

travel
itinerary

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA **PRESTIGE & INNOVATION**

A 4-day Southern California itinerary
featuring UCLA, USC and Caltech.

visit
California

Day 1: Arrival & UCLA

Day 2: USC & Downtown Los Angeles

Day 3: Caltech & Pasadena

Day 4: Departure

THE TRIP

Itinerary overview

This urban academic journey moves through the many neighborhoods of Los Angeles, connecting three of the world's most recognized universities with the cultural, culinary and creative energy of America's second-largest city. Designed for prospective students, families, and travelers seeking a deeper engagement with Los Angeles beyond the typical tourist experience, the itinerary uses each campus as a gateway into a distinct corner of the city.

From the Westside polish of UCLA's campus to the downtown vitality surrounding USC and the refined architectural elegance of Caltech in Pasadena, this compact itinerary reveals a Los Angeles that is as intellectually rich as it is culturally diverse.



The Stats

Total Distance: Approximately 40 miles (64 km) between key stops

Driving Time: about 2 hr dependent on traffic between destinations

Recommended Duration: 4 nights Route: I-405, I-10, I-110, I-210 / surface streets throughout Greater Los Angeles

Trade Positioning: Ideal for prospective students, academic families and culturally curious travelers seeking an immersive Los Angeles experience anchored by visits to three of California's most recognized universities – UCLA, USC and Caltech.

Essential Planning Notes

- Pre-register for guided campus tours at UCLA and USC, as student-led tours fill quickly during peak periods.
- Caltech's compact campus is walkable and accessible on a self-guided basis, if desired.
- Los Angeles traffic time can vary widely; allow extra travel time between West LA, Downtown, and Pasadena especially during rush hours.

Professional Tip for Advisors

Position this itinerary as an LA deep-dive with academic structure. The campuses are access points into distinct parts of the city – Westside around UCLA offers access to Brentwood, Beverly Hills and Santa Monica, downtown energy near USC, and the refined arts-and-architecture atmosphere of Pasadena around Caltech.



● Day 1: Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) to West Los Angeles

- Arrive at **Los Angeles International Airport (LAX)**.
- Transfer to West Los Angeles for a visit to **UCLA**, consistently ranked among the world's top public universities.
- Join a student-led campus tour (advance registration recommended) or follow a self-guided route through the historic campus.
- Evening at leisure.
- Overnight in West Los Angeles or Beverly Hills.

● Day 2: West Los Angeles to USC

- Travel to University Park to visit **University of Southern California (USC)**.
- Participate in a free guided campus tour highlighting USC's strengths in film, business, engineering and global studies.
- Afternoon at leisure in **Downtown Los Angeles**.
- Overnight in Los Angeles.



● Day 3: Los Angeles to Pasadena

- Drive north to **Pasadena** (approximately 10 mi / 16 km).
- **Visit Caltech**, a world-renowned science and engineering institute with a compact, architecturally elegant campus.
- Enjoy a self-guided walking tour followed by free time in Pasadena.
- Farewell dinner in Pasadena.
- Overnight in Pasadena or Los Angeles.

● Day 4: Departure

- Transfer to LAX or **Hollywood Burbank Airport (BUR)**.



Extra Time Options

UCLA / West Los Angeles

- Visit the Getty Center with panoramic city views.
- Explore Rodeo Drive and Beverly Hills
- Spend some time at the Santa Monica Pier and beach

USC / Downtown Los Angeles

- Broad Museum and The Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA)
- Grand Central Market and Arts District dining
- Don't miss a visit to the Griffith Observatory

Caltech / Pasadena

- Norton Simon Museum world-class art collection
- Old Town Pasadena shopping and dining
- Huntington Library, Art Museum and Botanical Gardens

Agent Notes

- Designed for travelers who want to experience Los Angeles beyond the typical tourist circuit.
- Works well as a standalone city program or as part of a broader Southern California journey.
- Highlight that each campus anchors a different LA neighborhood. This isn't a campus-to-campus transfer trip, it's a multi-neighborhood city experience with academic structure.
- Can be extended with a day trip to Santa Barbara or combined with the Coastal University Experience itinerary.