Los Angeles is a sprawling city covering several hundred square miles. It didn’t begin to sprawl, however, until the late 1800s, almost a century after its founding in 1781. On September 4, 1871, Don Felipe de Neve, governor of California, with a handful of soldiers, 11 families from Mexico, and a band of priests marched from San Gabriel to an area previously selected because of its fertile valley and founded El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora la Reina de Los Angeles de Porciuncula (The Town of Our Lady the Queen of Angeles of Porciuncula), the pueblo from which Los Angeles grew.

In 1846 at the outbreak Mexican War, the pueblo had less than 3,000 inhabitants, but with the seizure by the United States it soon became a rip-roaring frontier town.

Then came the gold rush and the railroads. The Southern Pacific reached Los Angeles in 1878 and the Santa Fe in 1885. Soon thereafter a railroad rate war began and became so intense that the one-way fare from Kansas City to Los Angeles dropped from $100 to $15 to $5, and for one day in 1886, it was only $1.

These events brought so many people that the city’s population grew from 12,000 to 50,000 in two years.

Today Los Angeles is the second largest metropolitan area in the Unites States. It is also one of the most exciting cities in the country because of the variety of its natural and manmade attractions. It has the Pacific Coast, the mountains, the desert, television and movie studios, some of the oldest missions in the country, and much more.

Downtown Los Angeles

1. **California Museum of Science and Industry**, 700 State Dr., Exposition Park. Exhibits of scientific and industrial progress.

2. **Chinatown**, between Broadway and Hill sts. and College and Bernard sts. Streets, architecture, restaurants, and shops are reminiscent of Old China.


4. **El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historical Park**, 100 Paseo de la Plaza. A revitalization of the founding site of Los Angeles. Historic buildings within the shadow of the Old Plaza are Pico House, Los Angeles first major hotel; Merced Theatre; first Masonic Hall; the Avila Adobe; Plaza Church; and many more.

5. **Exposition Park**, Figueroa St. and Exposition Blvd. Site of the Los Angeles memorial Coliseum, where the Rams, U.S.C and U.C.L.A football teams play; Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, California Museum of Science and Industry.

6. **Griffith Park**, Griffith Park and Riverside drs. Over 4,000 acres rising to an elevation of 1,650
feet. Site of the Griffith Observatory, Los Angeles Zoo and Children’s Zoo, Greek Theatre, bird
sanctuary, and recreation facilities.

Little Tokyo, adjacent to the Los Angeles Civic Center. Cultural Center for 100,000 Japanese-
Americans. Hongwanji Buddhist Temple by the First Street bridge is of special interest.

Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, 900 Exposition Blvd., Exposition Park.
Houses exhibits of prehistoric man, Indians, and California history.

Music Center of Los Angeles, 135 N. Grand Ave. Includes Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, the
Mark Taper Forum, and the Ahmanson Theatre. Home of the Los Angeles Symphony Orchestra
and other cultural events.

Olvera Street, Sunset Blvd. At Main St. The oldest thoroughfare in Los Angeles, it is in El
Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historical Park.

Southwest Museum, 234 Museum Dr, Highland Park. Depicts scenes of America’s Western
Indian civilization.

West Los Angeles

Barnsdale Park, 4800 Hollywood Blvd. The park dates back to 1919 when Frank Lloyd Wright
was commissioned to design a residence and performing arts center here.

Beverly Hills. Home of many well-known personalities of stage, screen, and television.

Farmers’ Market, W 3rd St. & Fairfax Ave. Here at a market established by San Fernando
Valley farmers in 1934, you can browse or buy anything from Swiss cheese to a mynah bird.

Hollywood Boulevard. The names of radio, television, and movie stars are embedded along this
famous boulevard.

Hollywood Bowl, 2301 N. Highland Ave. Music lovers listen to “Symphonies Under the Stars”
at this natural amphitheater during the summer.

LaBrea Tar Pits, 5801 Wilshire Blvd, Hancock Park. Prehistoric beasts were trapped here in
the quagmire during the Ice Age when they mistook the black asphalt for black pools of water.

Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 5905 Wilshire Blvd. Three pavilions form one of the
largest art museums in the country. On exhibit are collections of paintings, sculpture, costumes,
and historical tapestries.

Mann’s Chinese Theatre, 6925 Hollywood Blvd. In the cement forecourt are footprints of
famous movie stars. The first were made by Constance and Norma Talmadge, who accidentally
stepped in wet cement in front of the newly built theatre, then known as Grauman’s Theater.

Pacific Coast Area

Beaches. Among the most famous beaches along the coast are the Santa Monica Beach,
Redondo Beach, and Marina del Rey, where over 6,000 pleasure boats are docked in one of the
world’s largest marinas.
21 **Cabrilla Beach Marine Museum**, 3720 Stephen White Dr., San Pedro. Extensive collection of sea shells and fish, underwater grotto, and ship models.

22 **Catalina Island**, reminiscent of the isle of San Capri, is 22 miles off the coast of southern California. On the island are scenic drives, a buffalo herd, thoroughbred Arabian horse ranch, botanical gardens, and one city–Avalon.


24 **Hollywood Park**, 1050 Prairie, Inglewood. Thoroughbred racing April to July; harness racing August to December.

25 **J. Paul Getty Museum**, 17985 Pacific Coast Hwy, Malibu. On exhibit are Greek and Roman antiquities, French decorative arts, and works by Italian, Dutch, and English masters.

26 **Los Angeles International Airport**, bounded on the east by I-405, on the south by Imperial Hwy., and on the north by State 42. Observation deck open daily. Airport operations can be toured through advance reservations.

27 **Marineland of the Pacific**, Palos Verdes Dr., Palos Verdes. Giant tanks of whales, sea lions, and performances by sea dwellers in a giant-sized oceanarium entertain visitors. Orky, a 7,000-pound captive killer whale, is one of the stars.

28 **Ports O'Call Village–Whaler’s Wharf**, Berth 77, San Pedro. Visitors can step back 100 years and walk through the streets authentically re-created out of the Moby Dick era in New England.

29 **Queen Mary**, Pier J., Long Beach. This 81,000-ton liner sailed out of South Hampton, England, on October 31, 1967, on her last voyage after 31 years as a luxury liner. Today she has a Living Sea Museum created by Jacques Cousteau, shops, and restaurants.

30 **Wayfarer’s Chapel**, 5755 Palos Verdes Dr, south of Rancho Palos Verdes. The red stone and glass construction designed by Frank Lloyd Wright offers a spectacular view of the Pacific Ocean.

31 **Will Rogers State Park**, 14253 Sunset Blvd, Pacific Palisades. Site of the ranch where the famous humorist Will Rogers accepted a movie contract. Includes polo grounds and games, art collection, and Rogers’ many trophies.

**San Fernando Valley**

32 **Busch Gardens**, 1600 Roscoe Blvd., Van Nuys. Exotic birds, a lagoon with boats, tropical gardens, a monorail ride on a brewery facility tour, and an “Old St. Louis” section are in this park.

33 **Burbank Studios**, 4000 Warner Blvd., Burbank. Tours arranged by advance reservation give a glimpse of motion picture production, back lot exterior sets, and music being recorded.


35 **Mission San Fernando**, 15151 San Fernando Mission Blvd., San Fernando. Known for its picturesque architecture and lovely gardens, this is California’s largest original mission structure.
36 NBC Television Studios, 3000 Alameda Ave., Burbank. Studios, wardrobe department, and
makeup and carpentry areas can be toured.

37 Universal Studios, 3900 Lankershim Blvd., Universal City. Behind-the-scenes tours explore
soundstages, sets, and back lots of the film studio.

San Gabriel Valley
38 Descanso Gardens, 1418 Descanso Dr., LaCanada. Thousands of camellias, azaleas, and roses
grow here.

include a collection a famous manuscripts, printed books, and paintings.

40 Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia. A walk through the
historical area takes you on a journey of California’s past, from Indian days though early
statehood days.

41 Mission San Gabriel Archangel, 1120 Old Mill Rd., San Gabriel. Selected by Franciscan
padres in 1771 to build a mission to convert Indians and cultivate the land, it was not settled until
a decade later. In 1781 several padres from the mission accompanied the governor of California
on his journey to establish El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora Reina de Los Angeles de Porciúncula
(Los Angeles).

42 Mount Wilson Observatory, north of Pasadena. Located at the summit of 5,710-foot-high
Mount Wilson, the observatory has a 100-inch telescope, visitor’s gallery, and astronomy
museum.

43 Pio Pico State Historic Monument, 6003 S. Pioneer Blvd., Whittier. This 13-room adobe home
of Pio Pico, last Mexican governor of California, has been partially restored and furnished.

44 Rose Bowl, Pasadena. A college football legend, this is the site of the game between the winner
of the Big Ten and Pacific 8 each January.

45 Santa Anita Park, 285 W. Huntington Dr., Arcadia. The track has thoroughbred racing.
Flowers grow in the infield.

Famous Parks Outside Los Angeles
46 Disneyland, 1313, Harbor Blvd., Anaheim. This famous Walt Disney theme park has seven
lands of fun and fantasy. Among them are Main St. U.S.A., Tomorrowland, Adventureland, and
New Orleans Square.

47 Knotts Berry Farm, State 39, Buena Park. California history has been re-created in a Roaring
20s amusement area.

48 Lion Country Safari, San Diego Freeway at Irvine Center Dr., Irvine. Wild animals roam free
in this 500-acre area resembling an African wildlife preserve. Visitors tour the park with their
car windows closed. Safari Camp, African-theme entertainment area, adjoins the park.

49 Los Alamitos Race Track, Katella Ave., Los Alamitos. Harness and quarter racing are here in
season.