

An aerial photograph of Los Angeles, California, showing the city's grid pattern and the downtown skyline in the distance. The sky is blue with some clouds. The text 'CHIPPING AWAY AT LA' is overlaid in the bottom left corner.

# THE MISTAKE NOT TO MAKE— SEEING IT ALL IN ONE TRIP!

By Lyn Freeman

In the later part of the 18th century, the delightful riverside settlement of Gabrielino Indians, Franciscan priests and Spanish adventurers was named El Pueblo Nustra Senora la Reina de Los Angeles de Porciuncula, or Los Angeles, for short. It has changed a lot. A concrete tsunami spread out in all directions from that original 1781 domicile, eventually fusing into an indistinguishable tangle of towns that stretches for 100 miles in almost all directions. It's now the home to more than 21 million people from 140 countries, speaking 224 languages. The original name for this slice of civilization has been shortened over its 200-plus years to just two letters that are now instantly recognized anywhere on Earth—L.A.

It's also a town that celebrates aviation. Los Angeles is the place where America saw its first air show, where Amelia Earhart took her first airplane ride, where Donald Douglas birthed what many hail as the most important airliner in aviation history—the DC-3—and where a little-known pilot named Charles Lindbergh initiated the first passenger service from Southern California to New York. It is also the town where Humphrey Bogart stood on a Hollywood set on the local Van Nuys, Calif., airport tarmac and reminded a teary-eyed Ingrid Bergman that they'd always have Paris.

And, of course, Los Angeles is much more than aviation. L.A. is where Dorothy followed the Yellow Brick Road, and where the second tragedy of the Kennedy Curse came to the kitchen floor of the Ambassador Hotel. It is the epicenter of casual fashion, entertainment, surfing and sunshine. Some of the world's most famous neighborhoods are here, including Beverly Hills, and another which still announces its hillside presence with 30-foot letters, H-O-L-L-Y-W-O-O-D...

## CHIPPING AWAY AT LA



## LA's \$100 Hamburger Airport Diners

**Rocky's**  
Whiteman Airport (WHP)  
818.896.8828  
rockysonthetrip.com

**Maniac Mikes**  
Cable Airport (CCB)  
909.982.9886  
www.maniac-mikes.com

**Bob's Chili and Chow Hall**  
Corona Airport (AJO)  
951.734.2570  
ci.corona.ca.us

**Annia's Kitchen**  
El Monte Airport (EMT)  
626.401.2422

**Typhoon**  
Santa Monica Airport (SMO)  
310.390.6565  
typhoon.biz

**Runway Café**  
Catalina Island (AVX)  
310.510.2196  
catalina.com

Compared to other famous cityscapes like New York, the Los Angeles skylight (above) illustrates the comparatively open feeling that carries through much of this Southern California metroplex. LA is also custom made for pilots. You can park your airplane at the front door of Santa Monica's Typhoon Restaurant (below).

## YOU'RE CLEARED TO LAND

Flying your plane to L.A. gives you the perfect vehicle to visit many of the top aviation points of interest. Southern California has a rich legacy for those who slipped the surly bonds.

Planes of Fame Air Museum  
909.597.3722  
planesoffame.org

Southern California's most prolific aviation museum, with more than 150 aircraft; 30 are flyable (including a Japanese Mitsubishi "Zero").

Flabob Airport (RIR)  
951.683.2309 ext. 102  
flabob.org

One of the oldest airports in California, Flabob Airport is now home to the Thomas Wathen Foundation, a National Center for Aviation Education. See kids restoring real airplanes or a flying, authentic copy of the Wright Flyer.

Van Nuys Airport (VNY)  
818.785.8838  
lawa.org/vny/welcomeVNY.cfm

Van Nuys Airport is the busiest general-aviation airport in the world and also the star of the recent and remarkable film *One Six Right* (onesixright.com) and features the famous fly-in hotel, the Airtel (818.780.2445) and the 94th Aero Squadron Restaurant (818.994.7437).

Bob Hope Airport (BUR)  
818.840.8840  
burbankairport.com

The most notable about this airport is what it isn't—the current site of the famous Lockheed Skunk Works (it moved). But it was ground zero, starting in 1943—when Kelly Johnson began a legacy of aircraft development that stretches from America's first jet fighter, the P-80 Shooting Star, to the highest performing aircraft the world has even known, the SR-71 Blackbird.



## LA Aviation Museums

**March Field Air Museum**  
951.697.6602  
marchairmuseum.com

**Western Museum of Flight**  
310.326.9544  
wmof.com

**Palm Springs Air Museum**  
760.778.6262 ext. 222  
air-museum.org

**IF THEY BUILD IT...**

You can eat it. In Los Angeles. Southern California is one of the broadest cultural melting pots on the planet and, consequently, sports one of the world's biggest variety of restaurants. From

a fine "Must Do: gourmet restaurants to world-class fast food, there's no reason to be hungry in L.A.



Quiet patio dining at the Ivy is in contrast to the never-sleeping cacophony of the Sunset Strip.

Cut  
9500 Wilshire Blvd  
Beverly Hills, 310.275.5200  
fourseasons.com/beverlywilshire/dining.html

Here's the beef. THE destination for LA's carnivorous movers & shakers.

The Ivy  
113 North Robertson Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90048  
310.274.8303  
seeing-stars.com/Dine2/Ivy.shtml

You don't go for the food, but to watch who's eating it. The Ivy is one of the most likely spots to see the movie stars dine with the beautiful people.

Cicada  
617 S. Olive St.  
Los Angeles, 213.488.9488  
cicadarestaurant.com/restaurant.php

Elegant art deco fixtures, stair rails, molded plaster ceiling panels and tons of glass, Cicada is a restaurant you'd enjoy living in.

Valentino Santa Monica  
3115 Pico Boulevard  
Santa Monica, CA 90405  
310.829.4313  
valentinorestaurant.com

Much of the food is flown in from Italy, including cheese from Puglia, white truffles from Piedmont, fish from the Mediterranean and Adriatic Seas. Add a world-class wine list and voila. Oh, wait, that's French.

**FA SECRET SPOTS**

But anywhere you go, there are likely to be some special spots that you won't find from the window of the Gray Line tour bus. Flying Adventures has taken the time to find some great dining destinations that aren't always in the spotlight.

**Guelaguetza**

11127 Palms Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90034  
310.837.1153

This hole-in-the-wall Mexican restaurant serves THE BEST Oaxacan mole negro sauce (a complex blend of nuts, herbs, chiles and ground seeds) in town. It's so sumptuous that even Martha Stewart couldn't visit LA with a visit to this remarkable little FA Secret Spot!

**Old Place Restaurant**

29983 Mulholland Highway  
Agoura Hills, CA  
818.706.9001

Hard as hell to find, but one of the reasons that God made GPS. This 100-plus-year-old hideaway hangout is a favorite of the famous, with a Hollywood legacy that once included patrons like Steve McQueen and Ally McGraw.

**The Hump**

3221 Donald Douglas Loop South  
3rd Floor  
Santa Monica, CA  
310.313.0977  
thehump.biz

Pilot-turned-culinary maven Brian Vidor (of the King Vidor gene pool) is not over The Hump. This is probably the best sushi bar in town and has seen more than its share of glitterati clientele, like aviator Harrison Ford and significant other Calista Flockhart.



**FASTER THAN MOST**

Not surprisingly, L.A. is the incubator of one of the world's most lucrative and ubiquitous culinary phenomenon—fast food. This is the mother ship. Los Angeles was ground zero for thousands of fast-food fundamentals, the most famous of which include:

- 1926 - Orange Julius, Julius Freed, Los Angeles
- 1941 - Carl's Hot Dog Stand (Carl's Jr.), Carl Karcher, Los Angeles
- 1948 - In-N-Out, Harry Snyder, Baldwin Park, Calif.
- 1948 - Winchell's Donuts, Verne Winchell, Temple City, Calif.
- 1952 - Fatburger, Lovie Yancey, Los Angeles
- 1953 - Danny's Donuts (Denny's Restaurants), Harold Butler, Lakewood, Calif.
- 1958 - IHOP, Al Lapin, Toluca Lake, Calif.
- 1958 - Sizzler, Culver City, Calif.
- 1962 - Taco Bell, Glen Bell, Downey, Calif.

Consequently, you shouldn't be surprised to learn that L.A. is still a living museum for fast-food outlets.

Bob's Big Boy #6 located at 4211 West Riverside Drive in Burbank is the oldest (1949) surviving Bob's Big Boy restaurant. bigboy.com, 818.843.9334.

The oldest surviving McDonald's restaurant (1953) is in Downey at the corner of Florence and Lakewood. mccalifornia.com, 562.923.3686.

Pink's at 709 N. La Brea Avenue began behind the handlebars of the late Paul Pink's 10-cent wiener cart and the now 60-plus-year-old business. pinkshollywood.com, 323.931.4223.



### THAT'S SHOWBIZ

Movies, music and TV have long been the lifeblood of LA. This is where Charlton Heston parted the Red Sea, where Rhett Butler told Scarlett that he didn't give a damn, where Beatle George Harrison wrote a song about the "fog upon LA" from his guest bedroom on Blue Jay Way and where you're more than likely to ride an elevator with a cast member of Grey's Anatomy than anyone living in Seattle. While the entertainment industry doesn't often advertise where it's going to be next, a visitor to Los Angeles can get a crawl full of Showbiz in no time.



Even if you haven't visited LA, this view (left) might look familiar. Disaster film producer Irwin Allen, who gave us gems like *Towering Inferno* and the original *Poseidon Adventure*, used this lake in the movie *Earthquake*. Thanks to the magic of the movies (and a matte painting), a large LA quake topples the Hollywood Lake dam, flooding the city below. The film was the first to use "Sensurround," a base-enhanced audio addition to the normal soundtrack, to create the feeling of being in a large earthquake. Interestingly, the 'Sensurround' presentation of *Earthquake* cracked the plaster ceiling of Grauman's Chinese Theatre (left), more than simulating the effects of a real earthquake.

Grauman's Chinese Theatre (right) is one of the last great showpieces of Hollywood's Golden Era and is also a great starting place to see the stars in the sidewalk of the Hollywood Walk of Fame (below right).



### FA SHOWBIZ SECRETS

The Grim Society will also lead you on a tour off-the-beaten entertainment industry path, like the motel where Janis Joplin died of an overdose. [GrimSociety.com](http://GrimSociety.com)

And if that's not grim enough, you can locate dead stars' graves at [seeing-stars.com/Buried/index.shtml](http://seeing-stars.com/Buried/index.shtml). Sit beside the final resting place of Karen Carpenter, which gives a new twist to her famous lyrics, "It's Only Just Begun."

Or if you really want to do the Carpenters right, visit [carpentersfans.com/extra/carpenters-locations-01.html](http://carpentersfans.com/extra/carpenters-locations-01.html) to find a litany of LA sites where Karen and Richard Carpenter lived and loved. Only in L.A.



### THE FA "START HERE" LIST

#### Grauman's Chinese Theatre

6925 Hollywood Blvd.  
Hollywood, CA.  
323.464.8111  
[manntheatres.com/chinese/index.php](http://manntheatres.com/chinese/index.php)

#### Universal Studios Hollywood

100 Universal City Plaza  
Universal City, CA 91608  
800.UNIVERSAL  
[universalstudioshollywood.com](http://universalstudioshollywood.com)

These are just starting points, as Los Angeles is the world's headquarters for film, music and television.

#### Warner Brothers

3400 Riverside Drive  
Burbank, 818.972.8687  
[studio.tour@warnerbros.com](mailto:studio.tour@warnerbros.com)

Unlike Universal, this tour hour tour is a look at the real deal, passing by 'working' sets and historical Hollywood hotspots from Warner Brothers' 70+ years of movie making. Other studio tours are available at:

#### Paramount Pictures

5555 Melrose Ave,  
Hollywood, 323.956.5575  
MGM (now Sony Pictures)  
10202 W. Washington Boulevard,  
Culver City, 323.520.TOUR

There are no tours at Walt Disney, which is truly Mickey Mouse.

You can also visit many of the top television studios in Los Angeles. FA recommends

#### The NBC Studio Tour

3000 West Alameda Avenue  
Burbank, 818.840.3537 or 818.840.4444

In beautiful downtown Burbank, this was the home of Johnny Carson and the Tonight Show, a seat now occupied by Jay Leno. (Also, you can get lots of free TV show tickets from this studio, or by logging onto [hollywoodtickets.com](http://hollywoodtickets.com).)

The Rose Bowl Flea Market is the largest open air market of its kind in the world. Held on monthly Sundays in the parking lot of the famous Rose Bowl Stadium in Pasadena, CA, this is the place to find anything, and we mean anything. For more info on this world class swap meet, visit [rgcshows.com/RoseBowlFleaMarket/tabid/52/Default.aspx](http://rgcshows.com/RoseBowlFleaMarket/tabid/52/Default.aspx).

Horseback Rides in the Hollywood Hills. See [LA.sunsetranchhollywood.com/index2.html](http://LA.sunsetranchhollywood.com/index2.html)



## CHIPPING AWAY AT LA


### ECLECTIC LA

If the immediately preceding doesn't give you a clue, all the stuff you've heard about L.A. being on the strange side can be true. But that's not necessarily a bad thing. It just means that you can have some fun here that you aren't likely to find elsewhere. For example, you can:

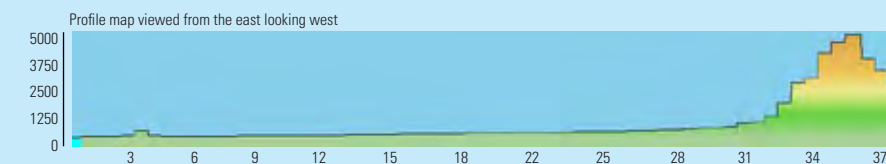
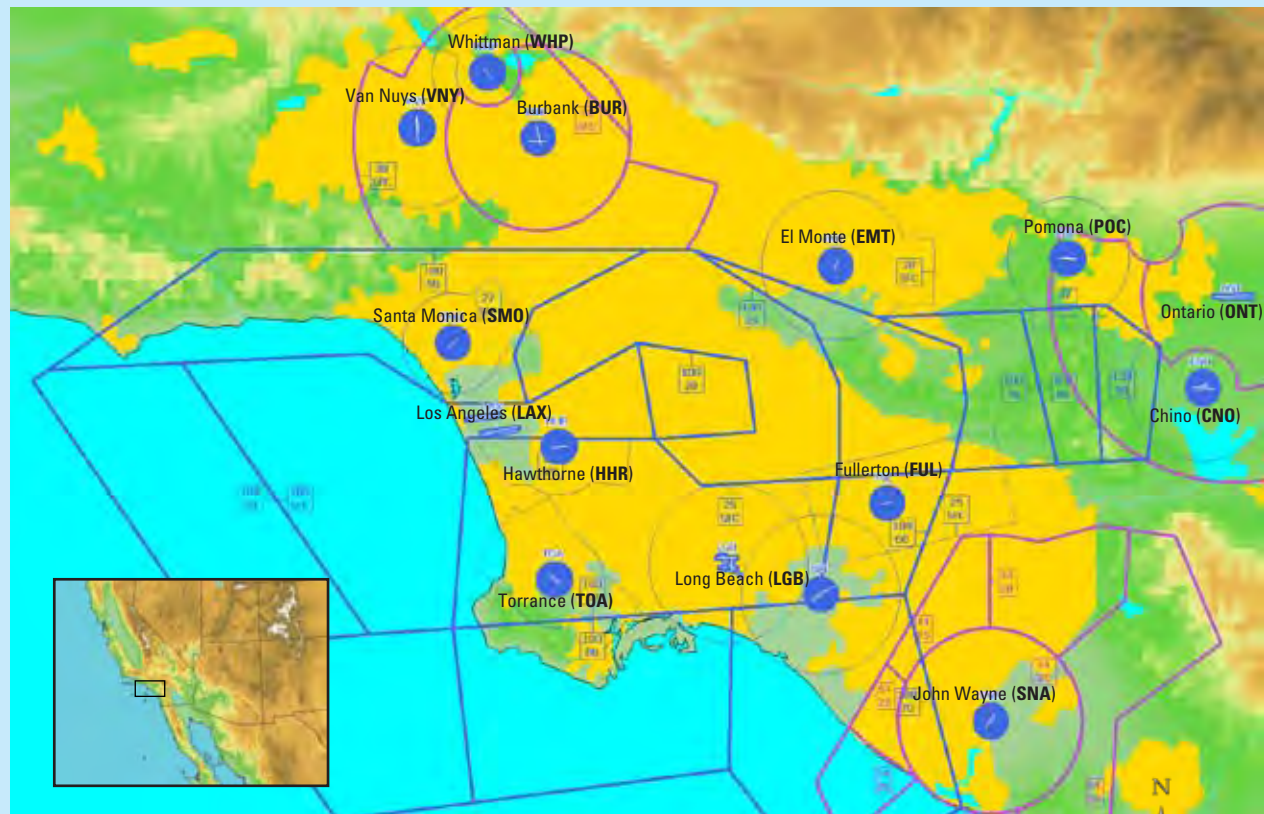
**Ride a Harley Davidson along the 400 miles of coastline** on a guided, escorted adventure between L.A. and San Francisco with **Ride Free Motorcycle Tours**. [ridefree.com](http://ridefree.com), 310.487.1047.

**Be James Bond for a Day** in your rented Aston Martin, Lamborghini or Maserati. While this service is not for the fiscally timid, **Beverly Hills Rent-A-Car** specializes in exotic car rentals. No one knows that it's not really yours. [bhrentacar.com](http://bhrentacar.com), 800.479.5996.

**Take Malibu Surf Lessons** with distinguished local practitioner Malibu Mike. Wetsuits and surfboards are included in your private lesson at **Malibu Mike's**. [malibumikes.com](http://malibumikes.com), 310.600.MIKE.

We hope you've enjoyed our whirlwind view of Los Angeles. Use the lists above as mere teasers for your own experiences in LA. Not once, but over and over again. Until you get it right. The state's Governor has the right idea—"I'll be back, babeeee." 

### Los Angeles Area Towered Airports



Maps provided by Voyager Flight Planning Software



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