

## DESCRIPTION OF EXCURSIONS



### Los Angeles

#### ***Full Day Excursions***

##### **Getty Museum, Venice Beach, & Santa Monica**

- Getty Museum: One of the most-visited museums in the United States. Its collections include European and American art from the Middle Ages up until now. The Getty is also known for its beautiful gardens and its views of Los Angeles.
- Venice Beach: Venice was first known as the Venice of America because of its canals and buildings with Venetian-style architecture that model Venice, Italy. Venice Beach is known for its 1960s-era atmosphere. It has a unique boardwalk along the beach that features local artists. It's famous for its street performers and funky vibe.
- Santa Monica: Santa Monica is famous for its beaches, pier, and shopping. Generally, students divide their free time between the Santa Monica Pier and Third Street Promenade. The Santa Monica Pier is iconic and has appeared in many movies. Third Street Promenade is the first pedestrian mall in the country and students have many options of where to shop.

##### **Downtown Los Angeles and Griffith Observatory**

- Downtown Los Angeles Tour: Students will tour downtown Los Angeles by bus, getting off at the following locations to take pictures:
  - Olvera Street: This is the birthplace of Los Angeles. Students will get a taste of Old Mexico and the origins of Los Angeles. There is a Mexican marketplace for students to buy souvenirs.
  - Union Station: Across from Olvera Street, Union Station is an iconic building in Los Angeles. It is the largest railroad passenger terminal in the Western U.S. and it has been in countless films, TV shows, and advertisements.
  - Dorothy Chandler Pavilion: The Academy Awards (Oscars) used to be held at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. Now, the Los Angeles Opera performs there.
  - Walt Disney Concert Hall: Constructed in 2003, the architecture of the Walt Disney Concert Hall is unique.
  - Staples Center: An arena that houses everything from LA Lakers and LA Clippers basketball games, to LA Kings hockey games, to concerts featuring Beyoncé, Madonna, Taylor Swift, etc. You can only enter the Staples Center if you have tickets to a game or a concert (so our students can't go inside), but students can visit the Staples Center gift shop.
  - Grand Central Market: An indoor public market open since 1917
- Griffith Observatory: The Griffith Observatory is the most-visited public observatory in the world. It also has one of the best views of the Hollywood sign. Students can go to a planetarium show (**fee**) and watch the sun set over Los Angeles.



### **Beverly Hills and Hollywood**

- Beverly Hills/Rodeo Drive: Beverly Hills is one of the wealthiest cities in the Los Angeles region. It is home to Rodeo Drive, which is a famous shopping street known as the Fifth Avenue of Los Angeles.
- Hollywood: Students will explore Hollywood by foot and by bus and eat dinner at the Hard Rock Café Hollywood.
  - Hollywood Bus Tour: On a guided bus tour of Hollywood, students will see famous restaurants and clubs owned by celebrities, famous theaters, scenes where movies were filmed, the home where Marilyn Monroe used to live, the Sunset Strip, etc.
  - Hollywood and Highland: Students will have free time to visit the Hollywood Walk of Fame, the Dolby Theatre (where the Academy Awards are held), Grauman's Chinese Theater (where many films premiere), and see the Hollywood sign.

### **Malibu and Santa Barbara**

- Malibu: Students will visit Malibu Country Mart, a boutique mall, and have the option of walking the trails at nearby Malibu Lagoon or spending time on Malibu Surfrider Beach and Malibu Pier.
- Santa Barbara: Santa Barbara is a popular beach town, known as the "American Riviera." Students will visit the historic downtown area (shopping on State Street), the beach, and Stearn's Wharf.

### **California Science Center, LA Farmer's Market, the Grove, and Huntington Beach**

- California Science Center and Space Shuttle Endeavour: The California Science Center is the West Coast's biggest hands-on science and technology center. One of the highlights of the California Science Center is the space shuttle *Endeavour*, which is the first thing that students visit in the California Science Center. The *Endeavour* completed 25 missions into space, including to the Hubble telescope and to the International Space Station.
- LA Farmer's Market and the Grove: The LA Farmer's Market is a historic landmark in Los Angeles. In addition to selling fresh fruits and vegetables, they have stands that sell food from around the world. The Grove, which is adjacent to the Farmer's Market, is a popular outdoor shopping mall.
- Huntington Beach: Huntington Beach is located in Orange County, also known as the OC. It's known as Surf City USA because it has good surf throughout the year. Students will enjoy a bonfire on the beach.

### **San Diego**

San Diego is California's 2nd largest city, and the 8th largest city in the United States. Students will visit:

- La Jolla: One of the most beautiful parts of San Diego. Beyond sunbathing and shopping, students will have the opportunity to see seals on La Jolla's Seal Beach.
- Mission Beach: A nice, clean beach; one of the most popular in San Diego. Students also have the option to ride rollercoasters, etc.
- Old Town: Old Town San Diego State Historic Park commemorates the early days of San Diego. The first European settlement on the West Coast of the present-day United States was in San Diego, and many historic buildings from the 19<sup>th</sup> century still exist in Old Town.



- Gaslamp Quarter: A historical neighborhood in Downtown San Diego. The area includes many historic buildings, most of which were constructed in the Victorian Era, and are still in use as restaurants, shops, and nightclubs. The students will go on a brief bus tour of the Gaslamp Quarter.

## ***Overnight Excursion***

### **Las Vegas, Grand Canyon, & Calico**

- Hoover Dam: The Hoover Dam is one of America's Seven Modern Civil Engineering Wonders and plays a significant role in providing electric power to Nevada, Arizona, and California. The Dam straddles the border between Nevada and Arizona.
- Las Vegas Strip Tour: Students will be guided along the Las Vegas Strip in the evening, seeing Caesar's Palace, the Bellagio water show, etc. The strip tour will end with dinner at the Hard Rock Café on the Las Vegas strip.
- Fremont Street Experience Light Show: A laser light show on the canopy of a pedestrian mall. A band plays and on the hour, the students will see a short laser light show.
- Grand Canyon: The Grand Canyon is known for its overwhelming size and its intricate and colorful landscape. The rock layers in the walls of the canyon record much of the early geologic history of the North American continent. Students will see the South Rim of the Grand Canyon.
- Kingman, Arizona: Students will spend the night in Kingman after dinner at the Golden Corral restaurant.
- Calico, California: Calico is a ghost town and former silver mining town that was founded in 1881. In the 1950s, all but five of the remaining original buildings were architecturally restored to look as they did in the 1880s. It's known as the Official State Silver Rush Ghost Town and is a California Historical Landmark.
- Students beginning the program in Las Vegas will shop at the Las Vegas North Premium Outlets; students ending the program in Las Vegas will shop at the Barstow Outlets instead.