

Susan and David's LA Attractions List

1) Culver City -- <http://www.culvercity.org/>

Museum of Jurassic Technology. see www.mjt.org

7 different street Zoetropes in Downtown/Main St Area. see

http://www.filmradar.com/articles/item/zoetropes_invalidate_culver_city/ and

<http://www.downtownculvercity.com/>

Culver Studios - where "Gone With the Wind" was shot. Short walk from zoetropes and The Culver Hotel, used in many films, and where the Munchkins stayed when working at MGM (now the Sony Pictures lot) nearby. Main Street claims to be "The Shortest Main Street in the World". Don't know if that's still true, but it is short. "Lunch" (<http://eatatlunch.com/>) is a great place for lunch.

Great City View from park above oil wells off Jefferson Blvd at Duquesne. Follow Duquesne up the hill to the end parking lot (next to a baseball field) for a view of the whole city, only 5 min. from downtown Culver City.

2) Downtown Los Angeles Area

Olvera Street / Union Station / Philippe's / Chinatown

One of our favorite parts of the city. Olvera Street is the oldest street in the city, from the days of Mexican occupation. The oldest adobe house in the city still stands on this street and is open during the day to visit. Stalls on the street are like a visit to Mexico. Lots of Mexican food here. Across the street is Union Station, the last of the great WPA train stations to be built in the USA in the 1930s. Used in MANY films and commercials. Super Spanish Art Deco interior. Philippe's is just a block from Olvera Street and is over 100 years old. Claims to have invented the "French Dip" sandwich. Sandwiches about \$6 or \$7. They have a 9 cent cup of coffee. Chinatown is just a block west of Philippe's. Not San Francisco, but could compete. Very colorful, and lots of Chinese restaurants and food shops. If you have a craving for great Barbecue, Spring Street Smokehouse is just a short walk from the north end of Olvera Street.

Links: <http://www.calleolvera.com/history/briefhistory/> ,

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Union_Station_\(Los_Angeles\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Union_Station_(Los_Angeles)) , <http://www.philippes.com/>

, <http://www.chinatownla.com/> , <http://www.sssmokehouse.com/>

2a) Bradbury Building/Grand Central Market/Angel's Flight

The Bradbury Building is the oldest office building in continuous use in LA -- since the 1890s. Looks like nothing from the outside. Inside is magical. Used in MANY films and commercials since the 1930s. Famous for some scenes in "Blade Runner". Used in current film "The Artist". Only the ground floor is open to the public, but worth walking in to see it. Directly across the street is "Grand Central Market". Heaven for street food junkies. Ethnic food stalls of all types. Leave from the entrance that is opposite the Bradbury Building where you came in and across the street, a little to the left, you will see the "Angel's Flight" inclined railway. At one time the top of Bunker Hill was all Victorian Residences (all gone now), but this was the easy way to get up the hill. Restored and running for 25 cents each way. Go up and down. It's fun!

Links: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bradbury_Building ,
<http://www.grandcentralsquare.com/> , <http://angelsflight.com/>

3) Hollywood

Hollywood Blvd/Walk of Fame/Grauman's Chinese Theater

Take a walk along Hollywood Blvd, starting at The Chinese theater. Famous forecourt, and the sidewalk is terrazzo with brass star plaques all along the Blvd. Lots of tourist places like Madame Tussaud's and Ripley's Believe it or not, and a Hollywood Museum. Very touristy, but still fun to see.

Links: <http://www.hollywoodchamber.net/> , <http://www.chinesetheatres.com/>

4) Angelino Heights

Carroll Avenue (Victorian Houses)

This street has the most Victorian Houses in the city, as does the whole neighborhood. Used as a double for the San Francisco Victorians in films. A very charming street with some amazing restored Victorian houses on it.

Echo Park Lake

A nice oasis in the middle of the city. It has a boat house with peddle boats that was closed down, but may have re-opened by now. Also used in many films of the silent era. At the north end of the lake is a huge church, which was the Church of the Foursquare gospel, started by Amy Semple McPherson the first radio evangelist, in the 1930's.

Links: http://laist.com/2007/09/04/neighborhood_pr_13.php ,
<http://www.historicechopark.org/id99.html>

5) Beverly Hills

501 Rodeo Drive House - A favorite of Susan's. Totally Art Nouveau style. Go down the alley to the left of the front of the house to see the guest house that faces the alley. More was spent on it than the main house. Has a mosaic tile roof!

Rodeo Drive

The trendy shopping street of the rich, famous, and tourists. Parallel to Beverly Drive. Go to Nate 'n Al's for classic deli. Or head a couple of miles east to Fairfax Blvd and go to Canter's Deli.

Links: <http://www.beverlyhills.org/> , <http://www.natenal.com/>

5a) Fairfax Blvd/ Farmer's Market

Canter's Deli is on Fairfax Blvd - and is a very New York style deli -- great for Pastrami, Corned Beef or Brisket Sandwiches, Matzo ball soup, etc. Open 24 hours!

A mile or so north of Canter's is the historic Farmer's Market. Built in the 1930's it was originally all fruit and vegetable stands. The ones still there have super nice produce. But now there are also many food stalls, catering to every taste. Adjacent to Farmer's Market is "The Grove" -- an upscale outdoor shopping center. It has a beautiful double decker custom made trolley car that runs from one end to the other. Very pretty spot to visit at Christmastime. All decked out, with a huge Christmas tree in the central "park" area.

Links: <http://www.cantersdeli.com/> , <http://www.farmersmarketla.com/> ,
<http://www.thegrovela.com/>

6) Santa Monica

Santa Monica Pier - An old fashioned pier, with a carousel and amusement park on it.

Palisades Park - a park that runs for miles along Ocean Ave, on a palisade above the Pacific Coast Highway. Pretty to visit, and nice view of the Pacific Ocean.

All tiled house at 26th St and ? St (a few blocks north of Wilshire Blvd. on the North West corner) - another fave of Susan. The owners are tile artists, and their house is totally covered by their work.

Links: <http://www.santamonicapier.org/> , <http://www.yelp.com/biz/palisades-park-santa-monica>

7) Venice

Venice Canals - Yes, there really are canals in Venice, CA. Not many left. The area was built as a summer holiday resort area in the 1920's - a "Venice of the West" with canals. Many have since been filled in, but the remaining ones are now a permanent part of the city, and the one room bungalows have given way to very trendy upscale houses along the canals.

Venice Beach and Boardwalk - a fabulous way to see the So Calif. culture & variety of people

Abbott Kinney Blvd - one of those interesting, now becoming trendy street of unusual shops.

Links: <http://www.yelp.com/biz/venice-canals-venice-2> , <http://www.travelinlocal.com/a-guide-to-walking-the-venice-canals-in-los-angeles/> , <http://www.abbotkinneyonline.com/>

8) Museums

The Getty Museum (Brentwood) <http://www.getty.edu/museum/>

The Getty Villa (in Malibu) <http://www.getty.edu/visit/>

MOCA - <http://www.moca.org/>

La Brea Tar Pits (Page Museum) <http://www.tarpits.org/>

9) Theme Parks

Universal Studios (Burbank) - <http://www.universalstudioshollywood.com/>

Disneyland (Anaheim) - <http://disneyland.disney.go.com/disneyland/>

Knott's Berry Farm (Anaheim) - <http://www.knotts.com/>

10) Watts Towers in Watts Built over the course of 33 years by one man, in his spare time, with mostly found materials, these spectacular towers are concrete with embedded ceramic, tile, glass and shell items that are reminiscent of Gaudi. One of the towers is over 100 feet tall. Another one of Susan's favorite places. <http://www.wattstowers.us/>

11) Century City - the Annenberg Space for Photography - This is a special gallery devoted to photography, always worth seeing. It's free to the public, you just have to find it within its maze of office buildings. Find the underground parking entrance that has their name on it and get directions from the person at the entry kiosk. Get a validation at the museum and parking is \$1 (yes, really, ONE Dollar!).

<http://www.annenberg.spaceforphotography.org/>

12) Academy of Motion Pictures, Beverly Hills They almost always have a free exhibit relating to movies, old and current, on both the main floor and another on the 4th floor. They're free, but be careful about parking in the area. Read the restriction signs on the streets around it.

<http://www.oscars.org/events-exhibitions/exhibitions/index.html>

13) Griffith Park and The Griffith Observatory – The park

(<http://www.laparks.org/dos/parks/griffithpk/>) is the largest in LA. Hikers have gotten lost and needed to be rescued. However there are a lot of activities around the park.

Traveltown, The Gene Autry Western Museum, the LA Zoo, and the Griffith Observatory (<http://www.griffithobs.org/>), which is the coolest art deco observatory on the planet. It

has been used in many films over the years. It has a great scene, playing itself, in “Rebel without a Cause” with James Dean. It's the bad guy's lair in “The Rocketeer”. For a

complete list head to <http://www.amazon.com/Movies-that-Featured-Griffith-Observatory/lm/R1E36ZKLCUV69Q>