

Spain, settled in Los Angeles.

In 1911, director D.W. Griffith opened the first film studio in the area. Film producers, previously in New York, soon followed suit, opening film studios and production companies. Small studios grew into great companies, led by powerful executives and movie stars.

Postwar Los Angeles brought the rise of television and music to the entertainment capital of the world. Growing infrastructure and development, especially the freeways in the 1940s, combined with the addition of the San Fernando Valley to the city, helped the sprawling Los Angeles gain a reputation as a commuter city. Increased immigration over the past century, from across the United States and overseas has strengthened Los Angeles' identity as a melting pot of cultures.

Today Los Angeles is an international city of cultures, entertainment, and trade. Though the film, music, and television industries are now global enterprises, the capital remains in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES POINTS OF INTEREST

1 Grauman's Chinese Theatre – Immortalized as the cinema of movie premieres, this Chinese-style pagoda on Hollywood Boulevard has a public courtyard with the hand and footprints of Hollywood legends since 1927. Buy tickets to watch a film where your favorite star may have sat.

2 The Hollywood Walk of Fame is the famous sidewalk on Hollywood Boulevard and Vine Street. Over 2,000 stars imbedded in the walk represent the history and names, real and fictional, famous or forgotten, of many who contributed to the success of the motion picture industry.

3 Grand Central Market – Fresh, local food is a hallmark of California cuisine, and it all starts here at Los Angeles' largest and oldest open-air market. Open since 1917, the market has consistently provided customers with fresh produce, meats, fish, and prepared food from around the world.

4 Chinatown – Los Angeles' Chinatown is the oldest in the United States, as the Chinese community established itself near Union Station in 1852. In 1938, a "New Chinatown" brought a Central Plaza along with various landmarks that make the area as famous for its architecture as for its historic signifi-

cance for the Asian-American community.

5 Museum of Television & Radio – This ode to media broadcasting has a collection of 100,000 programs, including shows and commercials, shown for the past 80 years, as well as special exhibits on costumes and art.

6 Beverly Hills Hotel – Los Angeles is filled with legendary hotels, but few come close to the guest list of the "Pink Palace," refuge for the stars since 1912.

7 Warner Brothers Studios – Step into the world of movies and television where visitors can take a walking tour of the studio museum, soundstages, and sets.

8 Paramount Pictures Studio – Nothing says Hollywood more than this movie-making institution that has been producing films since the 1920s. You can take a tour of the studio's facilities and even attend a live taping.

9 Pierce Brothers Westwood Village Memorial – This small cemetery is proof that fame and controversy transcend death in Hollywood. Visit the final resting spots of stars like Marilyn Monroe, Jack Lemmon, Dean Martin, Truman Capote, and Natalie Wood.

Beyond Los Angeles

Santa Catalina Island – This island is a popular and historic part of Los Angeles County, located 20 miles from the city. When Spanish explorer Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo first spotted the Los Angeles coastline, he landed on this island. Today it is an eco-friendly oasis for water sports.

Queen Mary – Berthed in Long Beach since 1967, this famous cruise ship and World War II troopship completed over 1,000 transatlantic voyages and held the record for the world's fastest ocean crossing several times. Now a floating hotel, visitors can take tours of the vessel, as well as see the neighboring Soviet-era submarine, Scorpion.

Disneyland – Walt Disney's original theme park and the California Adventure Park in Anaheim are only 45 minutes away from Los Angeles.

SHORE EXCURSIONS To make the most of your visit to Los Angeles and its scenic surrounding areas we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing consult your Shore Excursion Brochure or contact the Shore Excursion Desk.

LOCAL CUSTOMS Bargaining: Is not widely practiced in Los Angeles.

Tipping: Gratuity is not usually added to restaurant bills. A tip of 15-20% on the food cost, is customary.

Local Cuisine: Los Angeles cuisine is known for locally-grown organic ingredients, fusion dishes, and international food, especially from Mexico and Asia. Get your fill of Hong Kong *dim sum* (varied, small servings of dumplings), *Japanese sushi*, *iza-*

kaya (pub-style dining with beer and sake), *Korean barbecue*, or *Vietnamese pho* (noodles) before you head to one of Los Angeles' chic restaurants or wine bars.

You may also choose to visit a farmer's market in Los Angeles to make your own meal of fresh, organic ingredients. Take advantage of California produce with local fruits and vegetables available in season. Visit the Original Farmer's Market at 6333 West 3rd Street in Hollywood or the Grand Central Market at 317 S. Broadway in downtown LA.

Drink Specialties: California wine country is closer to LA than you think. Order a bottle of *Cabernet Sauvignon*, *Chardonnay*, or *Pinot Noir* to pair with your organic fusion cuisine. Bottled water is recommended.

SHOPPING FACILITIES Shopping malls, thrift shops, and open-air markets abound in Los Angeles. Some well-stocked malls include the Beverly Center in the Westside, The Grove near the Farmer's Market, the Westside Pavilion, and the Westfield Century City. Visit the "Golden Triangle" of shops around Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills for the finest luxury boutiques. Abbot Kinney Boulevard in Venice, offers a diverse array of restaurants, vintage boutiques, and antique shops.

Be aware of California's 8.25% sales tax, which can be avoided for large purchases that are shipped out of state.

LOCAL CURRENCY The local currency is the U.S. dollar.

POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE FACILITIES The United States Post Office has branches throughout the Greater Los Angeles area. There is a Post Drop Box within the Cruise Ship Terminal.

Place a call with your personal calling card using the following access numbers:

AT&T: 01.800.225.5288

MCI: 001.800.888.8000

TOURIST INFORMATION Visit the Los Angeles Convention and Visitors Bureau at two locations:

685 S. Figueroa St., downtown and the Hollywood & Highland Center in Hollywood within the Kodak Center on Hollywood Boulevard.

TRANSPORTATION Being one of the cheapest places to rent a car in the United States, Los Angeles has many car rental companies. Navigating Los Angeles' 67 neighborhoods by car is best left to the locals, but if you rent a car, be sure to pick up a complimentary driving map.

The LA bus and metro systems are good for short trips, but not recommended for late night travels or long distances. Cabs are also available, though fares are high and are usually available only by calling the local taxi cab company for a pickup. Taxi's do not travel down local streets looking for fares but may be found next to local hotels and airports.

