30 Things to Do Your First 30 Days in LA
Welcome to LA...

Welcome to LA, the city of dreams and infinite possibilities.

Your enthusiasm and energy has landed you in one of the greatest cities on Earth.

I absolutely love Los Angeles and what it has to offer to the young and “young at heart.”

After living here for 6 years, one of the most frequent questions I get from newcomers to Los Angeles is, “Why did you move to LA?”

My reply has never changed… “Weather, creativity, and opportunity.”

Taking advantage of these 3 things has made my time in LA a wonderful and unforgettable experience. And I know it will do the same for you.

I sincerely wish you nothing but the best as you embark on the next chapter of your life.

Good luck to you all!

Justin R.
Founder
I’mMovingtoLA.com

P.S. If you ever need additional help understanding LA, be sure to take a look at The LA Survival Guide on how to navigate the “ins and outs” of Los Angeles.
So, let’s get this party started, shall we?

It’s time to get out of your apartment and explore this new wonderful city you now call home.

This list features restaurants, museums, and beaches, along with other scenic attractions that define the fabric of Los Angeles. Several things on the list are completely free to do, while others will cost some hard-earned cash.

**Sidenote:** No need to worry about trying to complete everything on the list in 30 days (that would be insane!). With this in mind, treat this as a guide that will help you discover what makes Los Angeles such a unique place for diversity and creative inspiration.

Now, without further ado, here are 30 Things to do Your First 30 Days in LA.
Santa Monica Pier
This iconic pier is filled with painters, street performers, and great restaurants. The energy and interesting people make it a must-see for newcomers to LA.

Griffith Observatory
Perched on a hilltop overlooking all of Los Angeles, the Griffith Observatory is a gem of the city. It was designed to make astronomy fun and accessible to the public. You may not be a big fan of science, but the ability to view the stars from giant telescopes for free is an opportunity you shouldn’t miss.

Johnny Carson once asked American starlet Bette Davis "What's the best way an aspiring starlet could get into Hollywood?" Ms. Davis simply replied, "Take fountain!"

Oh boy was she correct.

Fountain Avenue is a nice little shortcut that can get you from West Hollywood to Hollywood much quicker during heavy traffic. Try it out!

Runyon Canyon
Runyon Canyon, without a question, is one of the most popular hiking destinations in LA. Once you make it to the top, you'll be greeted with panoramic views of Los Angeles. It's a great place for dogs, group hikes, and getting away from the city for a few hours! For you Yogis out there, did I mention Runyon also offers FREE daily Yoga classes?

By the way, it's an easy hike, so don't worry if you're a novice hiker.
Craigslist

Craigslist is the lifeline of LA. It's practically a one stop shop for jobs, apartments, furniture, and other items you may be in search of.

Rose Bowl Flea Market

Are you good at negotiating or looking for a bargain? Well, check out the Rose Bowl Flea Market in Pasadena on the 2nd Sunday of every month. It's the biggest flea market on the West Coast. The Rose Bowl Flea Market is full of surprises…you never know what you'll find!

Quick Tip: Be sure to bring cash and your own bottled water (water is $3 to $4 inside).

First Friday's

Venice Beach is one of the most eclectic places in LA, in terms of diversity and culture. It's ever-apparent on the first Friday of each month.

First Friday’s is an event where LA’s best food trucks (at least 50) show up to serve the Venice community with delicious eats, featuring cuisines from all around the world. If you’re into people watching and great food, this is a must see.

Santa Monica Farmers Market

Looking for the perfect farmers' market?

Look no further, the Santa Monica Farmer's Market has some of the best fresh fruit, nuts, and vegetables in Southern California. Be sure to attend on Wednesday’s, as it usually has the best vendor turnout.
Meetup.com
Head over to meetup.com and find a few groups you may be interested in joining. You’ll be amazed at how much fun this city can truly be, once you’re able to connect with others who are similar to you.

Eagle Rock
Eagle Rock Trail is a secluded hiking trail with amazing views of the Santa Monica Mountains and Pacific Ocean. The trail is very easy with well-maintained wide paths. It’s an excellent place to clear your head, while enjoying the scenic beauty of Los Angeles.

Quick tip: Instead of parking inside the lot for $10, opt to park on the side of the road near the park entrance (make sure your wheels are off the paved road).

The Getty
The Getty Museum is a must see, even if you don’t consider yourself an art lover. The museum features work from the eighth through the twenty-first century, showcased against a backdrop of dramatic architecture, artfully landscaped gardens with sculptures, and breathtaking views of Los Angeles. Bring a picnic blanket, a yoga mat, or just lie out in the grass and relax in the sprawling garden. The Getty is a masterpiece in itself.

Roscoes Chicken & Waffles
Get ready to get down and dirty (and even a little sleepy afterwards). This place will have you stuffed full of great southern comfort food!
Rodeo Drive
Venture out and see how the wealthier side of LA lives. This famous road, located in the heart of Beverly Hills, mostly contains high-end stores including Hermes, Louis Vuitton, Brooks Brothers, Chanel, and Fendi. No need to spend your hard earned money on the overpriced clothing. I recommend just window shopping and enjoying the nice breeze.

Dine-in AMC
Come eat delicious and surprisingly, reasonably priced food, recline in your seat, and watch a blockbuster movie (sometimes in 3D). It’s a bit pricier than other theaters, but it certainly makes a great combination for a dinner and a movie.
Quick Tip: Try a matinee. It’s much cheaper!

The Grove
The Grove is a gorgeous shopping area filled with a variety of restaurants. Be sure to check out the animated water fountain in the center that does a show to an array of music every hour.

Third Street Promenade
The Promenade is an outdoor mall with plenty of restaurants and coffee shops with outdoor seating, perfect for people watching and enjoying the endless number of street performers, especially on the weekends.
Fogo de Chao

This restaurant is as impressive as it is expensive. Fogo de Chao is a Brazilian Steakhouse that features an endless amount of meat that will leave you in a food induced coma for days. Authentic Gaucho chefs come to your table to carve a variety of succulent steak cuts right off of their skewers. It’s a great experience that you definitely shouldn’t miss, and if you’re a vegetarian, stay away!!!!

Comedy Store

Love a good laugh?! Head on over to the historic Comedy Store on Sunset Blvd. to catch some up and coming comedians, and don’t be surprised to see a bona fide star like Dave Chappelle, Eddie Murphy, and others make a surprise appearance.

Hollywood Walk of Fame

The Hollywood Walk of Fame is worth checking out at least once in your lifetime. The Walk of Fame is located on both sidewalks on either side of Hollywood Blvd. This street is also home to the Hollywood & Highland Center, Dolby Theatre (formerly, the Kodak Theatre, where the Academy Awards are held), and TCL Chinese Theatre (formerly Grauman’s Chinese Theatre).

Muholland Drive

This is one of the simplest pleasures of LA, especially if you have the opportunity to catch a breathtaking sherbet sunset before dusk. Mulholland Drive is a scenic road that takes you through the Santa Monica Mountains. Be sure to pull over (whenever it’s safe to) and take advantage of the designated viewpoints, which offer views of Downtown LA and The Valley.
In & Out

In-N-Out Burger is the most popular fast food burger chain in California. They have great quality burger meat, unlike other fast food burger chains.

Laurel Canyon/Coldwater Canyon

Learn this traffic shortcut that can you get you to Central and West LA rather quickly. These canyons cut directly across the valley, leading directly into Hollywood and Beverly Hills, which can save you a considerable amount of time. But, it’s important to also be aware that these canyons can become heavily congested at times. You’ll usually fare well on the Canyons before 9am, from 11am-3pm, and any time after 6pm.

Fashion District

Ok, if you’re a person who loves thrift shops, haggling, affordable clothes, and the occasional designer knock-off, then this is the place for you. Remember to wear comfortable shoes, bargain, and get there early since parking can be challenging on Saturdays.

Mai Tai Bar

Though technically not in LA, Mai Tai Bar offers a nice escape from the LA hustle and bustle. Mai Tai Bar is located at The Pike in Downtown Long Beach. It has beautiful views of the Queen Mary and Hawaiian decor that makes you feel like you’re on vacation. They often have live coffee-house type music to set the mood. Be sure to make it out to their Happy Hour (4pm-9pm everyday), as the Mai Tai’s are $4 and the appetizers are only $5!
The MOCA
This place is super hip and has amazing exhibits. A great place for someone who normally gets bored with "traditional" art. Some of the artwork is downright strange, but definitely worth checking out if you're out and about in Downtown LA.

Website

Griffith Park Hiking Trails
It's time to get up close and personal with the Hollywood sign. Head over to the Griffith Park hiking trails to get a stones throw view of this iconic sign.

Website

Paradise Cove
This secluded beach is located directly off the scenic PCH in Malibu. It contains five winding coves beneath gorgeous cliffs and offers a more relaxing experience than some of the other popular beaches in LA.

Website

The Getty Villa.
The Getty Villa was the former residence of oil billionaire J. Paul Getty. It has since been transformed into a small, intimate museum showcasing the greatness of Greek and Roman art. The Villa is perched atop a hill in Malibu, overlooking the Pacific Ocean and incredible LA scenery. What a great way to unwind after a hectic week!

Website
99 Cent Store
Any store where you can get a huge bag of jalapeños for 99 cents, not to mention limes, garlic, tomatoes, and other seasonal produce, will definitely make this list. You can also pick up the essentials here -- everything from toothpaste to extension cords to tupperware. Seriously, bring your Whole Foods/Target list here first and when you're done, see what's left on the list. Take the money you've saved, lay it on your bed, and roll in it. You know you always wanted to do that!

Lake Shrine Temple
LA can be a stressful place and there is nothing wrong with centering yourself every once in a while. The Lake Shrine Temple is a non-denominational place of reflection. So, if you're Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Atheist, Agnostic, or whatever, you're more than welcome here. This is a great place to visit for a quiet walk and to stare at nature, meditate, or have a peaceful conversation.

Bonus: Dockweiler Beach
Dockweiler Beach is one of the few beaches in Southern California that allows open bonfires. This is an excellent place to enjoy a breathtaking sunset and stay into the night to have a romantic bonfire. But, be sure to get their early to reserve a fire pit!