

The Great Outdoors



11

CHARMLEE PARK

Put on your walking shoes for a light trail walk through Charmlee Park in the Santa Monica Mountains. On a clear day hikers can appreciate the view of the Channel Islands, Catalina and much of the Malibu coast. Pack a light lunch and take in the scenery with a romantic picnic in the designated resting areas. 310.457.7247 • localhikes.com/Hikes/CharmleePark_4472.asp

GRIFFITH PARK

With more than 4,107 acres of natural terrain, Griffith Park offers some recreational attractions plus an amazingly large portion of the Park remains virtually unchanged from the days when Native American villages occupied the area's lower slopes. Today's Griffith Park offers family attractions, educational and cultural institutions, and miles of hiking and horseback riding trails. 4730 Crystal Springs Dr., Los Angeles 323.913.4688; laparks.org/dos/parks/griffithpk/griffith.htm

ZUMA BEACH

Go with the family or just with your special somebody – Zuma Beach is one of LA's premiere beaches where locals and visitors alike appreciate the city's naturally warm climate and watch surfers catch the perfect wave. Summer and winter parking rates vary. 30,000 Pacific Coast Hwy., Malibu

VENICE BEACH

Venice's three-mile sandy beach may seem like the only lure to Venice, but surprises are always around the corner. Street performers, souvenir shops and interesting people have claimed this as a "virtual sidewalk circus." Rent bikes or roller skates and explore the boardwalk for yourself. 3100-2700 Ocean Front Walk

LOS ANGELES ZOO

Whoever said the zoo was for kids? Take a stroll along the zoo's path and check out the wild bird show, endangered Sumatran Tiger Cubs, Kikuyu Colobus Monkeys and Orangutans. Children under two get in for free; ages 2-12 are \$5; adults 13 and up are \$10 and seniors 65 and older are \$7. 5333 Zoo Dr., Los Angeles 323.644.4200 • lazoo.org

SANTA MONICA BEACH

Ride Pacific Coast Hwy. down to the Santa Monica Beach and you will find surfers in their wetsuits unloading their boards from the hood of their cars, couples roller-skating or bike riding along the coast and families enjoying the beautiful California weather. Stop by the Segway rental shop on Ocean Avenue or get a good workout by climbing the Santa Monica Stairs. Segway Los Angeles, 1660 Ocean Ave., Santa Monica 310.395.1395 • santamonica.com

DESCANSO GARDENS

Explore a tranquil garden paradise mere minutes from the city. The main attractions are the two canopied camellia forests, International Rosarium, which boasts thousands of rose varieties, and the one-hour guided tram tour through the 165-acre expanse. Adults \$6; seniors/students \$4; children (5-12) \$1.50 • 1418 Descanso Dr., La Canada, CA 91011 818.949.4200 • decansogardens.org

GREYSTONE MANSION

Beverly Hills' largest home has lush gardens, lovely grounds and an intriguing history. 905 Loma Vista Dr., Beverly Hills, CA 90210 310.550.4796

SUNSET RANCH HOLLYWOOD

Ride off into the sunset, where Hollywood history, breathtaking views and margaritas await. Admission: Friday night ride (excluding dinner and drinks) \$45. 3400 N Beachwood Dr., Hollywood, CA 90068 323.469.5450

RUNYON CANYON PARK

