DISCOVER CLAREMONT®

DISCOVER CLAREMONT® — Find The Unexpected

Situated east of Hollywood, at the border of Los Angeles County, lies a town that embodies the quintessential small-town charm one might envision in a picturesque movie set for Main Street, USA. Its appearance could resemble that of an Eastern seaboard village adorned with lively blocks of locally owned shops. Alternatively, it may mirror a quaint Midwestern railway town, complete with a convenient train depot within strolling distance of trendy eateries and cozy pubs. It could even evoke the ambiance of a Southern community, boasting tree-lined streets graced by well-maintained craftsman homes, offering the perfect backdrop for a relaxed bicycle excursion.

Not quite at the beaches, but just shy of the mountains or the desert. Not exactly like the meticulously planned suburbs, yet not sprawling into expansive bedroom communities. Beyond the Kellogg Hill interchange, yet not quite reaching the Inland Empire. It's the kind of town that captivated you during a vacation, perhaps to Maine or maybe Indiana, but it’s a charm you never anticipated finding again within Southern California.

This enchanting place is Claremont.

The City of Trees

Situated at the eastern edge of Los Angeles County and serving as a gateway to the Inland Empire, Claremont rests 30 miles east of downtown Los Angeles via Interstate 10. It stands out distinctly in Southern California—a hidden treasure within the vast urban expanse of the L.A. basin.

Locally dubbed as The City of Trees, Claremont's legacy began over a century ago with the establishment of Pomona College amidst sprawling foothills graced by citrus ranches. It was in 1889 that the town's "shade tree committee" noted a gift of 250 trees, promptly planted throughout the community.

However, Claremont transcends its identity as the home to seven nationally esteemed colleges and a remarkable collection of 23,000 city-owned trees. It offers a genuine escape from the daily commotion of bustling Los Angeles and serves as a portal to the scenic mountains and serene deserts.

Claremont Village

The journey commences through a pedestrian-friendly, tree-bordered downtown area. Claremont Village boasts an array of over 150 locally owned boutiques, galleries, restaurants, eateries, and lively pubs with entertainment and musical offerings. Greeting visitors at the south end of downtown is the Claremont Depot, recognized as a California historical landmark. This station serves as a stop for Amtrak and Metrolink trains on a daily basis.

Once departing from the depot, delightful strolls along Yale and Harvard Avenues and Claremont Village’s numbered streets beckon visitors, evoking the ambiance of a classic New England cape town or a downtown in

middle America. The architectural elements of Claremont's downtown structures mirror a city that began to thrive in the early 1900s, showcasing its classic bank and shop facades. Over time, it evolved with the advent of the automobile, evident in some of its more contemporary storefronts.

On the opposite side of Indian Hill Blvd., two distinctive shopping and arts centers await exploration—the contemporary Village Square Public Plaza, constructed in 2007, and the thoughtfully revamped College Heights Lemon Packing House, paying homage to the city's citrus heritage and reopened in 2007.

The Public Plaza is encircled by various shops, restaurants, and the boutique Hotel Casa 425 and hosts Laemmle's 5 Claremont Theatre. An artfully designed public fountain meanders through the square, providing the soothing sounds of water and ample space for open-air picnics and musical performances.

The Packing House represents one of the four operational packing houses that once lined the railroad tracks during Claremont's citrus heydays. Historically, Claremont citrus growers pioneered a cooperative approach to marketing their fruit, eventually forming the cooperative known as Sunkist. The Packing House accommodates art galleries, a coffee and ice cream shop, a wine bar, and an array of dining options, all contributing to its vibrant present-day ambiance.

Historic Route 66

While a significant portion of Claremont is constructed in close proximity to the train depot, the historic path of Route 66 aligns with Foothill Blvd., 12 blocks to the north. This district is lined with businesses and restaurants, including the esteemed DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Claremont. The Old School House, Claremont's original 1911 school building, now hosts a diverse array of unique retail shops and eateries.

Continuing along College Ave. from Route 66, you'll come across the California Botanic Garden, an expansive 86-acre space dedicated exclusively to California's native plants. Within the Garden's grounds, visitors can explore around 2,000 taxa of California plants, including those native to the California Floristic Province, spanning from southern Oregon to Baja California. Beyond its extensive plant displays, the Garden has a world-class botanical library and a graduate-level education program. Additionally, it offers public horticulture and community education programs, aiming to promote the use of California native plants in home landscapes.

The Colleges

The Claremont Colleges represent a consortium embodying the Oxford-Cambridge model, comprising five undergraduate liberal arts colleges and two graduate institutions. The undergraduate colleges encompass Claremont McKenna College, Harvey Mudd College, Pitzer College, Pomona College, and Scripps College. Meanwhile, the two graduate institutions are the Claremont Graduate University and the Keck Graduate Institute. Each institution operates independently, possessing its distinct campus, student body, faculty, and unique mission.

These seven autonomous institutions on adjacent campuses offer demanding academic programs, small class sizes, distinguished faculty, and personalized instruction. They foster intensive engagement between students and faculty within a lively residential college community. With a collective population of 6,900 students and 3,600 faculty and staff spread across more than 560 acres of land, this consortium cultivates a wealth of intellectual, cultural, and social activities, providing a rich and diverse academic experience. □

Arts & Culture

Within the campus boundaries, Garrison Theater and Bridges Auditorium serve as venues for captivating theater, orchestral, and dance performances, offering the community a close-up view of the arts. In Claremont, museums like the Benton Museum of Art at Pomona College, the Raymond M. Alf Museum of Paleontology at the Webb Schools campus, and the Folk Music Center, a musical haven owned by Ben Harper's family, provide enriching cultural experiences. Furthermore, both on campuses and around town, numerous galleries feature inspiring artworks. A leisurely stroll through the Village and college campuses unveils many world-class public art pieces, adding to the cultural tapestry of Claremont.

A Way of Life

Visiting Claremont offers an embrace into a community that epitomizes the essence of "community spirit." A highlight is the annual Village Venture Arts & Crafts Festival in October, attracting over 20,000 visitors to Claremont Village. This town also embraces community-centered events like Friday Nights Live! during the summer, the Claremont Farmers and Artisans Market on Sundays, and Claremont Art Walks on first Saturdays, providing a genuine taste of Americana in Southern California. The annual Midsummer TheaterFestival presented by Ophelia’s Jump Productions under the stars each July offers unique takes the classics.

Spanning just 14 square miles, Claremont is easily traversed by bicycle, and the city is dedicated to promoting bicycle-friendly initiatives, a source of great pride. Recognized by the League of American Bicyclists as a Silver-Level Bicycle Friendly Community, Claremont has expanded its offerings with the Claremont Wilderness Park, featuring 10 miles of mountain bike trails and five miles of shared-use pathways. Claremont's distinction as a host city for the AMGEN Tour of California is no surprise.

Maintaining its reputation as a city of trees, Claremont has received the National Arbor Day Association's Tree City USA award for over two decades, affirming its enduring commitment to greenery and the environment.

A Surprising Retreat

Basking in its verdant, Eastern Seaboard-inspired scenery, Claremont is a perfect retreat for tranquil and intimate getaways. Couples will find themselves in an enchanting, romantic setting as they wander along tree-lined streets adorned with delightful shops, al fresco cafés, and historic neighborhoods.

For those in the health and wellness communities. Claremont's vibrant array of spas, salons, yoga, and pilates centers eagerly await to offer visitors a range of tailored services and treatments, enhancing the completeness of their retreats.

Claremont's family-friendly atmosphere, diverse recreational activities, and educational opportunities make it an exceptional destination for families seeking memorable experiences amidst its welcoming community.

It's no wonder many individuals opt for Claremont as a place to reside, learn, immerse in nature, and savor moments of relaxation.

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Media Contact:
Ron Antonette | 562-596-4466
news@discoverclaremont.com