



## Los Angeles, California - Fast Facts

Twenty-four million people come to Los Angeles every year for their vacation. Because the metropolitan area is so dense, it is impossible to separate Los Angeles, or even Los Angeles county, from the surrounding metropolitan areas, so that the area includes a huge part of Southern California. A few Los Angeles facts and figures:

- ◆ *The Los Angeles five-county area has a population of almost 20 million. It includes Los Angeles, Riverside, Ventura, Orange and San Bernardino Counties.*
- ◆ *If the five-county Los Angeles area were a state, it would be the fourth largest in the United States.*
- ◆ *When Los Angeles was founded in 1781, 44 people (14 families) lived in El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora la Reina de Los Angeles de la Porciuncula (Town of Our Lady the Queen of the Angeles of the Small Portion). The population grew, but the name shrank to simply "Los Angeles."*
- ◆ *The city flower is the bird of paradise and the city tree is the coral tree.*
- ◆ *Hollywood is a neighborhood in central Los Angeles. The movie industry began to thrive there in the early 1900s, and now the term "Hollywood" is synonymous with the entertainment industry for the entire United States.*
- ◆ *Los Angeles has more than 80 stage theaters and 300 museums, more than any other U.S. city.*
- ◆ *The Port of Los Angeles is the busiest in the U.S. and one of the busiest in the world.*
- ◆ *Despite its image of an oasis with water and palm trees everywhere, Los Angeles is more like a desert, with an annual rainfall of only 15 inches (38 cm).*
- ◆ *City residents are typically called Angelenos (rhymes with casinos).*

The weather of Los Angeles is not always what visitors expect. It is beautiful most times of year, but smog (a mixture of smoke and fog) can be bad in the summer.. There are often days in June when the beach cities are foggy all day, more like London than California. Temperatures are moderate all year, and evenings are always cool. Skies are clearest in winter, especially after a winter rain.

Los Angeles is known by a number of nicknames, including

- *L.A.*
- *City of Angels*
- *Southland (typically used by local media)*
- *Lalaland (a reference to the over-the-top entertainment industry)*