

America's Public Lands

Los Angeles may be known for its sunshine, beaches, movie industry, and shopping, but did you know there is a world of diverse landscapes, cultural riches, and quiet beauty in just a few hours' drive? Spend a morning in the city and escape for an afternoon into coastal environs, or head into the solitude of a forest—even sleep overnight in the cool mountain air. Check out these opportunities:

Nature

-  **1 Channel Islands National Park**- (<http://www.nps.gov/chis/index.htm>) *Come witness* the isolated plant and animal life that are unique to these islands and surrounding waters. Allow 8 hours.
-  **2 Joshua Tree National Park** - (<http://www.nps.gov/jotr/index.htm>) *Explore* the seemingly desolate landscape and strange, Dr. Suess-like, trees where rare and fragile life prospers. Allow 8 hours.

-  **3 Big Bear Discovery Center**, San Bernardino National Forest - (<http://www.nationalforestassociation.org/bigbeardiscoverycenter.php>) *Engage* in one of the many nature programs, attend concerts, or celebrate the Harvest Moon at this discovery center. Allow 1 or more hours.
-  **4 Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Mounment & Visitor Center** - (http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/palmsprings/santarosa/points_of_interest.html) *Absorb* the towering mountains, desert wildlife and cultural history of California. Allow 4 hours.
-  **5 Big Morongo Canyon Preserve**, Bureau of Land Management - (<http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/palmsprings/bigmorongo.html>) *Investigate* how fault lines shape land forms or survey some of the various species of birds known to live here. Allow 4 hours.
-  **6 Chilao Visitor Center**, Angeles National Forest - (<http://www.fs.usda.gov/attmain/angeles/specialplaces>) *Listen* to the call. *Visit* this internationally recognized bird watching site. Allow 1 hour.



7 **Big Pines Recreation Area**, Angeles National Forest - (<http://wrightwoodcalifornia.com/big-pines/>) *Scout* out hiking, camping, and picnicking opportunities along Hwy 2. Allow 4-8 hours.

8 **Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area**, National Park Service - (<http://www.nps.gov/samo/index.htm>) *Discover* the rich marine and coastal ecosystems of southern California. Allow 8 hours.

9 **Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail** - (<http://www.pcta.org>) *Hike* a portion of this scenic trail that traverses from Mexico to Canada. Various trailheads provide access. Allow 3-8 hours.

10 **Los Padres National Forest** - (<http://www.fs.usda.gov/lpnf>) *Adventure* into the mountainous land along the California Coast from Ventura to Monterey, with elevations from sea level to 9,000'. Allow 4-8 hours.

Culture & History

11 **California Science Center** - (<http://www.californiasciencecenter.org/>) *Stimulate* your senses and feed your curiosity at this hands-on museum where fun is geared for all ages. Allow 2-4 hours.

12 **Japanese American Museum** - (<http://www.janm.org/visit>) *Visit* a museum dedicated to sharing the experience of Americans of Japanese ancestry and learn their role in shaping U.S. history. Allow 2 hours.

13 **Mt. Wilson Historic Observatory and Skyline Park** - (<http://www.mtwilson.edu>) Dating back to 1935, *survey* this working observatory that offers views into our universe. Allow 1-2 hours.

14 **Museum of Latin American Art** - (<http://www.molaa.com>) *Celebrate* Latin American art from both the past and works from contemporary artists. Allow 2 hours.

15 **Outdoors Santa Barbara Visitor Center** - National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (<http://outdoorsb.noaa.gov/aboutus.html>) *Take in* views of the city, harbor, mountains, and islands. Displays include the Chumash culture, Spanish explorers, missionaries, and American ranchers. Allow 2 hours.



16 **Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians** - (<http://www.theindiancanyons.com/> or <http://www.accmuseum.org/>) *Tour* the largest Fan Palm Oasis, go hiking, or learn more about this tribe at the Cultural Museum. Reservations required. Allow 2 or more hours.

17 **San Manuel Reservation** (http://www.sanmanuel-nsn.gov/culture_powow.php.html) *Join* the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians at their annual fall Pow Wow. Allow 8 hours or more.



The California Missions (various locations)—many designated as National Historic Landmarks—are a prominent storyline in the settlement of California. (<http://www.missionscalifornia.com>)

Scenic Drives

18 **Angeles Crest Scenic Byway**, Highway 2 - (<http://byways.org/explore/byways/10245>) *Journey* the 55-mile scenic route through the San Gabriel Mountains. There are plenty of spots to enjoy the views. In winter, play in the snow! Allow 2 or more hours.

19 **Arroyo Seco Historic Parkway**, Route 110 - (<http://byways.org/explore/byways/10246/>) *Travel* this historic roadway that harkens back to the earliest parkways designed in America. Arts and Crafts architecture is prominent. Allow 1 hour.

20 **Jacinto Reyes Scenic Byway**, Route 33 - (<http://byways.org/explore/byways/2310>) *Follow* this 36 mile route that links California's Gold Coast with the undeveloped and arid space of the Cuyama and San Joaquin valleys. Allow 1 or more hours.

21 **Pacific Coast Highway**, Route 1 - (<http://byways.org/explore/byways/12744>) *Cruise* the highway that frames views of the ocean, rocky shorelines, cliffs, and historical landmarks. Allow 1/2 -3 days.

22 **Palms to Pines Scenic Byway**, Route 74 (<http://byways.org/explore/byways/2326>) *Discover* the wildland beauty and contrasting environment of the San Bernardino Forest along this 67 mile route. Allow 1.5 hours.

23 **Rim of the World Scenic Byway**, Various routes - (<http://byways.org/explore/byways/2595>) *Tour* the 110 mile route along the crest of the San Bernardino Mountains through a beautiful, natural environment full of panoramic views. Allow 4 hours.