

DISCOVER CLAREMONT

21 CAN'T-MISS REASONS TO VISIT CLAREMONT

Situated on the border of Los Angeles County and the Inland Empire, just a brief drive from Ontario International Airport, Claremont beckons with its tranquil and cozy ambiance. This quintessential college town in Southern California boasts tree-lined avenues and captivating historic structures, making it a hidden treasure within the greater Los Angeles area. With its 17 museums, galleries and gardens, eight theaters, and vibrant public art scene, Claremont sets itself apart from other towns in the broader L.A. region.

Claremont is the perfect retreat for both romantic weekend getaways and mini family vacations, offering inviting guest accommodations, an abundance of over 70 restaurants, eateries, and pubs, numerous locally owned boutiques, soothing day spas, bike-friendly roads and paths, public art installations, and striking architecture across its seven nationally esteemed colleges. Additionally, it's home to the largest botanic garden dedicated exclusively to California's native flora.

Below, we've highlighted some compelling reasons to uncover why Claremont holds the title of the "best-kept secret in L.A.":

- 1. Claremont Village.** The Claremont Village, designed in a scenic, European-inspired fashion, stretches across 16 city blocks and boasts an impressive array of over 150 distinct establishments, including restaurants, boutiques, patisseries, day spas, art galleries, entertainment spots, hotels, lounges, and more. A stroll through these enchanting streets transports you to a place far removed from the hustle and bustle of city life in Los Angeles.
- 2. Local dining.** L.A. Weekly and NBC Los Angeles have hailed Claremont as a "food neighborhood" well "worth the drive" for culinary enthusiasts and visitors. Claremont boasts an impressive selection of over 70 eateries to explore, many of which are locally owned, and a few have gained regional acclaim for their cuisine, thanks to notable chefs like Alain Fournier (Bardot) and Jose Ruiz (Tutti Mangia). With its diverse range of cuisines, Claremont offers a weekend getaway that any discerning food lover would be eager to repeat multiple times a year.
- 3. Claremont Packing House.** Constructed in 1922, the Packing House underwent a thorough renovation, transforming it into a hub featuring boutique shops, galleries, dining establishments, and nightclubs. Alongside popular eateries like **Packing House Wines**, **Gus's BBQ**, and **Iron & Kin Coffee Co.**, the venue also houses artist kiosks, offers cooking and art classes, and is home to **The Claremont Forum Bookshop**—a nationally renowned bookstore dedicated to supplying donated books to incarcerated individuals.
- 4. A boutique paradise.** Claremont is home to dozens of locally owned boutiques featuring hand-selected merchandise, chic fashions, kitschy collectibles, antiques, and distinctive gifts from around the globe, often focusing on Fair Trade materials. Among these one-of-a-kind boutiques, you'll encounter shops like **Vintage Odyssey**, brimming with lively vintage apparel, and **The Hens' Kitchen**

Shoppe, providing delightful home gifts—just a couple of examples contributing to Claremont's distinctive ambiance. The Packing House and Old School House also expand this assortment with further galleries and artisanal outlets.

5. **California Botanic Garden.** Established in 1927 as Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, **CalBG** is the most expansive botanical garden devoted to California's indigenous plant species. Its grounds showcase approximately 2,000 types of California plants spanning 86 acres, encompassing flora native to the broader California Floristic Province, from southern Oregon to Baja California. Alongside its notable botanical library and advanced education initiatives, the garden hosts horticultural and community education programs, inviting the public to embrace incorporating California native plants into their residential landscapes.

6. **Local baked goods and sweets.** Claremont Village offers a delightful array of treats for those with a penchant for sweetness. Indulge in delectable pastries at **Some Crust Bakery** and savor freshly baked tarts, cakes, and various other scrumptious delights at **Crème Bakery**. **A. Kline's** candy shop, a local chocolatier, entices with a selection of hand-dipped treats, while **Bert and Rocky's** creamery boasts over 31 distinct, homemade ice cream and sherbet flavors to satisfy any craving. Pie enthusiasts will rejoice at **I Like Pie**, where a delightful assortment of pies awaits, showcasing a medley of flavors and crusts that will please the taste buds.

7. **Wine and cheese.** Situated at the western edge of the Packing House, **Packing House Wines**, an acclaimed recipient of the *Wine Spectator* award, presents an extensive array of wines by the glass and varietals sourced from diverse growing regions worldwide. Additionally, guests can enjoy delectable small plates and dinners the executive chef prepares. On Yale Ave., **The Cheese Cave**, a bustling artisanal cheese emporium, features a wide selection of cheeses from various corners of the globe, with their hand-pressed olive oils and an array of distinctive food offerings.

8. **Bike-friendly streets.** Honored as a Silver Level Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists, Claremont boasts streets perfect for cycling enthusiasts. Families can enjoy picturesque rides along tree-lined avenues, capturing splendid views of historic residences and the town's college campuses. For those seeking a challenge, avid cyclists can take on the demanding route to Mt. Baldy from the AMGEN Tour of California or explore the trails in Claremont Hills Wilderness Park, offering breathtaking vistas spanning from Downtown L.A. and Catalina Island to the Inland Empire basin. Travelers aiming for a car-free adventure can easily transport their bicycles on Metrolink, providing direct access from Union Station to Claremont's historic depot.

9. **Pubs, grub, and nightlife.** Befitting a college town, Claremont features unique pubs with 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. 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. Find more local Claremont spirits at **Evolve Distilling, Grafted Cellars**, and ciders at **Ironbark Ciderworks**.

10. **Dinosaurs!** Embark on a journey through prehistoric times at the [Raymond M. Alf Museum of Paleontology](#), a distinguished institution and the sole nationally accredited paleontology museum on a secondary school campus in the United States. Nestled within the Webb Schools campus, the museum boasts two expansive circular exhibit spaces covering 4,000 square feet: the Hall of Footprints and the Hall of Life. The museum's remarkable fossil track and trackway collection ranks among the largest in the nation, offering a fascinating glimpse into the ancient world of dinosaurs.

11. **A secret garden.** On the Scripps College campus, find the gorgeous [Margaret Fowler Garden](#) (featured in *Westways*). Designed initially 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. Be sure to look for the fresco painted in 1946 by Mexican muralist Alfredo Ramos Martinez.
12. **Pervasive public art.** Art lovers will want to stop at the **Benton Museum of Art at Pomona College** and the **Claremont Lewis Museum of Art** (at the Claremont Depot). Visitors will also find public galleries and discover dozens of world-class public art at the colleges and around town. Margaret Fowler Garden at Scripps College, a Renaissance-era Venus statue from by Flemish sculptor Giovanni da Bologna (1529-1608) at Harvey Mudd College, artist Chris Burden's "Meet Me in the Middle" sculpture of streetlights and benches in front of Roberts Pavilion are three campus finds.
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 festival, takes over Claremont's downtown streets in late October. Other annual celebrations include the [Claremont Village Craft Beer Walk](#) in June, the [Claremont Village Wine Walk](#) in September, and the [Claremont Film Festival](#) in May.
14. **Community events, workshops, and group tours for shared experiences.** Summertime visitors can experience FREE live concerts throughout the Claremont Village during **Friday Nights Live** (May – October). The monthly **Claremont Art Walk** in the Village features local art and live music on the first Saturday year-round. Explore and shop for fresh local produce and one-of-a-kind artisan-crafted items at the [Sunday Farmers and Artisans Market](#), one of the region's largest farmers' markets. The non-profit Claremont Heritage hosts an annual home tour, walking tours, talks and exhibits, and other events that retell and support the city's history.
15. **Cool music finds.** Owned by Grammy-winning artist Ben Harper's family since 1958, the [Folk Music Center](#) showcases an extensive collection of musical instruments from various global cultures open for visitors to experience hands-on. As visitors explore the array of instruments, they can engage with Ellen Harper, who has overseen the center for over three decades and inquire about her experiences touring with Ben to promote their collaborative 2014 album, "Childhood Home," a project that brought together mother and son in the realm of music.
16. **Dawn and dusk discoveries.** Wake up before sunrise to experience the [Skyspace "Dividing the Light"](#) by James Turrell on the Pomona College campus. Turrell's public art installation features a lighting program at dusk and dawn that bathes its canopy in changing colors, altering the viewer's perception of the sky. Visit for the complete light show 100 minutes before sunrise or 25 minutes before sunset.
17. **Entertainment on Historic Route 66.** In the Foothill Blvd. corridor, you'll find the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Claremont, featuring **Piano Piano**. This lively dueling piano bar draws nightly performances like those from the renowned Las Vegas Strip. Additionally, **The Whisper House** and **Walter's Lounge** provide vibrant after-hours entertainment options for those seeking an exciting nightlife experience.
18. **Seven world-class colleges.** A consortium of five undergraduate and two graduate schools of higher education are conveniently located within walking distance. These [college campuses](#), acclaimed for shaping leaders in business, government, and the arts globally, feature splendid

historical architecture and expansive lawns, ideal for a leisurely picnic. Be sure to consult the different colleges' calendars for various events, including presentations, musical productions, art exhibits, and more.

19. **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 soothing water sounds and space for outdoor picnicking and music. During the summer, live bands perform in the square every Friday night.

20. **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. 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.

21. **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.

###

October 2023

Media Contact:

Ron Antonette | 562-596-4466

news@discoverclaremont.com