

Los Angeles History and Attractions

Imagine being a member of the Tongva and Chumash Native American tribes thousands of years ago and settling on the coast of what is now Los Angeles. The rolling hills and endless beaches would provide abundant hunting and foraging land, and ideal locations for villages.

The city of Los Angeles (Spanish for “The Angels”) was founded in 1781 by Spanish Governor Felipe de Neve, and has grown steadily since that time. The railroad came in 1876, oil was discovered in 1892, and in the 1920’s the motion picture and aviation industries arrived in Los Angeles. Today, Los Angeles has the second largest population in the nation, surpassed only by New York City. It is one of the world’s centers of business, international trade, entertainment, culture, media, fashion, science, technology, and education.

As an Amtrak passenger, you have the opportunity to experience Los Angeles Union Station, opened in May 1939 and referred to as the “The Last Great Railway Station.” It is renowned for its great waiting room, beautiful fountains, and mosaic tiles that decorate the interior of the station. If you have watched movies like “Pearl Harbor,” “The Italian Job,” “The Island,” or the hit TV series, “24,” then you have seen Union Station on the screen. Outside the station you’ll find plenty to see and do.

Los Angeles is one of the most culturally diverse cities in the U.S., and you can experience that walking down the streets, observing its residents, eating in neighborhood restaurants, visiting historic churches and other buildings, or taking in a local music venue or festival. Los Angeles, full of history, is home to 12.9 million residents living in a place full of opportunity.

Source(s):

www.nps.gov/soma

www.google.com/LA.History.com

www.library.ca.gov/research/morelinks.html#calHist

www.ca.gov/About/History.html

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