



AAA Local Soul
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support@localexperiences.acg.aaa.com



Roadtrip to L.A. (Sample Guidebook)

Day 1: 06/21 - Explore Downtown L.A.!



Drive from Phoenix to L.A.

The trip is about 5hrs 45 minutes from Phoenix to L.A.—consider a stop at Joshua Tree National Park or Redlands/San Bernardino where there are a few nice short hikes you can do.

[Map directions](#)



Grab sandwiches at Konbi

Details: Before you arrive at your Airbnb, order ahead to Konbi, a Japanese sandwich shop that is as delicious as it is quintessential L.A. Since you can no longer dine in, if you call ahead as you're approaching DTLA, you can grab it at the pickup window and chow down once you get to your Airbnb. (It's just 7 minutes away.)

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

Address: 1463 Sunset Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90026

Phone: +12139723331



Check into Airbnb "Hip Artist's Loft in DTLA with Rooftop Hot Tub"

Details: Your host's name is Chelsea and confirmation code is GX898FT. Check in is anytime after 11:30am so you should be able to head right there! There should be ample daytime street parking but for overnight, I flagged two parking garages within a couple blocks on your google map that charge \$10/night. (Check the [Maps section...](#))

PS - The rooftop pool and hot tub are OPEN, but with Covid social distancing rules in place.

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

Address: 398 W 5th St, Los Angeles, CA 90013

Phone: (213) 974-xxxx



Hike the Hastain Trail in Franklin Canyon

Details: As we discussed during planning, the current Covid situation in L.A. makes it hard to explore the city's indoor attractions—luckily, there are plenty of outdoor options and the weather should be quite comfortable during the days you're here!

After you drop your bags, it's a quick drive to Franklyn Canyon Park in the Santa Monica Mountains, where you'll find great trails with views of the city. It's a little less well known than the trails around Griffith Observatory so it shouldn't be too crowded, even on a beautiful afternoon.

Park at the start of the trail and there are two loops, 1.8 and 2.3 miles.

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

Address: 1924 Lake Dr #1900, Beverly Hills, CA 90210



Drive to The Original Farmer's Market

It's a 20 minute drive from the trailhead to the the farmers market. You'll find ample free parking in the museum lot.

[Map directions](#)



Sampling L.A. Food at The Original Farmer's Market

Details: This market has a great local history and has grown into a huge market featuring food vendors of all types—a great place to explore after a hike and pick and choose from all the options, all while staying outside in the open air where you can be safe!

There are tons of great food offerings from around the globe, representing the various immigrant groups that call L.A. home.

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

Address: 6333 W 3rd St, Los Angeles, CA 90036

Phone: +13239339211



Drive to La Brea Tar Pits

It's a 5 minute drive to La Brea Tar Pits.

[Map directions](#)



Visit La Brea Tar Pits and Hancock Park

Details: The museum at La Brea Tar Pits remains closed due to Covid, but the accompanying park is open to the public and contains exhibits about prehistoric animals and plants. Exploring the park is free and visitors can often see the museum's paleontologists working at the excavation site.

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

Address: 5801 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90036

Phone: +12137633499



Urban Lights at L.A. County Museum of Art

Details: Just a stone's throw from the tar pits is the outdoor gardens of LACMA. The museum is closed due to Covid of course, but there is a fantastic outdoor exhibit called Urban Light consisting of hundreds of restored cast iron antique street lights. If you can time it so the sun is going down, you can catch it when the lights go on!

From the exhibit, you can stroll the around the rest of the sculpture garden outside the museum.

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

Address: 5905 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90036

Phone: +13238576010



Drive to Street Food Cinema

The drive from LACMA to Street Food Cinema is about 30 minutes.

[Map directions](#)



A drive-in movie theater with food trucks!

Details: The pandemic has revived the local drive-in movie theater scene in L.A., and for good reason—you and those in your bubble can safely keep your distance from others and feel like you had a great night out! By far the drive-in with the best set up is Street Food Cinema, because it is lined with L.A.'s best food trucks on a nightly basis. You can get in, get situated, and then peruse the options before the movie starts. The options span every corner of the globe.

Street Food Cinema

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

Address: 1617 Colorado Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90041

Phone: +13232545068

Alternatively, if you are craving a meal that fits the 50's Americana drive-in experience, grab some (gourmet) burgers at The Oinkster just down the street.

The Oinkster

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

Address: 2005 Colorado Blvd, Eagle Rock, CA 90041

Phone: +13232556465



After movie options...

Details: After the movie, I recommend you head back to DTLA so you're near home base if you still have the energy and want a a nightcap within walking distance. (Remember, overnight parking options are on the map...)

Here are some nice nearby places that I know of that have outdoor space where its safe to hang out and get a socially distanced drink.

Redbird

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

Address: 114 E 2nd St, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Phone: 213 788 1191

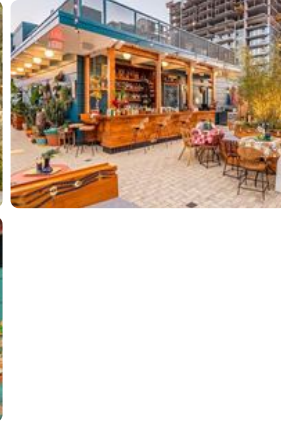
Broken Shaker at Freehand Los Angeles.

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

Address: 416 W 8th St, Los Angeles, CA 90014

Phone: +12136120021



Day 2 06/22 - Hiking, Food, Beach!



Breakfast at Nickel Diner

Details: Grab a hearty takeout breakfast at this classic L.A. diner — you'll need lots of energy for today! It's just a few minutes walk from your Airbnb and if you want, just a few blocks north is Angel's Knoll, a park with a great view where you can sit, eat, and watch the city go by.

Nickel Diner

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

Address: 524 S Main St, Los Angeles, CA 90013

Phone: +12136238301

[Angel's Knoll Location](#)



Drive to Charlie Turner Trailhead at Griffith Park

The drive from downtown where you're staying is about 20 minutes and there should be plenty of parking.

If you don't want to drive, you can call an Uber/Lyft at a cost of about \$10. Make sure to ask the driver to drop you at the Charlie Turner Trailhead or you'll start the hike by walking through a big parking lot.

[Map directions](#)



Morning Hike in the Hollywood Hills

Details: The views are spectacular and there are trails for miles — I suggest getting there by 8 or 9am if possible, before the sun gets to high and things heat up!

I recommend starting at Charlie Turner trailhead and follow the signs for the Griffith Park Bird Sanctuary. Total time for this loop is 1.5 to 2 hours. The website link above has detailed information about the all park trails and reviews from other hikers!

Charlie Turner Trailhead

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

Address: 2840 W Observatory Rd, Los Angeles, CA 90027





Stop by Griffith Observatory

Details: The observatory is closed but you can still walk around the outside observation deck to take in the views and cool off after a long hike!

Griffith Observatory

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

Address: 2800 E Observatory Rd, Los Angeles, CA 90027

Phone: (213) 473-0800



Drive to Pink's Hot Dogs

The drive to Pink's is about 20 minutes. It has its own parking and there is plenty of street parking so you shouldn't have any issues.

If you opt for Lyft/Uber from the Griffith Observatory to Pink's Hot Dogs it will be about \$10. [Map directions](#)



Lunch at Pink's Hot Dogs

Details: This place is legendary, and continues to get listed as L.A.'s #1 hot dog and chili dog joint. The dogs are topped with all sorts of crazy toppings for the flavor-curious and the old school car window service allows you to dine in your car or on the go!

If you feel like getting a taste of the famous Melrose Ave., park and head west on foot—in a few blocks you'll hit the main strip with bustling shops, bars and cafes (before Covid). Make sure to wear your mask!

Pink's Hot Dogs

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

Address: 709 N La Brea Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90038

Phone: (323) 931-4223



Uber/Lyft to Santa Monica Beach

The drive is about 20 minutes, and Lyft/Uber will run you about \$10.

There's ample parking right at Santa Monica Pier but it's a bit pricy (\$14/hr), so if you can, look for metered parking on Ocean Ave. or another local street (\$2-\$4 for 2 hrs)—you'll save some money and won't have to feel rushed! [Map directions](#)



Learn to surf at Santa Monica Beach

Details: Santa Monica Beach is a great place to people watch, grab a drink, or relax in the sand. This bustling little neighborhood has everything — I recommend walking along the bike path to get a sense of the area, and then hitting the sand to soak up the Cali sun...

If you want to try your luck surfing, check out Learn to Surf LA — they have inexpensive lessons and friendly instructors, and you can rent a board for a few hours, not the whole day like other places.

Santa Monica Pier

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

Address: 200 Santa Monica Pier, Santa Monica, CA 90401

Phone: (310) 458-8900

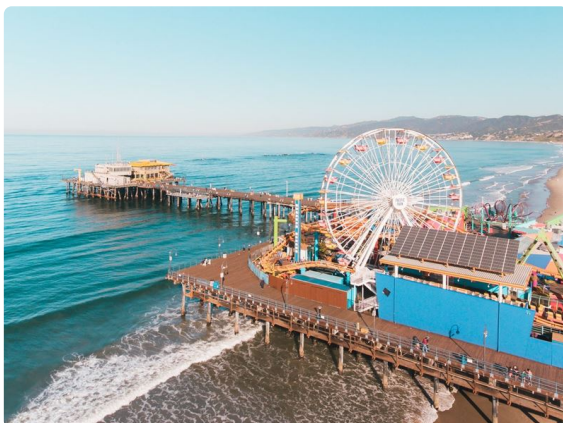
Learn to Surf L.A.

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

Address: 1750 Appian Way, Santa Monica, CA 90401

Phone: +13106632479



Drive or walk to Siamese Garden for dinner

The drive is about 12 mins and they have their own parking lot so you shouldn't have to pay.

However, if it's a nice day, there's no better way to enjoy an evening in L.A. (especially now!) than by taking a long beach walk at sunset. It's 3 miles, which will take about 50 minutes, but you'll build up an appetite!

[Map directions](#)



Dinner at Siamese Garden

Details: Siamese Garden is the definition of hidden gem: it's delicious, inexpensive, has a great local feel! The outdoor dining patio has been going strong all through the pandemic with safe, distanced tables and limited seating. Call ahead to make a reservation.

Siamese Garden Thai Cuisine

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

Address: 5112 Hollywood Blvd #109, Los Angeles, CA 90027

Phone: +13236665055



After dinner options...

Details: If you walked down, on your walk back you might want to consider stopping in at Ospi for an open air cocktail in their outdoor dining area. The food is a bit pricy—but grabbing a fancy drink is the way to go!

Or, if you drove and you're feeling like heading back toward your Airbnb, I recommend making a stop in Culver City (one of my favorite neighborhoods in L.A.) at Bianca, which has a great outdoor patio serving food (more Italian!) and drinks.

Ospi

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

Address: 2025 Pacific Ave, Venice, CA 90291

Phone: +14244435007

Bianca

[Website](#)

[Location](#)

Address: 8850 Washington Blvd, Culver City, CA 90232

Phone: +14246034353



Drive back downtown

The drive back to DTLA where your Airbnb is will take about 20 minutes, and Uber/Lyft will be about \$10-12. [Map directions](#)

Maps



Customized Map

[Here is your customized Google Map!](#) To access your map offline while you travel, follow the steps below:

1. **Download** the Google Maps App for [iPhone](#) or [Android](#).
2. **Load** your Customized Map.
 - Tap the customized Google Map link above. The list of locations in your itinerary should load automatically in the Google Maps app.
3. **Save** your Customized Map
 - Tap **+Follow** to save all locations to "your places" Google Maps account.
 - To share your map with anyone in your travel group, tap **Share**.
 - To find the list of locations in your customized map, go to **My Places > Lists > Lists You Follow**.



Getting Around



Bike and Scooter Rental

Los Angeles has new options for getting around. New bikes, e-bikes, and scooters are available to all bike share riders. They are found throughout the city. Generally, all the systems cost \$1 to \$2 per ride, with additional fees based on the length of your trip. You will need to register for each service through an app, link a credit card to your account, which bills you every time you complete a ride. All bike share and scooter companies also sell passes for people who don't use credit cards. Click <https://la.curbed.com/2018/7/31/17623336/bird-lime-scooter-bike-app-locations-cost-hours> for more information.



Public Bus

Metro Bus operates buses in Los Angeles. Metro Bus base fare is \$1.75 USD. On Metro Bus, you can pay cash each time you board (bus operators don't carry change, so you'll need exact fare) or buy and add up to \$20 to a reusable TAP card. There are also local buses operating in each city. The fare for local buses are between \$0.50 USD - \$0.75 USD. You need exact fare to ride the local buses. For information on routes of Metro Bus, please check out the link above!



Taxi

Always choose one of the regulated taxi companies to travel into the airport or anywhere else in the city. Look for a taxi with an official seal from the City of Los Angeles, which means they are fully insured and inspected, and only use professional drivers. It is illegal for any transportation services to solicit fares, and travelers using such services do so at their own risk.

To give you a better idea of your fare, some typical fares to and from various destinations in LA are as follows:

Service Fare

Downtown \$46.00 - \$50.00 USD

Norwalk \$55.00

West Hollywood \$40.00 - \$45.00

Beverly Hills \$50.00 - \$70.00

Brentwood \$50.00 - \$70.00

Bel Air \$60.00 - \$80.00

Airport Arrival to/from Departure \$4.00 - \$6.00

On top of your fare, you will also be expected to tip your driver and this is the norm anywhere in the United States. The typical rate that you tip is usually between 10% and 15% of the total fare. You may find that this is added onto the fare automatically, especially if you pay by card.

The following are the list of Taxi Companies serving at LAX airport:

Authorized Taxicab Supervision (ATS)- taxicab management and dispatch services

Bell Cab Company

Beverly Hills Cab Company

City Cab

Independent Taxi

LA Checker Cab

United Checker Cab

United Independent Taxi Drivers (UITD)

United Taxi of San Fernando Valley (UTSFV)

Yellow Cab



Uber/Lyft

Uber/Lift is available in Los Angeles and can sometimes be cheaper than a taxi.

Cost: On average it's about \$12.00 USD per trip within the city and \$30.00 - \$40.00 USD to/from airport.



Metro/Subway

Metro Rail is a great way to get around Los Angeles County. Metro Rail's base fare is \$1.75 USD. On Metro Rail, you can buy ticket each time you board or buy and add up to \$20 to a reusable TAP card. For information on routes of Metro Rail, check out the link above!

Los Angeles Info



Health and Safety



Health and Vaccines

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health is advising anyone who has not been immunized against measles to get vaccinated.

Health officials warn travel and attending large-scale events, particularly in places where there are ongoing outbreaks, can increase the chances of exposure to measles. Officials said travelers taking trips within the U.S. should follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's vaccination recommendations.

Source: Los Angeles County Department of Public Health



Covid Info - L.A. County

Guidance for Individuals PDF:

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/coronavirus/docs/people/GuidanceIndividualsHouseholds.pdf>



Practical Tips



What to Bring

Bring sunglasses, sunscreen, shorts and t-shirts (check the weather), atleast one hat, bathing suit (f you're planning to go at the beach), hiking boots, flip flops and flats, and water bottle.



Average Costs

Average Daily Costs Per Person

\$70 USD per person per day (economic)

\$190 USD per person per day (mid-range)

\$558 USD per person per day (luxury)

Transportation

Taxi or Uber - Normal: \$29.00 - \$30.00 USD per trip in city or estimated \$46.00 - \$50.00 USD to/from airport.

Car rental - \$14.00 - \$47.00 USD per day depending on type of vehicle

Bus - \$1.75 USD one way; \$25.00 USD for 7-Day Pass

Metro - \$1.75 USD one way; \$25.00 USD for 7-Day Pass

Food

Meal - Street food / cafeteria: \$10.00 USD - \$15.00 USD

Meal - Low-mid range restaurant: \$20.00 USD - \$50.00 USD

Meal - Nice private restaurant: \$55.00 USD - \$150.00 USD

Alcohol - Beer: \$5.00 USD - \$7.00 USD

Alcohol - Cocktail: \$10.00 USD - \$15.00 USD

Bottled water - 0.5L: \$1.00 USD

Bottled water - 1.5L: \$2.00 USD

Tipping recommended, 15-20% is standard for a total bill and \$1.00 USD - \$2.00 USD for drinks.

Lodging

Lodging - Budget : \$40.00 USD / night

Lodging - Mid-range: \$111.00 USD / night

Lodging - Luxury: \$200.00 – 332.00 USD / night



Dos and Don'ts

Check the weather before heading out and bring a light jacket for when the sun goes down.

Wear sunscreen and be sure to always carry water.

Los Angeles is wide. Visitors are advised to look at a map before choosing a hotel or planning an itinerary. Plan days wisely and pick a hotel that's near the must-see attractions on your list.

Alcohol is expensive in Los Angeles. Many bars offer both afternoon as well as late-night happy hours. Check for specials or consult Yelp to find the best local dive. Tourists coming from other countries should know that the drinking age in Los Angeles, like the rest of the United States, is 21.

Traffic is heavy in Los Angeles, especially during morning and evening rush hour. Avoid traveling at these times on weekdays. Take public transportation, if possible.

Parking structures in downtown Los Angeles and nearby cities cost around \$10.00 USD - \$25.00 USD. Some parking streets are free. Check parking signs carefully. A parking ticket in LA typically costs \$63.00 USD, if not more.

Absolutely no smoking is allowed in any public place in Los Angeles and, due to recent legislation, you can't use your vaporizer in any area where smoking cigarettes is prohibited.

Los Angeles is located at San Andreas Fault and locals experience earthquakes a few times. Should an earthquake happen, get away from windows and hanging furniture, drop to all fours, and cover your head and neck with your arms. Sturdy furniture or walls may offer protection if nearby. Outside, avoid structures and utility wires. If in a car, brake to a complete stop away from anything that might fall, and stay in the car. Don't forget about the possibility of aftershocks.

Los Angeles has a lot of food trucks and street foods. They are cheap, foods are flavorful, and open late at night. Taco trucks usually serve a variety of affordable tacos, burritos, quesadillas, tortas and more. Hot dogs carts offer the beloved "dirty dog", a hot dog wrapped in bacon, topped with sautéed peppers and onion. Bring cash and don't forget to tip.

If something goes awry and you need help, you can reach emergency services by dialing 911, as is the case in any U.S. state. Travelers can also seek help by going to any police station. Visitors may also call 311 for local information, and 411 for directory assistance.

There's so much to do in Los Angeles, including museums, art galleries, theater, live music, beautiful architecture, and plenty of gorgeous hiking trails. Do a little research beforehand to cut through the stereotypes, and you'll find a unique and diverse city with far more than Hollywood and a couple of beaches.



Scams

1. Ticket Scams

Follow the tips below to avoid fake ticket scams:

Buy tickets from the box office, the official website for the event or a legitimate ticket distributor.

If you have any doubt, confirm the web address of the ticket seller is correct by calling the company. Scammers create fake websites that appear legitimate.

Be careful with classified or other online ads. Buying from a stranger and not a legitimate ticket broker puts you at risk.

2. Taxi Overcharge

Either the driver will tell you the meter is broken and try to charge you a huge rate or you'll see the meter go higher and faster. To avoid this scam, you need to know how much a ride should cost. If the driver tries to negotiate the rate, offer him the correct rate. If he refuses, have them pull over and get out. Always make mental note of the driver's ID number and license number of the cab in case you need to report them. Never get in an unlicensed cab.

Note from Local and Budget



Note from your AAA Local

Hi Natalie,

It was a pleasure planning your trip! I tried to include a mix of great restaurants and lots of self-guided nature hikes, including a few of my favorite hidden gems. I'm also an avid hiker and photographer, so building your guidebook was a lot of fun!

I wanted to point out a few things for you:

- You mentioned you wanted to explore L.A.'s diversity so I included my favorites: authentic Mexican taco trucks, Japanese sandwiches and Thai. (all outdoor dining/takeout of course!) I hope you enjoy.
- I've included all relevant Covid-19 info for restaurants and activities on the itinerary. Remember to stay socially distanced and be aware of changes to local regulations. You can find updates for L.A. county [here](#).
- **If you have any issues during your trip, I can be reached locally at +xx xxxxxxxxxx.**

Please reach out if have any questions or would like any changes to your guidebook. Inside you will find confirmation info and contacts for all bookings you asked me to make during the planning process.

Thanks, and enjoy!

- Julia



During trip expenses

Meals: \$170 USD

Activities: \$45 USD

Total: \$215 USD per person