

travel
itinerary

RAMONES

ART & EDGE: TUNE INTO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S CREATIVE UNDERCURRENT

5-7 days exploring California's art,
culture & creative spirit.

THE VELVET UNDERGROUND
& NICO

visit
California

Day 1–2: **LA's Street Art & Cultural Corridors**

Day 3–4: **Laguna Beach Art Colony**

Day 5–7: **Palm Springs & Desert Art Frontier**

Optional Mountain Creativity – **Idyllwild (Day Trip)**

Desert Art Frontier – **Salton Sea & Salvation Mountain (Day Trip)**

THE TRIP

Itinerary overview

Venture beyond the stadium into Southern California's most compelling creative landscapes—where street art meets salvation, midcentury modernism mingles with outsider art, and gallery towns give way to otherworldly desert installations. This journey prioritizes fewer bases with deeper immersion, allowing travelers to

connect meaningfully with the artists, communities, and environments shaping California's creative edge.

Rather than rushing between stops, this itinerary balances urban cultural districts, coastal art heritage, and desert creativity with time to linger, explore locally, and experience the atmosphere that makes each place distinct.



The Stats

Total Journey Mileage: Approximately 445 miles / 716 km

Who This Trip Is For:

Creative, culturally curious travelers attending the 2026 World Cup in Los Angeles – particularly repeat visitors, couples, premium independent travelers and those drawn to architecture, design, outsider art, and unconventional destinations. Ideal for travelers seeking authentic experiences beyond traditional sightseeing.



Day 1–2: LA's Street Art & Cultural Corridors

Murals, Museums & Urban Expression

Mileage: 40 mi / 64 km (exploring LA neighborhoods)

Spend two nights exploring Los Angeles as a living canvas, allowing time to experience both major institutions and neighborhood-level creativity.

Highlights:

- Start in the Arts District in Downtown LA, exploring street art by Shepard Fairey, Retna, and international artists on warehouse walls
- Walk Hauser & Wirth's gallery and garden for world-class contemporary art in a renovated flour mill
- Explore The Broad museum for contemporary masterpieces
- Photograph the iconic Pink Wall in Paul Smith's Melrose district
- Discover Venice's murals including the famous Ballerina Clown and graffiti pit
- Browse Abbot Kinney Boulevard's galleries, cafés, and design shops

Optional evening experiences: gallery openings, live music venues, or immersive art installations

Overnight: Downtown LA, West Hollywood, or Santa Monica (2 nights)



● Day 3–4: Laguna Beach Art Colony

Coastal Creativity & Gallery Culture

Mileage: 55 mi / 89 km (from LA to Laguna Beach)

Relocate to Laguna Beach for a two-night coastal stay in one of California's most established artist communities, allowing travelers to slow down and experience the destination beyond a day visit.

Highlights:

- Stroll Laguna Art Museum showcasing California art from the 1900s to today
- Explore the village's extensive gallery scene featuring painting, sculpture, glass, and mixed media
- Walk coastal Heisler Park with ocean views and open-air art displays
- Visit working artist studios and observe demonstrations
- Experience the town's culinary scene with oceanfront dining and local cafés

Optional seasonal experiences: Festival of Arts or Pageant of the Masters

Overnight: Laguna Beach (2 nights)



● Day 5–7: Palm Springs & Desert Art Frontier

Desert Modernism, Visionary Landscapes & Creative Outposts

Mileage: 110 mi / 177 km (Laguna Beach to Palm Springs)

Day Trips: Up to 190 mi / 306 km round-trip

Base in Greater Palm Springs for multiple nights to explore the Coachella Valley's layered art scene, architectural legacy, and nearby desert installations at a relaxed pace.

Palm Springs & Modernist Culture

- Photograph iconic midcentury architecture and public art
- Explore the Uptown Design District galleries and vintage shops

Visit Palm Springs Art Museum

- Take a guided architecture tour for interior access to landmark homes
- Visit Sunnylands Center & Gardens

● Optional Mountain Creativity — Idyllwild (Day Trip)

Drive into the San Jacinto Mountains to explore Idyllwild's artist community, galleries, and handmade craft shops



● Desert Art Frontier — Salton Sea & Salvation Mountain (Day Trip)

- Tour Coachella’s downtown murals and public art
- Explore Bombay Beach’s experimental art installations
- Visit Salvation Mountain, Leonard Knight’s visionary folk art environment
- Photograph East Jesus outdoor sculpture garden

Overnight: Greater Palm Springs (3 nights)

● Professional Tips for Travel Advisors

This itinerary performs best when positioned as a creative immersion journey, not a sightseeing checklist. Emphasize depth, storytelling, and experiential value over the number of stops.

Frame desert locations as guided explorations of outsider art and environmental creativity rather than remote attractions.

Recommend guided tours in Los Angeles and Palm Springs to provide context and insider access.

● Destination Background

Southern California’s creative identity spans multiple movements – from Hollywood’s entertainment influence and Venice’s counterculture roots to Palm Springs’ midcentury modern legacy and the desert’s outsider art scene.

Laguna Beach represents one of California’s earliest artist colonies, while the Coachella Valley has evolved into a global design destination influenced by architecture, music festivals and experimental art communities.



● Essential Planning Notes

- Allow recovery time after long-haul flights before beginning the drive
- Best experienced by self-drive with comfortable vehicle
- Summer temperatures in desert regions can be extreme – plan early starts and indoor midday activities
- Check opening hours and seasonal access for desert art sites

● Lodging Suggestions

Los Angeles: Boutique hotels in Downtown LA, West Hollywood, or Santa Monica

Laguna Beach: Coastal resorts or boutique inns within walking distance of galleries

Palm Springs / Greater Palm Springs: Design-focused resorts, midcentury boutique hotels, or luxury desert retreats

● Distance & Drive Time Overview

Los Angeles → Laguna Beach: ~1–1.5 hours

Laguna Beach → Palm Springs: ~2–2.5 hours

Palm Springs → Salton Sea: ~1.5 hours each way

Palm Springs → Idyllwild: ~1 hour



Agent Notes

- Ideal extension surrounding Los Angeles matches
- Suitable for premium independent travelers and repeat visitors
- Can be shortened by removing optional day trips or extended with additional desert or coastal nights

Extra Time Options

If travelers have additional days, consider:

- Joshua Tree National Park for landscape photography and desert art
- Additional time in Palm Springs for spa and wellness experiences
- Temecula Valley wine country en route between coast and desert
- Santa Barbara as a coastal extension north of Los Angeles