Santa Monica Beach and Pier Day

What better way to kick off your college career than to spend a relaxing day at one of the most iconic beaches in Southern California—Santa Monica! Here you will have a chance to explore the beach, tan on the sand, take a dip in the ocean, go on a ferris wheel and other rides on the famous Santa Monica Pier, ride a bike along the coast, or just hang out with your peers and peer mentors on the shore. This trip is a great way to acquaint yourself with a SoCal landmark while getting to know your peers against the gorgeous backdrop of the Pacific Ocean.

Activity level: Low to Moderate

Surfing

Surf’s up at Santa Monica! Join us in a private surfing lesson on the coast of Santa Monica to learn one of the most popular pasttimes in California. You will be divided into groups with attentive instructors who will teach you the basics of how to catch a wave. In addition, you will have time to put your new skills to the test in the Pacific Ocean. No worries, the majority of people are guaranteed to stand up on a surfboard by the end of the session!

Activity level: High

L.A. County Museum of Art (LACMA)

LACMA is a must visit in Los Angeles for many folks and for good reason. LACMA is the largest art museum in the western United States, with a collection that includes over 120,000 objects dating from antiquity to the present, encompassing the geographic world and nearly the entire history of art. Their expansive collection also includes an artwork by one of The Claremont Colleges’ very own alum, James Turrell. Fun fact: James Turrell also has an installation called Sky Space on Pomona College’s campus that you may walk past on your way to class. LACMA’s current featured exhibits include Islamic Art Now: Contemporary art of the Middle East, African Textiles and Adornment, and Urban Light.

Activity level: Low to Moderate

Aquarium of the Pacific

The Aquarium of the Pacific features 19 major habitats and 32 focus exhibits and is home to more than 11,000 ocean animals, representing nearly 500 species of one of the planet’s largest and most diverse body of water: the Pacific Ocean. Their current exhibitions include jellies, lorikeet forest, and the shark lagoon where you can actually touch some of the sharks!

Activity level: Low to Moderate

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden+Herbal Medicine Workshop
The Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden is a true hidden gem within 15 minutes walking distance from campus. Nestled at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains that form the backdrop of Claremont, the garden is the largest botanic garden dedicated to California native plants. On this trip you will have an exclusive tour of the garden as well as an interactive workshop focused on learning about, connecting with, and harnessing the energetic properties of plants. You can expect to leave with knowledge of the native plants in the area, a profound respect for the wonders of plant medicine, tinctures and flower essences to help with stress, anxiety, and emotional and spiritual shifts during times of change, as well as skills necessary to extract flower essences and tinctures. This trip is truly unique in that it is a one-of-a-kind introduction to botanical elements of the environment that are often overlooked yet are profoundly beautiful and healing to those who take the time to appreciate them.

Activity level: Low

**Indoor Rock Climbing**

On this trip you will receive a lesson on rock climbing basics, safety precautions, how to belay, and how to work the belay ropes for a friend! You will have plenty of time to put your skills to the test in Sender One’s world class, 25,000-square-feet climbing facility. In addition, the gym is one-of-a-kind in offering the nation’s first and only Funtopia, which is an interactive climbing center where you can scale buildings, towers, faces, or race your friends to the top.

Activity level: High

**Los Angeles Union Station Exploration**

One of the biggest perks of Claremont is its unbeatable location in sunny Southern California and within driving distance to the beach, mountains, and the bustling city of Los Angeles. On this trip you will take the Metrolink to the historic Union Station in downtown Los Angeles. There, you can explore the area’s cultural centers, including colorful Olvera Street, Avila Adobe (the oldest standing residence in Los Angeles), the Chinese American Museum, the Museum of Social Justice, the Sepulveda House, and the America Tropical Interpretive Center. This dose of culture, art, and history distilled through the times makes Olvera Street and its surrounding areas a must visit location in Los Angeles.

Activity level: Moderate to High