

AUTUMN 2017

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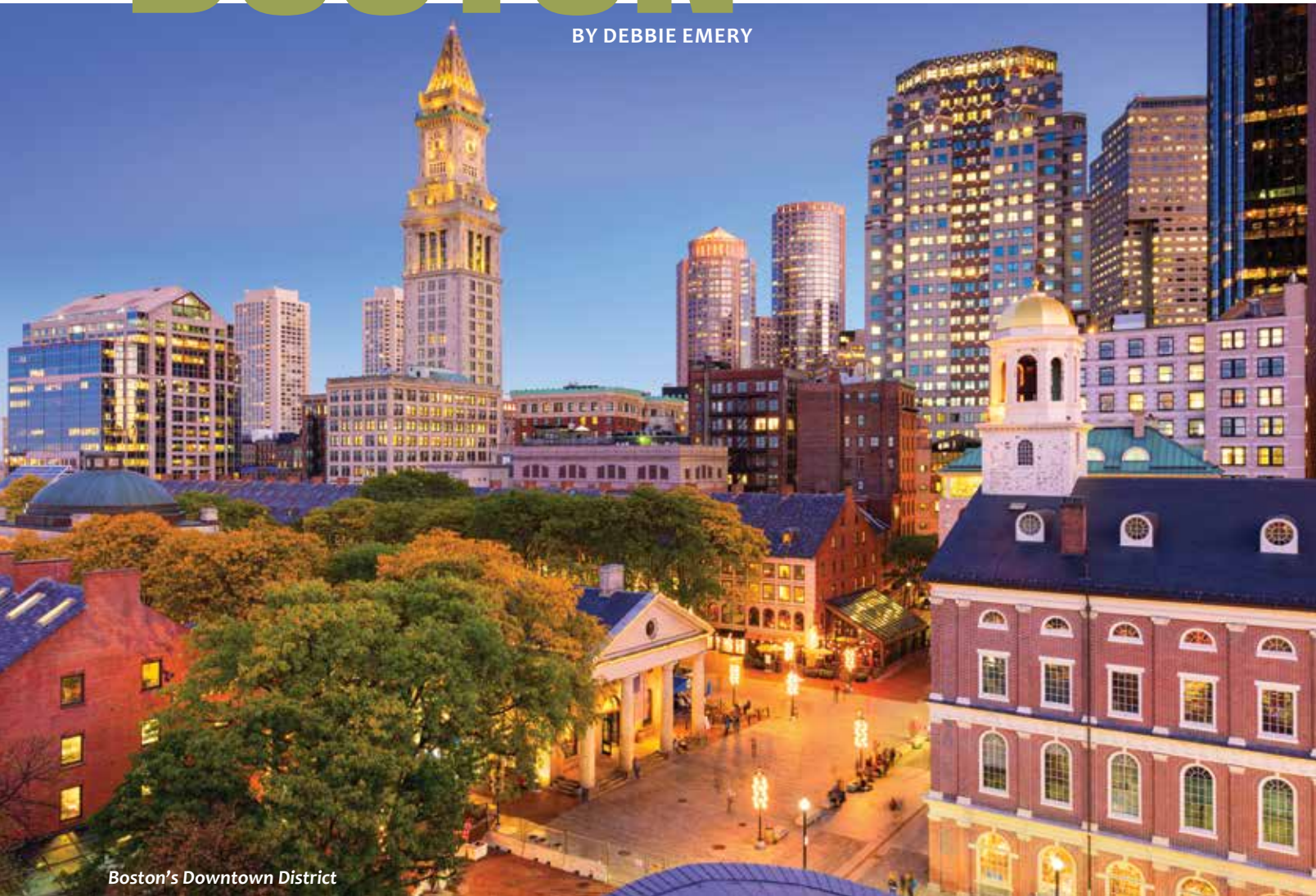
MAN ON A MISSION

**+ SOLAR ECLIPSE
FALL COLORS IN D.C.
SOUTH AFRICA
BOSTON**

REAGAN NATIONAL  DULLES INTERNATIONAL

BOSTON

BY DEBBIE EMERY



Boston's Downtown District

PLENTY OF CLICHÉS SPRING TO MIND WHEN YOU THINK OF BOSTON: WICKED PASSIONATE SPORTS FANS, CLAM CHOWDA, THE “CHEERS” BAR AND A LOVE OF EVERYTHING IRISH.

BUT BEYOND WHAT YOU’VE SEEN IN EVERY BEN AFFLECK, MATT DAMON OR MARK WAHLBERG MOVIE OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS, THERE ARE COUNTLESS HIDDEN BOSTON GEMS (DON’T CALL IT BEANTOWN IF YOU WANT TO FIT IN!) AND THERE IS NO BETTER TIME TO ENJOY THEM THAN THE FALL. FOLLOWING THE HEAT AND HUMIDITY OF THE SUMMER, BEFORE THE BRAIN-DESTROYING BLIZZARDS OF THE WINTER, AUTUMN IS A MAGICAL TIME OF BREATHTAKING CRIMSON, ORANGE AND GOLD FOLIAGE ADORNING EVERY STREET AND PARK OF THE CITY.

BOSTON COMMON AND PUBLIC GARDENS

You don't have to venture out to the New England countryside to enjoy natural brilliance, just head to the Boston Common and roam among the majestic trees. Bounded by Charles, Beacon, Arlington, Back Bay and Boylston Streets, it is impossible not to stumble upon the Common. Each tree species leaves change color at a different time (starting with Japanese maples) so there is a continuous spectacle of color to enjoy.

COLUMBUS DAY PARADE

Originally settled in 1630, Boston is one of America's oldest cities and really knows how to celebrate its interesting history. This year, the parade will march through Boston's North End neighborhood (it goes through East Boston in even-numbered years to spread the love) to honor the heritage and contributions of Italians to the American story. The annual event attracts more locals than tourists, so you are bound to see some authentic Boston faces — and hear some strong accents — in the parade crowds along the route. Brass bands, military units and even bagpipes traditionally perform in the parade. Always scheduled the Sunday before the holiday (this year: Oct. 8), the Columbus Day Parade has been a beloved Boston tradition since the first one in 1937. After two hours cheering on the sidelines, the temptation of the North End Italian restaurants and bakeries on Hanover or Salem Streets will surely beckon. Mike's Pastry and Modern Pastry are the most famous, and the locals debate for hours which is THE BEST. Cannoli anyone?

BOSTON GHOST TOUR

It doesn't have to be Halloween to get a solid haunting in Boston. With the city's history dating back 387 years, that's plenty of time for scary stories to grow and there's no better way to experience them than a ghost tour. As you venture into colonial Boston's dark side, generations of the dead seem to rise again. Tours venture into Boston's

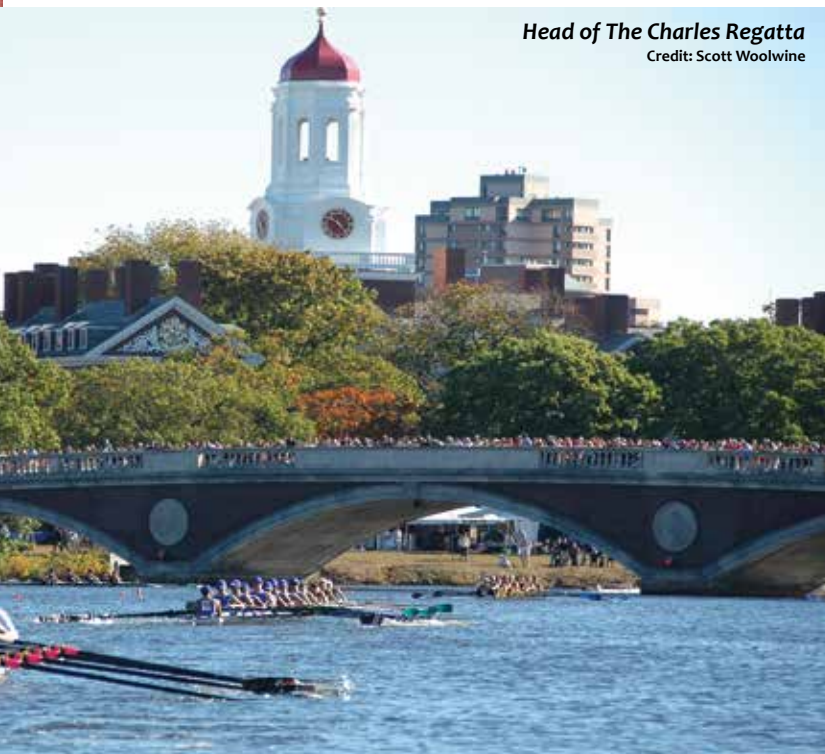
countless graveyards (there are 26 cemeteries in the city designated as historic sites), spinning grisly tales of murder (the Boston Strangler is far from the only killer to prowl these streets), watery deaths in the Harbor or spectral tenants dwelling in downtown hotels. There are a number of tours to choose from, either by bus, on foot or by Old Town Trolley Tour, guided by a 17th Century Gravedigger.

HEAD OF THE CHARLES REGATTA

Cutting through the center of the city, the Charles River has long been the lifeblood of Boston, and the 80-mile river stretches through 23 Massachusetts towns before reaching the Atlantic. Named after King Charles I and traditionally used for transportation, the river now features Duck Tours, kayaks, sail boats, paddle boards, and the annual Head of The Charles Regatta, held this year from Oct. 21-22. Since 1965, spectators have flooded the banks of the Charles to watch the three-mile boat race from Boston University's DeWolfe Boathouse to the Eliot Bridge by the Artesani Playground in Brighton. Race events start at 15-second intervals so there's always some kind of action on the water, plus plenty of boat builders, fitness expos and food options nearby on the banks and bridges.

FENWAY PARK TOUR

You don't have to root for the Boston Red Sox to appreciate a Fenway Park Tour. You don't even have to like baseball. Located on Yawkey



Head of The Charles Regatta
Credit: Scott Woolwine



Boston Commons
Credit: Kyle Klein

GETTING THERE

DULLES INTERNATIONAL

Daily flights on Jetblue and United Airlines

REAGAN NATIONAL

Daily on flights from Jetblue and American Airlines



Boston Waterfront
Credit: Leise Jones Photography

Way, the first game played at Fenway was on April 20, 1912. However, news coverage of the opening was overshadowed by the stories of the sinking of the Titanic a few days earlier. Fenway is home to the famous Green Monster, or The Monstah, in local parlance — the left field wall. Tours depart daily throughout the year, and if you go during baseball season, and the Sox are at home, you can catch a Pre-Game Tour then go see the game. The 60-minute guided tour — come rain, shine, sleet or snow — offers a unique insight into the ball club’s history, including back areas not readily accessible. Dress code is casual, but we recommend not wearing a Yankees cap.

JOHN F. KENNEDY PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

If politics is your game, then this museum commemorating Boston’s most famous president (who was born in nearby Brookline) is a must-visit. The modern building is built on a 10-acre park overlooking the sea and the city that the 35th president loved and called home. It hosts a combination of permanent and temporary exhibits, focusing on key events in JFK’s life, such as the Cuban Missile Crisis, formation of the Peace Corps, the Space Program, the Civil Rights movement, and first lady Jacqueline Kennedy’s historic restoration of the White House. Other rooms reveal Kennedy as a kid — dubbed Young Jack — and then as a decorated war hero. Read handwritten notes, loves letters, and most tragically, the speech he was scheduled to deliver in Dallas on the day of his assassination.

DUCK TOUR

One of Boston’s most popular modes of transport for visitors is the “DUCK,” a WWII-style amphibious landing vessel that travels on both land and sea. Popular routes visit the golden-domed Massachusetts State House, Bunker Hill, the TD Banknorth Garden (home of the Celtics and Bruins), Boston Common, Copley Square to the Big Dig, Government Center, trendy Newbury Street, Quincy Market and the Prudential Tower, before dunking into the Charles River. Tours either

depart from the Prudential Center and Museum of Sciences, or from the New England Aquarium. Be sure and pop in and say hello to the sea otters, little blue penguins and northern fur seals while you’re there! Led by a conDUCKtor educated in Boston trivia and history, a Duck Tour is an easy and interesting way to be introduced to the city.

FREEDOM TRAIL

A great way to really learn the city is to head out on a foot tour. The 2.5-mile Freedom Trail stops at 16 historical museums, meeting houses, churches and burying grounds, all an integral part of the American Revolution. Established in 1964, the Freedom Trail Foundation’s mission is to preserve the historic sites and to educate people on this pivotal point in U.S. independence history. Public tours of about 90 minutes can be booked throughout the year for both individuals and groups. If you want the DIY approach, pick up a map, follow the red brick path and weave your way through the eighteenth century from Boston Common to the U.S.S. Constitution. At the finish, you can either retrace your steps, or take the Charlestown Water Shuttle back to downtown Boston. There is a liquid version of the Freedom Trail known as the Historic Pub Crawl — after all, most revolutionary ideas and world-changing plans were first spawned in taverns. The Crawl visits four authentic pubs in Blackstone Block, and includes free samples of (what else?) Sam Adams beer.

CHARLESTOWN AND THE BUNKER HILL MEMORIAL

Once known as the “bank robbery capital of America” (a reputation *The Town* only enhanced) Charlestown has undergone plenty of facelifts since it was first settled in 1629. Yep, it’s a year older than neighboring Boston. Charlestown was the first capital of the Massachusetts Bay Colony and after being annexed in 1874, it is now a square-mile neighborhood, part of the city-proper. Charlestown has evolved since Affleck’s 2010 thriller, and has gentrified, as high-end boutiques replace liquor stores, and day spas pop up in former pizza parlor locations. Thankfully, some things never change, such as the



Bunker Hill Monument, which commemorates the first major battle of the American Revolution on June 17, 1775. Rest and enjoy a picnic at the bottom of the 221-foot monument, or run up and down the 294 steps to burn off some of those lobster rolls. Another interesting slice of Charlestown history is the Warren Tavern on Pleasant Street. Founded in 1780 and named after Dr. Joseph Warren, a hero killed in the Battle of Bunker Hill, the tavern has hosted veritable names such as Paul Revere, Benjamin Franklin, and George Washington. Fans of local best-selling author Dennis Lehane will recognize the Warren as having been mentioned in his novels. But the Warren shouldn't just be visited just for its historic value — the cozy and always lively pub serves (of course) juicy burgers, fish and chips, crab cakes, chowdah and lobster rolls but also a yoghurt granola parfait that would give any trendy brunch spot a run for its money.

PRUDENTIAL TOWER

For the best view of Boston's glittering skyline, the only way is up. The Prudential Tower (also known as The Pru) on Boylston Street is the second-tallest building in the city at 749 feet. It is home to stores such as Vineyard Vines, Lord & Taylor, Saks Fifth Avenue and Sephora, but the coolest attraction is the Top of the Hub restaurant on the 52nd floor, which offers sweeping sights of the city in a fine dining atmosphere. Two floors below it, the Skywalk Observatory is currently the highest observation deck in New England open to the public, as the higher observation deck of the John Hancock Tower has been closed since September 11, 2001. An audio tour on the Skywalk is a good way to learn about the sites while soaking in the 360-degree views of Greater Boston and beyond.

HALLOWEEN SEASON IN SALEM

Nearly every high school student has read *The Crucible* in English literature class, and while Arthur Miller's classic was partly fictional, the story is based on the real-life witch trials in 1692-93 in Salem, Massachusetts. Mass hysteria resulted in the hanging deaths of at least 20 people and the infamous era has turned Salem into a go-to destination to celebrate the Halloween season. Special spooky events



Boston Skyline

span the town from Oct. 1-Nov. 1. Haunted happenings include costume balls, ghost tours, haunted houses, live music, chilling theatrical presentations, and horror film screenings. Around 250,000 visitors trek to Salem each Halloween season, with many of them taking the hour-long ferry from Boston to get there. As the Boston Harbor Cruises website boasts, "only a broom would get you there faster."

APPLE PICKING IN NEW ENGLAND

Nothing says fall like hot apple cider, and you don't have to venture far outside Boston to visit New England's apple-picking wonderland. Of course, you could hit up the closest bar or café in Back Bay and grab a glass, but where is the fun in that? Growing up in Boston, a seasonal tradition is to visit an orchard and pick your own fruit. There are hundreds of orchards within an apple's throw of the city, and many serve apple doughnuts, cobbler, fruit jams, baked goods, plus offer tons of rural activities like hay rides, farm animals and cider tastings. Many even have a taproom to test the adult version of the traditional drink, while cooing over goats and mini-ponies at the petting zoo. A popular spot, especially for movie buffs, is Scott Farm in Dummerston, Vermont, where the Tobey Maguire adaption of John Irving's *Cider House Rules* novel was filmed. The historic property is also home to Naulakha, the estate where Rudyard Kipling wrote *The Jungle Book*.

SEAPORT

While most of Boston is steeped in history, the Seaport area is a vision of modern luxury. Over the past 150 years, the region has evolved from a muddy part of the harbor to a multi-cultural mecca of luxury condos, waterfront hotels, high-end stores and trendy eateries, plus home to the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, the Institute of Contemporary Art and the Bank of America Pavilion — one of the biggest amphitheatres in America. Along with the glittering high rises, it has grown into a foodie haven, with highly-acclaimed eateries such as Menton, Sportello and Flour Bakery + Café taking over old warehouse spaces. Of course given the location, there's also an abundance of seafood restaurants on hand, with Ocean Prime, Row 34, Yankee Lobster and Oceanaire bringing new meaning to the word "fresh." If hops are your food of choice, the Harpoon Brewery gets into the festive spirit each fall with an annual Oktoberfest offering bratwursts, chicken and plenty of beer. For the adventurous at heart, the Codzilla offers a high-speed adventure on the water (up to 40 m.p.h.), boasting 360-degree turns and a "bad attitude." A more leisurely option is a whale-watching tour out to the Stellwagen Bank Marine Sanctuary to spot humpbacks, finbacks, minkes, pilot whales, and the critically endangered right whales.



Hollywood Bowl

CALIFORNIA DREAMING IN **LOS ANGELES**

BY DEBBIE EMERY



The Famous Hollywood Sign



It is impossible to sum up Los Angeles in a few words or to truly understand the city's complexities by visiting a handful of famous landmarks. A sprawling metropolis spreading 469 square miles and the second-most populous city in the United States, L.A. feels more like a cluster of small towns fused together as neighborhoods including Silverlake, Pasadena, Hollywood, Downtown, the San Fernando Valley, Santa Monica, Venice, Playa del Rey and Hermosa Beach all have their own very distinct personalities.

GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY

The Griffith Observatory has been a must-see spot for movie fans ever since James Dean acted in the dramatic scene from *Rebel Without a Cause* scene. However, it's taken on a whole new meaning since last year's beloved hit *La La Land*, when Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone's characters spent a night roaming around the planetarium (they also bust out a dance to "A Lovely Night" in the 4,210 acre Griffith Park). Since opening in 1935, there is never an entrance fee per benefactor, the late Griffith J. Griffith. Aside from live shows at the planetarium, guests can watch films in the Leonard Nimoy Event Horizon and visit the dozens of intergalactic exhibitions. Even the Wolfgang Puck-run eatery is inspired by pop culture. The name of the cafe — Café at the End of the Universe — is an "affectionate allusion" to the Douglas Adams book title *Restaurant at the End of the Universe*. The observatory is in Griffith Park, which also has endless challenging hiking trails, epic views of the Hollywood sign and is home to iconic concert venue, the Greek Theatre.

VENICE CANALS

Who says California doesn't have history? It may be younger than other parts of the country — but is far more colorful. The Venice Canals Historic District is a prime example of the rich culture hidden in L.A.'s back streets. The neighborhood is tucked away with winding water-side pathways and little humped bridges within the picturesque

area between Abbot Kinney, Pacific, and Venice Boulevards that was clearly inspired by their Italian namesake with the man-made canals that were first built in 1905 by developer Abbot Kinney (who now has one of Venice's most chic streets named after him). While many of the canals were filled in and replaced by roads during the dawning of the car era, a renovation project re-opened the district in 1993. The district is now a desirable place to wander with its eclectic bungalows, historic balconied homes — and plenty of ducks. The waterways are lined with little row boats in place of Italy's gondolas and you can even do a paddleboard tour of the most popular routes. If you're lucky enough to be there over the holidays, the Venice Beach Christmas Boat Parade offers an explosion of lights and kitschy festive decorations.

The Beach in Malibu

Photo: Matt Marriott



HORSE RIDING TO THE HOLLYWOOD SIGN

No visit to Los Angeles is complete without getting a good view of the Hollywood sign, but you're fighting a losing battle (and trespassing) if you try to get past the heavily guarded fence for a close encounter. While hiking trails from Griffith Park or viewing spots on Beachwood Canyon offer photo opportunities, a more exhilarating and foot-friendly option is on horseback. Circle K Ranch is located in Burbank and offers Western rides up scenic trails and mountainsides popping out onto a ledge opposite the famous landmark. The groups are fast or slow depending on your riding experience, and all the horses are kept in great condition as they're often used on TV or movie shoots. Be sure to wear long pants and boots unless you want bruised, chaffed ankles, and aim to go early in

GETTING THERE

DULLES - Daily flights on American Airlines, Virgin America, United Airlines
REAGAN - Daily on flights on American Airlines, Alaskan Airlines, Delta Airlines

the day in hot weather as there is very little shade on the trail — and remember to tip your wrangler.

CATALINA ISLAND

Less than 30 miles southwest of Long Beach, Santa Catalina Island is a world away from the hustle of Hollywood and looks more like the Southern Mediterranean than Southern California. Just 22 miles long, the island's main hub is Avalon and much of the infrastructure and attractions were brought there by chewing gum magnate and former Chicago Cubs owner, William Wrigley Jr. Today, it attracts over a million people a year, including Angelenos wanting a tropical staycation. Ferries leave regularly from Long Beach and San Pedro, you can take a helicopter for a faster, more exciting route, or many locals sail across the patch of the Pacific. Once on dry land, there are countless things



to do, from zip-lining, rock climbing, electric bikes, kayaking, paddleboarding, scuba diving through kelp forests, camping and parasailing. The Catalina Island Company's newly launched Catalina Aerial Adventure is an exciting new aerial ropes course suspended through the trees in Descanso Canyon. For something at a more leisurely pace, you can explore the historic Casino at night with the Twilight at the Casino Tour, hop on a glass-bottomed boat, take a jeep tour or simply get a massage on the beach. The Catalina Island Museum showcases film memorabilia, artwork, pottery and plenty of Cubs artifacts. While you can easily enjoy the island on a day trip, there's a wide range of hotels, B&Bs and AirBNBs, plus abundant camping around the northern town of Two Harbors. Fans of the screwball comedy *Step Brothers* will want to visit in September for the real life Catalina Wine Mixer, but the best day to go is on your birthday — when you automatically get a free round-trip on the Catalina Express ferry, plus discounts at restaurants, hotels, gift shops, activities, spas, and even free ice cream.

MALIBU WINE SAFARI

What can be better than sipping wine and hanging out with exotic animals amid the beauty of the Santa Monica Mountains? Not much.

The celebrities at Malibu Wine Safari are the long-necked or striped kind, as guests taste local vintages while going on an off-road adventure in a custom-built, open air Safari vehicle around Saddlerock Ranch. Meet zebras, alpacas, bison, alpacas, camels and Stanley the Giraffe — many of whom have played animal roles in hit Hollywood movies. The Malibu Safari is on Mulholland Highway off Kanan Dume Road deep in the canyons, so it gives you the perfect excuse to drive north up the Pacific Coast Highway on the way there. Traffic gets heavy on sunny weekends, so either suck it up and soak in the view — or stop at Nobu, Gladstones, Duke's, the Sunset Bar & Grill or Neptune's Net to break up the drive and enjoy fresh seafood while soaking in the sun.

MAGIC CASTLE

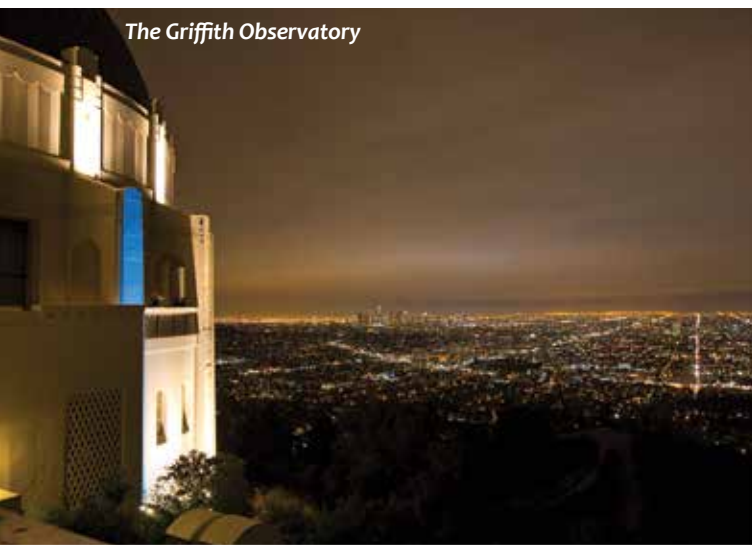
The Magic Castle is one of Hollywood's best-kept secrets and a once-in-a-lifetime experience. It is a private club for members of the Academy of the Magical Arts so you either have to be the guest of a member, or book dinner/brunch to visit. It also has a strict dress code — no casual attire, denim, outdoor jackets or flip flops. As the website advises, "when in doubt, overdress." But believe us, it is worth it. Once inside, you'll get to experience some of the world's best magicians set in a historical and magical mansion. The winding corridors, secret doorways and hidden rooms lead to private performances, intimate acts or larger theatres — but beware, there's always the chance of becoming part of the show. Even waiting for a drink at the W.C. Fields bar offers the opportunity to witness a slick card trick.

HOLLYWOOD BOWL

Set on a backdrop of the Hollywood Hills and the Hollywood sign, there is nothing more Hollywood than the Hollywood Bowl. Over its 95-year history, the amphitheater has hosted Judy Garland, Louis Armstrong, Elton John, The Beatles, the Doors, the Rolling Stones, Lady Gaga and even Monty Python. The summer concert series — including themed Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra performances and stunning 4th of July fireworks — is a seasonal must-do for trendy Angelenos, but there are worthwhile concerts all year around. The adjacent public park boasts 14 picnic grounds or the marketplaces sells food and wine worthy of a fine-dining eatery. The pricey box seats even have waiter service. Just like with many places in the city, traffic and parking can be a hassle so an easier option is taking the Bowl Shuttle or doing a Park and Ride. Highlights coming this fall include Steve Winwood and Mavis Staples, Solange, Janet Jackson, and Zac Brown Band.



The Griffith Observatory



UNIVERSAL STUDIOS WIZARDING WORLD OF HARRY POTTER

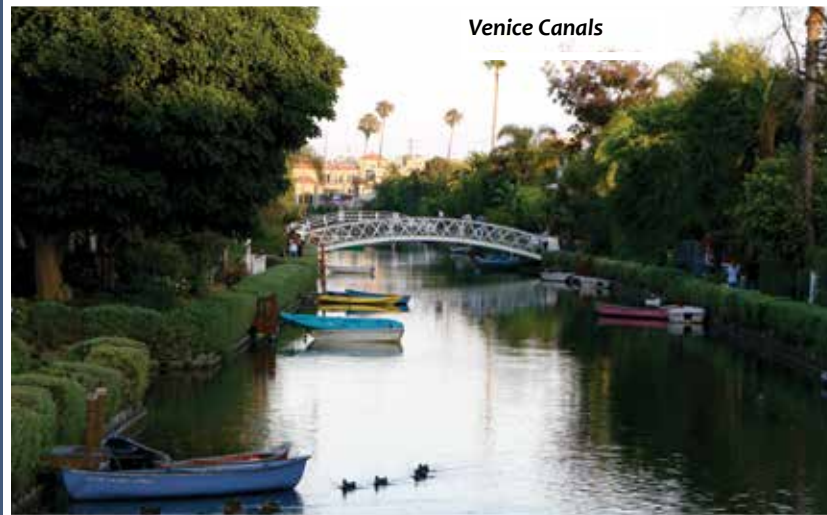
L.A. itself often feels like a theme park, with no shortage of real theme parks nearby including Disneyland, California Adventure, Legoland and Six Flags Magic Mountain. The one that really encompasses the spirit of Hollywood is Universal Studios, located on the site of one of the oldest film studios still in use. Studio tours began in 1915 and cost five cents (they're a little more expensive now, starting at \$105), and it has since launched rides based on the biggest blockbusters of the era such as Back to the Future, Jaws, Terminator and Beetlejuice. The latest attraction is the most magical, "Wizarding World of Harry Potter" launched in April 2016 (the sequel to the Orlando park). Set around the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry created by J.K. Rowling, the park features rollercoasters like the Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey (a 4K-HD and ride film projecting at an astounding rate of 120 frames-per-second), Flight of the Hippogriff, Ollivander's Wand Fitting Experience, Frog Choir and the Triwizard Spirit Rally. New this season is the The Nighttime Lights at Hogwarts Castle, which shine brightly with an awe-inspiring spectacle that showcases the four houses of Hogwarts: Gryffindor, Ravenclaw, Hufflepuff and Slytherin and culminates with beams of lights across the night sky. The spectacular is accompanied by a special musical arrangement created by Academy Award-winning composer John Williams based on

his original scores composed for the film series. Top off the evening with a Butterbeer at Hog's Head Pub or fish & chips and shepherd's pie at the Three Broomsticks Tavern.

BIKE RIDE FROM SANTA MONICA PIER TO REDONDO ON THE STRAND

Traffic and parking are a constant cause of complaint in L.A., but one way to avoid the stress is to rent a bike and cycle the strand from Will Rogers State Beach in the Pacific Palisades all the way south to Redondo Beach. The 22-mile bike path — or any chunk of it you choose — will take you past the arcades, Ferris wheel and aquarium at Santa Monica Pier, the craziness of Venice Boardwalk and Muscle Beach (be sure to duck down some alleyways and check out the colorful murals and artistic graffiti), wind you inland through the peaceful Marina, then onwards to Manhattan, Hermosa and Redondo Beaches in the South Bay. On the way, there are plenty of spots to stop and refuel or lubricate, such as Big Dean's at the bottom of the Santa Monica Pier (don't be fooled by the small front patio — it's like a mullet and much bigger in the back), Venice Whaler (where there's always a party on the top floor) or enjoy the nostalgia of Old Tony's on Redondo's Fisherman's Wharf.

Venice Canals



BROAD MUSEUM

Since it opened in the September of 2015, Los Angeles residents have been desperate to visit The Broad Museum so you'd be wise to book a ticket as soon as your flight is confirmed. The city's most dazzling example of modern architecture is located on Bunker Hill downtown, an area renowned for bursts of expensive urban renewal — some more successful than others. The \$140 million contemporary art museum was founded by philanthropists Eli and Edythe Broad and the most prominent holdings of postwar and contemporary art worldwide are now free to the public, many of whom waited in line for hours when it first opened. One of the museum's most striking exterior features is the "veil" created by architects Diller Scofidio + Renfro covering a vault of archives, coupled with a haphazard, mottled exoskeleton. Inside, curving ceilings and escalators rise into smooth stone giving the museum the feeling of an alien planet from "Star Trek," while the exhibits take visitors to another era altogether. Eagle-eyed guests will sneak a glimpse into the vault to see what goes on behind-the-scenes. While downtown, make a quick side trip to the Angels Flight Railway, a rebuilt historic incline railway also featured in *La La Land*.

Beachwood Canyon



WHERE TO SPOT CELEBRITIES

Trying to spot Hollywood stars in Los Angeles is comparable to going whale watching — you can search and search with no guarantee of a sighting ... and then boom, there they are when you're not looking! Here are some popular spots you can visit that will up your chances of seeing a familiar face in the crowd.

BRENTWOOD COUNTRY MART

This chic, family-friendly cluster of boutiques and eateries on the Westside between Santa Monica and Pacific Palisades are popular with stars such as Reese Witherspoon, Ben Affleck, Jennifer Garner and Alessandra Ambrosio.

RUNYON CANYON

A 160-acre park in Hollywood, Runyon Canyon offers the opportunity for a sweat-inducing workout and the chance to see fit stars (often with their dogs) including Justin Timberlake, Jessica Biel, Natalie Portman, Orlando Bloom, Justin Bieber, Channing Tatum and Alexander Skarsgard. While it's considered a bit of a cliché among locals and there are far better hikes around the city, trekking up Runyon is a good way to nail your workout goals and star-spotting ambitions in one.

CRAIG'S

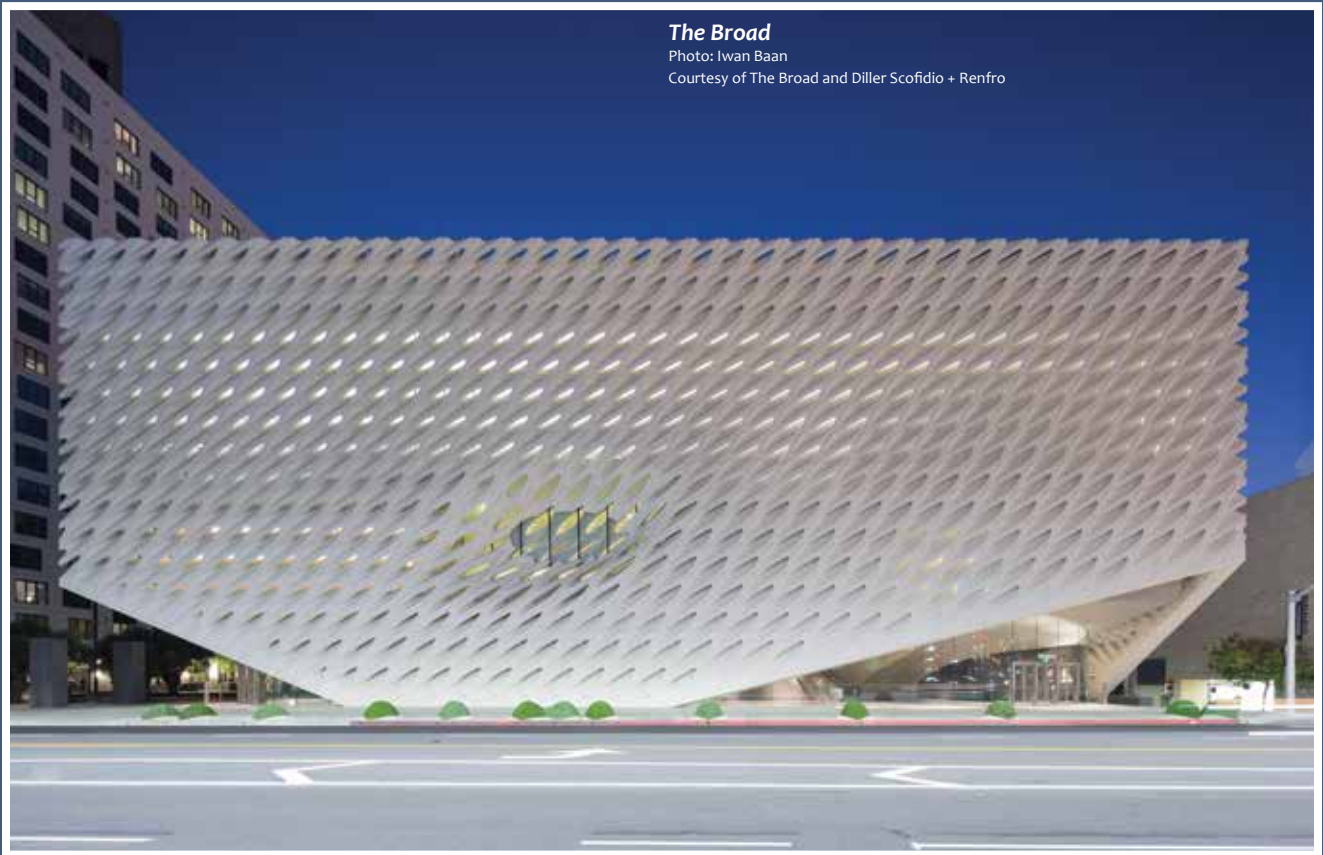
This high-end steakhouse by restaurateur Craig Susser is also hopping with Hollywood stars — from entertainment staples like Mariah Carey to young reality stars such as Kendall Jenner.

FOUR SEASONS BEVERLY HILLS

This beautiful hotel tucked away on Doheny Drive is brimming with celebrities any time of the year as it often hosts press junkets for new movies. However, if you visit during Oscar or Golden Globes weekend, you're bound to bump into a future award winner in the lobby.

ACE HOTEL

Downtown L.A. is on the rise, and there's no better example of that than the Ace Hotel, which boasts a swanky rooftop packed with hipsters, musicians and models (Matt Damon and Jennifer Lawrence are among the A-listers who have hung out there). If you want some culture with your cocktail, check out a show or musical act at the Theatre at the Ace Hotel.



The Broad

Photo: Iwan Baan

Courtesy of The Broad and Diller Scofidio + Renfro

EQUINOX IN WEST HOLLYWOOD

A more sophisticated way to sweat/star spot is to workout at Equinox's trendy West Hollywood location, where countless A-listers are members and can be seen diligently lifting weights or pounding on the treadmill. Observant movie-goers will have spotted the club in a scene from the *Entourage* movie as well. However, you have to be a member or be invited by one as a guest to visit the club as it is not open to the public for drop-ins.

THE NICE GUY

Inspired by *Good Fellas* and run by the h.wood Group (who're also behind *Bootsy Bellows* and *Delilah*), the Nice Guy was an instant hit with Hollywood elite when it opened in 2014. It has since gone from strength to sharply-dressed strength and has remained popular with the Kardashians, Justin Bieber, Drake and even Kanye West. Reservations are needed and walk-ins are not welcome.