



Travel Guide and Activities



Useful Information

Climate

The weather in Los Angeles is consistent nearly year-round, with sunny skies and temperate conditions. The city boasts a Mediterranean climate, characterised by hot, dry summers and mild, wet winters. The city experiences an average of 284 sunny days per year.

Money

The currency used in Los Angeles is the United States Dollar (USD).

Telephone Country Code

The telephone country code for the United States is +1.

Electricity

110 V; 60Hz – 2 flat-pin plugs or third round pins are used.

Tap water

Tap water in Los Angeles is safe to drink, unless there are signs to the contrary, and meets all federal and state standards for health and safety.

Legal Driving Age

The minimum driving age is 16 years, but most rental companies require that you be at least 21 years old and have an international driving license.

Alcohol Age

The legal drinking age in California is 21. Bars and restaurants may ask for ID to confirm your age before serving alcohol, so it's a good idea to carry identification with you. You will not be able to enter a club in Los Angeles if you are under 21.

Los Angeles

Must-See Sights and Travel Essentials

Los Angeles is one of the most exciting and diverse cities in the world, making it an incredible place to learn English, with the chance to explore iconic landmarks, enjoy world-famous attractions, and experience the vibrant cultural scene that LA has to offer. The city boasts a rich history that includes the rise of Hollywood, vibrant neighborhoods, and a melting pot of cultures that contribute to its unique character.

[Check out the Monthly Activities Calendar](#)

5 Things to Do

- o Walk along the Hollywood Walk of Fame
- o Take in the views from Griffith Observatory
- o Relax at the famous Santa Monica Pier
- o Explore art and culture at The Getty Centre
- o Visit Beverley Hills



Transport

Los Angeles is known for its vast network of freeways, making driving the most common form of transportation. However, traffic can be heavy, especially during peak hours. Renting a car or using ride-sharing apps like Uber or Lyft can make getting around more convenient.

Public Transport Info

Los Angeles has a public transportation system, primarily managed by the LA Metro. The Metro offers buses, light rail, and subway services that connect many parts of the city. You can buy a TAP card for easy access to the Metro system.

Ages 5 to 18 – local buses only: \$40 per 30-day pass (Operator reserves the right to ask for qualifying ID upon your boarding)

Adult – local buses only: \$60 per 30-day pass

Adult – local and express buses only: \$80 per 30-day pass

Regular/Student 13-day pass: \$12

Regular/Student Day pass: \$4

[Bus System maps](#)

Useful Links

[Weather in Santa Monica](#)

[What's On](#)

[Weekend Leisure](#)

Smoking Laws

Smoking is banned in all enclosed public places and workplaces, including restaurants and bars. It is illegal to smoke outdoors within 25 feet of any apartment building door, window or vent, in common areas, such as a walkway or a courtyard. There is also no smoking on Third Street promenade, all beaches, all bus stops, parks, in the common areas of multi-unit apartment buildings and within twenty feet of the entrances to all public buildings. Violations of this law are subject to a fine of \$250.

Insurance

All EC Los Angeles students must be covered by health insurance for the entire length of their stay in the U.S.



Public Holidays

Public holidays falling on a weekday

2026: 01 January, 19 January, 16 February, 31 March, 25 May, 19 June, 03 July, 07 September, 12 October, 11 November, 26 November, 27 November, 25 December

Visa Requirements

A visa may be required depending on your nationality and length of stay. For Visa information, please visit our [Visa Requirements page](#)

[Visa Requirements](#)

Cost of Living

Bottle of water / soda (0.33 litre)
\$1.00-\$3.00
Coffee/Cappuccino (Starbucks)
\$3.50-\$5.50
Fast-Food combo meal
\$7.00-\$10.00
Meal, inexpensive restaurant
\$10.00-\$25.00
Fitness club (monthly, 1 adult)
\$25.00-\$70.00
Public transport (local transport)
\$1.75 (one-way)
Public transport (monthly pass)
\$90.00-\$110.0