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CITY LANDING GUIDES

LOS ANGELES



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Know before you go



Advice from local alumni



The University of Auckland and Kea, an organisation supporting New Zealanders living overseas, have combined forces to provide you with this City Landing Guide. It is packed with insider knowledge essential to know before you take flight.

It's hard not to be drawn to the glitz and the glam of the United States' second largest city, Los Angeles. The city of angels experiences abundant sunny skies, a plethora of celebrities and is the home of glorious street food.



Industry hotspots

Entertainment

While most people tend to immediately associate LA with Hollywood, the city has an extremely large and diverse economy with no single dominant industry.

However, the entertainment industry is a key industry. LA is home to many of the big names in cinema including Paramount Pictures, Sony Pictures Entertainment, Twentieth Century Fox, The Walt Disney Company and Warner Bros. Entertainment. It is estimated that one in every six people who live in LA work in a creative industry.

Health

The healthcare, pharmaceuticals and biomedical industries are big players in LA. Some of the country's most prestigious research and teaching hospitals, including the UCLA Medical Center, Keck School of Medicine and Cedars-Sinai Hospital are based here. The prestigious Caltech Institute of Technology is doing significant research in bioscience and one of the world's leading biotechnology companies, Amgen, is also based in LA.

Manufacturing

LA is the largest major manufacturing centre in the US, with apparel, electronics, transportation products, fabricated metal products and food making up the largest proportions of manufactured goods.

Aerospace

LA has more than 300 companies in the aerospace and defence industry and provides jobs for around 50,000 people. Most well-known aerospace companies, including SpaceX, Virgin

Galactic and Boeing are based here. The Jet Propulsion Laboratory is based in Pasadena and the NASA Armstrong Flight Research Center is nearby in Palmdale, serving as NASA's key centre for atmospheric flight research and operations.

Fashion

LA is home to top fashion education programmes, including the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising and the Otis College of Art & Design. In LA the fashion industry accounted for payrolls totalling \$4.4 billion annually according to the 2018 Los Angeles Fashion Report. LA's proximity to ports and access to fashion designers and celebrities makes it a great place for fashion brands to be established.



Insider hints

- Lots of museums in LA have free admission at least once a month, so make sure you find out when free admission days are before your trip.
- While you're in Tinseltown, why not check out the inside scoop of the

entertainment industry, by booking a free spot to watch a recording of one of your favourite TV shows? TV TIX, TvTickets and iiota are just a few of the websites you can book TV tapings. Or, check out Today Tix, for last minute tickets to indie theatres, operas and concerts discounted by up to 50 percent.

- Tourists often get caught out by scammers who pretend they are casting talent out on the streets. If it sounds too good to be true, ask for their credentials and double-check them before signing up to anything.
- The Griffith Observatory is a popular spot for tourists thanks to its spectacular sunsets over the city, but it's particularly crowded at this time, so be sure to arrive well before sunset to get a good spot.
- Don't pay for expensive parking in private car parks near Santa Monica's 3rd St Promenade, or Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills. Santa Monica has plenty of public parking structures that are reasonably priced and Beverly Hills has a number of public parking structures that offer two hours' free parking.





Essential apps

- **Lyft or Uber:** LA's public transport system isn't great, so look into Lyft or Uber. Lyft also has scooters for hire and includes information about nearby public transport, should you wish to try it. If you're keen to explore by bike, download Metro Bike Share.
- **The Infatuation:** This is the most comprehensive restaurant app for LA. There are reviews, ratings, links to the menus and photos of the food. There are also maps to help you navigate to the restaurant of your choosing.
- **Our Malibu Beaches:** While Malibu has around 30 kilometres of beautiful beaches, locals don't make it easy to visit them! They often put up signs or gates to deter tourists and some even post security guards at access points. This app can help you navigate around these obstacles. It shows you how to get to the beach you want and where you can park. It even shows you all the illegal 'no entry' signs you may encounter and can safely ignore.
- **5 Every Day:** This app provides five suggestions of things to do, so you can explore LA without getting bogged down with too much research. The suggestions all come from LA residents, so there are plenty of hidden gems to discover.
- **Mousewait:** If you're going to be heading to the happiest place on earth, download this app, which will show you wait times for each ride and all of the restaurants. It also has information about show times, events and other tips to make the most of your time at Disneyland.



Know before you go

Visas

Obtaining a visa to enter the US for an extended period can be a lengthy and complex process. You should consult the relevant US Government and related websites for more detailed information.

New Zealanders who are students or recent graduates can apply for a four-five month visa, known as a J-1, for a working holiday in the US. The Summer Work Travel programme provides foreign students with an opportunity to live and work in the US for up to 135 days during the New Zealand university summer holidays.

Graduates looking to stay longer should consider applying for an H-1B visa, which allows for a stay of up to three years. This visa is the most common non-immigrant category for university graduates who wish to work in the US in their degree areas.

Postgraduate students looking to study or continue their studies in the US should apply for a Student & Exchange Visitor visa.

Employment

The average income in LA is around NZ\$44,700, which is similar to New Zealand's average, but housing costs tend to be disproportionately higher in LA.

Hourly wages range from NZ\$94 for HR professionals, NZ\$67 for registered nurses, NZ\$59 for qualified accounting staff, to NZ\$21.50 for retail staff.

Living Costs

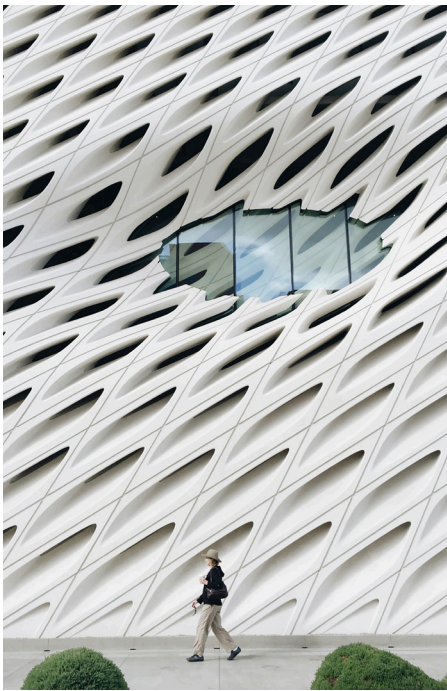
One estimate states living costs are 48 percent higher than the national average due to expensive housing. Expect to pay around NZ\$1900 per month for a two bedroom condo and NZ\$286 per month for energy costs (including air conditioning). Groceries tend to be around 15 percent more in LA than other cities in the US. California levies a 7.25 percent sales tax on all purchases, which is generally not included in the display price, so be wary of this when buying items.



Top tips

While LA isn't known for its public transport system, the Santa Monica Blue Line metro will get you from downtown LA to Santa Monica Beach in around 40 minutes. It will also take you through Culver City, which is a great scene for foodies and art lovers.

Don't underestimate the amount of time it takes to get anywhere – it is a sprawling city where traffic jams are the norm. Do your research and figure out the best route to your destination well ahead of time.



Advice from local alumni

“Pump is my favourite restaurant. It has a lovely outside courtyard, hanging lights from an olive tree, the food is good, the prices reasonable and the cocktails are delicious! Plus, you might get a glimpse of Lisa van der Pump and Giggy.”

– Tracey

“One must do for tourists is the Griffith Observatory. On a clear day the views stretch from the mountains to the coast. It’s the best place to get the lay of the land, a photo with the Hollywood sign, and perhaps a hike if you’re feeling energetic.”

– Emma

“The Museum of Contemporary Art is amazing! The Broad is a free museum, but make sure you book your tickets online, so you don’t wait in that huge line.”

– Sydney

“My favourite place to shop is Poketo, it’s a great local boutique store drawing inspiration from Japanese lifestyle and fashion and incorporating it into local LA artisans and designers.”

– Sophie



Where do Kiwis flock to?

Alumni networking events are hosted by the University of Auckland across the world. Be sure to keep your contact details up to date so we can notify you of upcoming networking opportunities in your city.

The University also has an international network of Volunteer Alumni Coordinators (VACs) who organise informal events and provide advice for alumni who are new to the area.

To update your details go to alumni.auckland.ac.nz/update and to find your local VAC contact go to alumni.auckland.ac.nz/networks

There is also a Facebook group which has a wealth of information available for Kiwis living in LA that is worth joining: facebook.com/groups/KiwisinLA

Checking out Kea’s website, keanewzealand.com, is another excellent way to connect with fellow Kiwis. From events, job listings, business networks and more, Kea supports a prospering community around the globe.



Instagrammable locations

- Old LA Zoo
- Mural Mile
- The Last Bookstore
- Catch LA
- The Topanga Lookout Trail

Please note the information in this guide is intended as general information only.