

DISCOVER

CLAREMONT

20 CAN'T-MISS REASONS TO VISIT CLAREMONT

Located on the border of Los Angeles County and the Inland Empire, just a short drive from Ontario International Airport, Claremont is a haven offering intimate, relaxing days and nights. A quintessential college town in Southern California teeming with tree-lined streets and stunning historical architecture, Claremont is a hidden gem in greater Los Angeles – a place you'll be glad you discovered. Home to 15 museums, galleries and gardens, eight theaters, and amazing public art, it's a town unlike any other in greater L.A.

Visitors will find Claremont an ideal destination for romantic weekend getaways and mini family vacations alike. Discover inviting guest rooms, more than 70 restaurants, eateries and pubs, dozens of locally owned boutiques, relaxing day spas, bicycle-friendly streets and trails, public art and vivid architecture at its seven nationally renowned colleges, and the largest botanic garden dedicated exclusively to California's native plants.

Here are some can't-miss reasons to find out why Claremont is the "best-kept secret in L.A.":

- 1. Claremont Village.** The Claremont Village is a picturesque, European-style village spanning 16 city blocks with more than 150 unique restaurants, shops, bakeries, day spas, art galleries, entertainment venues, hotels, lounges and more. Walking these charming streets will make you feel like you're far, far away from the hustle and bustle of L.A. city life.
- 2. Local dining.** L.A. Weekly and NBC Los Angeles have declared Claremont a "food neighborhood" that's "worth the drive" for foodies and tourists. There are more than 70 eateries to sample in Claremont, most with local owners, and some with regionally renowned chefs, including Alain Fournier (Bardot) and Jose Ruiz (Tutti Mangia). With a wide range of cuisines, this is a weekend trip any self-respecting foodie will want to make several times a year.
- 3. Claremont Packing House.** Originally built in 1922, the Packing House was renovated to include boutique shops, galleries, dining, and nightclubs. In addition to Packing House Wines, Gus's BBQ, Iron & Kin Coffee Co. and other great eateries, it also features Aerial Circus Studio, where students learn to fly through the air, a cooking academy, and Thoreau's Bookshop, a nationally famous bookstore that provides donated books to prisoners.
- 4. A boutique paradise.** Claremont is home to dozens of locally owned boutiques featuring hand-selected merchandise, chic fashions, kitschy collectibles, antiques, gifts from unique corners of the world, and Fair Trade-sourced materials. Among dozens of unique boutiques, find shops such as Vintage Odyssey, with its vibrant vintage clothing, and The Hens' Kitchen Shoppe offering whimsical home gifts – two of many shops that give Claremont its unique vibe. The Packing House and Old School House also feature additional galleries and artisan shops.
- 5. California Botanic Garden.** The largest botanic garden dedicated exclusively to California's native plants, the Garden displays about 2,000 taxa of California plants spread across 86 acres, including plants native to the California Floristic Province as a whole – from southern Oregon to Baja California. In addition to featuring a world-class botanical library and graduate-level education program, the

Garden offers horticulture and community education programs to the public to encourage the use of California native plants in home landscapes.

6. Local baked goods and sweets. From sweets at **Some Crust Bakery** and Manhattan-style breads at **42nd Street Bagels** to freshly baked tarts and cakes (among other delicious goodies) at **Crème Bakery**, Claremont Village is a dream to those with a sweet tooth. Local chocolatier **A. Kline's** candy shop is filled with hand-dipped treats, and creamery **Bert and Rocky's** features more than 31 unique, homemade ice cream and sherbet flavors.

7. Wine and cheese. The *Wine Spectator* award-winning **Packing House Wines** wine bar and shop is located on the western end of the Packing House, offering a world of wines by the glass, varietals from growing regions all over the globe, and small plates and dinners from its executive chef. **The Cheese Cave**, a busy, artisan cheese shop on Yale Ave., offers dozens of cheeses from around the world, their own hand-pressed olive oils, and a selection of unique foods.

8. Bike-friendly streets. Honored as Silver Level Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists, Claremont's streets are ideal for bicycling. For families, tree-lined streets offer majestic views of historic homes and the town's college campuses. Avid cyclists can tackle the AMGEN Tour of California's challenging route to Mt. Baldy, or trail bike in Claremont Hills Wilderness Park for views stretching to Downtown L.A., Catalina Island, and the Inland Empire basin. Travelers looking to make it a completely car-less adventure can bring bicycles on Metrolink, which takes visitors directly from Union Station to Claremont's historic depot.

9. Pubs, grub, and nightlife. Befitting a college town, Claremont features unique pubs that feature exceptional food, craft beer, live music and televised sports. The **Lounge at Casa 425** features small plates and a signature margarita. **Claremont Craft Ales'** signature Jacaranda IPA can be found on tap at many local restaurants. And from **The Back Abbey's** "Best in L.A." pub burgers and dark ales, to **Walter's** "secret bar," Claremont has an after-dark scene that's all its own.

10. Dinosaurs! Discover dinosaur artifacts at the [Raymond M. Alf Museum of Paleontology](#), the only nationally accredited museum of paleontology on a secondary school campus in the United States. Located on the campus of the Webb Schools, the museum has two circular exhibit areas totaling 4,000 square feet: the Hall of Footprints and the Hall of Life. The museum's fossil track and trackway collection is among the nation's largest of its kind.

11. A secret garden. On the Scripps College campus, find the gorgeous [Margaret Fowler Garden](#) (featured in *Westways*), originally designed as a European medieval-style cloister garden. This small, walled garden contains olive and orange trees and interior arcades, one of which is covered by an enormous wisteria vine. On one wall find a fresco painted in 1946 by Mexican muralist Alfredo Ramos Martinez.

12. Pervasive public art. Art lovers will want to be sure to stop at the **Pomona College Museum of Art** and the **Claremont Museum of Art** (at the Claremont Depot). Visitors will also find public galleries and discover dozens of pieces of world-class public art at the colleges and around town. [The James Turrell Skyspace, "Dividing the Light," at Pomona College](#), Margaret Fowler Garden at Scripps College, and a Venus statue by Flemish sculptor Giovanni da Bologna (1529-1608) at Harvey Mudd College are three must-visit campus stops. Find artist Chris Burden's "Meet Me in the Middle" sculpture of streetlights and benches in front of Roberts Pavilion.

13. **FUN festivals.** Summertime visitors can picnic at the annual [Midsummer Shakespeare Festival](#) at the outdoor Sontag Greek Theatre each July. Village Venture, the Inland Empire's largest outdoor arts and crafts faire, takes over Claremont's downtown streets in late October. Other annual celebrations include the [Claremont Village Craft Beer Walk](#) in June, [Claremont Village Wine Walk](#) in September, [Claremont Pie Festival](#) in March, and [Claremont Film Festival](#) in May.

14. **Cool music finds.** The **Folk Music Center** has been in Grammy-winner Ben Harper's family since 1958 and features hundreds of instruments from around the world that visitors can actually play. While perusing instruments, fans can ask Ellen Harper, who has been running the center for over 30 years, about touring with Ben to promote their mother-son 2014 collaboration album, "Childhood Home." Claremont is also home to a world-class record store: [Rhino Records](#), which opened in 1974, has become a destination for music lovers searching for rare or out-of-print vinyl. The shop also sells a wide assortment of record players.

15. **Yoga and ... spirits?** Yoga on Tap is held at [Claremont Craft Ales](#) — a modern brewpub off Route 66 pouring a variety of housemade ales, IPAs, and stouts — every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. **Hotel and Lounge Casa 425's** monthly Vinyasa sessions are a popular afternoon stretch and sip opportunity.

16. **Entertainment on Historic Route 66.** The Foothill Blvd. corridor includes the **DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Claremont** and the **Candlelight Pavilion** dinner theater, which is housed within the gymnasium of the Old School House, Claremont's original 1911 school building. DoubleTree's popular dueling piano bar, **Piano Piano**, comes alive nightly with acts straight from the Las Vegas Strip.

17. **Seven world-class colleges.** A consortium of five undergraduate and two graduate schools of higher education are all within walking distance. In addition to being internationally recognized for producing leaders in business, government and the arts, the campuses boast beautiful historical architecture and lavish lawns perfect for picnicking. Check the various colleges' calendars for presentations, musical productions, art exhibits and other events.

18. **Public Plaza Village Square.** Part of the Claremont Village, the Village Square includes shops, restaurants, and the boutique hotel and lounge **Hotel Casa 425**. It's also home to the Laemmle 5 Claremont Theatre, which hosts a curated, short film festival every May. A modern public art fountain meanders through the square, providing both soothing water sounds as well as space for outdoor picnicking and music. During the summer, live bands perform in the square every Friday night.

19. **The great outdoors.** The **Claremont Hills Wilderness Park**, located at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains, offers a five-mile walking loop, along with smaller trails. Hikers will find views stretching to Downtown L.A., Catalina Island, and the Inland Empire basin. And Mt. Baldy Rd. leaves the city and takes motorists on a journey into the canyons, ending at the **Mt. Baldy Ski Lifts** (about 30 minutes away), a picturesque way to ascend to the highest peak in L.A. County.

20. **Free parking.** Indeed, there is one place in Los Angeles County where you can keep your quarters and credit cards in your pocket: Claremont offers free parking throughout the city.

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