

LA story

A trip to the vast metropolis of Los Angeles requires a little planning but get it right and you will be rewarded

The Los Angeles metropolitan area stretches across a succession of distinct districts, from Downtown and Century City to Beverly Hills, West Hollywood and Santa Monica. Where you stay can therefore have a meaningful effect on how much time is spent in transit between appointments. For a productive visit, choose accommodation according to the location of your meetings, then use the remaining hours to experience the city's

galleries, restaurants, beaches and distinctive neighbourhoods.

WHERE TO STAY

For meetings in the city centre, InterContinental Los Angeles Downtown is a practical five-star option. Located on Wilshire Boulevard, the hotel occupies the upper levels of a Downtown tower and offers restaurants, a fitness centre, pool and business facilities. Its central position also places guests close to the Financial

District, major entertainment venues and the Los Angeles Convention Center.

On the Westside, Four Seasons Hotel Los Angeles at Beverly Hills offers a quieter alternative. Its Doheny Drive address places guests between Beverly Hills and West Hollywood, within reach of Rodeo Drive, Robertson Boulevard and the city's principal entertainment districts. The property includes a spa, fitness facilities, restaurants and a concierge, making it well-suited to a stay that combines appointments with downtime.

For those whose business takes them Downtown, The Ritz-Carlton, Los Angeles sits within L.A. LIVE, putting guests close to Crypto.com Arena, the Peacock Theater and the GRAMMY Museum.

Below: LA is the commercial, financial and cultural centre of Southern California with a diverse economy that includes one of the world's oldest film and television production hubs

Its accommodation, spa, restaurants and substantial meeting facilities make it particularly convenient for corporate travellers attending events or arranging meetings in the area.

InterContinental LA Downtown
+1 213 688 7777
hg.com

Four Seasons Hotel LA at Beverly Hills
+1 310 273 2222
fourseasons.com

The Ritz-Carlton, LA
+1 213 743 8800
ritzcarlton.com

WHERE TO DINE

For a formal client dinner, Providence in Hollywood offers a refined setting centred on seafood and contemporary American cooking. Its intimate dining room and tasting-menu format make it better suited to a significant dinner than a quick meal between appointments.

n/naka in Palms takes a very different approach. Chef Niki Nakayama's restaurant draws on the traditions of Japanese kaiseki while incorporating Southern Californian ingredients and influences. With its small dining room and carefully paced tasting experience, it is a great option for a cosy evening.

For a classic Beverly Hills address, Spago Beverly Hills remains an established choice. Wolfgang Puck's restaurant combines contemporary Californian cooking with a polished but less formal atmosphere, making it flexible enough for either a business lunch or dinner.

Downtown offers another option at San Laurel, located on the rooftop of the Conrad Los Angeles. Its Spanish-influenced menu and elevated position make it particularly appealing when the aim is to continue a business conversation somewhere with a sense of occasion, without leaving the central business district.



Los Angeles

Providence
+1 323 460 4170
providence-la.com
n/naka
+1 310 836 6252
n-naka.com
Spago Beverly Hills
+1 310 385 0880
wolfgangpuck.com
San Laurel
+1 213 349 8585
conradhotels.com

WHAT TO SEE

A few hours away from the boardroom can begin at the Getty Center, where art, architecture and landscaped gardens provide a welcome change from the city's commercial districts. Perched above the 405, the complex also offers expansive views across Los Angeles, making the journey worthwhile even for visitors with limited time.

For another perspective, Griffith Observatory sits above

Hollywood in Griffith Park. Its exhibitions and planetarium provide an interesting diversion, while the grounds offer views towards Downtown Los Angeles and the Hollywood Sign. Visiting around late afternoon allows time to explore the Observatory before watching the city change as evening arrives.

If the schedule permits a longer break, head west to Santa Monica. Its beach, promenade and Pacific setting offer an entirely different pace from Downtown, while the surrounding streets provide restaurants, shops and galleries. It is an easy way to experience the coastal side of Los Angeles without committing to a full-day excursion.

Getty Center
+1 310 440 7300
getty.edu
Griffith Observatory
+1 213 473 0800
griffithobservatory.lacity.gov
Santa Monica
santamonica.com

Above: The world famous Hollywood sign from a classic palm-tree-lined Los Angeles boulevard under blue skies Below: The L.A. Live entertainment complex and the JW Marriott and Ritz Carlton hotels

Los Angeles rewards business travellers who accept that the city cannot be rushed. The most effective itinerary is one that minimises unnecessary journeys and leaves enough room to experience somewhere beyond the meeting room. Choose the right neighbourhood, reserve a restaurant suited to the occasion and allow an afternoon for art, architecture or the Pacific. Done well, a business trip to Los Angeles becomes more than a sequence of appointments: it becomes an introduction to a city whose character changes dramatically from one district to the next. ■

