

DESCRIPTION OF EXCURSIONS

Los Angeles

Star-Studded LA

On this full-day excursion in Los Angeles, students will see some of the places most popular with the stars:

- **Downtown Los Angeles:** Students will tour downtown Los Angeles and go to the following locations to take pictures:
 - **Olvera Street:** This area is the birthplace of Los Angeles, and there is a 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.
 - **Crypto.com Arena** (formerly 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 arena if you have tickets to a game or a concert (so our students can't go inside), but students can visit the gift shop.
 - **Grand Central Market:** An indoor public market open since 1917
- **Sunset Strip:** On a bus tour of the Sunset Strip, students will see famous restaurants and clubs owned by celebrities, etc.
- **Beverly Hills/Rodeo Drive:** Beverly Hills is one of the wealthiest areas 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 at the Hollywood and Highland Center, where they'll 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 from afar.

The Skies and the Surf

On this full-day excursion, students will visit the California Science Center and spend time at Huntington Beach, also known as Surf City USA:

- **California Science Center** (entry ticket included): The California Science Center is the West Coast's biggest hands-on science and technology center and is full of interactive exhibits to explore.
- **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.

All About the Views

On this full-day excursion, students will have an opportunity to visit the Getty Center (art museum), the LA Farmer's Market & Grove shopping mall, and the Griffith Observatory, and see beautiful views of Los Angeles along the way:

- **Getty Museum** (entry ticket included): 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.
- **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.
- **Griffith Observatory** (entry ticket included): 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 watch the sun set over Los Angeles.

Sand and Santa Monica

On this full-day excursion, students will explore UCLA and can then relax in the sun while spending time at two of LA's most famous beaches: Venice Beach and Santa Monica.

- **UCLA:** Students will have time to explore the beautiful campus of University of California, Los Angeles, which is considered one of the top universities in the world.
- **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.

Coastal Heritage: San Diego

San Diego is California's 2nd largest city, and the 8th largest city in the United States. On this full-day excursion, 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 at Belmont Park.
- **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 19th century still exist in Old Town
- **Downtown Disney:** On the way back from San Diego, there will be a stop at Downtown Disney in Anaheim where students can explore the many shops and restaurants and take in the magical Disney atmosphere.

Las Vegas & the Grand Canyon

On this three-day, two-night excursion, students will see Las Vegas, the Grand Canyon, and Calico Ghost Town.

Day 1

Students will depart campus and after a lengthy bus journey, they will spend the afternoon and evening visiting famous Las Vegas.

In the evening, students will be guided along the **Las Vegas strip**, seeing Caesar's Palace, the Bellagio water show, and other attractions. Students will have the **option of adding a Las Vegas show, Las Vegas limousine tour, or both** to enhance their stay in Las Vegas.

Day 2

Students will see the Grand Canyon (entry included).

- **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.

Day 3

Students will visit **Calico Ghost Town** (entry ticket included), 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.

San Francisco

On this three-day, two-night excursion, students will explore San Francisco and Silicon Valley.

Day 1

Students will experience a lengthy bus journey before stopping in Stanford to explore the city and enjoy dinner before heading to the hotel.

Day 2

Students will begin their San Francisco journey at Golden Gate Park, one of the most beautiful green spaces in the city. From there, they will have a photo opportunity at the iconic Painted Ladies before arriving at Union Square and Chinatown to explore and have lunch. The group will then see the Golden Gate Bridge from a stunning viewpoint before visiting Lombard Street, Ghirardelli Square, and Fisherman's Wharf.

Day 3

Students will have a chance to take a photo outside the Google Plex before taking a visit to Apple's campus where they can visit an Apple Store. Afterwards, the group will have lunch at a nearby shopping mall and return to Los Angeles for dinner.

Three-Week Excursion Options:

- **Museum of Contemporary Art and Shopping on Melrose Ave.:** On this full-day excursion, students will visit the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) and Melrose Ave. The MOCA (general admission entry included) is the only artist-founded museum in Los Angeles and its exhibits contain mostly American and European contemporary art created after 1940. Students will also go shopping on Melrose Ave., a famous shopping district known for its trendy boutiques. Because of the popularity of Melrose among celebrities, some call it “the new Rodeo Drive.”
- **Old Pasadena & Universal CityWalk:** On this full-day excursion, students will visit Pasadena, one of the cultural centers of the San Gabriel Valley in Los Angeles. Students will visit eclectic Old Town Pasadena, which has galleries, museums, cafes, and upscale retail shops. Afterwards, students will enjoy the action-packed atmosphere at Universal CityWalk, the entertainment district adjacent to Universal Studios which is filled with shops and restaurants.
- **Northridge Fashion Center:** On this full-day excursion, students will have the chance to shop at one of the best retail destinations in Los Angeles.