



Los Angeles, CA



Los Angeles, California, the second most populous city and metropolitan area in the country, comprises 466 square miles and sprawls across a broad coastal plain situated between mountains and the Pacific Ocean. The area was originally settled by the Chumash and Tongva indigenous tribes. In 1769, Spanish royal authorities ordered Captain Gaspar de Portolá to build a Spanish outpost in the Los Angeles area. This initial settlement grew larger in 1781 when a group of 44 settlers of European, African, and Native American backgrounds from northern Mexico established a farming village on the banks of the Rio de Porciúncula. The Spanish governor named the settlement El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora la Reina de los Ángeles de Porciúncula, or “The Town of Our Lady the Queen of the Angels of Porciúncula,” which was later shortened to Los Angeles. In 1881, the Southern Pacific Railroad completed a track into Los Angeles, which linked the city with the rest of the United States and sparked a flurry of land speculation.

Los Angeles has more than 200 museums. Containing 250,000 pieces of art, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) is the premier fine arts museum and is the anchor for Wilshire Boulevard’s “Museum Row.” The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens in San Marino; the Norton Simon Museum of Art in Pasadena; the J. Paul Getty Museum, with locations at the Getty Center in Los Angeles and the Getty Villa in Malibu; and the three locations of the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA)—MOCA Grand Avenue, the Geffen Contemporary at MOCA, and MOCA Pacific Design Center—are other art museums in the Los Angeles area. The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County in Exposition Park houses nearly 35 million specimens and artifacts that cover 4.5 billion years of history; its sister institution, the La Brea Tar Pits in Hancock Park, is the only Ice Age fossil site in the world that is actively being excavated in the middle of a city. Among the museums devoted to ethnic heritage are the California African American Museum, the Japanese American National Museum, and the Skirball Cultural Center featuring Jewish culture and history. Several museums are associated with movie stars: humorist Will Rogers’s ranch in Pacific Palisades, the Museum of the American West in Griffith Park (formerly the Gene Autry Western Heritage Museum), and silent-film cowboy William S. Hart’s home in Newhall. Other museums are devoted to children, crafts, maritime, television and radio, military, automobile, aeronautic, and railroad history.

Los Angeles features many performing arts venues. Located in downtown Los Angeles, the Music Center is one of the largest performing arts centers in the country and is home to four resident companies—Center Theatre Group, LA Opera, LA Phil, and Los Angeles Master Chorale—who perform in the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, Ahmanson Theater, Mark Taper Forum, or Walt Disney Concert Hall. Los Angeles-based companies present performances of modern, tap, jazz, ethnic, and experimental dance at the Music Center, which frequently hosts visiting companies as well. The Los Angeles Ballet performs in various venues, including UCLA’s Royce Hall and Alex Theatre in Glendale. Touring Broadway shows are performed at The Hollywood Pantages Theatre. The Dolby Theatre is home to the Oscars and hosts prestigious artists, concerts, plays, dance performances, and events.

Outdoor amphitheatres, such as the Hollywood Bowl, the Greek Theatre, and the John Anson Ford Amphitheatre, remain popular staging arenas for the performing arts.

Neighborhoods

The 4,070-square-mile County of Los Angeles encompasses the City and contains 87 other incorporated cities, such as Beverly Hills, Pasadena, and Long Beach, and approximately 140 unincorporated areas. In addition, the County includes two of the Channel Islands—Santa Catalina and San

Clemente, the 10,046-foot high Mount San Antonio, more than 900 square miles of desert, and 75 miles of seacoast.

Among the 84 neighborhoods situated within the city limits are Hollywood, located northwest of downtown; Encino, Van Nuys, and North Hollywood in the San Fernando Valley; Century City, Westwood, and Venice on the West Side; San Pedro and Wilmington in the harbor area; and Boyle Heights just east of the river. Some of the newer outlying communities, such as Warner Center, which is a master-planned neighborhood and business district development in the Woodland Hills area, have the appearance of self-contained mini-cities.

In downtown Los Angeles, the Civic Center, which covers 20 square blocks, encompasses city, state, and federal government offices, courthouses, and monuments. Downtown is also known for its jewelry district, fashion district, Little Tokyo, and the Figueroa Corridor, which is home to the University of Southern California, Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, Exposition Park, and the Shrine Auditorium. Residential opportunities include apartments, condominiums, and lofts in renovated and newly constructed buildings.

Virtually any architectural style can be found in Los Angeles, although Spanish Mission Revival and Craftsman, as epitomized by the California bungalow, are most widely identified with the region.

Parks and Recreation

The City of Los Angeles has 444 parks with amenities that include hundreds of athletic fields, 422 playgrounds, 321 tennis courts, 184 recreation centers, 72 fitness areas, 62 swimming pools and aquatic centers, 30 senior centers, 26 skate parks, 13 golf courses, 12 museums, 9 dog parks, 13 lakes, 92 miles of hiking trails, and the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium.

At 6.5 square miles of rugged mountainous terrain, Griffith Park is one

City Stats

2018

City Population	3,990,456
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	13,291,486
Per Capita Personal Income, Los Angeles–Long Beach–Anaheim, CA, MSA	\$63,913

of the country's largest urban parks and is home to a number of historic venues and landmarks, such as the Griffith Observatory, the iconic Greek Theatre, and the famous Hollywood Sign. Exposition Park, Hancock Park, and Elysian Park are among other popular city recreation areas.

The Venice Beach Boardwalk, also known as Ocean Front Walk, stretches more than two miles and hosts hundreds of street vendors and performers along with numerous privately owned restaurants and food venues. The Venice Beach Recreation Center offers various activities, including basketball, paddle tennis, and handball tournaments; body building at the world famous Muscle Beach Venice gym; and other special events. Venice Beach also offers a fishing pier, a world-renowned skate plaza, bike path, and two children's play areas. All of the sports courts, skate plaza, pier, and other amenities are open to the public daily.

Among the regional parks, the most important is the sprawling 239-square-mile Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, the largest such preserve in an American metropolis. Jointly managed by the U.S. National Park Service, the California Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the area is popular for hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, camping, and rock climbing. A few trails remain closed due to Woolsey Fire damage.

The 133-acre Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens is home to more than 1,400 mammals, birds, amphibians, and reptiles representing more than 270 different species, including 58 endangered species. The Zoo's botanical collection comprises several planted gardens with more than 800 different plant species.

Universal Studios Hollywood film studio and theme park are located in the Los Angeles County's San Fernando Valley area, with about 30% of the property situated within the Los Angeles city limits.

The Los Angeles region has many professional sports teams: Dodgers (baseball), Lakers (basketball), Rams (football), Chargers (football), Angels (baseball), Kings (ice hockey), Ducks (ice hockey), Clippers (basketball), Sparks (women's basketball), LA Galaxy (soccer), and Los Angeles FC (soccer).

Education

The Los Angeles Unified School District includes Los Angeles and all or parts of 31 smaller municipalities, plus several unincorporated sections of Los Angeles County. The District educates more than 600,000 students in 19 primary school centers, 441 elementary schools, 79 middle schools, 92 senior high schools, 54 option schools, 53 magnet schools, 25 multilevel schools, 13 special education schools, 2 home/hospital schools, 239 kindergarten through grade 12 magnet centers (on regular campuses), 228 independent charter schools, and 142 other schools and centers. The County is also served by 79 other public school districts.

Los Angeles County has many opportunities for higher education. Public universities include the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), which is the largest branch of the University of California system, California State Polytechnic University, and four campuses of the California State University system—Dominguez Hills, Long Beach, Los Angeles, and Northridge. The University of Southern California (USC), California Institute of Technology (Caltech), the Claremont Colleges, California Institute of the Arts, ArtCenter College of Design, FIDM/Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising, Los Angeles Film School, Occidental College, Otis College of Art and Design, Pacific Oaks College, The Chicago School of Professional Psychology, Whittier College, University of Antelope Valley, University of La Verne, and Woodbury University are private independent institutions, each with a student enrollment exceeding 1,000. Fourteen smaller private universities are also located in the County.

Religious institutions with enrollment exceeding 1,000 students include Loyola Marymount, Azusa Pacific University, Biola University, Fuller Theological Seminary, Mount Saint Mary's University, Pepperdine University, and The Master's University; 11 smaller universities with religious affiliations are also located in Los Angeles County.

Several medical schools are located in Los Angeles County: University of California—Los Angeles David Geffen School of Medicine, University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine, and Western University of Health Sciences.

Los Angeles also has 22 public community colleges and three private two-year colleges.

Health Care

Los Angeles County has 93 general medical-surgical care hospitals, including dedicated pediatric and cancer hospitals, 17 psychiatric hospitals, three rehabilitation hospitals, and two chemical dependency recovery hospitals. The following 22 general medical-surgical care hospitals are located within the City of Los Angeles:

Adventist Health White Memorial Medical Center: 293 beds
Barlow Respiratory Hospital: 105 beds
California Hospital Medical Center—Los Angeles: 318 beds
California Rehabilitation Institute: 138 beds
Cedars Sinai Medical Center: 890 beds
Children's Hospital of Los Angeles: 495 beds
Docs Surgical Hospital: 17 beds
East Los Angeles Doctors Hospital: 102 beds
Good Samaritan Hospital—Los Angeles: 380 beds
Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center: 345 beds
Kaiser Foundation Hospital—Los Angeles: 460 beds
Kaiser Foundation Hospital—West Los Angeles: 265 beds
Keck Hospital of USC: 401 beds
Kindred Hospital—Los Angeles: 81 beds
L.A. Downtown Medical Center: 87 beds
Los Angeles Community Hospital: 91 beds
Los Angeles County+USC Medical Center: 600 beds
Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital: 131 beds
Olympia Medical Center: 204 beds
Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center: 445 beds
Southern California Hospital at Hollywood: 100 beds
USC Kenneth Norris, Jr. Cancer Hospital: 60 beds

