

Send North America: Los Angeles

Los Angeles Fun Facts & Fiction

Facts

1. Los Angeles is Spanish for *The Angels*.
2. Some nicknames for Los Angeles are: City of Angels, L.A., the Big Orange and City of Flowers and Sunshine.
3. Twenty-four million people come to Los Angeles every year for vacation.
4. 18 million people live in the metro Los Angeles area.
5. If the five-county Los Angeles area were a state, it would be the fourth largest in the United States.
6. When Los Angeles was founded in 1781 as El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora la Reina de Los Angeles de la Porciuncula (The Town of Our Lady the Queen of Angels of the Little Portion), 44 people (14 families) lived there. The population grew, but the name shrank to simply "Los Angeles."
7. The city flower is the bird of paradise and the city tree is the coral tree.
8. Los Angeles is rimmed with miles of beaches.
9. Los Angeles has more than 80 stage theaters and 300 museums—more than any other U.S. city.
10. The Port of Los Angeles is the busiest in the U.S. and one of the busiest in the world.
11. Despite its image as an oasis with water and palm trees everywhere, Los Angeles is more like a desert, having an annual rainfall of only 15 inches.
12. The population of Los Angeles County is about 70 percent non-white, with Hispanics being the largest group at 44 percent.
13. Los Angeles is 26 miles from Anaheim, Calif., which is where Disneyland is located.
14. People from 140 countries, speaking 224 languages, live in the L.A. metro area.
15. Los Angeles is the most religiously diverse city in the world.
16. The second largest Mormon temple in the world is located in L.A.
17. L.A. has the second largest population of Jews in the United States.
18. Mexicans make up the largest ethnic group at 31.9 percent.
19. There is only one Southern Baptist Convention church for every 18,794 metro Los Angeles residents.

Send North America: Los Angeles

Los Angeles Fun Facts & Fiction

Fiction

1. It's always sunny.

In Los Angeles, winter is both the rainy season and the sunny season. Between the occasional rain days or rain weeks, the sky is a clear blue, even in the morning. The layer of marine clouds that are known as June Gloom actually hang around throughout the summer, making most mornings overcast until at least noon, especially at the beach.

2. It's hot at the beach.

The average temperature at L.A. area beaches is about 70 degrees—all year long. This can be about 20 degrees different from inland temperatures. In winter, the thermometer hits 70 for a few minutes then bounces back down. In summer the mercury lingers longer before declining. There are usually a few weeks of summer where heat waves bring beach temperatures into the upper 80s or 90s, but it could equally well be 68 in July and August.

3. Everyone works in the entertainment industry.

Traditionally, the number one industry in Los Angeles has been manufacturing, but that has been overtaken by health care and retail in recent years as manufacturing jobs have been cut. Despite the cuts, Los Angeles is still the largest manufacturing center in the United States. The entertainment industry ranks about sixth.

4. Everyone is beautiful.

There are lots of beautiful people in Los Angeles—but remember that only a small percentage of the population is represented in the media. While L.A. has a reputation as a hotspot for the rich, famous and glamorous, the reality is that it is filled with a wide variety of people from many different countries who live ordinary lives.

5. It's all concrete.

Visitors to Los Angeles are often surprised by the tree-lined streets, the frequent parks and green patches. Griffith Park is more than 4,000 acres of green within the city limits. The Hollywood Hills and Santa Monica Mountains provide a green backdrop for the city all the way to the beach. Even the inner city in Los Angeles is made up of sprawling neighborhoods of single family homes and small apartment buildings with small patches of lawns and trees.