

DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES WALKING TOUR

ON YOUR WAY TO DOWNTOWN!

Take the Gold Line from the Lake Ave. Station here in Pasadena to Union Station. See attached Dash map to reach each destination within downtown Los Angeles.



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GASTON-

Begin your walking tour at Union Station!

Union Station



800 N. Alameda Street

Completed in 1939, Union Station was the last of the grand urban rail terminals to be built in the United States. Architecturally, it is restrained Spanish Colonial Revival with Streamline Modern touches. Landscaped with enormous fig trees, Mexican fan palms, birds of paradise, ginger, and orchid trumpet vines, the gardens were meant to provide a fragrant haven for travellers. In 1997, the station opened Traxx, the first full-service restaurant in Union Station since the closure of Fred Harvey's in the late 1960's. Today it is the terminus for a growing network of commuter rail lines in addition to inter-city rail and bus lines.

Olvera Street



Originally known as Vine or Wine Street because of its location near vineyards and a winery, the street was renamed in honor of the first county judge of Los Angeles County, Agustin Olvera. Olvera Street was officially opened in April, 1930, and serves as a major tourist attraction and entertainment center. The street preserves essential features of Los Angeles history. A triple row of bricks running diagonally across the street near the fountain denotes the course of the Zanja Madre (Mother Ditch), an early system of providing water from the Los Angeles River to the growing pueblo. On Olvera Street is L.A.'s oldest surviving residential building, Avila Adobe, which dates from 1818. El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historic Monument was established at the site in 1953.

Before you move on to Chinatown, stop and have lunch at the legendary Philippe's, the birth place of the delicious French dipped sandwich!

Philippe's



1001 N Alameda St, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Chinatown



900 N. Broadway

Earlier Chinese communities were located farther south, closer to the center of downtown. It was displaced to its current location in the late 1930s to make way for the construction of Union Station. The "New Chinatown" encompasses several blocks along north Broadway and Hill St. It is home to a Chinese population of about 15,000 and also fulfills a major tourist function. In recent years an even newer Chinese enclave has developed several miles to the east in and around the suburban community of Monterey Park.

From Chinatown, make your way to the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA)

Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA)



250 South Grand Avenue

The Museum of Contemporary Art was built from 1983-87. It has a surface of red Indian stone and takes on post modernist and traditional forms. This museum consists of two separate pavilions, separated by a raised court, and features paintings, sculpture, and other art forms.

Angels Flight



Hill Street, between 3rd and 4th streets

Built in 1900, this funicular railway ran up the southeast side of Bunker Hill, connecting the residential areas on the hill with shopping, financial, and entertainment districts on Broadway, Hill, and Spring streets. Angels Flight first served the wealthy (1905-1920) who lived in big Victorian houses, and then later the less fortunate who lived houses converted to flats, hotels, apartments, and flop houses (1920's - 1950's). Even after most of the residences were destroyed, and the people displaced, Angels Flight hung on until 1969 as something of a tourist attraction. It then closed, and the cars and other equipment were unceremoniously put in storage. The subsequent commercial developments on Bunker Hill, encouraged by the Community Redevelopment Agency, became functionally separated from the older downtown. Two worlds were created: new and old downtowns, adjacent spatially, but worlds apart socially. Finally, in 1993, funds were appropriated by the CRA for a restored Angels Flight, which is intended to bridge these two worlds. The new Angels Flight is actually to the south of the original location, which also was more "urban" in nature. The new Angels Flight opened on February 24, 1996, but closed again in 2001 after a fatal accident. After additional renovations, the funicular railway is expected to reopen soon.

From Angels Flight, make your way to the Grand Central Market

Grand Central Market



317 S. Broadway

Built in 1917, the Grand Central Market is a cavernous European-style market under great overhead fans. It is the oldest of all concession type markets on the Pacific Coast, and was the first earthquake and fire proof building in Los Angeles. The Grand Central Market is an indoor bazaar that extends from Broadway to Hill Street. It is crowded, frenzied, and picturesque. The stalls and aisles overflow with exotic foods, from pigs tongues to passion fruit.

Pershing Square



Between Hill and Olive, 5th and 6th streets

In 1886, this five acre plot of land was set aside for public use, surpassing the older plaza near Olvera Street in popularity due to the southwest population shift at that time. In 1918, the square was named for General John J. Pershing. The accompanying 1939 photo suggests its centrality in the street life of downtown. A 1995 photo shows a different place, shadowed by gigantic skyscrapers to the west. Its postmodern redesign by Ricardo Legorreta, dedicated in February of 1994, is full of symbols of California life. A fault line runs from one corner of the park to the other and postcards are embedded in park benches. The dominant visual feature of the park is a 120-foot high purple tower. As a behavioral setting, however, its lack of trees and grass make this place feel like urban desert.

From Pershing Square make your way over to L.A. Live

L.A. Live



Figueroa between Olympic and 11th Street

L.A. Live, which broke ground in 2005, and a planned development on Grand Avenue, are two large-scale projects aimed at reviving downtown. As the Grand Avenue Project is being compared with the Champs-Élysées, L.A. Live is touted as the Times Square of Los Angeles. The \$2 billion complex will take up six city blocks and include a 7,000 square foot theater, a 54-story hotel, residential, retail, office, and broadcasting space. It is set to be completed in 2010

From L.A. Live, catch the Dash and head back to Union Station!