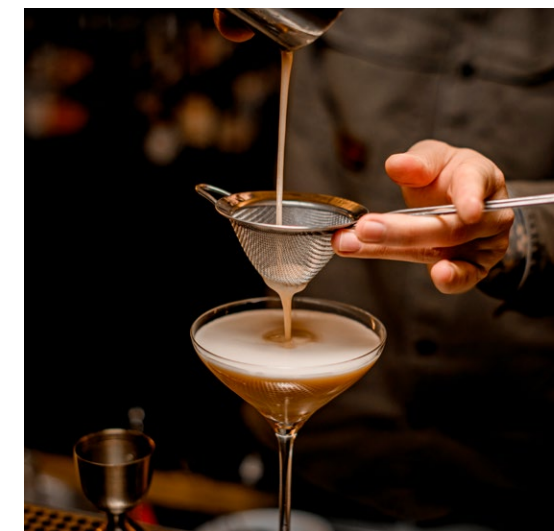
Barnacles scale a wall and netting drapes from the ceiling inside the lavish, modern dining room at Providence, where gradient walls blending from sunset pink to misty blue are reminiscent of the horizon at magic hour. It may be situated in the center of the city, but everything at Chef Michael Cimarusti's celebration of seafood calls to mind the Southern California coast.

"Our tasting menu experience is ever-evolving at Providence, and a true celebration of the beauty of fresh, simple ingredients prepared with infinite care and precision," says Cimarusti. "Each tasting menu is unique and distinctive from the previous one, and designed to be an immersive and engaging experience for our diners, with the hope that they leave our restaurant with a meal worth remembering for years to come."

The chef's sustainable tasting menu has become the stuff of fine-dining legend, landing Providence in the "Top 50 Restaurants in the United States" by *Gourmet* magazine, along with a James Beard Award and two highly coveted Michelin stars. At dinner service, you can start with one of a few luxurious options, including oysters, caviar, and an egg mixture with yolk, Champagne beurre blanc, and brioche croutons, all topped with uni inside a hollowed-out eggshell—an appetizer that's been served at Providence for almost as long as the restaurant has existed. Then the eight-course tasting journey begins.

Though Cimarusti is deft with every protein, it's the seafood at Providence that really sings. Intertwined with his quality product is his commitment to sustainability. He sources wild-caught fish, mostly from American waters, and in the kitchen and behind the bar, innovation ensures that nothing goes to waste.

"Each ingredient and course showcases our unwavering commitment to sustainability and reducing food waste in every form," says Cimarusti. "[We utilize] the best ingredients we can find from local farmers and purveyors here in LA, across California, the US, and around the world."



INSIDER INFO

Naturally, Chef Cimarusti has major culinary bona fides that predate his days at Providence. The New Jersey native originally came to LA at the behest of California cuisine legend Wolfgang Puck to become chef de cuisine at Spago, and he later took the helm at Downtown's Water Grill.

WHILE YOU'RE THERE

Before dinner, check out the Hollywood Media District's Sycamore Avenue Corridor, which has become a destination for locals. See the next big name in art at Jeffrey Deitch's gallery (deitch.com), sip a flat white at Tartine Sycamore (tartinebakery.com), browse records at Supervinyl (supervinylusa.com), or pregame with an espresso martini at Gigi's (gigis.la).



The Fixe Is In

LA'S BEST TASTING MENUS ARE BITE-BY-BITE CULINARY JOURNEYS

Fine dining's local superstars are crafting mind-blowing multicourse meals you'll never forget.

Did you know that after three or four bites of a dish—no matter how good it is—your palate starts to get bored? That's where tasting menus come in. Serving a succession of small, carefully considered courses has become a trendy way to keep diners engaged and to give chefs a little more control over the experience, from the first amuse-bouche to dessert. Here in LA, prix fixe and tasting menus span cuisines, formats, and ambiances, but they all incorporate an element of surprise. Your fatigued palate will be pumped. *Note: Tasting menus frequently change, so the dishes mentioned herein might not be on offer when you visit.*

1 PASTA | BAR
SAN FERNANDO VALLEY
16101 Ventura Blvd.
Contemporary, American

California-sourced ingredients from flowers to fowl sparkle in a series of ten delicious courses from Chef Phillip Frankland Lee and pastry pro Margarita Kallas-Lee. The couple launched their vision of an Italian restaurant by way of LA in a cool,

contemporary space in a three-story Encino minimall in June 2020, and they scored a Michelin star just a little more than a year later. Roughly half the dishes that land on the candlelit table involve pasta, like a stunning sunflower agnolotti, while the other half revolve around local produce and choice proteins like albacore ceviche and dry-aged duck breast. It's an elegant find in an unexpected place.
pastabarencino.com

2 KATO
DOWNTOWN
777 S. Alameda St.
Contemporary, Asian

From chewy abalone to tender fish topped with crispy skin, the seafood-driven tasting menu at Chef Jon Yao's Kato is an enrapturing journey through different textures. For dessert, Taiwanese influence is on full display in a boniato yam tapioca topped with fresh cheese that ups the ante on any tea shop. For five years, Yao's tasting-menu restaurant was a diamond in the rough nestled in a West LA strip mall. In early

2022, a newly earned Michelin star in tow, Kato moved into the former M. Georgina space at Row DTLA in the Arts District, where its thirteen-course prix fixe can really stretch its legs. Each dish features Yao's unique point of view and the flavors found in his mom's home cooking. *katorestaurant.com*

3 N/NAKA
WESTSIDE
3455 Overland Ave.
Contemporary, Asian

A tender kabocha dumpling looks downright vulnerable curled in a shallow pool of warm dashi broth with yuzu, but there's nothing timid about a meal at n/naka (pictured on page 34). Behind a shoji screen in their minimalist Palms restaurant, culinary power couple Chef Niki Nakayama and sous chef Carole Iida-Nakayama are defining the modern kaiseki in LA, serving up thirteen immaculately plated courses that tell an elegant story that changes with the seasons. Sushi and sashimi channel Japanese tradition, but heat finds its way onto the plate too in dishes like





3



5



4

steamed uni and grilled branzino with miso and smoked cherry. If you're staying closer to Downtown, make a reservation at the duo's newest restaurant, *n/soto*, which is serving up sashimi, kushiyaki, and agemono. Located in the historic West Adams neighborhood, *n/soto* opened in April 2022 with a menu featuring highlights like pork belly and asparagus skewers, tempura-style maitake mushrooms, and miso-baked bone marrow that's seared to perfection. And don't skip the drinks—like a refreshing highball made with juniper-infused shochu, white vermouth, and daikon radish syrup—or the house-made tofu. Book a reservation and prepare to cozy up for a 2.5- to 3-hour, unforgettable dining experience at *n/naka*. If you're feeling spontaneous, try your luck at *n/soto*. They save their bar seating and a few tables for walk-ins but your best bet is to plan ahead and book your table. n-naka.com

4

MÉLISSE
BEACH CITIES
1104 Wilshire Blvd.
Contemporary, French

From an open kitchen, Chef Josiah Citrin can survey the intimate and modern fourteen-seat dining room at *Mélique*, a Santa Monica culinary landmark since 1999 that scored an elusive pair of Michelin stars in 2021. That's not to say he has the time. Each dish on his multicourse menu is a work of art featuring raspberry-shaped clumps of caviar peppered with tiny purple flowers, a gleaming dome of peach nestled in an immaculate tart shell, and delicate slivers of uni topped with a disc of truffle so delicate you could melt it just by looking at it. It's one of the longest-running tasting-menu restaurants in LA, and it still manages to provide one of the most classically Californian dining experiences available in the city. citrinandmelisse.com

5

MANZKE
WESTSIDE
9575 W. Pico Blvd.
French

Since 2013, *République* has been LA's go-to for delicious, accessible French fare, operating as a casual bakery and coffee spot by day and an upscale courtyard eatery by night. Looking to better flex their fine-dining muscle, chefs Walter and Margarita Manzke expanded their restaurant empire yet again in 2022 with the arrival of *Manzke*, a chic tasting-menu concept situated upstairs from one of their other recent ventures, the acclaimed French bistro *Bicyclette*. The multicourse menu features flavors from all over the world, all through a Southern California lens. Expect the freshest seafood, hyperseasonal produce, and sustainably sourced meats prepared with the duo's extreme attention to detail and flavor. manzkerestaurant.com

From Beef to Leaf

LA'S SWANKIEST STEAKHOUSES AND FANCIEST PLANT-BASED EATS

Whether you're meat minded or strictly veggie focused, there's something incredible to eat in LA.

You could say LA has beef in its DNA: a cattle ranch called Rancho San Pedro, established in 1784, once sprawled across seventy-five thousand acres of what's now the city, from the Los Angeles River to the coast. As the decades passed, LA became a hub for people looking to live meat-free too—the city's first vegetarian restaurant opened back in 1900 right next to Angels Flight railway Downtown. Today, upscale restaurants of both persuasions coexist in one of the most thrilling culinary ecosystems in the world. Eating LA is the opposite of an omnivore's dilemma: it's an omnivore's delight.

STEAKHOUSES

1 GWEN
GREATER HOLLYWOOD
6600 Sunset Blvd.

Crystal chandeliers cast golden light on the luxe Art Deco dining room at Gwen, Chef Curtis Stone's meat-centric Hollywood follow-up to Maude. But the real eye-catcher here is a butcher case

packed with everything from whole ducks to racks of lamb, rich pâtés, and other charcuterie. Sure, you could just head home with your paper-wrapped parcel of meat—or you could stick around and see what the charismatic Aussie chef does with meat and fire. Try the sixteen-ounce New York strip, fresh from Creekstone Farms in Kansas, and start with an appetizer of bone marrow, served with wagyu chorizo, chimichurri, and a grilled slab of stecca bread. gwenla.com

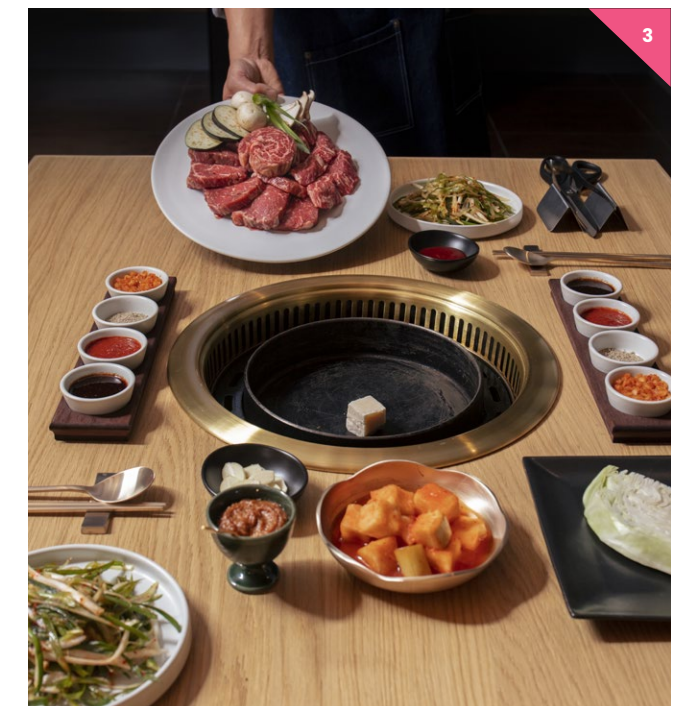
2 CHI SPACCA
GREATER HOLLYWOOD
6610 Melrose Ave.

Phone-book-thick bone-in steaks crusted with salt and herbs hit the grill in the exposed kitchen at Chi Spacca, Nancy Silverton's chic shrine to meat at Melrose and Highland, where it shares a corner with the chef's other landmark restaurants, Osteria Mozza and Pizzeria Mozza. The bistecca fiorentina, a fifty-ounce dry-aged porterhouse meant to be shared family-style, is a tangy mélange of salt, fat, and char. Pair the rustic cut with an assortment of salumi, roasted

cruciferous vegetables, and Silverton's famed focaccia and olive oil, and you'll get why this place bills itself as an "Italian steakhouse on steroids." chispacca.com

3 DAEDO SIKDANG
MID-CITY
4001 W. Sixth St.

Chic rectangular lighting fixtures hover above blonde-wood tables outfitted with small circular grills where major meat magic happens right before your eyes. Daedo Sikdang, one of Seoul's most beloved barbecue restaurants, has only one US location, and it's right here in LA (in Koreatown, naturally). The restaurant's relatively slim menu features Certified Angus Beef Prime in a trio of signature cuts. Go for the sixteen-ounce rib-eye cap, a shrimp-shaped cut that's the rarest and juiciest part of the rib eye. And don't worry about smelling like you spent the evening working a grill—the tables here have inverse fans that suck smoke downward so you won't leave suffused with the aroma of smoke. daedosikdang.com





4

THE ARTHUR J
BEACH CITIES
903 Manhattan Ave.

A true white-tablecloth restaurant just steps from the sand, the Arthur J isn't stodgy, but it takes steak seriously. The offerings are indulgent: a dry-aged, forty-ounce tomahawk steak for two; a dry-aged, bone-in strip steak from R&R Ranch in Kansas; and the pièce de résistance, a petite cut of true Japanese wagyu rib eye direct from Kagoshima Prefecture. It's cooked over a live white-oak fire and has intense marbling that gives it a melt-in-your-mouth texture. Follow up the meal with a walk on beautiful Manhattan Beach under the clear South Bay sky. thearthurj.com

5

AB/STEAK
MID CITY
8500 Beverly Blvd., #111

A dainty quail's egg yolk shines like the sun atop a nest of glistening and bracingly fresh steak. The Yukkhea beef tartare is an opulent way to kick off a meal at Chef Akira Back's upscale Korean BBQ spot. Located on the ground floor of the Beverly Center, the modern, high-ceilinged restaurant has become synonymous

with high-quality cuts, like in-house dry-aged sirloin and Australian Wagyu rib eye. Don't skimp on the banchan, and be sure to pair your grilled meat feast with one of their creative soju cocktails. absteakla.com

PLANT-BASED DINING

6

CROSSROADS KITCHEN
MID-CITY
8284 Melrose Ave.

A rich, golden egg yolk sits atop a plate of spaghetti, oozing into the tangle of pasta once it's been pricked with the tine of a fork. It's crazy delicious, but the really crazy thing? The yolk, the pasta, and even the bacon on this plate are totally vegan. It's just one of many tricks Chef Tal Ronnen has up the sleeve of his chef's whites. Scallops served Rockefeller style are actually luscious mushrooms, and cornmeal-coated fried artichokes seamlessly stand in for fried oysters—they're even sprinkled with tiny glistening orbs of mock caviar. Put dinner in Ronnen's hands and opt for the seven-course tasting menu, which includes a meet-and-greet with the chef while

he shaves truffles at the table. It's a boundary-busting, expectation-altering dining experience in an elegant setting where celebrity sightings aren't out of the question. crossroadskitchen.com

7

SESTINA
WESTSIDE
9725 Culver Blvd.

Cozy, welcoming
vibes extend from

the dining room to the outdoor patio at plant-based-cuisine legend Matthew Kenney's Culver City vegan pasta palace (pictured on following page). The visionary chef, who has restaurants from São Paulo to Sydney, douses toothsome handmade fettuccine with a clam sauce made with shiitake mushrooms, and piles a quattro formaggi pizza with a luscious whipped almond ricotta. You can even watch chefs pull strands of semolina in the pasta room. Stop in for a brunch that's well suited to soaking up the spoils of the previous night's party; the menu features hearty dishes like elbow macaroni in vodka sauce, truffle tagliatelle, and fusilli with pesto, along with brunch classics like a frittata minus the egg. matthewkenneycuisine.com/sestina-culver-city



7



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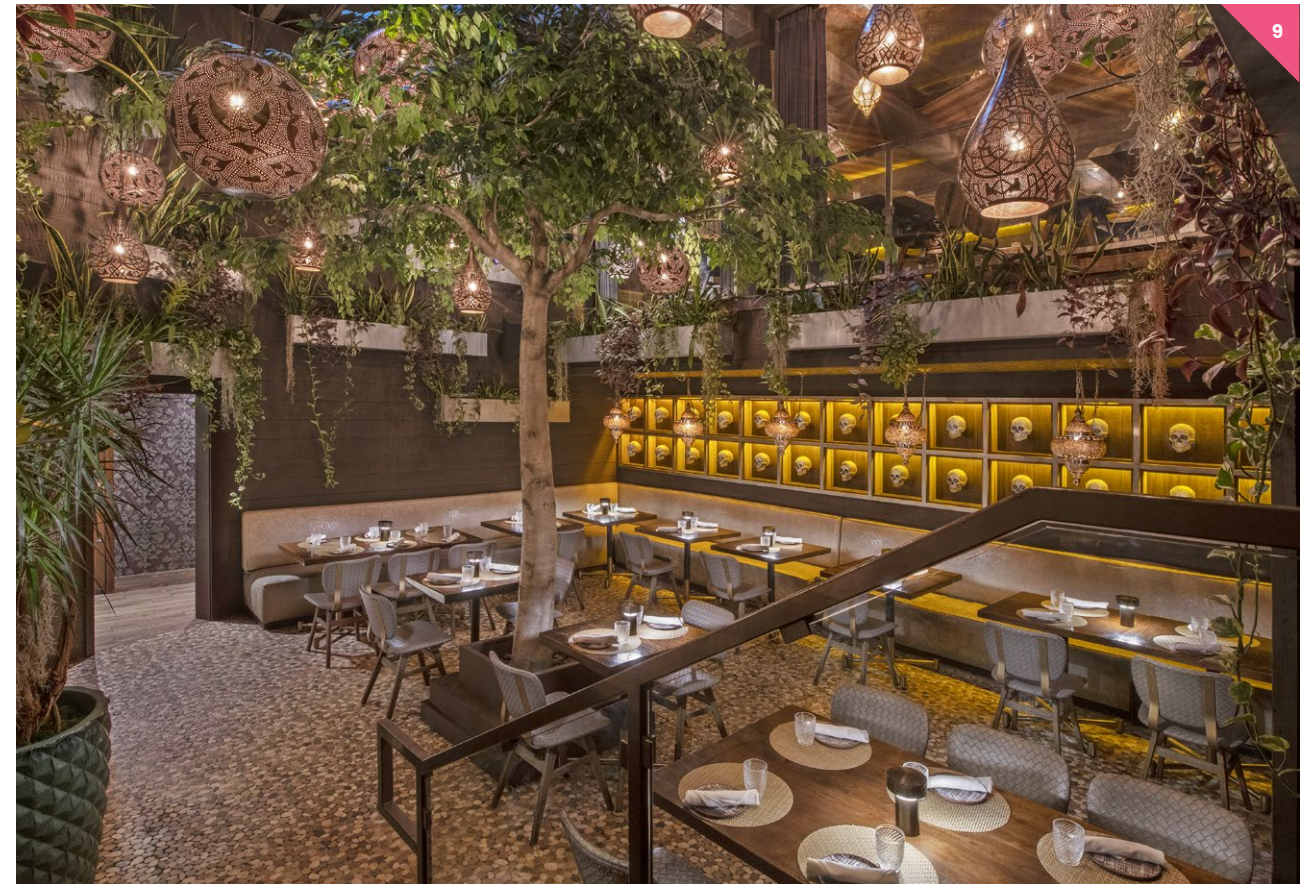
8 GRACIAS MADRE GREATER HOLLYWOOD 8905 Melrose Ave.

In the words of *RuPaul's Drag Race* star Monique Heart, who often frequents this plant-based taco spot, Gracias Madre is “very fabulous.” Vegans will agree. Hearts of palm are pulverized to become an appetizer of mock crab cakes topped with a vegan chipotle aioli, and jackfruit is braised to stand in for slow-cooked carnitas in a platter of tacos topped with spicy salsa. Equal parts elegant and innovative, Gracias Madre has a

bustling party atmosphere and an indoor-outdoor dining room that has become a place to see and be seen in WeHo. And the selection of agave spirits can't be beat: try the signature margarita with smoky Mal Bien mezcal or a Oaxacan Old Fashioned with tequila reposado. graciasmadre.co

9 TOCA MADERA MID-CITY 8450 W. Third St. S/, Executive Chef & Noble 33 Culinary Director AJ McCloud put steak on the menu at this intimate, modern

Mexican eatery—including an impressive (and spendy) forty-ounce wagyu tomahawk—but meat eaters' vegetarian dining companions will appreciate the eclectic spread of plant-based sharing plates, from chipotle-dusted tofu to grilled vegan pollo with an avocado-tomatillo salsa. The dimly lit dining room, with its one-hundred-foot crystal-quartz bar, is the definition of modern elegance, and a rotation of DJs spinning electronic music and hip-hop set the mood for a dinner out that feels more like an event. tocamadera.com



9

Fine Dining's Finest

EAT YOUR WAY THROUGH LA'S BEST RESTAURANTS ON A MICHELIN FOOD TOUR

Avital's walking tour of celebrated eateries is a delicious crash course in some of the city's best eats.

With every year that passes, LA's status as the West Coast's ultimate dining destination is more firmly cemented. In 2021, ten local restaurants were added to Michelin's revered list of essential dining experiences, and it just so happens that several of their star awardees and Bib Gourmand picks are conveniently concentrated in the heart of Downtown LA.

On Avital's Michelin Food Tour (\$150 per person), visitors can embark on a three-hour walking food tour that includes three restaurant stops and multiple courses. Between bites, an Avital guide will share a bit of each destination's culinary history.

Starting at the historic Eastern Columbia Building, visitors walk an easy and flat mile-and-a-half path to three of Downtown's greatest culinary gems. Past tours have included Indian gastropub Badmaash, Japanese-Italian fusion restaurant Orsa & Winston, and gourmet market and French patisserie Bottega Louie. Along with tasty bites like chicken tikka masala and scallop crudo with heirloom tomatoes, the tour might lead you to something new: a guide once convinced an eighty-year-old man to taste his very first oyster.

Best suited to groups of four to twelve people, Avital's tours are known not only for intimate dining at renowned restaurants but also for an afternoon of rich storytelling courtesy of food-savvy guides and even restaurant chefs themselves. Penny Truitt, a guide who has worked with Avital for five years, says her favorite thing about the Michelin Tour is how "vastly different the restaurants are." A lifelong gourmand, Truitt says she is "always looking for the next amazing bite in LA's vast sea of eateries" and is "never afraid to try cooking something unfamiliar, be it found in a neighborhood market or in my own yard."

Avital provides guests with a "beautiful blend of incredible food woven together with real, inspiring stories," says Molly Streuli, the company's marketing manager. For

larger groups, Avital can host more than two hundred guests through private tours best suited for corporate team building and client entertainment. And don't worry about those dietary restrictions: Avital accommodates diners who are vegetarian, gluten-free, pregnant, and those with religious restrictions.



INSIDER INFO

Completed in 1930, the Eastern Columbia Building, where the tour kicks off, is one of LA's most beautiful Art Deco landmarks. The glazed blue-green terra-cotta tiles that cover its facade give it an almost verdigris appearance.

WHILE YOU'RE THERE

For an additional cost, you can upgrade the Michelin Food Tour with a three-drink alcohol pairing. The carefully curated wine and cocktail options are served early in the tour, so driving won't be an issue when the experience wraps up.





Eat This Dish

SHOW-STOPPING MEALS THAT TURN DINNER INTO AN EVENT

In the mood for a memorable meal? Try these shareable dishes with a twist.

Despite fine dining's penchant for listing ingredients like they were lines in a poem, there's more to a plate of food than its components. Like instruments in a symphony, the magic is in how it all comes together, especially when a chef has gone the extra mile to create something beyond the ordinary. From a duck dish with a tableside sauce made in a nineteenth-century contraption to a stacked seafood tower made for sharing, these dishes make a meal into an experience for all the senses.

1 SLOW-ROASTED LAMB NECK SHAWARMA AT BAVEL DOWNTOWN

500 Mateo St.

As ethereal pillows of pita are pulled from a wood-burning oven and chickpeas imported from Spain are mashed with a pestle to make the restaurant's legendary hummus, Chef Ori Menashe plates a glistening hunk of lamb atop a slab of laffa designed to sop up the meat's savory juices. It lands on the table alongside a dish of pickles—perfect for cutting the richness of the meat with a pop of brightness—and a pair of exquisite sauces, all of it ready to be cradled in torn scraps of the dense flatbread.

It's a fully hands-on dish meant to be shared, a rustic masterpiece that comes off as effortless when it's anything but. The lamb neck that stars in this showstopper of a dish is seasoned with a blend of cardamom, allspice, black pepper, and sumac before being slow-roasted for twelve to sixteen hours and then finished over fire. In Menashe and wife Genevieve Gergis's airy, exposed-brick dining room, vines dangling from the ceiling, food brings people together—unless you get in a tussle over those last few coveted bites. baveldtla.com

2 CAVIAR SERVICE AT 71ABOVE DOWNTOWN

633 W. Fifth St., 71st Floor

From seventy-one floors up, the city sprawls out beneath you like an undulating carpet of glittering gold, but you'll be able to tear your eyes away from the view—at least for a little while—when an appetizer of caviar on golden, plank-shaped crisps arrives at your table. Executive chef Javier Lopez, who took the helm for founding chef Vartan Abgaryan, plates a full ounce of Kaluga caviar with a squiggle of butter, delicate matchsticks of radish,

and a sprinkling of tarragon leaves. Kaluga caviar has become a more sustainable stand-in for the eggs of the endangered Beluga sturgeon, but the experience of the tender beads bursting on your tongue is still the ultimate culinary surprise. Located on the top floor of US Bank Tower—the tallest building west of the Mississippi River until the nearby Wilshire Grand arrived on the scene a few years ago—71Above is the definition of a special-occasion restaurant, and the caviar service is the epitome of a special-occasion dish. Feel like you're floating above the city with a seat at the restaurant's window-adjacent edge table, or dine under the stars on the recently added sixty-ninth-floor outdoor patio. 71above.com

3 WHOLE PLATE SHORT RIB WITH BEEF RICE AT MAJORDOMO DOWNTOWN

1725 Naud St.

When it opened in 2018, David Chang's airy, hip Chinatown restaurant caused a major stir, but no dish got more mouths watering than the shareable plate of smoked short ribs. Served bone-in and carved tableside, the hulking plate of meat



exists where Korean food meets Texas barbecue—basically, a world all its own. The rack of ribs is marinated for twenty-four hours, smoked for four to six more, and then served with kimchi, house pickles, and lettuce leaves ready to cradle the luscious meat. The side of fried rice made with flavorful beef scraps rounds out an indulgent meal for six. *majordomo.la*

4 OVERBOARD PLATTER AT FOUND OYSTER GREATER HOLLYWOOD

4880 Fountain Ave.

Eight gargantuan prawns jockey for space on the top tier of a seafood tower heaping with briny ocean goodness. The Overboard Platter is an eye-popping spread in a cozy, unassuming spot on Fountain Avenue, more than a dozen miles from LA's beaches and even farther from coastal South Carolina, where chef/co-owner Ari Kolender once worked. Beneath those meaty head-on shrimp—which are joined

by a crab cocktail and some dipping sauces—you'll find a ring of eighteen raw oysters and a delicate Sicilian crudo splashed with oil and dotted with capers for bite. Paired with a bottle of fizzy rosé champagne, it's a seafood lover's dream come true, right in the middle of the city. *foundoyster.com*

5 LOBSTER ROLL AT BROAD STREET OYSTER CO. BEACH CITIES

23359 Pacific Coast Hwy.

A lobster roll can seem like one of the more mundane lobster dishes (it's served on a hot dog bun, after all), but there's nothing ho-hum about the lobster roll at Broad Street Oyster Co. Served either warm with butter or chilled with mayo, this roll is good on its own, but the upgrades really kick things up a notch. Opt for either caviar or uni to add a briny punch to the sweet, delicate lobster meat that goes nicely with views of the Pacific. Grab your sandwich and enjoy it right on the sand. *broadstreetoyster.com*

6 CANARD À LA ROUENNAISE À LA PRESSE AT PASJOLI WESTSIDE

2732 Main St.

A curious metal contraption with filigreed feet and a wheel-and-screw mechanism arrives tableside on a cart, along with a golden-brown roasted duck. Once the breasts and legs have been carved from the bird and set aside, the remainder of the carcass is placed into the ancient-looking press and cranked until every drop of juice has been extracted and turned into a decadent sauce to enrobe the luscious meat. The dish is a throwback to nineteenth-century gourmet dining at Dave Beran's timeless French bistro in Santa Monica, where the former Dialogue chef fuses European techniques and fresh California produce. It's dinner and a show, minus the grating piano accompaniment. *pasjoli.com*





There's no one way to see Los Angeles. The views from the sea, the sky, or the street are each their own experience. But there are more than a few ways to enjoy the city that are guaranteed to get your pulse pounding. Grab the wheel of an exotic sports car or the crossbar of a hang glider, and set a course for adventure.

Amazing Adventures

Take Flight

A HANG GLIDING LESSON WILL SEND YOU SOARING

Suddenly sprouting a pair of wings probably isn't in the cards, but this local school offers the next best thing.

"Flying in a hang glider is the closest you can get to experiencing flight like a bird," says pilot Josh Laufer, CFO of the LA-based adventure company Windsports. "It's what mankind has always dreamed of . . . there is no other experience like it."

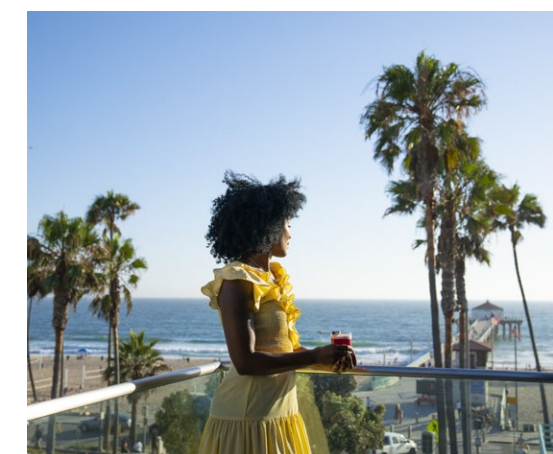
Windsports has been teaching earthbound dreamers how to take flight for more than forty years, but the hobby has a legacy that dates way back to the earliest days of aviation. In the 1890s, a German named Otto Lilienthal logged two thousand flights on rigid engineless gliders; half a century later, in the late 1940s, a NASA engineer named Francis Rogallo and his wife, Gertrude, developed a flex-wing flier, building a prototype from their kitchen curtains and testing it in a makeshift wind tunnel in their garage. The sport hit the mainstream in Southern California in 1971, when a group of gliders got together to celebrate the anniversary of Lilienthal's birth.

It makes sense that the sport would take off in an area with a landscape like L.A.'s. "[It's] an amazing place to fly hang gliders for numerous reasons," Laufer says. "First, the weather is spectacular most of the year, which is unique in a very weather-dependent activity. Second is the amazing views from our mountain and beach flights."

The flights Windsports offers are pretty magnificent. There's a beach tandem, which sends you and an instructor sailing off thirty-foot sand dunes at Dockweiler State Beach, landing right where the waves lap at the shore. "The views of the water, Palos Verdes, and Catalina Island are gorgeous," Laufer says. The mountain tandem flight takes you to even greater heights. Take off from Kagel Mountain in Angeles National Forest, 3,540 feet above sea level, and enjoy 360-degree views of Downtown LA, Burbank, Santa Clarita, the entire San Fernando Valley, and all the way to Catalina Island. According to Laufer, you can see fifty miles in any direction on a clear day.

Aviators ready to take the plunge in more ways than one have options too. "We have a romance package and

even a proposal package," Laufer says. "You can surprise a loved one with a special date flight or even propose midair. We add two GoPros to both gliders; we fly at the same time at sunset and spell out your proposal on our landing-zone field." Who could say no to that?



INSIDER INFO

End your day with a peaceful bonfire on the sand at Dockweiler State Beach, one of the only places in Los Angeles that permit an open flame. There are forty pits to choose from, and they're first come, first served.

WHILE YOU'RE THERE

Nearby Manhattan Beach is teeming with elegant dining options. You can take in gorgeous ocean views while you feast on a seafood tower featuring lobster, oysters, snow crab, and more at the Strand House (thestrandhousemb.com).



On the Right Track

GET BEHIND THE WHEEL OF THE CAR OF YOUR DREAMS AT PORSCHE EXPERIENCE CENTER

Serious gearheads and casual car fans alike will flip for this chance to put the pedal to the metal.

Your heart pounds and your fingertips tingle as your Porsche 911 hugs a hairpin curve on a serpentine track. Your knuckles grow white as you grip the steering wheel, and for a moment you can pretend you're navigating a curvy German mountain road, just the way Ferry Porsche intended when he introduced the Porsche 356 in 1948.

Sprawling across fifty-three acres in Carson, the Porsche Experience Center Los Angeles is like a luxury autophile's version of Disneyland. Open since 2016, the sixty-million-dollar facility has a variety of circuits designed to let the cars show their stuff. Experiment with oversteer and understeer on the Low Friction Handling Circuit, a tightly curved track with a polished concrete surface. Or take out a Cayenne or Macan on the Off-Road Circuit to see how the SUVs handle on gravelly, hilly terrain. LA drivers typically try to avoid obstacles, but here they're part of the fun.

Drivers who want to really beef up their skills behind the wheel can sign up for the Porsche Academy, which includes four sessions ranging in length from two to four hours. Pick one of three separate programs based on the cars you're most interested in. One of the packages lets you test out four breathtaking 718 models: the 718 Cayman, the 718 Cayman GTS, the 718 Boxster Spyder, and the 718 Cayman GT4. If a rumble in your stomach is audible over the rumble of engines, a restaurant themed around the Porsche 917 serves up burgers, steaks, and small plates like grilled octopus.

For gearheads with a lot on their LA agenda, the center offers one-off ninety-minute sessions with a Porsche Drive Coach close at hand. Or you can speed around some of the world's most famous tracks—Daytona, Monaco, Le Mans—by taking a seat at one of the facility's simulators. It's like a game of arcade classic Pole Position on steroids.

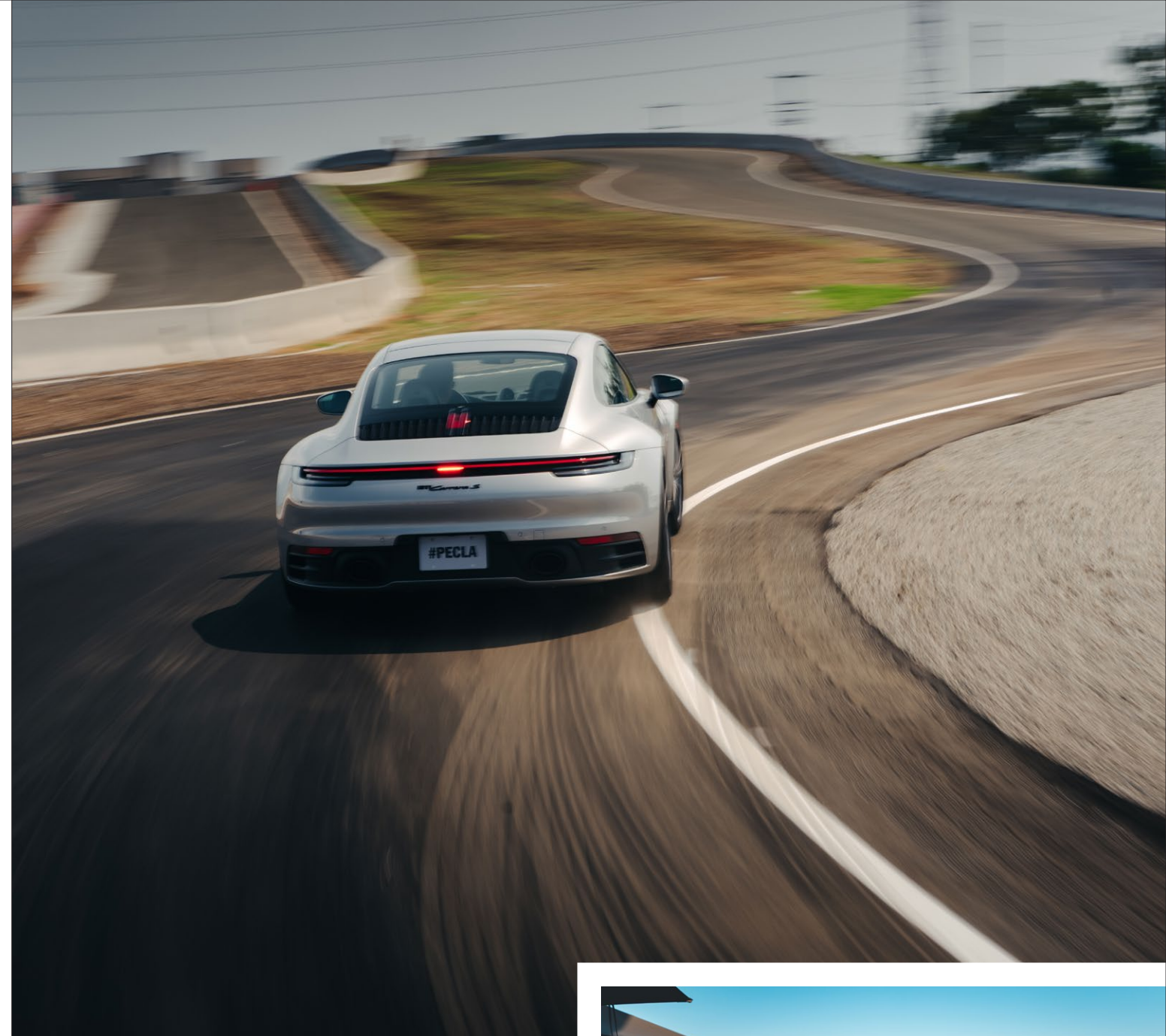


INSIDER INFO

Porsche Experience Center has gorgeous spaces for special events and private meetings. Banquet-style seating can be set up right alongside some of the most beautiful cars on earth, and Restaurant 917 can handle the catering.

WHILE YOU'RE THERE

Carson is also home to Dignity Health Sports Park (dignityhealthsportspark.com), a sprawling sports complex with multiple stadiums and America's largest indoor velodrome for serious cyclists. From February through October, catch a match between the LA Galaxy and one of their MLS competitors.





Make a Splash

TAKE A SURFING, SAILING, OR SCUBA LESSON OFF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COAST

The ocean is calling—you decide how to explore it.

In the cool calm of a Southern California morning, surfers across the region grab their boards, paddle out, and glide back toward the shore on the crests of waves. Sure, the locals make it look easy, but you can give it a shot. Learning precisely the right moment to *paddle, paddle, paddle* is no easy feat—unless you have an attentive instructor by your side. Taking a private surf lesson is just one way to enjoy the cool blue waters off the coast of LA. Even if you're brand new to water sports, you can enjoy a day of surfing, sailing, scuba, or stand-up paddleboarding with these local instructors.

1 KAPOWUI SURF CLUB BEACH CITIES 2701 Barnard Way, Parking Lot 5 South

In California, surfing is as much a lifestyle as it is a sport, and this family-run surf school prides itself on hiring instructors who live and breathe the culture. Offering lessons on the safe, sandy-bottomed beaches near the Venice Boardwalk and the iconic Santa Monica Pier, the school will supply you with all the equipment you need, from a wetsuit to a soft-top surfboard, and they strive to help you stand up on the board by the end of your first

session. Be sure to snag a photo with your instructor in front of one of the groovy VW buses that have become the school's calling card. kapowui.com

2 PADDLE METHOD BEACH CITIES

14110 Palawan Way

On calm days, you'll spy scads of people testing their balance and catching rays on stand-up paddleboards. Stand-up paddleboarding has become a major SoCal pastime, and Paddle Method has created a technique that promises to make hitting the water a cinch, even for total beginners. Owner Tim Sanford picked up the sport over a decade ago and set out to make it accessible to locals and visitors alike. During a ninety-minute private session with Sanford, you'll learn how to control your board, create momentum, and safely navigate waterways filled with fellow paddleboarders and boats. paddlemethod.com

3 BLUEWATER SAILING BEACH CITIES

13505 Bali Way

There's no feeling more freeing than harnessing the power of the wind and tracing the SoCal coast

in a sailboat. Based out of Marina del Rey and in business for four decades, Bluewater Sailing is an American Sailing Association-accredited school that teaches everything from group and private courses for beginners to intermediate courses that can prepare you for long-haul trips to the tropics. Bluewater has its own fleet of boats, but you can also arrange to bring your own. bluewatersailing.com

4 ECO DIVE CENTER WESTSIDE 4027 Sepulveda Blvd.

Commune with fish, sea lions, and other denizens of the deep in a private lesson with one of Eco Dive Center's certified instructors. Test the waters with a one-off class or train for your Professional Association of Diving Instructors certification. Private lessons include gear, a home-study course in advance of your in-person lesson, a skill session in a pool, and ocean dives. Once you're confident in your diving skills, you can sign up for one of the school's boat trips, which let divers explore the reefs and kelp forests off the coast of Catalina Island. ecodivecenter.com

Take a Hike

A PERSONALIZED TOUR OF THE CITY IS THE ULTIMATE WAY TO GET OUTSIDE

Bikes and Hikes LA offers fresh air, great views, and true VIP treatment.

Seeing the Hollywood Sign up close is a thrilling experience, but getting there on your own can be tricky. Danny Roman, CEO of outdoor adventure company Bikes and Hikes LA, says his guides will get you as close as you can reasonably get to the iconic structure—and they can even arrange for you to toast the adventure with a pop-up bar at the end of the journey.

For those who want an all-out VIP experience, the sky's the limit (literally). The team at Bikes and Hikes LA works one-on-one with clients to customize every aspect of their journey, from length to distance to food stops in between. Roman recounts with pride some of his past feats: once he surprised a family with a cake topped with an edible photo of them taken just two hours earlier on their hike. Another time, he orchestrated a couple's proposal by arranging for a skydiver to jump out of a plane with the ring—and providing a champagne toast at the Santa Monica Mountains' highest point.

There's a little something for everyone. The ninety-minute express version of the Hollywood Sign hike is good for all ages and fitness levels, while Roman points adrenaline junkies to the thirty-two-mile, five-hour LA in a Day Bike Tour, which hits the Sunset Strip, Beverly Hills, Abbot Kinney Boulevard, and Marina del Rey. And don't let the name Bikes and Hikes LA fool you—the company can set up beach parties, yoga sessions, even speedboat races and sailing regattas.

Amping up the star treatment, the company has been known to hook clients up with celebrity-led tours of famous LA spots. *Million Dollar Listing's* Josh Flagg has shown groups around the famed Greystone Mansion before, while other guest-star guides have included Pierce Brosnan and Matt Damon. As long as you have the creativity (and the funds), Bikes and Hikes LA can make all of your LA dreams come true.

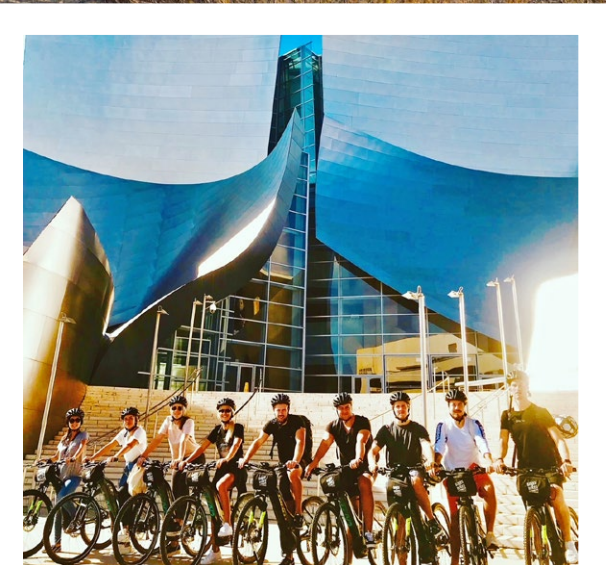


INSIDER INFO

Did you know the Hollywood Sign wasn't always the Hollywood Sign? When it first went up in 1923, the sign said "Hollywoodland" and was intended to be a temporary advertisement for a new subdivision below.

WHILE YOU'RE THERE

No trip to LA is complete without a stop at Griffith Observatory (griffithobservatory.org). A monument to the cosmos perched on a hill in Griffith Park, the observatory has a planetarium, a functioning Tesla coil, and incredible views of the LA Basin. If you'll be a regular visitor, look into their membership options, which include perks like preferred parking, access to a members' lounge, and, for the most generous donors, after-hours access to one of the facility's telescopes.





Let Us Prey

LEARN THE ANCIENT SECRETS OF FALCONRY AT TERRANEA RESORT

On the cliffs of the Palos Verdes Peninsula, resort guests can watch working birds in action alongside the ultimate expert.

When Terranea resort opened on the coast of the verdant Palos Verdes Peninsula in 2009, its owners quickly realized they would need to do something to subdue the hordes of sea birds that flocked along the shoreline. Instead of resorting to common mitigation methods—things like bird spikes or even poison—they opted for a more dramatic form of bird abatement: trained falcons.

For nearly a decade, professional falconer Joe Roy III has been using his six trained birds of prey to patrol the resort and keep seagulls and other pesky creatures at bay. Even the sight of a falcon, hawk, or owl (Terranea has all three) keeps birds off the property, making the winged team a more humane and eco-friendly form of pest control.

A charming personality with a deep wealth of bird knowledge, Roy used to give short talks to Terranea guests before his shifts, and he eventually became so popular that the resort began offering visitors the chance to engage in private falconry experiences in which they shadow Roy and his feathered friends as they make their morning rounds. Starting at 9 a.m., attendees can set off on an hour-and-a-half-long tour, watching as Roy sends birds out to sea and lures them back with meaty bait—a raw, up-close experience of nature that resort activities operations manager David Stieve says is incredible to witness but “not for the faint of heart.”

During the tour, Roy also digs deep into the ancient art of falconry, which dates back thousands of years to Asia and the Middle East, and he explains how the birds are an essential part of urban ecosystems today, helping to control pest populations in Los Angeles and beyond.

While visitors won’t get to test out any falconry tricks themselves, there will be plenty of photo ops with both the birds and the dramatic, cliff-lined coast. And if human-friendly Eurasian eagle owl Owlbert happens to be on the clock, guests might even get a chance to serve as a perch.

Recommended for resort guests ages five and up, the tour has limited availability and happens only four times a week, on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Book early to secure a spot.



INSIDER INFO

The beautiful Palos Verdes Peninsula soars upwards of thirteen hundred feet above sea level, and it keeps rising—about one foot every thousand years, according to researchers.

WHILE YOU’RE THERE

In addition to the falconry tour, Terranea has an entire menu of experiences for guests. Hit the ocean for stand-up paddleboarding and kayaking excursions, or test your riddle-solving skills in the resort’s on-site escape room.



From palm-tree-lined boulevards to narrow roads that wind through hillside neighborhoods, Los Angeles has more than seventy-five hundred miles of pavement waiting to be explored. Whether you're embarking on a joyride or simply getting from point A to point B, there are many ways to do it in style.

Ride in Style

Pitch Perfect

HOP A HELICOPTER FOR A NIGHT'S STAY AT A HIDEAWAY IN THE MOUNTAINS

A pool. A Jacuzzi. A flat-screen TV. This “glamping” experience puts the comforts of home under the stars.

On a remote forty-acre property nestled in the Santa Monica Mountains, a piping-hot Jacuzzi glitters among the sycamores, releasing steam into the cool mountain air. Dinner comes together in a decked-out outdoor kitchen, and then you settle in under the stars in front of a modern stone fireplace outfitted with a flat-screen TV.

Here in LA, we have a different idea of what it means to rough it. Helicopter tour company Orbic Air, which offers everything from a ten-minute aerial tour of the Hollywood Sign to “landing tours” of Downtown and Malibu, recently launched the Private Helicopter Hideaway, the latest addition to its roster and its most exclusive experience yet. Even by glamping standards, the trip is luxurious. You’ll catch your lift at Hollywood Burbank Airport and travel by helicopter to a secluded location with a swimming pool to go along with the Jacuzzi, outdoor kitchen, and fireplace. “It’s like having a small resort to yourself,” says Brady Bowers, president of Orbic Air.

Communing with nature doesn’t mean ditching creature comforts. There’s cell phone coverage and Wi-Fi access on the property, and the “glamping suite” is outfitted with Restoration Hardware furniture and comes with its own kitchen and bathroom, plus a washer and dryer. If more than two people are along for the trip, there’s an Airstream on the property where they can post up for the night (Bowers says they try to limit the overnight trips to four people or fewer). Guests typically book a one-night stay at the property, but weekend-long visits are doable too.

The Hideaway is also available for shorter getaways. With the Day Trip package, which lasts about three hours, you’ll have access to the pool and Jacuzzi as well as the outdoor kitchen and lounge areas. You won’t have access to the glamping suite, but a helicopter tour of the coast is part of the adventure.

The experience is special from start to end, but having a slice of nature all to yourself in a city of four million people might be the most extraordinary part.



INSIDER INFO

Orbic Air also offers LA’s only helicopter tour that involves landing atop a Downtown building. The journey starts over the coast, from Pacific Palisades to Marina del Rey, and culminates in a toast and photo op on a Downtown LA helipad.

WHILE YOU’RE THERE

Unless you specifically arrange for pickup from Santa Monica Airport, Orbic Air’s flights depart from Hollywood Burbank Airport. While you’re in the area, have brunch or lunch at gorgeous hilltop restaurant Castaway. The steak-forward dining destination recently got a ten-million-dollar revamp, but the views have always been priceless.



Fantasy Island

HOW TO GET TO CATALINA ISLAND BY AIR OR BY SEA

This paradise thirty miles off the coast is just a helicopter or yacht ride away.

White stucco dwellings with terracotta-tiled roofs climb the hillsides that envelop the turquoise waters of Avalon Bay. This part of an otherwise unpopulated Catalina Island is a dead ringer for a Mediterranean resort village.

Once an exclusive playground for some of America's wealthiest families, Catalina Island still harks back to the days when the A-list stars of Hollywood's Golden Age decamped to grand beach clubs for a little R&R out of the public eye. Purchased and developed by chewing-gum magnate William Wrigley Jr.—who oversaw construction of the glorious circular casino—Catalina has become a popular day trip by ferry, but there are more luxurious options too.

Celebrity Helicopters is the passion project of president and chief pilot Robin Petgrave, who works with clients to create customizable trips to Catalina with incredible aerial views of the Pacific and even some surprises. “The last flight that I did, we came upon a mega-super pod of dolphins,” Petgrave says. “There were easily eight thousand dolphins, just all over the place, jumping and herding fish.”

In the sky, you'll see Catalina's famous landmarks, including the historic Banning House Lodge, Ribbon Rock, Shark Harbor, Two Harbors, the city of Avalon, and Rusack Vineyards, the only island-set winery in California. Celebrity's choppers touch down at Catalina's famed “Airport in the Sky,” where a truly extraordinary experience awaits. “We land there, we go inside the outdoor seating area, and then we break out the white tablecloth,” Petgrave says. Along with a pair of bottles of wine from Rusack, Celebrity offers either hors d'oeuvres or a full meal to enjoy while you spy wildlife like island buffalo and bald eagles.

For a slower, more leisurely ride to Catalina, Luxury Liners has an unreal selection of fully staffed charter yachts that leave from Marina del Rey. On the water, guests can scuba, snorkel, or “snuba,” a mash-up of scuba and snorkel. Once docked, you can explore Avalon or Two Harbors, fish, paddleboard, or play golf before a journey back across the waves.

Either way, a trip to Catalina will be an adventure you'll want to share. “You can buy things [for people], which is kind of cool,” Petgrave says. “But when you give them an experience, that's *really* cool.”



INSIDER INFO

For a longer stay on the island, book a room at Mt. Ada. The hilltop mansion once owned by William Wrigley Jr. is now a resort with just six guest rooms. The Grand Suite, which has a private balcony with incredible ocean views, used to be Wrigley's bedroom.

WHILE YOU'RE THERE

Avalon is one of Southern California's most incredible small towns, and there's a lot packed into just three square miles. Rent a golf cart or a bike and venture to the Wrigley Memorial & Botanic Garden, which spans nearly thirty-eight acres and has a beautiful desert plant collection.



Cruise Control

WHERE TO RENT A REALLY COOL CAR IN LA

From classic 'Vettes to blazing-fast Lambos, these rentals take riding in style to the next level.

From the days when Model Ts navigated the hairpin curves of the Hollywood Hills, Los Angeles has been known for its car culture. As the region flourished and city streets gave way to a sprawling network of freeways, LA became a place where cool cars could really shine. There are a million and one ways to get from here to there—meandering coastal highways, wide palm-tree-lined boulevards, winding mountain paths—but the best way is always behind the wheel of an eye-popping ride. Start your engines: here are some vehicles that make a drive around town an experience to remember.

1 '59 CORVETTE FROM HOLLYWOOD CLASSIC CARS

Back in 1959, *Some Like It Hot* was a hit at the box office and Chevy dropped a sports car that would become as classic as that flick. This high-performance beauty is the oldest car in the Hollywood Classic Cars fleet, but it can stand up to any modern-day muscle car. Its sparkling ice-blue paint job will look beautiful against the backdrop of the Pacific Ocean as you take a top-down cruise along the PCH. [hwclassiccars.com](#)

2 '67 CADILLAC DEVILLE FROM LEGENDS CAR RENTALS

Driving isn't always about going fast. Relive the days when cruising was a local pastime in this beautiful beast of a Caddy. Featured in *Once Upon a Time . . . in Hollywood* and music videos by Usher and Snoop Dogg, this bright-white, exquisitely maintained classic car is perfect for a ride down Ventura Boulevard and will look choice parked in the lot at classic Mexican spot Casa Vega. Slide into the buttery leather seats in its forest-green interior, turn the dial to the soulful sounds of 94.7 The Wave, and take a trip back in time. [legendscarrentals.com](#)

3 FERRARI F8 SPIDER FROM BLACK & WHITE CAR RENTAL

Channel the days of big hair and heavy metal with a drive down the Sunset Strip in Black & White Rental's black-on-black Ferrari F8 Spider. The two-seat supercar has a retractable hard top and one of Ferrari's most powerful twin-turbo V-8 engines, which pumps out a whopping

710 horsepower. Pick it up from the agency's location right by LAX, blast some Guns N' Roses on its top-of-the-line stereo system, rev the engine, and hit the road. [burentacar.com](#)

4 LAMBORGHINI URUS FROM ROYAL EXOTIC CAR RENTAL

If you're rolling with an entourage, check out this SUV with four seats and serious speed. The fastest SUV in the world and one of the most expensive SUVs on the market right now, this ride drives like a sports car but has enough room for all your friends to tag along. Sleek black inside and radiant yellow outside (pictured on following page), it features a first-class Bang & Olufsen sound system that will get you pumped up for the club—and massage seats that will help you relax after you've danced the night away. Royal Exotic has a number of revved-up SUVs in its lineup of luxury rentals. Turn heads by rolling up to a red carpet event in their Mercedes-Benz G 550 or cruise Fairfax Avenue in one of two Cadillac Escalades. [royalexoticcarrental.com](#)





5 BUGATTI CHIRON FROM YES CULTURE

The blue, cloudless Southern California sky doubles as a roof as you sit inside a sleek, low-slung Bugatti Chiron. This amped-up super sports car—the “fastest, most powerful and exclusive” in Bugatti’s history—retails for upward of three million dollars, but you can climb behind the wheel of one if your next music video or photo shoot calls for something fancy. The Yes Culture specializes in rentals for production, so, no, you won’t be hugging hairpins on a joyride through Topanga Canyon in one of these babies, but if movie magic is on your agenda, the Chiron is sure to turn business to pleasure. theyesculture.com

6 ROLLS-ROYCE CULLINAN FROM 777 EXOTICS

LA doesn’t have all that much in common with the English countryside, but you’ll look like a noble heading to your ivy-draped manor in this outrageously luxe SUV—basically a limo you can take off-road. The model that 777 Exotics has on its lot has a bright-orange interior and a bespoke Rolls-Royce “Starlight Headliner” ceiling festooned with hundreds of tiny fiber-optic lights. If you want to kick back and feel like a star while you enjoy the twinkling of the “stars,” book one of their professional drivers or chauffeurs. 777exotics.com

7 '65 MUSTANG FROM LEGENDS CAR RENTALS

A pair of fuzzy dice dangling from the rearview mirror catches the breeze as you cruise Venice Boulevard in a classic convertible Ford Mustang. Legends has two '65 'Stangs in its collection, one red with red leather interior, the other a cool blue that blends in perfectly with the Pacific Ocean in the midday sun. American heavy metal has never looked better. legendscarrentals.com

PS, I Love You

HOW TO FLY INTO AND OUT OF LAX LIKE A CELEB

Inside a private terminal at LA's airport, PS offers a super luxe travel experience.

A pair of nattily dressed agents greets you outside a lovely low-slung building on the edge of LAX. Besides handling your luggage, they're there to make the stress of travel disappear—think of them as magicians in suits and ties.

PS gives both domestic and international travelers a taste of the celebrity treatment, whether they're coming, going, or just cooling their heels during a layover. While everyone else is jockeying for room in the TSA queue or braving the line for a latte at the coffee counter, groups who opt for the Private Suite get a plush lounge, a private TSA check, and a lift in a chauffeured BMW to and from the aircraft as well as complimentary craft cocktails and California-focused cuisine. With large windows looking out onto the runway, the suites are spacious and filled with anything the weary traveler might need. Rest on a pillow-scattered daybed or practice yoga with a tablet already loaded with workout plans. The bathroom is fully stocked with oft-forgotten toiletries, while the minibar is replete with high-quality snacks, sweets, and alcohol.

The options don't end there. PS Direct provides chauffeur service from your home or hotel to the door of your aircraft. Travelers who want a more cost-effective way to skip the hustle and bustle of the airport can choose the Salon for a shared lounge, semi-private security, transportation across the airfield, and complimentary drinks and snacks. Launched in 2021, the Salon makes even the experience of chilling at an airport bar way more exclusive. Designed by Cliff Fong to capture an LA vibe, the sleek space has food and drinks from the h.wood Group and an outdoor garden where you can get some sun while a PS agent tends to your needs. Even people who aren't avoiding the paparazzi will appreciate the VIP treatment.

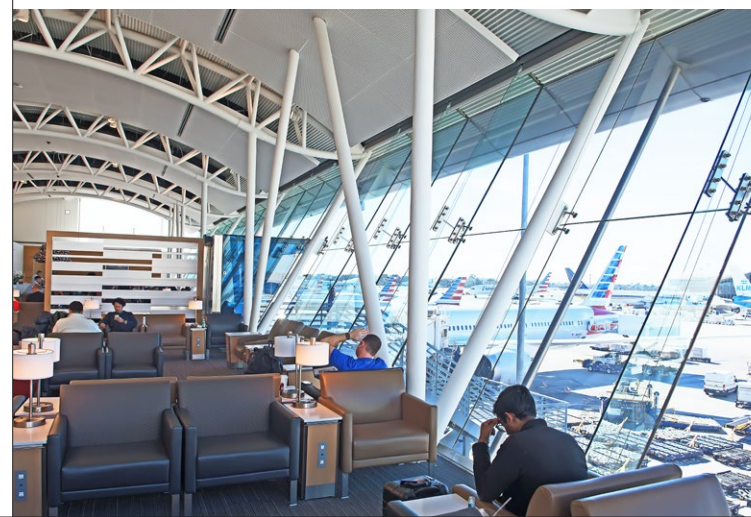


INSIDER INFO

LAX recently launched an amazing convenience for everyone. In Terminals 1 and 2 as well as the Tom Bradley International Terminal, harried travelers can order in advance from restaurants like Border Grill and 800 Degrees Pizza and have their food delivered directly to their gate. Go to laxshopdine.com for more details.

WHILE YOU'RE THERE

LAX is situated just a stone's throw from several of LA's most charming coastal communities. Stop for a beachside bite or a drink in Playa del Rey, where *Top Chef* winner Brooke Williamson operates Playa Provisions, a four-in-one culinary concept with a whiskey bar, an artisan ice-cream counter, and two seafood-centric restaurants.



Charter a Course

HOW TO GET AROUND BY AIR OR WATER IN LA

Whether you're looking to shorten a commute by taking to the air or to slow things down with dinner on the water, these options will change the way you travel.

It's wild how tranquil a city of four million people can look from the sky. The bustle and hum of Los Angeles is overwhelmed by the whoosh of helicopter blades as you zip from the coast to Crypto.com Arena in a few minutes flat. In the not-so-distant future—as soon as this decade if a city initiative goes as planned—some taxi and ride-share operators will ditch the city's freeways and surface streets in favor of the wide-open airspace. Same goes for a day on the water off LA's coast—there's no rush hour at sea, just smooth sailing. Whether you're commuting Downtown or heading out to Catalina, here are some helicopter and yacht options that make the ride more luxe.

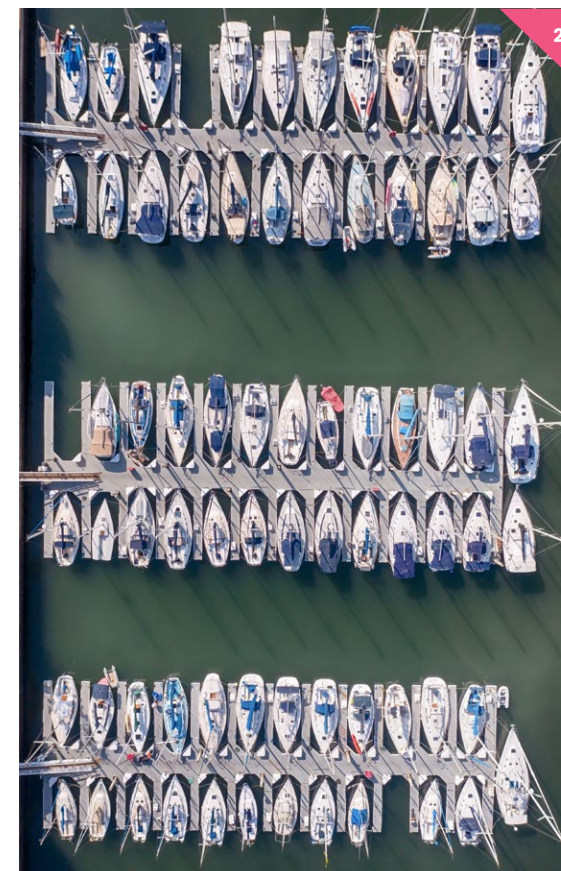
1 **HELINET**
Join the ranks of high-power execs by chartering one of Helinet's lightning-quick twin-engine helicopters. The legacy company's fleet, the largest in Southern California, has gotten celebrities, CEOs, and heads of state to their LA destinations, touching down at airports and on helipads across the city. Opt for the six La-Z-Boy-level

comfy seats inside the Sikorsky S76 luxury craft or sport a pair of noise-canceling headphones for a ride in the Leonardo AW109, an aircraft favored by business types. Naturally, Helinet also offers luxury car service for seamless transport from your point of origin to your destination. helinet.com

2 **LUXURY LINERS**
Take as many as a dozen guests out for a leisurely day on the water in one of Luxury Liners' supremely luxurious yachts, available for charter and rent. Their fleet includes a 124-foot Westport yacht with formal living and dining rooms, a master suite, four plush staterooms, a media room, and a hot tub. Or let the wind be your guide, and opt for the 44-foot Jeanneau sailing yacht, which seats six and features a luxe galley. Cruise the coast up to Malibu or spend the day heading to Catalina and back. luxuryliners.com

3 **CITY CRUISES BY HORNBLOWER**
Take your dinner with a side of salty sea air on a Hornblower cruise.

Launching from Fisherman's Village in Marina del Rey, Hornblower's sleek yachts take groups out on the water for two-and-a-half-hour evening or two-hour brunch tours that come with either a plated or buffet-style meal and perks like free-flowing champagne at brunch. After your meal, hit the deck to take in views of the stunning SoCal coast, with its breathtaking beachfront homes and sparkling yachts bobbing in the marina. Check their website for upcoming holiday-centric tours as well as their regular weekly offerings. cityexperiences.com/marina-del-rey/city-cruises





Los Angeles is the ultimate shopping destination, and it has the VIP swag to match. Across the city, private shoppers and expert stylists are ready to help you refresh your wardrobe, overhaul your look, or simply window-shop with flair.

Shopping and Fashion

Retail Therapy

PERSONAL SHOPPERS ARE AT YOUR SERVICE AT WESTFIELD CENTURY CITY

This retail wonderland on the Westside is home to a fully upgraded spending experience.

It isn't every day that a retail hub has a pop-up event from Reese Witherspoon, public art by portrait master Kehinde Wiley, or an all-out wellness experience themed around a TV show. Back in 2017, a billion-dollar revamp changed the face of Westfield Century City. Verdant outdoor common spaces are part of a package that also includes upscale stores like Jo Malone and Bloomingdale's, dumpling mecca Din Tai Fung, an AMC movie theater, an Equinox gym, and more. The showpiece three-story Nordstrom at Century City also provides exclusive stylist services, and Eataly is home to two floors of gourmet Italian wines, a deli with house-made mozzarella, and separate "bars" for pasta, panini, and gelato.

With the aid of a Westfield Century City personal shopper, you can privately view and purchase whatever's on your shopping list, from the perfect outfit to the perfect present for a friend to a whole new wardrobe. If you prefer the thrill of the hunt and want to explore Westfield yourself, be sure to stop by the Westfield Concierge on Level One. A knowledgeable staffer will help you plan the perfect itinerary, home in on the perfect gift, or provide translation services in around two hundred languages. After your shopping spree is over, be sure to visit Westfield's exquisite atrium space, where live performances, fashion shows, and markets are frequent occurrences.



INSIDER INFO

Terra, the rooftop lounge at Eataly, is one of the most stunning places in the city for dinner and drinks. Enjoy Chef Eli Anderson's wood-grilled seafood and meat while you take in views of the city and enjoy the cool SoCal breeze.

WHILE YOU'RE THERE

You can save the universe as an MIB agent, visit a zoo full of aliens, or explore a lost temple—all you have to do is strap on a headset at Dreamscape (dreamscapeimmersive.com). The immersive VR venue offers several experiences that combine the emotional power of Hollywood storytelling with the visceral excitement of great theme-park rides.



Best of Bespoke

WHERE TO GET CUSTOM SUITS, HATS, AND JEWELS IN LA

When ready-to-wear won't do, hit up these artisans for something unique.

Elegance is all about the individuality that comes with custom clothes and accessories. Celebrities don't just go to a boutique and buy something off the rack or out of the case—they turn to local craftspeople who place every stitch and set every jewel with them in mind. Elegance is a truly bespoke experience.

1 HIGH SOCIETY BESPOKE TAILORING MID-CITY 8406 W. Third St.

You can picture the process: a bespectacled man with a tape measure, a piece of chalk, and a straight pin between his teeth sizes up every limb, each shoulder, and the circumference of the neck. Up until the 1800s, almost every garment people wore was made by hand, but in a modern, postindustrial world, a suit made from scratch to precisely your proportions is the ultimate in luxury. As designer Michael Kors once said, “A man in a well-tailored suit will always shine brighter than a guy in an off-the-rack suit.” In a nondescript storefront on Third Street, High Society master tailor Richard Lim is keeping tradition alive and suiting up some of the most famous men on the planet. When LeBron James needed a crisp white tux to fit his six-foot-nine-inch frame

for the *Space Jam* reboot, he went to Lim. Expect this process to take several weeks and include multiple fittings. You can stop by the shop during business hours to talk about a custom piece, but it's best to contact High Society online and make arrangements prior to your visit. high-society.com

2 IF & CO. MID-CITY 8500 Beverly Blvd., Ste. 663

No, it's not the iconic LA sunset: it's light catching the dazzling pink sapphires embedded in the face of a Casio G-Shock watch commissioned by rapper Kid Cudi. Minus the bling, the Casio timepiece isn't exactly a Rolex, but after the jewelers at IF & Co. have had their way with one, it'll outshine any watch you've ever laid eyes on. Cofounded by celebrity jeweler Ben Baller, this Beverly Center sparkle emporium might look basic on the outside, but there's nothing remotely ordinary about what the gemstone virtuosos here create, from golden golf putters to a gem-encrusted SpongeBob pendant commissioned by hip-hop artist Tyga to show off to his more than thirty million Instagram followers. Baller dabbles in high art too, working on collabs with artists

Takashi Murakami and KAWS for a celebrity clientele that includes Snoop Dogg and Drake. But you don't have to be a star to dream up something cool and see it come to life. To get a quote for your own custom piece, fill out the form on their website and be sure to include images related to the design you want. ifandco.com

3 SIERA JEWELRY DOWNTOWN St. Vincent Jewelry Center 650 S. Hill St.

Our fascination with sparkly bits of crystallized carbon is on full display at St. Vincent Jewelry Center, where various high-end jewelry designers have showrooms. Navigate the labyrinth of booths stuffed with gemstones to find Siera Jewelry, where cases brim with thick hoop earrings encrusted with pink sapphires, elaborate necklaces studded with diamonds, and other eye-catching treasures. Mariah Carey, Gabrielle Union, Megan Fox, and Kristen Bell have sparkled in Siera's jewels, and they make custom work for anyone who wants to look like an actual million bucks. Be sure to make an appointment in advance if you have something unique-to-you in mind. 213-623-6370



All Is Bright

RENTABLE RED-CARPET-READY LOOKS AWAIT AT ALBRIGHT FASHION LIBRARY

In posh Trousdale Estates, style “librarians” can help you find the perfect thing to wear.

Tucked away in a hillside mansion in Trousdale Estates is a shrine to vintage and contemporary couture. Hundreds of pairs of designer shoes in a rainbow of colors line the shelves in a closet that would make Carrie Bradshaw weep, and priceless designer gowns drape from mannequins by a fireplace in a main room. The twist: everything here is available to rent.

When Albright Fashion Library arrived in LA in 2015 with an archive of more than thirty thousand pieces (its New York City facility opened in 1990), it brought a new level of glamour to LA’s fashion scene.

“We found that in LA there was no central space for the fashion industry to come and socialize and work together, and we wanted to create that here,” says Jack Eustace, Albright’s creative director. “I think we succeeded in that.”

In Albright LA’s seven-thousand-square-foot showroom, celebrities, stylists, editors, and designers can select looks seen on movie screens, red carpets, and magazine covers across the globe. Together with the team of in-house stylists and archivists, you can put together a look using historic and current pieces from designers like Dior, Jean Paul Gaultier, and Gucci. In the library’s luxurious confines, the team works one-on-one with clients to discover the perfect look. Eustace says people in search of just the right thing to wear—whether it’s for a gala, an awards show, or something more low-key—can expect to “really be seen.”

“We don’t want anyone to leave here feeling like they’re wearing a costume,” Eustace adds. “We take our time to know who our client is, and we build a look that honors that.”

To inquire about booking a session for styling and rental, email showroom@albrightla.com.

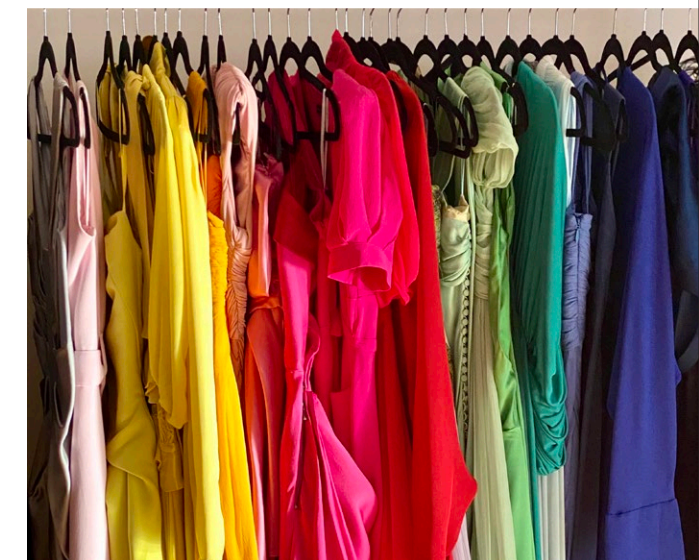
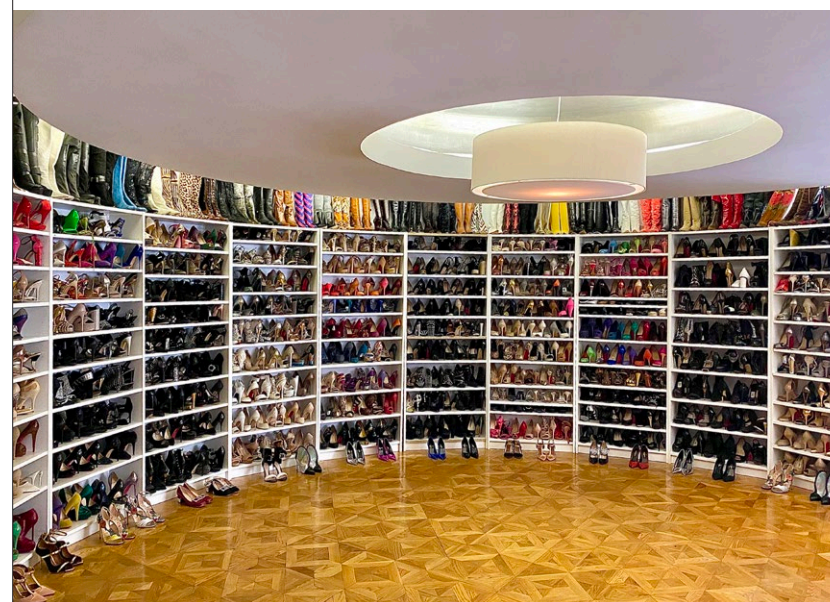


INSIDER INFO

While the Albright collection includes gowns that date to the 1970s, new pieces are always being added to the fold. Albright reportedly spends two million dollars a year on current looks that will one day become classics.

WHILE YOU’RE THERE

Less than a mile from ritzy Trousdale Estates, you’ll find the sprawling, grandiose Greystone Mansion (pictured). Completed by the Doheny family in 1928, the gothic estate and its grounds are now a park owned by the City of Beverly Hills. The mansion is open to the public by appointment and can also be rented for upscale events. Check beverlyhills.org/greystone for more information.



Edge City

WHERE TO SHOP THE COOLEST UP-AND-COMING LA DESIGNERS

On the fringes of the traditional fashion world, garment visionaries are making cutting-edge duds for every gender and shape.

You can almost pinpoint the moment the eyes of the fashion world turned from New York to Los Angeles. In 2016, local nondemographic fashion brand 69 sent models of various races, genders, sizes, and abilities dancing down a *Soul Train*-style runway in its commodious, genderless denim creations. From the front, a pair of belted, pleated trousers might look like standard weekend wear, but from behind—well, there is no behind, just bare legs and snug black briefs. An industry that can feel serious, stodgy, and steeped in tradition gets a dose of risk and whimsy in the workshops and warehouses where LA's innovative up-and-coming designers do their thing. Beloved by celebrities and art-world “It” girls alike, local brands like 69, Eckhaus Latta, and Equihua can be found on the racks in boutiques and designer-specific storefronts all around town—if you know where to find them. Sometimes tapping into luxury just means being in the know.

BOUTIQUES

1 VIRGIL NORMAL GREATER HOLLYWOOD 4157 Normal Ave.

Where East Hollywood meets Silver Lake, you'll find this stylish shop known for its collection of user-friendly clothes from casual avant-garde brands like 69 and Meals Clothing to streetwear faves like Brain Dead. Founded by colorful LA stylist Shirley Kurata, this mecca for cool kids also hosts craft events, record premieres, and skateboard sessions on their open-to-the-public, on-premises ramp. virgilnormal.com

2 GÉNERO NEUTRAL DOWNTOWN 1816 Sunset Blvd. Founders Ashley S.P. and Jennifer Zapata worked in other high-end LA boutiques before opening this minimalist concept shop in the heart of Echo Park in 2021. With a

focus on gender neutrality, the store has a carefully curated selection of clothing, jewelry, and accessories. You'll find designs from LA locals like Equihua, Kids of Immigrants, Paisaboy, and Cuevas Uniform hanging from its chic metal racks. generoneutral.la

3 UNION MID-CITY 110 S. La Brea Ave. If you watched HBO's streetwear competition show *The Hype*, you might already be familiar with local style icon Beth “Bephie” Gibbs, who cofounded iconic Hancock Park menswear store Union with her husband, Chris Gibbs. With a mixture of luxury avant-garde fashion and casual wear, you can find fun graphic tees from local brands like Online Ceramics or Real Bad Man, and sometimes pieces from Beth Gibbs's own brand Bephies Beauty Supply, which Issa Rae wore on the final season of *Insecure*. store.unionlosangeles.com





DESIGNER BRICK-AND-MORTARS

4

ECKHAUS LATTA
DOWNTOWN
980 N. Broadway

Tucked away amid the brightly colored buildings of Chinatown, this minimalist storefront designed by architect Emma Price is the perfect place to showcase the textural, avant-casual creations of Mike Eckhaus and Zoe Latta. Stop by to browse a selection of dip-dyed pants and fashion-forward knits, and don't sleep on their shoe collabs with brands like Grenson and Ugg. eckhauslatta.com

5

GIL RODRIGUEZ
GREATER HOLLYWOOD
3929 Fountain Ave.

At a new brick-and-mortar store in Los Feliz, former American Apparel designer Eliana Rodriguez offers up a colorful collection of elevated basics like bike shorts, crop tops, and slinky mini dresses. A passionate advocate of sustainable slow fashion, Rodriguez uses fabrics that are primarily cut, sewn, and knitted in LA, and her pieces are designed with longevity rather than trends in mind. gilrodriguez.com

6

TOTAL LUXURY SPA
SOUTH LOS ANGELES
5017 W. Exposition Blvd.

It might sound like a place you'd go for a facial or a massage, but this Crenshaw-based streetwear line designed by Daniel DeSure and Hassan Rahim focuses on using clothing to uplift their community. Their stylishly designed T-shirts and sweat suits are emblazoned with messages about wellness, environmentalism, and Afrofuturism, like a line that celebrates the Sun Ra Arkestra. totalluxuryspa.com



7 **BIG BUD PRESS** DOWNTOWN & HIGHLAND PARK 1829 Sunset Blvd. & 5028 York Blvd.

Stepping into a Big Bud store—the local outfit has outposts from Palm Springs to Chicago—is like stepping into a Technicolor dream. Known for its collection of flattering unisex jumpsuits, slacks, and basics like turtlenecks and wrap tops in a rainbow of colors, the brand is truly inclusive, carrying sizes XXS to 7XL. bigbudpress.com

8 **BRAIN DEAD** GREATER HOLLYWOOD 611 N. Fairfax Ave. & 3819 Sunset Blvd.

The Fairfax headquarters of this LA-based creative collective and collaboration machine is more than just a showroom for its clothes. It also features a vintage single-screen movie theater (formerly the Silent Movie Theater) that showcases art films and cult classics as well as Chef Jesse Furman's café Slammers on the back patio. For a more traditional shopping experience, head to Silver Lake to check out Brain Dead Fabrications, their collab with Dickies set in a former army surplus store in Sunset Junction. wearebraindead.com

9 **PANTORA** DOWNTOWN 1318 E. Seventh St., MI Ste. 118

If you're a fan of the Tim Gunn- and Heidi Klum-hosted fashion competition show *Making the Cut*, a trip to ROW DTLA is in order. In 2021, season two winner Andrea Pitter opened up shop at the industrial-chic outdoor shopping district, just a stone's throw from season one winner Jonny Cota's flagship store. At Pantora, Pitter stocks a ready-to-wear line that combines vibrant colors, bold prints, and modern silhouettes (you might even recognize some pieces from the show). Big day approaching? You'll also find the Brooklyn-bred designer's bridal collection on the racks. pantora.com



Oldies but Goodies

SHOP THE CLASSICS AT LA'S ULTIMATE VINTAGE STORE

Top celebs and Hollywood costumers love Timeless Vixen's designer duds.

Parting the baby-blue curtains and stepping into a dressing room at Timeless Vixen is like stepping into a time machine—minus the risk of disturbing the space-time continuum. The racks at Lauren Lepire's chic Pico-Robertson vintage boutique burst with intricately beaded gowns and coats with op-art flourishes, while classic chapeaus line the walls. Lepire doesn't simply focus on vintage garments, she looks for *iconic* vintage clothes: think "New Look"—era Dior, swingin' sixties Cardin, disco Halston, and eighties Mugler. Costumers from shows like *Boardwalk Empire*, *Mad Men*, and *Vinyl* have turned to Lepire for items from her vast collection.

Timeless Vixen began with Lepire's own love of throwback duds. She launched the business online in 2004 to sell flea market and estate sale finds. Her following grew, and she opened her Beverly Drive boutique in 2017. Lepire's eye for defining looks across eras has brought in teams from design houses looking to buy back their archives as well as museums expanding their collections. "Our idea is to preserve this history," Lepire says. But Timeless Vixen's emphasis on glamorous, red-carpet-ready looks also draws celebrity clientele like Courtney Love, Kate Moss, Amal Clooney, Tom Ford, and Ashley Olsen.

"The way I curate the store is, I feel, very theatrical because I do want those showstopper pieces," says Lepire.

Inside Timeless Vixen, clothing is organized by general eras. You'll find the antique items—from Victorian to the 1930s—together in one place, and the same goes for mid-twentieth-century clothing, and the 1970s to present day. What you won't find is clothing organized by size, and there's a good reason for that. "What's on a size tag from the fifties or sixties is not what we would go by today," Lepire says.

Putting on a vintage outfit can be a lot different from dressing in modern clothing. That's why Lepire and her staff provide a hands-on experience for customers. They're available to help you into that 1930s bias-cut dress or 1950s hourglass gown. This personalized service doesn't require an appointment, but if you're in the market for certain archival

pieces or bridal gowns, which are kept off site, call the shop and make arrangements a week prior to your visit.

That Pierre Cardin "carwash" dress you've always dreamed of awaits.



INSIDER INFO

You've probably spotted one of Lepire's finds either in a movie or on the red carpet, like the 1940's Paul Parnes suit Winona Ryder wore in the HBO miniseries *The Plot Against America*, the gold lamé cocktail dress Andra Day wore to channel a legend in *The United States vs. Billie Holiday*, or the tiered Lanvin couture gown Tory Burch wore to the Met Gala in 2017. You're in good company.

WHILE YOU'RE THERE

If you happen to pick up a vintage beret, take it for a spin at French bistro Bicyclette (bicyclettela.com) on nearby Pico Boulevard. République chefs Walter and Margarita Manzke serve staples like steak au poivre and escargot en croute in a cozy environment that will transport you straight to the Left Bank.





One of the most thrilling cities on the planet also happens to be a mecca for weary travelers. Whether you're in the mood for a massage, have a yen for yoga, or want to go all out with a weeklong wellness retreat, Los Angeles knows how to refresh in ways that can only be found here.

Wellness and Beauty

Go With the Flow

YOGA MEETS PADDLEBOARDING OFF A SUNNY SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BEACH

Ditch your mat and grab a board for a one-of-a-kind workout in Marina del Rey.

A little over a decade ago, Sarah Tiefenthaler had an idea. The inventive fitness instructor fused stand-up paddleboarding with vinyasa flow yoga and devised a very Los Angeles form of fitness. YOGAqua is what it sounds like: striking poses while floating on a ten-foot-long board. Tiefenthaler and her team host regular sessions on weekdays and weekends in the sparkling waters off Mother's Beach in Marina del Rey.

The ninety-minute class starts with a thirty-minute paddle in the marina (no experience required). Next, participants drop anchor for an hour of yoga on the board rather than on a mat. If keeping your balance sounds like a challenge, well, that's part of the point, but YOGAqua uses boards specifically designed for SUP (stand-up paddleboard) yoga, and the calm waters of the marina won't threaten to tip or flip you. Plus, instructors are trained to guide you through the poses in a way that will help you balance.

If you take a class during the summer, though, be prepared to get wet—it's part of the experience. "As soon as you fall into that water and it's a warm, sunny day, you feel like a little kid again," says Tiefenthaler. "It snaps anyone out of whatever they had going on in their mind in that moment."

With boards spread out ten feet away from one another, YOGAqua classes do offer a bit more privacy than the typical cozy studio session, but people who are more experienced on a board can opt for a private session to get a crash course in more advanced postures. YOGAqua's private sessions are also useful for people who want a customized flow (for instance, people recovering from an injury) or for birthday or bachelorette parties. Or, if you just want to paddle around a little, YOGAqua offers sunrise and sunset sessions minus the yoga—it's a *very* LA way to start or end the day.

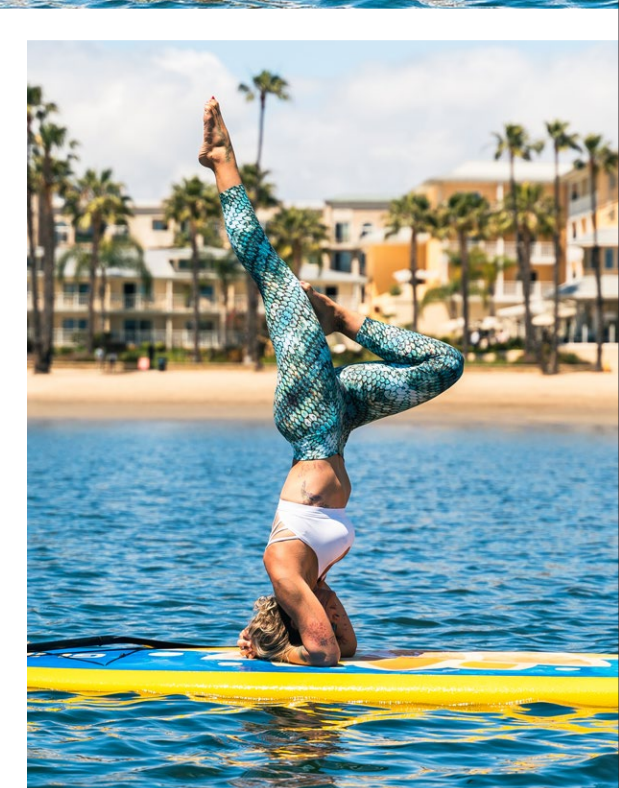


INSIDER INFO

If you have access to a private pool in either Los Angeles or Ventura counties, YOGAqua will come to you. Private sessions for one to three people start at \$350.

WHILE YOU'RE THERE

If a paddleboard yoga session ignites your sense of adventure, there are lots of ways to continue the fun in Marina del Rey. Sail above the coast at either five hundred or eight hundred feet with Marina del Rey Parasailing (pictured, marinadelreyparasailing.com), or try your hand at angling with a private chartered fishing excursion through Marina del Rey Sportfishing (mdrsf.com).



Strike a Pose

WHERE TO FIND OUT-OF-THE-ORDINARY YOGA AND MEDITATION

Why settle for a studio when you could do vinyasa in a vineyard or breathwork on the beach?

The morning sun glints off the grass as you take a deep breath, get on your hands and knees, and achieve tabletop pose. Suddenly, four tiny hooves find their way onto your back and something gives your ponytail a motivational tug—turns out pygmy goats are pretty good workout partners. Yoga has been practiced in the United States since at least the 1890s, when Swami Vivekananda came to Chicago for the World's Parliament of Religions as part of the World's Fair. Over the years, the poses and philosophies haven't really changed, but in LA, stunning settings—and, yeah, a few barnyard animals—are breathing new life into an age-old practice.

1 **POOLSIDE YOGA AT THE RITZ-CARLTON, LOS ANGELES** DOWNTOWN 900 W. Olympic Blvd.

At 8:30 each morning, as the sun peeks over Downtown's skyscrapers, health-minded travelers unfurl their mats and start the day with an hour-long yoga session on one of the city's most stunning rooftop pool decks. What many people practice today is hatha yoga, which combines physical

movements with mindfulness and meditation. It's a soothing practice in a soothing setting, but if you need a little more decompression, you can follow it up with a dip in the pool or, better yet, a "Champagne and Shimmer" massage in the hotel's spa, a treatment that includes a dusting with twenty-four-karat gold powder. The morning sessions are open to all hotel guests thirteen and older; call 213-743-8800 to book a room. ritzcarlton.com/en/hotels/california/los-angeles

2 **SATURDAY YOGA AT THE HOLLYWOOD ROOSEVELT** GREATER HOLLYWOOD 7000 Hollywood Blvd.

Sun salutations look a little different in the shadow of the Hollywood Roosevelt's iconic sign. As Hollywood Boulevard slowly comes to life on Saturday mornings, you can lay down a mat on the hotel's twelfth-floor terrace for a 10 a.m. session with instructor Mary DeCaro. A celebrity hotspot since it opened its doors in 1927, the hotel has counted everyone from Charlie Chaplin to Brad Pitt among its guests, but you

don't have to stay the night to hit up Saturday yoga. RSVP on the hotel's site or call 323-856-1970. thehollywoodroosevelt.com

3 **GOAT YOGA AT HELLO CRITTER** CITYWIDE It's only been around since 2016 (and it originated in Oregon), but goat yoga has become a little bit of an LA cliché. Still, plenty of studies have shown that interacting with animals has benefits, boosting your mood, decreasing feelings of loneliness, and even keeping the stress hormone cortisol from harshing your mellow. So, hey, there's science behind the Instagram-friendly trend. Hello Critter (pictured on page 98)—which introduced goat yoga to Angelenos in 2017—connects humans and animals with yoga sessions in which you flow and the goats, well, they kind of do whatever they want. There's a calendar with upcoming group sessions on Hello Critter's website, or you can book their cloven-hoofed crew for private or semiprivate sessions. They also offer rental mats if you'd rather yours not be christened by a barnyard animal. hellocritter.com





3

4 **SUNSET BEACH FLOW AT BEACH YOGA SOCAL** BEACH CITIES

2600 Ocean Front
Walk, Tower 26

As the sun prepares to dip below the horizon, casting its ethereal pink light on the surface of the Pacific Ocean, hit the sand for a “Sunset Beach Flow” session with Beach Yoga SoCal. On the white, cushy sand near Tower 26 in Santa Monica, all you need is a big beach towel to hit mountain pose with the Santa Monica mountains in the background. If you’re more of a morning person, instructors offer a.m. “Beach Flow” sessions—and night owls can keep an eye out for the “Yoga Under the Stars” events too. Classes are designed for all experience levels, so don’t be intimidated if you’re a newbie. Visit their website to book. beachyogasocal.com

5 **YOGA AND SOUND HEALING IN THE VINEYARD AT THE MINDRY** BEACH CITIES

3874B Cross Creek Rd.

You could almost mistake Cielo Farms’ hillside vineyard for the Tuscan countryside. The jaw-droppingly gorgeous family-owned farm is the setting for a vinyasa flow session followed by a savasana sound bath to help you reconnect to yourself, your intentions, and your breathing. The Malibu studio—which has a dedicated space at Malibu Village—also offers “Breathwork in the Vineyard” at Cielo Farms, a breathing exercise that’s meant to oxygenate the bloodstream and achieve emotional equilibrium. Visit their website to book. themindry.com

6 **SOMATIC SUNRISE MEDITATION AT ETHEREAL YOGA STUDIO** BEACH CITIES

120 N. Topanga Canyon Blvd., #105

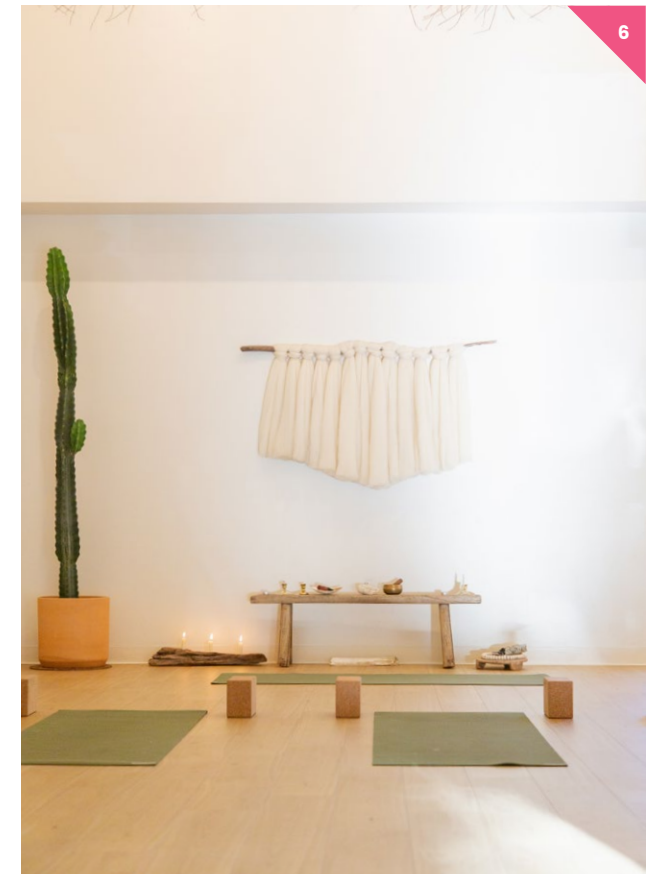
You probably start the day with a cup of coffee and a spin through the news. Ethereal Yoga Studio has other ideas. Set amid the rolling hills of Topanga, the bright, airy studio invites guests to pop in at 6:30 a.m. for its “Somatic Sunrise” sessions, which include guided meditation, conscious breathing, and journaling to start the day with a quiet mind and a deeper connection to the inner self. Not up for an early morning? Evening practitioners should look into their candlelit yin yoga class. Visit their website to book. etherealyogastudio.com



4



5



6



Sweating with the Stars

WHERE TO FIND CELEBRITY-APPROVED WORKOUTS

From Pilates to trampoline cardio, these fitness programs draw an impressive clientele.

In the era of body positivity and self-care, there's a lot more to a fitness regimen than breaking a sweat. Sure, working out is about looking good, but it's also about feeling good, fostering a healthy mind-body connection, and releasing serious endorphins. From the era of exclusive private health clubs to the Muscle Beach boom of the seventies and eighties, LA has been at the forefront of fitness trends, and that's still the case today. If you've heard or read about a workout, chances are you can find it in LA—a city full of people who look good for a living—before you can find it anywhere else. Give these celebrity-approved workouts a shot.

1 WUNDABAR PILATES LOS FELIZ GREATER HOLLYWOOD
1864½ N. Vermont Ave.

You can't swing a stick without hitting a Pilates studio in LA, but

Amy Jordan's workout hub (which also has locations in Studio City, Montrose, and Pasadena) has developed a devoted following thanks to its custom reformers, which combine a regular Pilates reformer, a ballet bar, a jump board, and more. Vanessa Hudgens and Whitney Port have reportedly been spotted getting fit here, and your first group class costs just twenty-five dollars. Private classes—including one designed specifically for pregnant women—are also available. wundabar.com

2 LEKFIT MID-CITY
346 S. La Brea Ave.
Mini trampolines and mats line the floor inside LEKFIT's chic, sprawling six-thousand-square-foot Hancock Park oasis, but you should brace yourself for more than some casual bouncing and mat-based work. Celebrity trainer Lauren Kleban's program

involves intervals of low-impact and high-intensity moves to work the full body—and the highs are no joke, especially when you've got a pair of weights strapped to your ankles. Just ask Kate Beckinsale, Kate Mara, and Busy Philipps, who can be seen in the recovery room or lounging on the patio post-sweat. For those not in LA, they offer a digital membership with new workouts released every day. lekfit.com

3 BODY BY SIMONE WESTSIDE
137 S. Barrington Pl.
Spring for a pack of five classes at Simone De La Rue's Brentwood studio (pictured on following page), and you can try each of the trusted celeb trainer's classes—dance cardio; full body; arms, back, and core; hips, thighs, and buns; and tramp cardio—and get ready to go hard for nearly an hour each time. Supermodel Chrissy Teigen is a fan



of BBS, which is kind of like a dance party masquerading as exercise. The studio offers one-off drop-in classes, too, if you just want to test it out. bodybysimone.com

4 SHAPE HOUSE GREATER HOLLYWOOD 434 N. Larchmont Blvd.

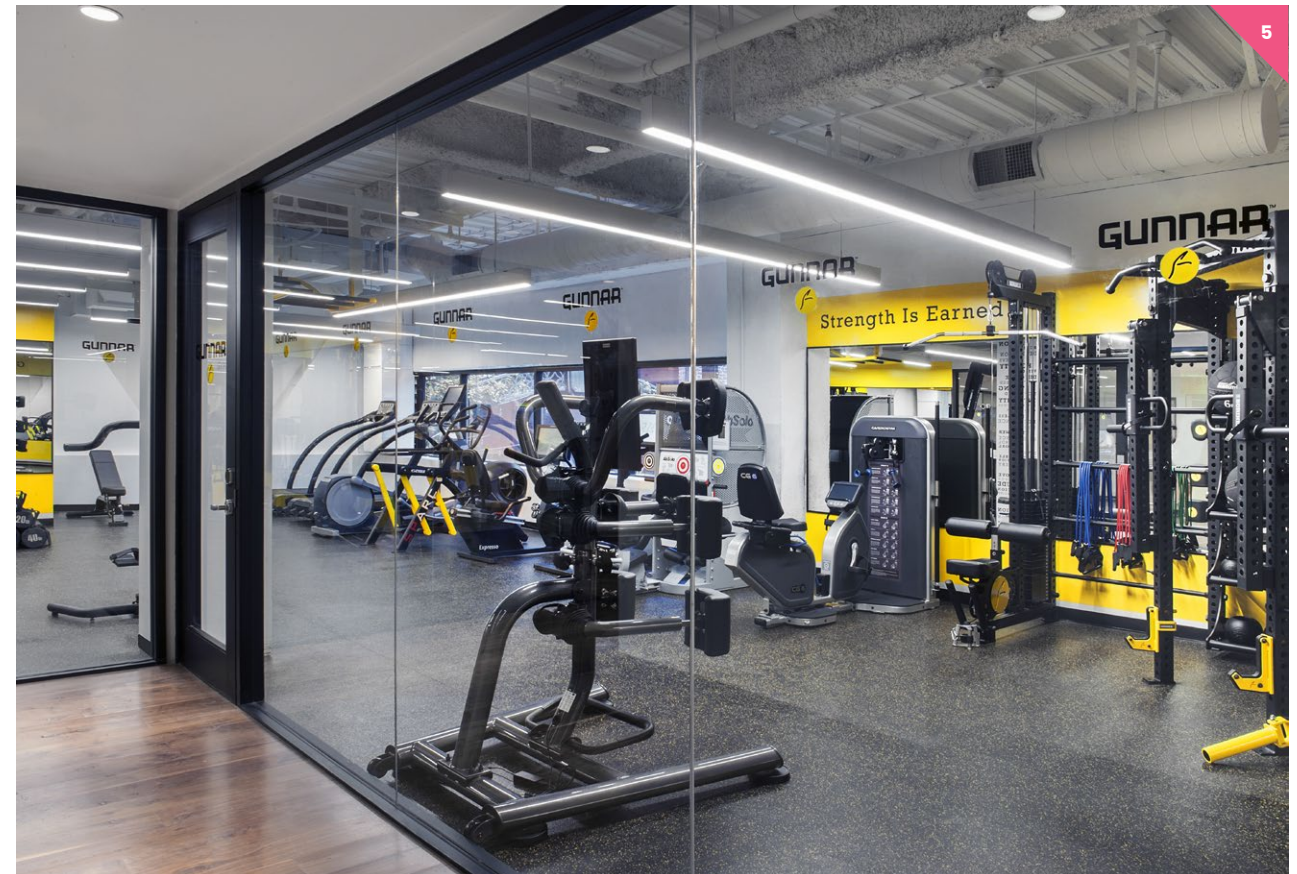
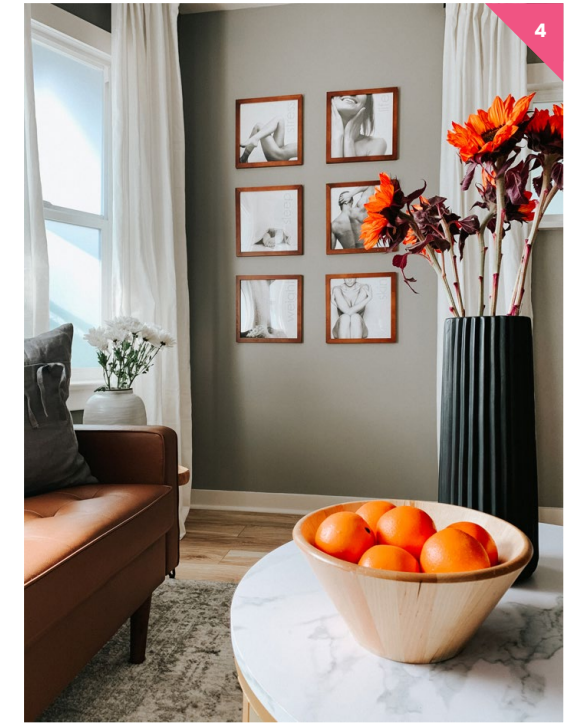
Think of the philosophy behind Shape House as sweat for sweat's sake. What this cozy Larchmont bungalow offers isn't a workout at all, but a chance to recharge, detox, and burn calories by simply lying still while infrared heat warms you from within and gets your glands going.

Selena Gomez and Demi Moore have reportedly been in for a sweat, which Shape House says can improve sleep, help you lose weight, and help you de-stress. shapehouse.com

5 GUNNAR PETERSON GYM AT DREAM HOLLYWOOD GREATER HOLLYWOOD 6417 Selma Ave.

You likely know what the hotel fitness center is like—a few treadmills, maybe some weights. When celebrity trainer Gunnar Peterson set out to design and curate the gym at Dream Hollywood,

he wanted to create something totally different and suited to the kinds of exercises people should do while traveling. “I like movements that are high-yield when I travel,” Peterson said in an interview for *Men's Journal*. “I want to put out the most amount of energy in the least amount of time.” In this state-of-the-art facility, expect to see things you just won't see elsewhere, like a custom-built squat rack, a heavy bag, and a boxing machine. Leave it to a trainer known to work with celebs like Dwayne Johnson to take things to the next level. dreamhotels.com/hollywood



Moveable Feast

GET OUTDOORS WITH A BESPOKE PICNIC AT SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN

Nibble charcuterie as you lounge on a lawn amid eighty-seven acres of serious SoCal beauty.

Armed with a map, you and ten friends follow a flower-lined pathway through South Coast Botanic Garden's lush, fragrant grounds on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. And then you see it: an extravagant—and, of course, extremely Instagrammable—picnic prepared with seasonal floral arrangements and the picnic-friendly foods you adore. The setup is part of the garden's bespoke picnic program, a customizable outdoor party with everything from charcuterie to a full-on catered meal.

Choose between a wide array of themes, from the “glamping” site—which comes complete with a tiny tent—to the Parisian dreamscape, which features an array of romantic candles. Opt for a Boho theme for macramé galore, or choose the farmhouse setup, which has a more rustic appeal. You can even choose to have an intimate meal atop a literal work of art—Richard Artschwager's 1989 sculpture *One on One*, on loan from the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, makes the perfect picnic table for two. For really special occasions, upgrade your setup with giant LOVE letters or an arch backdrop.

While guests can choose to have their picnic anywhere on the garden's eighty-seven acres, CEO Adrienne Lao Nakashima recommends the popular Banyan Lawn, adjacent to a grove of Banyan trees that resembles a “really wet rainforest.” And when you're done with the feast, there are plenty of places to walk it off and more than twenty-five hundred plant species to admire. Or you might just want to take a snooze on the lawn—like the rest of the experience, it's all up to you.



INSIDER INFO

During the holiday season, South Coast Botanic Garden lights up for GLOW, an annual walk-through exhibit featuring thousands of lights and immersive themed environments. It typically runs November through mid-January.

WHILE YOU'RE THERE

If you can't get enough fresh air, hit the links at Los Verdes Golf Course, an eighteen-hole course with unbelievable views of Catalina Island beyond. Membership isn't required, and you can book tee times right on their website (losverdesgc.com).



Say Ahhhhh

LA'S MOST LUXE SPA EXPERIENCES

Relax to the max with a soak, scrub, or massage at some of the city's most exclusive wellness hubs.

Imagine escaping the bustle of LA's freeways and film sets (and freeways that have become film sets) by stepping into an urban oasis where you can literally slough off the worries of the day. LA is a city awash in opportunities to rejuvenate your mind and body, but these local spas—set in world-class hotels, beach-adjacent bungalows, and unassuming storefronts—have offerings you have to feel to believe. Indulge. You've earned it.

1 **OLE HENRIKSEN FACE & BODY SPA** GREATER HOLLYWOOD 8622 Sunset Blvd., Ste. A

In a quiet, lantern-lit room, a pair of tubs glow with soothing purple light. It's just one space within Ole Henriksen Face & Body Spa that feels miles away from the action on the Sunset Strip outside. This tranquil gem of a spa offers transformative treatments including the "Return to Nature Organic Facial," which features a heavenly acupressure massage and a chaga mushroom phytonutrient wrap. For full-body rejuvenation, go with one of the signature "Spa Rituals," which combine soaks, steams, exfoliations, and massages. olehenriksen.com/spa.html

2 **DEN MOTHER BEACH CITIES** 1209 Abbot Kinney Blvd.

In a private garden sheltered from the busy streets of Venice, a dunk in a refreshing plunge tub of cold water awakens your senses before you retreat into a barrel-shaped cedar sauna where you warm up and detox. Open since November 2021 in a trendy, cozy bungalow on Abbot Kinney Boulevard, Den Mother is all about services that treat both the mind and body, offering sessions with an Ayurvedic specialist and an acupuncturist. The spa serves up a plant-based café menu, or you can wrap up a day of relaxation with avocado toast, a cold-pressed juice, or a glass of deliciously dry cava at Butcher's Daughter next door. denmother.com

3 **OSEA SKINCARE STUDIO** BEACH CITIES 1732 Abbot Kinney Blvd.

Ancient Mesopotamians and a Chinese empress circa the 200s BCE are said to have used seaweed and sea minerals in their beauty rituals. Seaweed-centric skincare brand OSEA

(pictured on page 108) has bright, airy outposts in both Venice and Malibu, where technicians tap into holistic practices like craniosacral therapy to reduce inflammation and make skin glow. A standout is the Sculpt & Lift Gua Sha Facial, which purports to sculpt, relax, and detoxify the face using minerals and sound-vibrational therapies. Beauty may be skin deep, but, hey, a facial never hurts. oseamalibu.com/pages/venice-skincare-studio-1

4 **BURKE WILLIAMS** MID-CITY 925 N. La Brea Ave. Back in the seventies, when "wellness"

wasn't a ubiquitous catchword and healthy living meant devouring sandwiches stuffed with alfalfa sprouts, Burke Williams opened its OG Hollywood day spa on Sunset Boulevard. In 2016, the small California chain with locations in Pasadena, Santa Monica, and Woodland Hills secured swanky new digs on La Brea Avenue (pictured on page 108), where its long legacy of relaxation lives on. Take a load off inside the cushy co-ed conservatory, where technicians give treatments targeting the scalp, feet, and hands.





The spa's facials include a twenty-two-point acupressure massage that they've been perfecting for twenty-five years. And at the alchemy bar, experts whip up personalized aromatherapeutic potions you can take home and use when you need a quick reset but can't make it back to the spa. burkewilliams.com

5 CIEL SPA
MID-CITY
 465 La Cienega Blvd.
 In an immaculate white-on-white room, you and your loved one settle into a side-by-side bath with a couple of glasses of champagne to sip. The soak is just the start. As part of its "Sweet Loving Souls" package, Ciel Spa—nestled in the hip SLS

Hotel—wraps up the experience with one of its signature ninety-minute hot stone massages. The luxe sanctuary's deep menu of services has lots of opportunities for "me" time too, from hyperbaric oxygen therapy to a facial that promises a red-carpet refresh without needles or healing time. sbe.com/hotels/sls-hotels/beverly-hills/ciel-sp

6 FAIRMONT SPA CENTURY PLAZA
WESTSIDE
 2025 Avenue of the Stars
 Well before golden stone pyramids pierced the skies over Giza, ancient Egyptians used hot water and steam to soothe their respiratory systems and freshen their appearances. That

age-old wisdom is still hot stuff today. At Fairmont Spa Century Plaza, your lungs will fill with soothing humid air inside the sanarium. Beneath the calming warmth of the rainfall shower, you'll close your eyes as your troubles slide down the drain. Pick a "mood" with the right scents and colors to go with your ninety-minute "Moments" massage, or retreat into the Himalayan salt room to give your lungs a refresh from the urban air outside. So-called "halotherapy" was discovered in the 1800s, when Polish salt miners noticed that time in the tunnels improved their skin and respiratory health—but you can leave the pickaxe at home. fairmont.com/los-angeles/spa

The Mane Event

GET YOUR HAIR DID WHERE THE STARS DO

Good hair isn't reserved for the famous, but you can take cues from your red-carpet heroes at these luxe salons.

In chic salons across LA, some of the best stylists in the world are on the cutting edge (pun intended) of modern hair care, making magic happen in their hydraulic chairs and setting the trends that become worldwide phenomena. And you don't have to be famous to hit up the very stylists who did Addison Rae's balayage or gave Miley Cyrus her rockin' mullet. Looking that good is worth the wait for an appointment.

1 NINE ZERO ONE GREATER HOLLYWOOD

901 Westbourne Dr.
Celebrity Clients: Selena Gomez, Nina Dobrev, Hilary Duff

An entire economy has arisen around capturing and commodifying California cool, but the stylists at Nine Zero One have a lockdown on the look. You know the vibe: long, soft waves and tousled bobs in shades of golden blond and rich brown that seem crafted to capture the magic-hour light LA is famous for. Founded by stylists Nikki Lee and Riawna Capri, Nine Zero One has cultivated a casual, natural aesthetic that has

attracted celebrity clients including Sydney Sweeney, Sophia Bush, and Julianne Hough. Call or email to schedule a new-client appointment with Lee, Capri, or another of their carefully curated crop of stylists.
ninezeroonesalon.com

2 ANDY LECOMPTE GREATER HOLLYWOOD

616 N. Almont Dr.
Celebrity Clients: Madonna, Salma Hayek, Megan Fox

Vogue once called Andy Lecompte's West Hollywood salon "LA's most appointment-worthy and celeb-heavy beauty spot." Incidentally, Lecompte and his stylists' masterworks have landed on a lot of magazine covers (see Anya Taylor-Joy on the May 2021 issue of *Elle* and Madonna on the June 2019 cover of *British Vogue*). Inside the chic, industrial salon you'll find a deep roster of stylists with various specialties—ranging from extensions to men's cuts to treatments like Pura Luxe, a nontoxic smoothing treatment made with amino acids—and they don't just cater to stars. Call the salon to schedule an appointment with the

stylist who's the right fit for you.
andylecomptesalon.com

3 I LOVE LULU HAIR CAFÉ MID-CITY

733 S. La Brea Ave.
Celebrity Clients: Ava DuVernay, Crystal Fox

Steam is on the menu at Tallulah "Lulu" Marcelin's bright, airy La Brea Avenue salon. The philosophy here is that a healthy scalp sets the stage for healthy hair, and their clients are proof. Sparkling white subway tiles cover the walls behind banks of cushy loungers where clients are shampooed with an array of natural products designed to care for natural hair. Services on the menu include a variety of wash-and-steam treatments, scalp massages, and braids—from cornrows to twists. This salon is all about self-care. As a mural on the wall says, "Happy is the woman who spoils her scalp . . . [and] honors her hair."
iloveluluhairspa.com





4 MÈCHE
WESTSIDE
8820 Burton Way
Celebrity Clients:
Saweezie, Paris Hilton,
Khloé Kardashian

Mèche cofounder Tracey Cunningham has a way with color. She handled Paris Hilton's wedding-day shade and keeps Khloé Kardashian blond. And Halle Berry, Saweetie, McKayla Maroney, and Este Haim are just a few of the beautiful people who've hit up Mèche artists for new hues. In addition to cuts and color, the salon also offers services like keratin straightening and Olaplex repair treatments. mechesalonla.com

5 SALLY HERSHBERGER
MID-CITY
760 N. La Cienega Blvd.
Celebrity Clients: Victoria Beckham, Shakira, Sharon Stone

Back when Meg Ryan was America's sweetheart, she rocked a short, layered look that became a sensation on par with the "Rachel." The

so-called "Sally shag" shares a name with creator Sally Hershberger, a stylist who's nearly as famous as the people she's styled. Over the course of her illustrious career, the stylist has created cuts that have become pop culture cornerstones and has developed multiple hair-care products. Her sole LA shop is staffed by stylists and colorists introducing the latest hair trends, from bold shades of red to shaggy layers. Hershberger was also the first celeb stylist to offer a six-hundred-dollar haircut to the general public, but her rate has gone up a little since then. sallyhershberger.com/losangelessalon

6 BLO W HOLLYWOOD
GREATER HOLLYWOOD
6250 Hollywood Blvd., Ste. 500

All is quiet at 7 a.m. on Hollywood Boulevard, but you might catch the whirl of blow dryers emanating from Blo Blow Dry Bar. Located on the ground floor of the W Hollywood

hotel, the bright, modern salon will open early to get clients looking sleek for early meetings and can stay open as late as 9 p.m. for a refresh before a red-carpet event or a hot date. Besides blowouts, their menu of services includes extensions, makeup, and more. blomedry.com/w-hollywood-ca

7 CAPELLA SALON
SAN FERNANDO VALLEY
12930 Ventura Blvd.
Celebrity Clients: Nathalie Emmanuel, Tia Mowry, Tamera Mowry

Since 1995, this Studio City salon has been caring for natural curls. Operated by Shai and Nicole Amiel, the massive, industrial-chic space with lacquered concrete floors has become a shrine to springy, well-moisturized tresses. Shai calls himself the Curl Doctor, and he has quite the roster of celebrity "patients" to show for his expertise, including actresses Tia and Tamera Mowry, model Eden Fines, and musician Kreesha Turner. Your hair is in good hands here. capellasalon.com

Dog Show

OUTRAGEOUS CUTS AND COLOR AREN'T JUST FOR PEOPLE

Every pet is a VIP at Dogue Spa, one of LA's chicest grooming salons.

A white poodle with a poof of rainbow-colored hair has become a mascot of sorts at Dogue Spa, a West Hollywood groomer that has attracted celebs like Awkwafina and Cardi B with its hand-scissored haircuts and creative dye jobs in a luxe, cage-free environment.

"The main idea behind Dogue has been to bring together high-end human hair-salon vibes and fashion/pop culture," says Mehdi Rezig, who cofounded Dogue Spa along with life and business partner Josh White (and Josh's rainbow-hued dog Snow). "Dogue isn't for just anyone; we tend to a clientele who truly consider their dog as family members more so than pets. It's important for us to build a bond with the dog and their owner."

Their expert groomers are pros at breed-specific cuts and even dematting, but their Asian-fusion or Japanese-style grooming, which "turns dogs into real-life teddy bears," has become their calling card. That means you never know what you'll see leaving the salon: a pastel-pink goldendoodle, a chiweenie decked out in a fresh set of zebra stripes, or a bichon disguised as a panda. (Naturally, all the dyes and products the team uses are vegan, nontoxic, and cruelty-free.)

"We enjoy thinking outside the box and attempt to match each dog's haircut to his or her unique personality," Rezig says.

They also limit the number of clients they see each day for a truly relaxing and personalized experience—for dogs and owners alike.

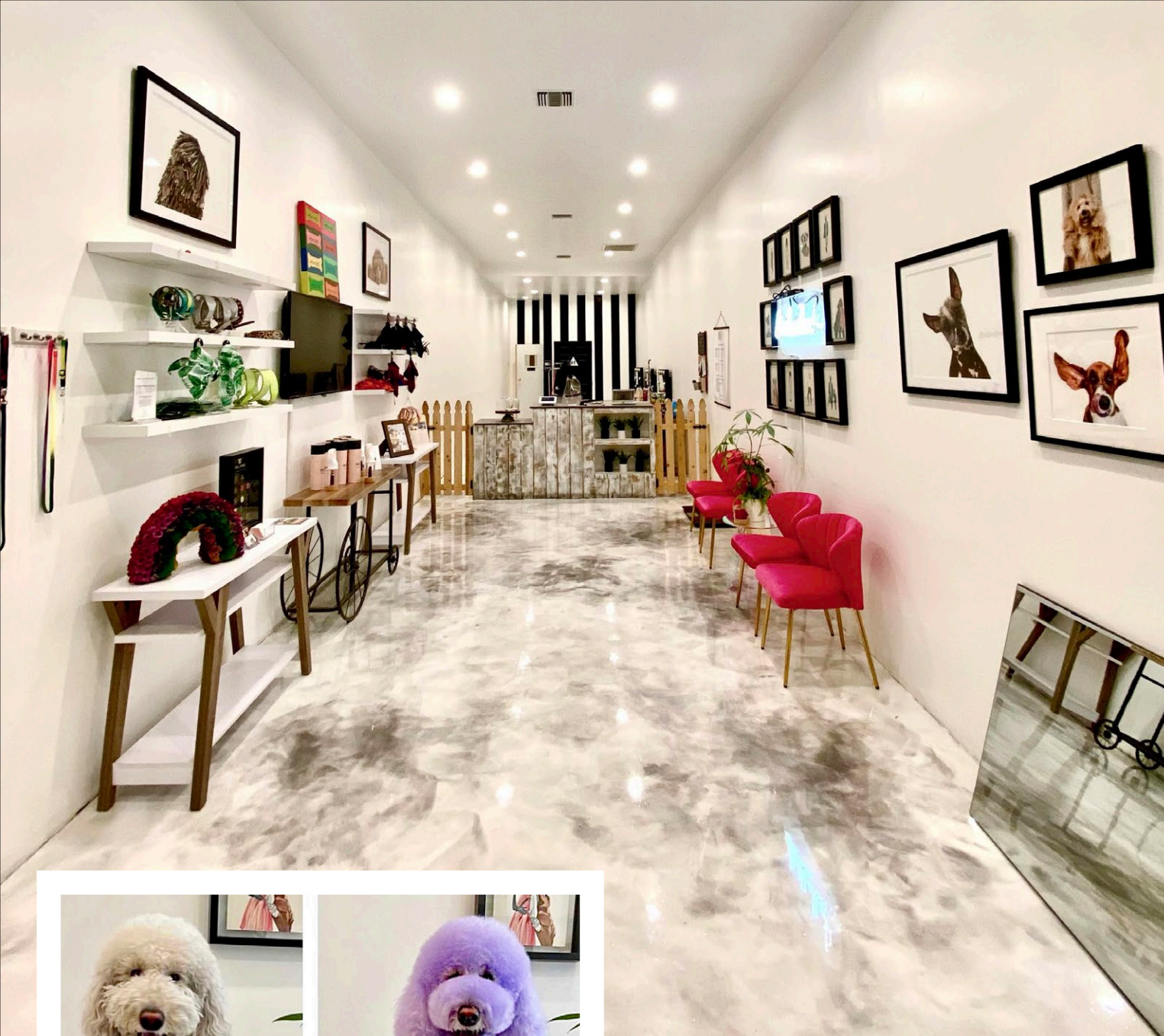


INSIDER INFO

Before your pooch gets primped, let them get out the zoomies at nearby Runyon Canyon Dog Park. The hiking trails are dog-friendly too (with a leash, of course).

WHILE YOU'RE THERE

East Coast meets West Coast at Connie & Ted's (connieandteds.com), a sunny seafood spot from Providence chef Michael Cimarusti, located less than a block from Dogue Spa. Enjoy a hot or cold lobster roll, oysters from the raw bar, or peel-and-eat wild-caught shrimp.



The Suite Life

STEP INSIDE LA'S MOST OPULENT HOTEL ROOMS

From an in-room basketball court to a private theater, these seriously swanky suites have way more to offer than a king bed and a workspace.

Imagine pulling up to your hotel after a long day of travel, bypassing the check-in desk, and making your way to your very own private bungalow. A concierge taps his card and swings open the door to reveal a cavernous room with glittering chandeliers, a piano, a bar, and . . . is that a private pool? Here in LA, even the hotel rooms are like something straight out of a big-budget movie, and lots of them have had the celeb guests to match. From luxury courtesy cars to private rooftop patios, the amenities in these suites will wow even the most jaded traveler—or the actual Prince of Wales.

1 THE POOL SUITE AT DOWNTOWN LA PROPER

DOWNTOWN
1100 S. Broadway

For decades, the red-brick building at the corner of Broadway and Eleventh Street echoed with the sounds of lockers slamming and sneakers squeaking on gymnasium floors. Today, the former YWCA is a chic boutique hotel with interiors by Kelly Wearstler and food by James Beard Award winners Suzanne Goin

and Caroline Styne, but its past life is apparent in a super unusual suite. Take a dip in your very own thirty-five-by-twelve-foot indoor swimming pool in the hotel's Pool Suite, a massive 2,777-square-foot room that repurposes the former health club's splash spot. If the afternoon sunlight making its way through the windows in the pool room—which casts a gorgeous glow on a three-dimensional mural by local sculptor Ben Medansky—isn't doing the trick, socialize on the hotel's rooftop pool deck, which has sunshine and views for days. properhotel.com/downtown-la

2 PRESIDENTIAL SUITE AT MILLENNIUM BILTMORE LOS ANGELES

DOWNTOWN
506 S. Grand Ave.

On an October night in 1923, thousands of people, including studio heads and early Hollywood stars, gathered beneath ceilings emblazoned with actual twenty-four-karat gold to celebrate the opening of what was then the largest hotel west of Chicago. It was an illustrious kickoff for a landmark

that has hosted presidents, royalty, and even a few Prohibition-era gangsters, some of whom bedded down in the outrageously opulent Presidential Suite. The 4,600-square-foot space is two stories high and has three bedrooms, a library, a spiral staircase, and a formal dining room. Nine US presidents and the Beatles have holed up in the room, which is said to still have hidden panels where guests could hide hooch back when booze was verboten. millenniumhotels.com/en/los-angeles/millennium-biltmore-hotel-los-angeles

3 GABLE & LOMBARD PENTHOUSE AT THE HOLLYWOOD ROOSEVELT

GREATER HOLLYWOOD
7000 Hollywood Blvd.

A dashing man with pomade-slicked hair and a blond starlet with a knowing smile make their way through the lobby of the Hollywood Roosevelt, attempting to avoid prying eyes. In the 1930s, when the duo was the toast of Hollywood, Clark Gable and Carole Lombard fell in love and began an affair behind the closed doors of the hotel's





top-floor suite. The two eventually married, and their love story lives on within the confines of the Gable & Lombard Penthouse. Situated atop the hotel's famed Spanish Colonial tower, the room is a 3,200-square-foot, three-level beauty with a large bar, a rooftop patio, and stunning views of the fabled Hollywood Sign. Back in the thirties, a stay would set you back a few bucks a night. It'll cost you a *little* more than that today. thehollywoodroosevelt.com

4 PRESIDENTIAL SUITE AT HOTEL BEL-AIR WESTSIDE 701 Stone Canyon Rd.

After spending a night in the Presidential Suite at Hotel Bel-Air in the 1990s, Prince Charles—born and raised in Buckingham Palace—told a British magazine that the experience was akin to “staying at a rich friend’s home.” More house than hotel room, the highly exclusive hidden bungalow has a chef’s kitchen, a cozy fireplace, and a study, but the centerpiece is the lush courtyard with a crystal-clear infinity pool. Outside the confines of your royal oasis, there’s Hollywood history around every corner. One of Marilyn Monroe’s last photo shoots took place at the hotel, where she was a frequent guest. And Tony Curtis loved the place so much he would’ve made a long-term commitment: “If I could, I would marry Hotel Bel-Air tomorrow,” the actor once said. dorchestercollection.com/en/los-angeles/hotel-bel-air

5 PENTHOUSE BUNGALOWS AT VENICE V HOTEL BEACH CITIES 5 Westminster Ave.

An ocean breeze pours into the open windows of an immaculately decorated room with crisp white bedding, bespoke furnishings, and local art on the walls. It’s all stunningly modern—a well-heeled millennial’s fantasy—but there’s a lot of history in the Penthouse Bungalows at Venice V Hotel. The boutique hotel, designed by Relativity Architects to capture Venice’s distinct vibes, inhabits a building that Hollywood legend Charlie Chaplin once called home. That heritage is reflected in a series of themed suites. The Chaplin Suite has unreal ocean views (there’s even a peekaboo view from the shower) and a film reel mounted on the wall beside a quaint reading nook, while the Clara Bow Suite—named for Hollywood’s original “*It*” girl—has a sunken living space, exposed brick walls, and more feminine design touches. Live a little bit of more recent Hollywood history with a stay in the Skylight Bungalow, a stunning, sundrenched space that doubled as Sylvester Stallone’s apartment in the eighties thriller *Cobra*. Today, the room is a little slice of paradise, complete with a bed that faces a window so you can greet the gorgeous SoCal coastline right when you open your eyes. venicevhotel.com

6 PENTHOUSE AT LEVEL SOUTH OLIVE DOWNTOWN 888 S. Olive St.

The cool LA breeze catches your hair as you hang with friends around the fire pit in your massive outdoor living room, the lights of the city glinting hundreds of feet below. If you’re sticking around LA for a longer stay (and you really, really like entertaining), the Penthouse at Downtown’s Level South Olive—a self-catering rental rather than a hotel suite—is an outrageous eighteen-thousand-square-foot palace in the sky with multiple dining rooms, a personal theater, a private pool, an eighteen-foot indoor bar, and an area outside dedicated to rooftop games so you and your crew can play cornhole thirty-three stories up. The only thing you have to worry about? Convincing your pals to leave when the party’s over. stayinglevel.com/destinations/los-angeles



Sweet Dreams

COZY UP IN HOTEL FIGUEROA'S REST & RECOVERY SUITE

A good night's sleep is this cushy hideaway's raison d'être.

In the mid-1920s, women traveling solo could safely hunker down for the night at the YWCA-run hotel near the corner of Figueroa Street and Olympic Boulevard. Nearly a hundred years later, it's still a place where out-of-towners and locals alike can seek refuge from the bustle of the city outside. "We really are a sanctuary Downtown," managing director Connie Wang says of the hotel, which boasts a swoon-worthy pool deck set against a seventy-four-year-old cactus grove, art-filled common spaces, three trendy restaurants, and a wellness program with yoga and Pilates.

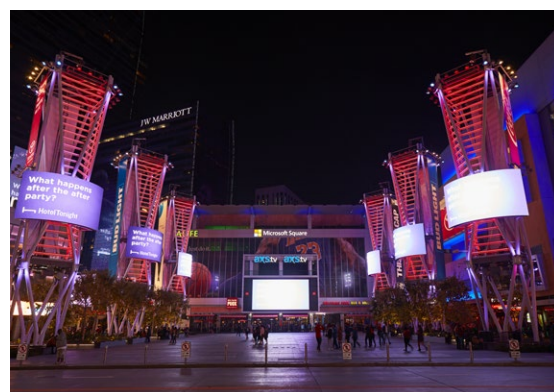
The recently revamped hotel's popularity as a staycation destination is what inspired its latest special amenity, the Rest & Recovery Suite. "One thing we realize is that sleep is kind of the ultimate luxury for many people, and that having a space that's quiet, that's away from your current life, that helps you feel transported somewhere new, is really important for rest and relaxation," says Wang.

With that in mind, Hotel Figueroa partnered with several brands to turn a seven-hundred-square-foot suite into the ultimate destination for rest. A specialized mattress allows two people to adjust their sides of the bed to personalized settings. Forre's fitness mirror gives you the opportunity to exercise without leaving your room, while Beam health supplements and a Hyperice postworkout tool are available as well. Plus, guests get to use—and then take home—a Pluto Pillow customized to their specific nighttime needs. Work up an appetite with classes in yoga, Pilates, and synchronized swimming, and then sit down to lunch at Café Fig before a hang at the pool.

There's only one Rest & Recovery suite in the hotel, so booking in advance is a must—they recommend two to three weeks prior to your stay to make time for your personalized pillow to arrive.

If you're not staying at Hotel Figueroa but want to unwind Downtown, check out the hotel's Daycation

packages, which offer access to the pool and other select amenities.



INSIDER INFO

Art has become a major facet of Hotel Figueroa's mission. Check the walls and common spaces for photography, paintings, and mixed-media works by both emerging and established female LA artists.

WHILE YOU'RE THERE

The hotel is situated just steps from L.A. Live (lalive.com) and all it has to offer. See a show at Microsoft Theater, take a guided tour of the Grammy Museum, or feast on a thirty-five-ounce Prime Tomahawk at Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar.





In LA's state-of-the-art stadiums and open-air venues splashed with SoCal sunshine, heart-pounding sports games and unforgettable concerts are all the more thrilling with exclusive extras. Go beyond box seats and experience LA like a champion.

Live Events

Game On

THE COOLEST VIP EXPERIENCES AT CRYPTO.COM ARENA

These exclusive suites and boxes are fit for a king—or just a really big Kings fan.

You can nearly feel skates slicing ice as LA Kings center Anze Kopitar shakes his defender and smashes the puck past the goalie. You and fifteen of your closest friends—practically a hockey team in your own right—leap to your feet in your box of front-row seats as the roar of the crowd fills Crypto.com Arena (formerly Staples Center).

The arena may have a new name, but this hallowed hall of sports fandom—which has hosted seven NBA Finals, five WNBA Finals, and two Stanley Cup Finals since it opened its doors in 1999—is as luxe as ever, offering a slew of VIP experiences for fans who want to splurge on something unforgettable. Besides a box of either eleven or fifteen seats situated between the home and away benches, the LA Kings' Ice Box experience includes perks like valet parking and cushy seats with extra legroom, but the pièce de résistance is a private hospitality suite located across from the Kings locker room. Sip drinks from the open bar, nosh on eats from one of three catering menus, and try to keep your cool when the Ice Crew, the team's dance squad, stops by to say hi.

If your guest list is deeper, opt for either the Green Room experience or the Golden Road experience, which accommodate up to a hundred people. The former includes a block of seats in the regular seating bowl plus a private hospitality space on the locker-room level. With the latter you get a special pregame reception with an open bar—stocked with plenty of Golden Road beer, naturally.

The House That Kobe Built also has options for basketball fans looking to go all out, whether they're rooting for the Lakers, the Clippers, or the Sparks. Eighteen of the arena's 172 chic private suites are available to rent for one-off events—games and concerts alike—and each has an LA-centric theme. Some rooms are decked out in gear and memorabilia that aligns with the teams that call the arena home; others rep LA neighborhoods, from Downtown to Hollywood to Venice. For something more immersive, score tickets to the annual Lakers All-Access

event, where fans get to tour the Lakers locker room, meet players, and shoot around on the very court Kobe blessed.

If the food, drinks, and friends just feel like a distraction from the game, go the Hollywood VIP route and splurge on courtside seats, where you might spy Jack Nicholson, Flea, or Kendall Jenner. Keep your eyes off your phone—a player just might land in your lap.

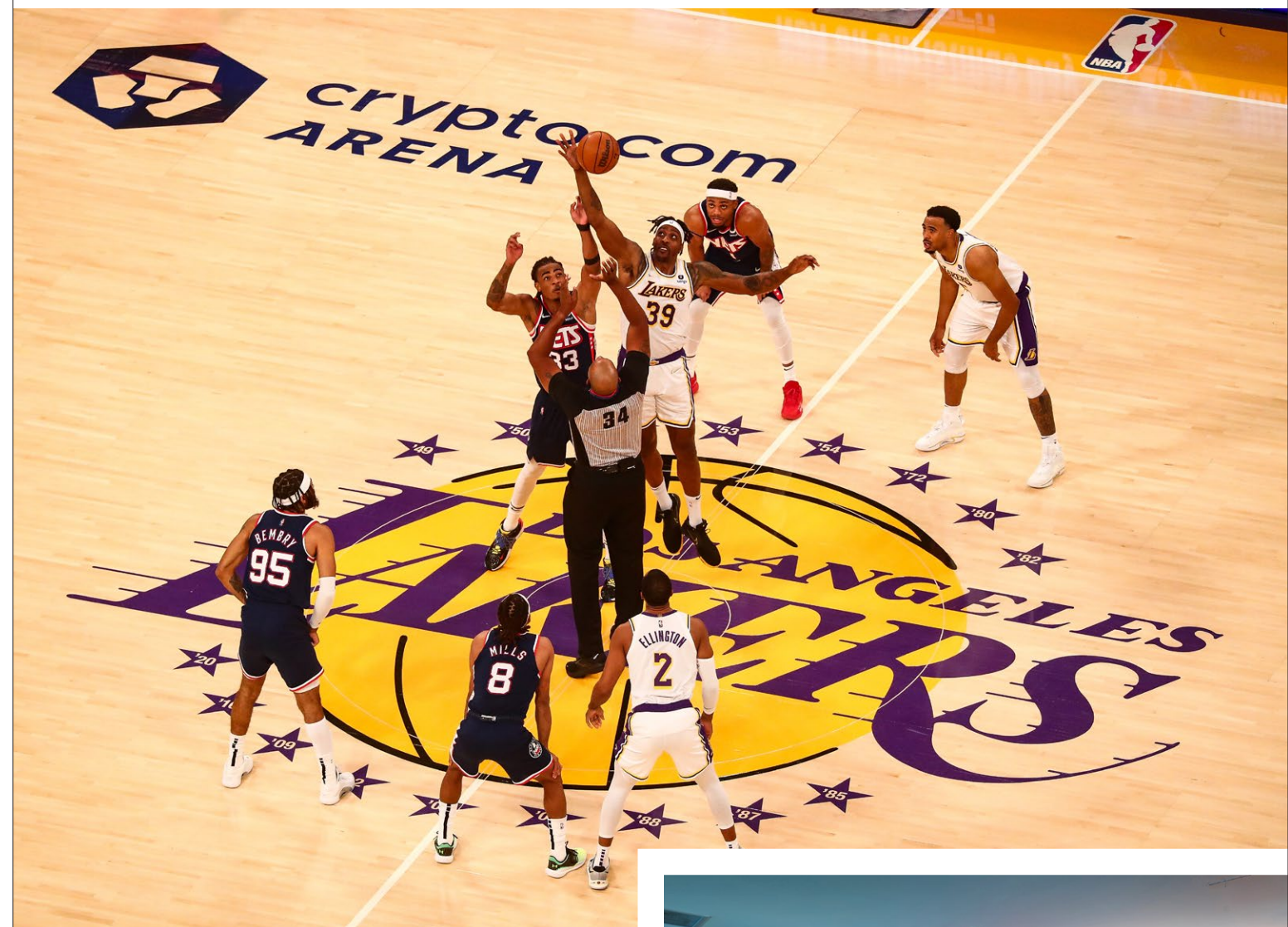


INSIDER INFO

Several LA sports legends are immortalized in statues situated outside the arena. Look for bronze likenesses of Magic Johnson, Shaquille O'Neal, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, and others.

WHILE YOU'RE THERE

Before or after a game, head to the JW Marriott (lalive.com/eat/glance-lobby-bar) for a craft cocktail (or two) at Glance Lobby Bar. The chic surroundings and upscale drinks are sure to set the mood for a night of luxury.



SoFi Is So Fine

SEE LA'S PREMIERE FOOTBALL STADIUM LIKE A VIP

In Inglewood, an immersive experience awaits.

The crowd goes wild as you (yes, you) jog through a sixty-foot tunnel and onto the field at SoFi Stadium. Okay, the fanfare might be just in your head, but it's easy to get wrapped up in the excitement when you're taking a behind-the-scenes tour of Los Angeles's gleaming new shrine to NFL football.

In a matter of just a few years, LA went from having zero hometown football teams to having two when the Rams relocated from Saint Louis and the Chargers headed up the 5 Freeway from San Diego. In 2020, Rams owner E. Stanley Kroenke built a venue spectacular enough to suit the City of Angels (and big enough to host a Super Bowl), and seeing a game in LA hasn't been the same—especially if you're looking to go all out.

Several styles of lavish suites make a game pretty unforgettable. Indoor-outdoor Field Cabanas, which flank the team benches, have incredible sideline views plus a lounge space with a wet bar, cool blue lighting, and flat-screen TVs so you don't miss anything while you grab a drink or a bite. Watch a game from a comfy chair in the Perch Suites, nestled above the corners of the end zone, or do business over ice-cold beers in the Terrace Suites. The experience includes perks like VIP entry, parking passes for several cars, and private bathrooms—perhaps the ultimate luxury at a venue with a capacity of seventy thousand. The stadium isn't just for sporting events either. K-pop icons BTS blew the roof off the place in 2021, and huge acts like the Rolling Stones and Dr. Dre have since taken the stage.

And, of course, there's that tunnel. Following its grand opening, SoFi Stadium launched a sixty-minute tour that takes fans deep behind the scenes, giving you access to everything from the teams' locker rooms to the venue's private suites. After your tunnel run, you'll make your way onto the field, where you can attempt to kick field goals and launch long bombs into targets. There's no better way to get in on the action.

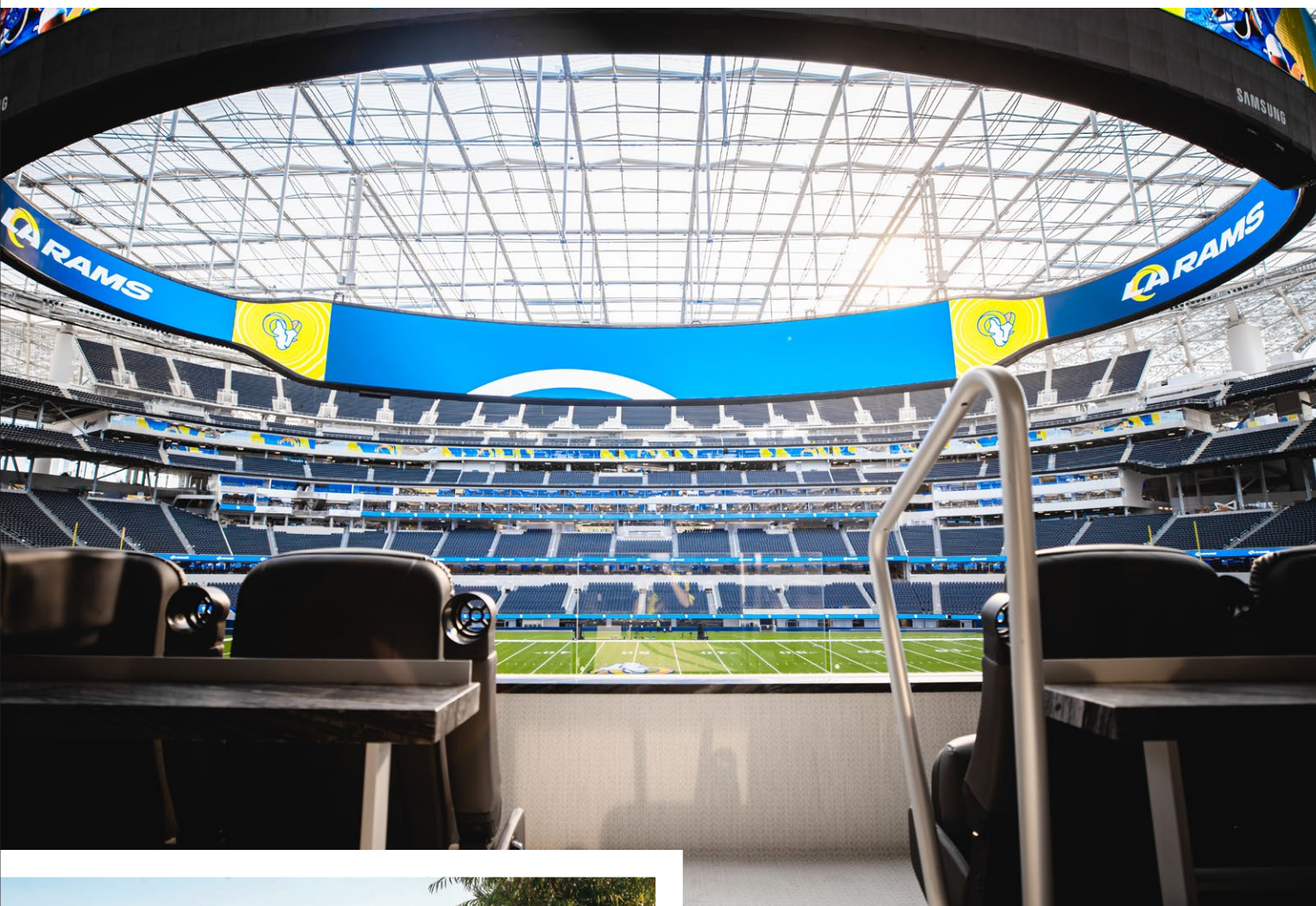


INSIDER INFO

Also on the Hollywood Park campus, the six-thousand-seat YouTube Theater has a stacked lineup of live music and comedy. The venue's luxe Theater Boxes, which are set on the lower level for the best sightlines, include VIP entry and parking, upscale catering, and even a service manager to tend to parties of up to twelve people.

WHILE YOU'RE THERE

Whether you're there for a show or a game, be sure to make time for a meal at the stadium. SoFi's LA Eats food program, curated by famed restaurateurs Jon Shook and Vinny Dotolo, features concepts themed to various LA neighborhoods. Try Italian-inspired faves like a stromboli dog from the San Vicente concept or Mexican eats like a beef barbacoa burrito from the Olvera Street concept.



Squad Goals

SEEING LAFC FROM A SUITE IS THE ULTIMATE GAME-DAY EXPERIENCE

Kick your soccer game up a notch at Banc of California Stadium.

A sea of people dressed in black and gold moves in unison as a chant swells and fills Banc of California Stadium from the pitch to the roof: “Jump for LA Football Club, olé, olé! Jump for LA Football Club, olé, olé!” Thanks to a fervent fan base that materialized practically overnight, superstars like Carlos Vela making moves on the field, and a state-of-the-art stadium nestled in the southeast corner of Exposition Park, seeing LAFC on their home turf is one of the most electrifying experiences in LA sports.

When it opened to fans in 2018, the twenty-two-thousand-seat stadium became the first open-air sports venue to go up in LA since Dodger Stadium, which opened its hallowed gates in Elysian Park in 1962. SoCal sunshine splashes on the natural Bermuda grass and steep European-style stands—among the steepest in Major League Soccer. Tucked away from the bustle of the crowd, a private suite or a premium club is an opulent way to enjoy the “Cathedral of Soccer.”

With their cushy, pillow-strewn sofas, soft lighting, and well-appointed kitchens, the stadium’s private suites are like plush living rooms that open up to the action on the pitch. The stadium has a total of thirty-five suites, including ten at field level for the ultimate game-day view.

For more camaraderie and a posh Hollywood nightclub-style atmosphere, opt for access to one of the stadium’s five luxe private clubs. Grab a drink and a little sunshine on the Sunset Deck, a rooftop venue that channels a desert hotspot, with patio-style seating, an AstroTurf lawn, a reflecting pool, and midcentury design flourishes such as ornamental cinder block screens. On the mezzanine level you’ll find the Founders Club, the biggest of the stadium’s club spaces. While your crew enjoys a midfield view, they’ll also indulge in complimentary stadium fare like popcorn and hot dogs as well as all-inclusive house beer and wine.

Renting a suite or reserving space in a club has other perks too, like concierge service and exclusive stadium entry,

so you can avoid the pregame crush. No matter where you wind up in the stadium, hearing the crowd stomp its feet and let loose with its chant is no less thrilling—“Olé, olé!”

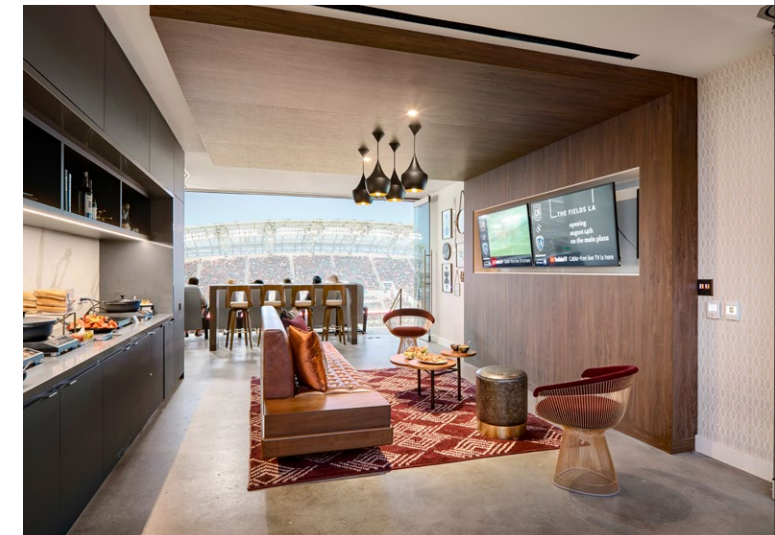


INSIDER INFO

To date, Banc of California Stadium is the most expensive soccer-specific sports arena in the United States, with a price tag of \$350 million.

WHILE YOU'RE THERE

There’s a lot to see besides soccer in Exposition Park. The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, home to twenty mounted dinosaur skeletons, offers private group tours. At California Science Center, you’ll lay eyes on space shuttle *Endeavour*, a craft that made twenty-five missions to space. There’s always a thought-provoking exhibit on view at CAAM, California’s most prominent African American art and culture museum since 1977. And the park’s adjacent Exposition Park Rose Garden is one of the most peaceful spaces in LA, a far cry from the fun and fervor inside Banc of California Stadium.



Play Ball

EXPERIENCE DODGER STADIUM LIKE A VIP

From luxurious game-day suites to behind-the-scenes tours, the Elysian Park landmark is a baseball fan's wonderland.

As soon as you pull into the parking lot at Dodger Stadium, you can feel the energy of decades of thrilling Dodgers baseball. Perched above Echo Park with views of the Downtown LA skyline, Major League Baseball's oldest stadium west of the Mississippi has an amusement park feel. Photo ops like an oversized bobblehead (the closest thing the Dodgers have to an actual mascot) and a vintage ice cream truck are all set against the towering Mexican fan palms lining the ridges that surround the park. Bathed in the periwinkle SoCal light at magic hour, it's enough to bring a tear to the eye of any sports fan.

During the 2020 off-season, the stadium got a one-hundred-million-dollar overhaul that includes a kids' play place and, tucked away in the new Centerfield Plaza, a hidden speakeasy. Called Tommy's Bar to honor legendary manager Tommy Lasorda, the sixties-themed lounge is super exclusive—a limited number of reservations are open only to members and season-ticket holders.

If you're looking for luxury that doesn't require a full-season commitment, check out the team's premium options, like lush private spaces on the Bank of America suite level (available for individual game rentals) or seats in the Yaamava' Dugout Club by San Manuel. The spacious suites can accommodate as many as thirty guests, and each has an outdoor seating deck that overlooks the field. Help yourself to treats from a private buffet or escape to the bright, airy Stadium Club. Located right at field level, the Yaamava' Dugout Club is good for fans who want the action on the field to be the main attraction.

For an insider's look at the hallowed halls, the stadium offers forty-five- and ninety-minute tours that include a trip to field level, an augmented reality experience that takes you into the Dodgers dugout, and a look at that hard-won 2020 World Series trophy, but the more exclusive Clubhouse Tour offers even more access. In addition to the highlights on the regular stadium tour, this option includes stops at the clubhouse, the interview room, the bullpen, and

more. Or, for something more tactile, book the Hands-On experience, which lets fans hold and take photos with actual game-used gear like jerseys, bats, and helmets.

Cue up Randy Newman's anthem "I Love LA," and you're basically part of the team.



INSIDER INFO

To avoid game-day traffic on your way to the stadium, try arriving early and booking a preferred parking spot in advance.

WHILE YOU'RE THERE

Sure, a Dodger Dog is an LA classic, but the stadium is brimming with delicious dining options. Take time to browse the various levels for mouthwatering eats like the brisket sandwich at Think Blue Bar-B-Que or a Nashville-style hot chicken sandwich from Sweet Chick.



Basket Case

WHERE TO GET A LUXE PICNIC FOR A CONCERT UNDER THE STARS

These local spots specialize in upscale meals to go.

Cool breezes rustle the trees while the stars in the sky compete with the stars on stage at LA's outdoor amphitheaters. Seeing a show at the Hollywood Bowl, the Greek Theatre, or the Ford Theatre is an iconic, unforgettable LA experience—with a bonus. Despite robust food programs of their own, all three venues allow for picnics. At the Hollywood Bowl, outside food and drink (even wine!) are allowed during events hosted by the LA Philharmonic, so you can bring what you'd like and dine in your box seats. At the Greek, you're already in the city's most iconic park: picnic tables are situated across the street from the venue, nestled amid the towering trees of Griffith Park (but take note that no outside food or drink is allowed inside the venue's gates). At the Ford, you can eat at your seats or arrive up to ninety minutes early and stake out a spot on either the Zev Terrace or the Edison Plaza. So kick the experience up a notch with a luxurious to-go spread from one of these local spots.

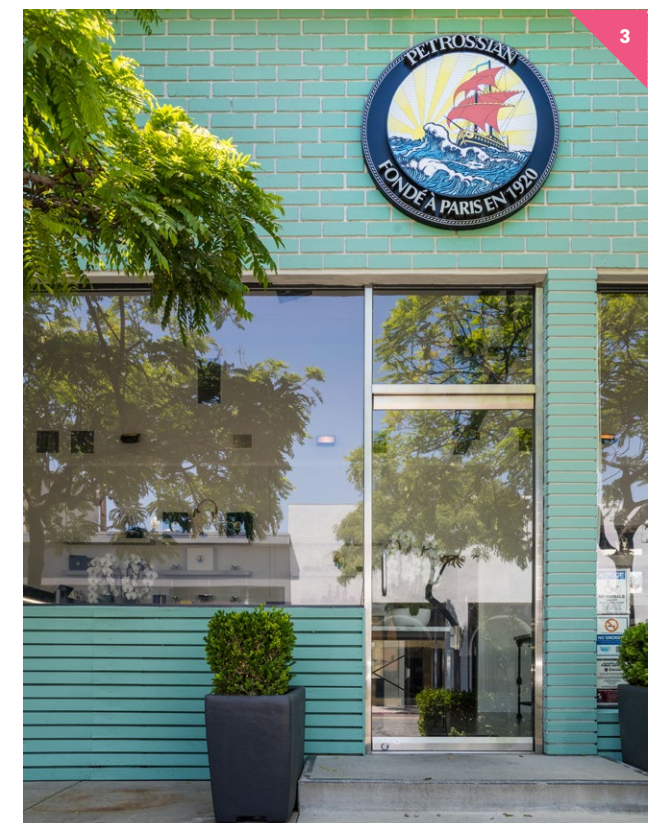
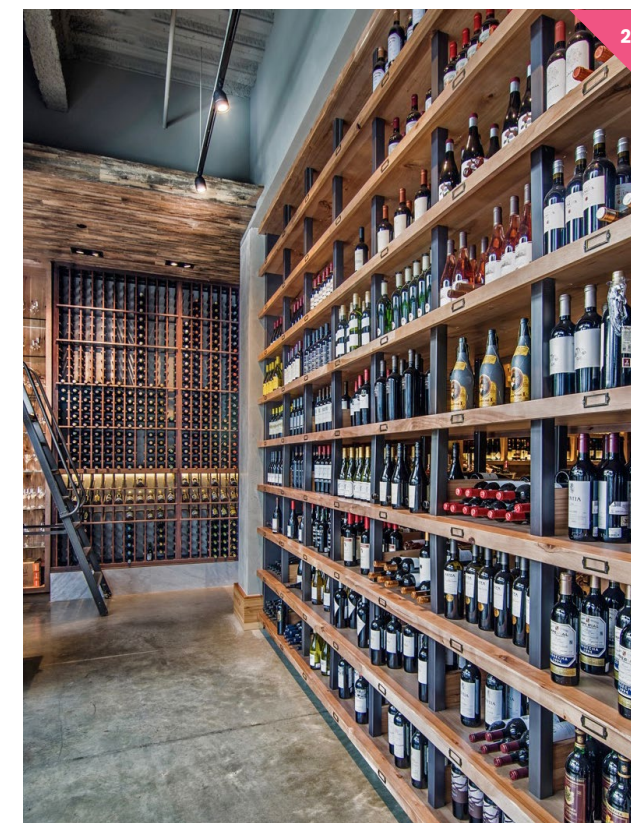
1 **JOAN'S ON THIRD**
MID-CITY
8350 W. Third St.
Fill a basket with elevated deli items at this gourmet

market and café that has been a neighborhood staple since the nineties. Try tarragon chicken salad or curried chickpeas by the pint, or cobble together your own cheese and charcuterie spread. If you go for the cheese plate, the in-house cheesemonger will choose three options and pair them with Marcona almonds, quince paste, and dried apricots. And don't forget to add a couple (or a dozen) of Joan's beloved chocolate chip cookies to your order. Joan's also has a location at 12059 Ventura Pl. in Studio City; order in advance via the site. joansonthird.com

2 **WALLY'S WINE & SPIRITS**
WESTSIDE
447 N. Canon Dr.
Pick up a bottle of Veuve Clicquot and a charcuterie platter at this wine-and-cheese bar that doubles as a gourmet market. Select either three or five items from a deep list of cheeses and meats that includes everything from jamón serrano to Wagyu beef salami. Or opt for something even more luxe—Wally's stocks five varieties of fine caviar in 28, 50, and 125 gram portions, and

each is served with accoutrement, including crème fraîche and potato blini. Wally's also has a location at 214 Wilshire Blvd.; both offer pickup and delivery via ChowNow. wallywine.com

3 **PETROSSIAN**
GREATER HOLLYWOOD
321 N. Robertson Blvd.
You've probably seen loaded french fries at plenty of sports bars, but leave it to Petrossian to make the concept opulent. The caviar-forward French café and market—which serves a plate of frites scattered with caviar, crème fraîche, and chives—serves smoked fish, roe, and charcuterie to go from its boutique menu. Splurge on a tin of Special Reserve Kaluga Hybrid caviar with a side of white flour blini, and add a bottle of Bollinger, which tastes even better al fresco. Petrossian offers curbside pickup as well as local delivery. And when you're back in the neighborhood with time for a sit-down meal, hit up their dining room to experience a little bit of France right smack in the middle of SoCal. petrossianrestaurants.com/westhollywood





Lights, Camera, Access

GO BEHIND THE SCENES WITH A VIP STUDIO TOUR

Seeing movie magic up close is even more magical with perks like valet parking and a little bubbly.

You can almost smell a street vendor's hot dogs on Paramount's New York Backlot, a five-acre tangle of streetscapes that take you from Brooklyn to the Lower East Side, minus a trip across the East River. Getting a behind-the-scenes look at the movie magic that lets Los Angeles stand in for everything from other cities to other planets is as easy as purchasing tickets to a studio tour. At Universal Studios Hollywood™, you'll come face-to-face with King Kong and see how a disaster scene comes together. At Sony Pictures Studios, you can check out a museum filled with movie artifacts and sets from your favorite sitcoms. But at several studios, major movie buffs can amp up the experience with VIP options, which include upgrades like additional access and, in one case, a champagne lunch. You might even spot a true Hollywood VIP at work while you're there.

1 **UNIVERSAL STUDIOS HOLLYWOOD™ VIP EXPERIENCE** GREATER HOLLYWOOD

1000 Universal Studios Blvd.

Movies filmed here: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Dirty Harry*, *Back to the Future*

When early Hollywood mogul Carl Laemmle threw open Universal City's gates to guests for the very first time in 1915, it was the world's first self-contained community totally dedicated to filmmaking. More than a hundred years later, the mogul's vision of a movie that never ends is still alive on the back lot, where every day trams transport hundreds of visitors behind the scenes of a real working movie studio. Part tour, part amusement-park ride, a trip through the back lot includes a 3D experience created by director Peter Jackson, a drive past famous sets from *Psycho* and *War of the Worlds*, and a "Flash

Flood" experience, where you get a firsthand look at how filmmakers create an on-screen storm of the century. The studio's VIP Experience upgrades the behind-the-scenes access. You'll set off with your guide in a smaller, more intimate tram, and you'll be permitted to disembark to explore outdoor sets and prop rooms—but only after you've kicked off the day with valet parking and refreshments in the VIP lounge. The experience has theme-park perks too. Your personal guide will escort you to attractions, where you'll skip long lines with express access; for lunch, the park's executive chef cooks up a gourmet meal in the VIP dining room. universalstudioshollywood.com/web/en/us/vip-experience

2

**PARAMOUNT
PICTURES™
STUDIO TOUR
VIP TOUR**
GREATER
HOLLYWOOD

5515 Melrose Ave.

Movies filmed here: *The Godfather*,
Ghost, *Deep Impact*

Paramount Pictures™ Studios (pictured on previous page) lines a nearly half-mile stretch of Melrose Avenue, and its gates are among the most iconic sights in Hollywood (hot tip: if you walk up Windsor Boulevard toward Melrose, the view of the Hollywood Sign through the gates is unbeatable). Step beyond them—and then some—with the studio's VIP Tour, a four-and-a-half-hour experience (that's two and a half hours longer than the standard tour) with expanded access to the studio's archives and back-lot production facilities. One of the coolest things you'll do if you opt for an afternoon tour is enjoy champagne and hors d'oeuvres in the studio's prop warehouse alongside classic cars, custom signage designed for movies, and larger-than-life props like Transformers in both their truck and robot incarnations. We'll toast to that. paramountstudiotour.com

3

**SONY PICTURES™
STUDIOS VIP
LUNCH TOUR**
WESTSIDE
10202 W. Washington
Blvd., Culver City

Movies filmed here: *The Wizard of Oz*,
Bram Stoker's Dracula, *Interstellar*

From miles away, you can see a ninety-four-foot-tall rainbow arching across the Sony Pictures™ Studios campus, a tribute to *The Wizard of Oz* at one of the most legendary moviemaking landmarks in the world. On the studio tour, you'll visit the Sony Pictures Museum, see the studio where *Jeopardy!* is taped, and even spy a music stage named after Barbra Streisand. On the three-hour VIP Lunch Tour, a private cart will take you through the back lot and to the various tour attractions, including the Sony Virtual Reality experience inside the artifact-packed museum. The highlight is a three-course meal with a menu crafted by famed Spago chef Wolfgang Puck in the Sony Commissary Dining Room. sonypicturesstudiotours.com

4

**WARNER BROS.™
STUDIO TOUR
HOLLYWOOD
DELUXE TOUR**
GREATER
HOLLYWOOD

3400 Warner Blvd.

Sets from TV faves like *The Big Bang Theory* and *Friends* have become popular on Warner Bros.' storied back lot (you can even grab a coffee at Central Perk), but fans who want a richer look at how our entertainment is created should opt for the studio's Deluxe Tour. The six-hour experience—which includes five guided hours and one self-guided hour—covers everything the standard tour does, with some major upgrades. Visit the studio's costume and property departments as well as the deluxe screening room. The lengthy tour also includes a gourmet lunch in the studio's Commissary Fine Dining Room. wbstudiotour.com





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ABOUT ATLAS OBSCURA

Atlas Obscura is the definitive guide to the world's hidden wonders, with a mission to inspire curiosity about the incredible world we all share. Our books include the *New York Times* best sellers *Atlas Obscura: An Explorer's Guide to the World's Hidden Wonders*, and *Gastro Obscura: A Food Adventurer's Guide*. We created this guide to LA in partnership with Los Angeles Tourism for anyone who seeks the wondrous side of LA. The city awaits.



MANHATTAN BEACH PIER

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