

LOS ANGELES



1 Walking In LA

Uncover the beginnings of Los Angeles and expose your child to the rich texture of this diverse city. Park on Broadway between 2nd and 3rd. Soak up the vibrant Latin music pervading the neighborhood as you venture into the heart of LA.

Broadway between 2nd and 3rd.

2 Sneak A Peek

The Bradbury Building is a gorgeous specimen of Victorian-era architecture. You may recognize it from the film Blade Runner. Peek in and admire the sun-flooded atrium with Art Nouveau grillwork and hydraulic cage elevators.

304 S. Broadway. Open 9-5 daily. Closed Sundays.

3 Market To Market

On your way to the Grand Central Market, see just how much your not-so-little one weighs on the giant old-time scale at Ross Cutlery. Inside LA's oldest and largest open-air market, you are greeted by culinary goodies of all sorts. Valaria's Chiles & Spices defines the sights, scents and flavors of the market with a colorful, abundant display of all types of chili peppers. As for child-friendly treats, sour worms and banana chips are proven winners. Exit onto Hill Street to see Angels Flight, "The Shortest Railroad in the World." Too bad it's no longer running.

317 S. Broadway. Open 9-6 Mon.-Sat. & 10-5 Sun.

4 Catch A Lift

You can't take the train up the side of the hill so you have to walk it. No guilt about skipping the gym today. Head up the hill at 4th and cross the street at Olive. The glass elevator under the neon sign will take you to the lovely Water Court in California Plaza. Make your way towards the Omni Hotel along the wishing pool and on to MOCA.

250 S. Grand Avenue.

5 Big Art. Little Art.

Outside MOCA, enjoy Nancy Rubins' sprawling 54-foot sculpture composed of used airplane parts. This impressive sight has been known to inspire occasional mock Red Baron-style battles between parent and child. A trip to the MOCA gift shop offers well-designed treats for kids of all ages. Browse the ownable art like Yushitoma Nara's "The Little Wanderer," a mechanical tot that darts to and fro, as well as a brilliant collection of art books and funky items for the home.

250 S. Grand Avenue. 11-6 Tues.-Sun.

6 Time To Shine

Take a moment to behold Frank Gehry's reflective architectural wonder, Walt Disney Concert Hall at the Music Center of Los Angeles County. The gleaming organic forms are reminiscent of Gehry's Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, although kids may see a giant Hershey's kiss or a sailing ship. Take a walking tour of the inner hallways to appreciate the equally stunning interior clad in Douglas fir. Outside, encourage your child to take the stage at the children's amphitheatre. Suggest an improv performance of Cinderella, Aladdin, or, for the advanced child, some Henry VIII.

Corner of 1st Street and Grand Avenue.

7 New Religion

In sharp contrast to the gleaming concert hall, yet equally audacious, is the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels. José Rafael Monero designed this innovative cathedral with dramatic angular surfaces which casts ever-changing shadows. Despite the avant-garde design, soft earth tones faintly echo the adobe pioneer churches of the region. Inside, John Nava's tapestries represent the largest collection hanging in a Catholic place of worship in the US. Also unique, the artist used modern people as models which explains the saints in Birkenstocks and sneakers. So LA.

555 W. Temple Street.

8 Border Crossing

Enter Olvera Street, the birthplace of Los Angeles, otherwise known as El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historic Monument. This colorful area features 27 historic buildings including Avila Adobe, the oldest house in LA. Stroll through the beautiful Mexican-style marketplace and shop for Mexican wares,

including authentic lucha libre wrestling masks. Perfect for capturing a child's imagination, each mask is based on an actual wrestling hero or villain. And needless to say, you (or at least your child) won't be able to pass up the piñatas. Take one home for an upcoming birthday party.

845 N. Alameda Street. Open 10-7 daily.

9 Have A Dip

Walk down Alameda to one of the oldest restaurants in Southern California. Philippe The Original was established by Philippe Mathieu who claims to have created the "French Dipped Sandwich" when he accidentally dropped his French roll in a pan of gravy. Nothing has changed at this landmark sandwich joint except the prices, which are still fairly old-fashioned. Kids love kicking the sawdust on the floor while you wait in line to order.

1001 N. Alameda Street. Open 6-10 daily.

10 All Aboard!

Next stop, Union Station for a lift back to the car. Step inside this art deco gem and head downstairs to the Red Line to buy a ticket for a mere \$1.25. Extremely clean and well staffed, it's hard to believe LA has a subway. Get off at the Pershing Square stop and make your way back to the car. Don't forget your piñata.

800 N. Alameda Street.

