



STEM STUDY TOURS

TRAVEL WITH PURPOSE

Tour: L.A. STEM
Destination: Los Angeles, California
Itinerary: 6-days / 5-nights
Specialization: Biology, Oceanography, Botany, Astronomy, Paleontology, Technology, Natural History, History & Culture
Dates: Year-round

L.A. STEM				
Day	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	
1	Travel to Los Angeles, California; transfer to hotel and check-in	Welcome, Safety & Orientation Meeting	Welcome Dinner	Hollywood/Sunset/Santa Monica Street Tour
2	California Science Center, Space Shuttle Endeavor Pavilion & IMAX	Heal the Bay - Aquarium Master Class Tour & Environmental Speaker	Santa Monica Pier - Dinner & Amusements	
3	La Brea Tar Pits, Excavator Tour & Page Museum	UCLA Campus Visit	Rodeo Drive & Dinner	Griffith Observatory & Planetarium
4	Hollywood Walking Tour - Redline	Universal Studios Hollywood + Stunts & Pyrotechnics Master Tour OR Special Effects Technical Master Tour	Dinner on own at Universal's City Walk	
5	Cal-State University Shark Lab Tour	L.A. Natural History Museum, Private Tour & 3D Cinema Experience	Farewell Dinner	Disney's El Capitan Theatre Hollywood
6	Free time until departure	Depart Los Angeles for home		



As with all sample itineraries, please be advised that this is an 'example' of a schedule and that the activities and hotels shown may be variable dependent upon dates, weather, special requests and other factors. Itineraries will be confirmed prior to travel.



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Day 1

Dinner included

Travel to Los Angeles, California arriving in the late afternoon. After check-in, we'll have our **Welcome, Safety & Orientation meeting** and get settled in.

Los Angeles... The undisputed entertainment capital of the world, the City of Angeles invented the magic of movies and television. Discover L.A.'s vibrant regions, incredible diversity of cultures, attractions, hotels, restaurants, museums, and activities; not to mention L.A.'s stunning beaches, picturesque mountains and year-round warm weather when planning your school trip in the City of Angels.

Sample Hotel: The Freehand Los Angeles - Historically Unique - Distinctively Local - For a New Generation of Travelers! Housed in the historic Commercial Exchange building, this hotel in downtown Los Angeles is truly one-of-a-kind featuring enhanced bedding, room service, along with convenient valet and attentive bellman ready to give you a hand. Hotel amenities include complimentary Wi-Fi. 24-hour front desk, multilingual staff, daily housekeeping services, rooftop pool & bar, full-service restaurant, specialty coffee bar, Saturday poolside yoga and more.



After arriving, we'll get checked-in to our hotel and then once we are settled in our rooms, have our Welcome, Safety & Orientation Meeting. Later in the evening, we'll have our welcome dinner at the Hard Rock Café in Hollywood!

Day 2

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Rise and shine Los Angeles! This morning we will be learning about the Los Angeles County water systems and marine environment. In the afternoon, we will be visiting the amazing California Science Center!

Heal the Bay Aquarium + Marine Master Class & Environmental Speaker Presentation

– Heal the Bay is an environmental organization dedicated to making the coastal waters and watersheds of Greater Los Angeles safe, healthy and clean. The more we learn about something we love, the more we're inspired to protect it. Their award-winning educational program transforms students of all ages into inquisitive, enthusiastic ambassadors for the ocean. In this program, students will meet at the Heal the Bay Aquarium for a specialized 2-hour Master Class focusing on the Marine Science environment. Later, an environmental science educator will join us to deliver an interactive, fact-filled presentation on the story of Southern California's water system and the causes of—and solutions to—marine pollution (stormwater and pollution prevention).



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California Science Center - The California Science Center offers hands-on experiences to learn about human inventions and innovations, the life processes of living things and more. Your group visit will include an IMAX film, a pass to the Endeavor pavilion, plus entry into all standard wings. The facility spans more than 400,000 sq. feet and includes four major exhibit areas. World of Life probes the commonalities of the living world, from the single-celled bacterium to the 100-trillion-celled human being; Creative World examines the ways people employ technology to meet their needs for transportation, communication and structures; and Ecosystems features an unprecedented blend of nearly 400 species of live plants and animals, and hands-on exhibits in 11 immersive environments. Ecosystems highlights include a 188,000-gallon kelp tank populated with live kelp, fish, and other marine life, a desert flash flood, and a special gallery dedicated to the urban ecology of Los Angeles. The [Space Shuttle Endeavour](#) guests are able to see and discover some of the science behind this amazing space vehicle while the Oschin Pavilion also features SPACEHAB, a workshop for astronauts while in space, and a space shuttle main engine (SSME) which helped push the shuttle into orbit. [VIDEO](#)



Before entering the Pavilion, guests will be able to enjoy an introductory experience, Endeavour Together: Parts & People, which celebrates Endeavour, the space shuttle program, and the people who helped make the program possible. The exhibit also highlights the shuttle program's strong connection to California, where all the orbiters were built. Endeavour Together includes the Rocketdyne Operations Support Center (ROSC), which monitors the initial segment of every shuttle launch, Endeavour's space potty and galley, the nose cone from a space shuttle external tank, and the tires from STS-134, Endeavour's final mission. In addition to the orbiter, this unique collection of Air and Space Exhibits explores the design of aircraft, spacecraft, and space probes for specific tasks by applying the principles of air, space, and flight.

This evening we will head back out to where our day originally started, at the Santa Monica Pier, for dinner and fun! **Students will want to bring extra funds for rides and amusements.**

Santa Monica Pier – Santa Monica is home to the famous Santa Monica Pier with its historic carousel and Pacific Park Amusement Park, the outdoor, pedestrian-oriented Third Street Promenade, the panoramic coastline and beach, beautiful parks, and more than 400 restaurants and four distinct shopping districts!



Day 3

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Good morning California! Today, we are in for viewing some amazing research. We'll start with the world-famous La Brea Tar Pits and then carry on to the fabulous UCLA campus!

La Brea Tar Pits - Right in the heart of L.A. sits the world's most powerful gateway to the Ice Age. The asphalt seeps at La Brea Tar Pits are the only active urban fossil dig site in the world. Plants and animals from the last 50,000 years are discovered here every day. Outside, you can watch excavators carve fossils out of the asphalt. Inside the museum, the staff prepares these discoveries in the see-through Fossil Lab. You'll see the final result in the exhibitions: extraordinary saber-toothed cats, mammoths, dire wolves, and mastodons, as well as the tiny, but scientifically significant, microfossils of insects, plants, mammals, and reptiles. The Tar Pits help us understand life around Wilshire Boulevard long before we got here, and what lies ahead as climate and habitats continue to change.



Excavator Tour – While visiting, our groups will participate in an Excavator Tour. Explore how excavators and scientists find fossils and then piece together Ice Age L.A. This guided tour will take a deeper look into the Fossil Lab, Lake Pit, Observation Pit, and Project 23. Start at the Fossil Lab where you will see the scientists at work on everything from Zed, the near-complete Columbian mammoth, to tiny microfossils. Get the inside story of the famous Lake Pit, step inside the Observation Pit to see what a tar pit looks like, and discover what scientists are finding right now at Project 23, an active dig site.

Additionally, groups will get an opportunity to visit the 3D theatre.

Titans of the Ice Age - Journey to a world lost in time, buried in ice, and ruled by giants. In this exciting 3D adventure, narrated by Christopher Plummer, discover an icy world on the brink of extinction, where humans share the frozen tundra with majestic beasts. Encounter some of the Earth's most awe-inspiring mammals, from saber-toothed cats and dire wolves to giant sloths and the iconic mammoths that lived 10,000 years before modern civilization. [VIDEO LINK](#)



Next, we will visit UCLA!

The University of California Los Angeles – “For nearly 100 years, UCLA has been a pioneer, preserving through impossibility, turning the futile into the attainable. We doubt the critics, reject the status quo and see opportunity in dissatisfaction. Our campus, faculty and students are driven by optimism. It is not naïve; it is essential. And it has fueled every accomplishment, allowing us to redefine what's possible, time after time.



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This can-do perspective has brought UCLA 14 Nobel Prizes, 15 MacArthur Fellows, 118 NCAA titles and 261 Olympic medals. The faculty and alumni helped create the Internet and pioneered reverse osmosis. And more than 140 companies have been created based on technology developed at UCLA.

“What inspires MacArthur Fellows and Rhodes Scholars? What gave Jackie Robinson the courage to become the first African American in Major League Baseball? What was the catalyst that spurred Vint Cerf and Leonard Kleinrock's dream of the Internet? **The answer is optimism. And it is in our DNA.** It is what enables us to push forward and redefine what's possible. It pervades our focus on education, research and service and, in turn, opens limitless opportunities to every student. And through its eye-opening lens, we see beyond the classroom, allowing us to engage with the world right now. As UCLA moves onward, we leverage our history to define our future. Every achievement and breakthrough we have made justifies our optimism, calling us to build upon our past. And as we near the end of a century of excellence, we steadfastly pursue future endeavors with the same optimism that brought us here. **This is UCLA. These are the grounds of optimism.**”



[SELF GUIDED TOUR MAP](#)

We will have dinner locally and then make a special visit to the fascinating Griffith Observatory this evening.

Griffith Observatory - Griffith Observatory is an icon of Los Angeles, a national leader in public astronomy and has welcomed over 81 million visitors. The Observatory is located on the southern slope of Mount Hollywood in Griffith Park and is 1,134 feet above sea level. The Observatory is one of the most popular informal education facilities in the United States and the most-visited public observatory in the world (with 1.5 million visitors a year). Griffith Observatory is a unique hybrid of public observatory, planetarium, and exhibition space. Fulfilling the Observatory's goal of "visitor as observer," free public telescope viewing is available each evening skies are clear and the building is open. While here our groups are free to roam where they wish but may we suggest participating in at least of the following incredible shows (features subject to change, one show is included in costs):

- ✚ **Centered in the Universe** in the Samuel Oschin Planetarium - We often imagine ourselves at the center of things. That includes our place in the universe, ever since the first people looked up at the sky. Even as our scientific observation has shown the cosmos does not revolve around us, our ongoing investigations continue to keep us Centered in the Universe. The premiere show in the Samuel Oschin Planetarium uses state-of-the-art all-dome technologies to weave a story that transports audiences from familiar constellations to cosmic destinations beyond everyday experience. Every show is presented by a live, engaging, knowledgeable storyteller, supported by a Zeiss Universarium Mark IX star projector and all-dome digital animation projected through two Digistar 3 digital laser projectors from Evans & Sutherland. Centered in the Universe creates a sense of awe and wonder as it reveals our ever-expanding universe and the changing stories we have told ourselves about our place within it.



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- ✚ **Light of the Valkyries** in the Samuel Oschin Planetarium - Light of the Valkyries takes us on a voyage of Viking cosmology and explores the true nature of the aurora borealis - the northern lights. The Vikings believed the northern lights were Valkyries, warrior spirits who descended from heaven to take fallen heroes from the battlefield to Valhalla, the palace of the gods. Explore the source of the northern lights (the Sun) in a cosmic light show set to one of the most iconic pieces of music of all time, Wagner's Ride of the Valkyries.
- ✚ **The Once and Future Griffith Observatory** in the Leonard Nimoy Event Horizon Theater - The Once and Future Griffith Observatory provides an exciting and compelling introduction to the history and unique public offerings of the Observatory. This 24-minute film, entertainingly narrated by Leonard Nimoy, reveals how the vision of one man led to the creation of an architectural, cultural, and astronomical icon for southern California.



Day 4

Breakfast included; lunch & dinner on own

Hello So-Cal! After breakfast, we'll kick off with a special Hollywood-Behind-the-Scenes walking tour. We can't come to L.A. without checking out Hollywood, right?

Hollywood Behind-the-Scenes Walking Tour - Anyone can walk Hollywood Boulevard, but Hollywood Behind-the-Scenes is more than just a walk, it's an exploration of Hollywood's secrets. Visit movie locations that starred A-List Celebrities, visit legendary movie palaces, find your favorite Celebrity's star as we walk the Walk of Fame, view the Hollywood Sign, and visit celebrities' favorite hidden hideaways and more. Go inside places normally closed to the public and place your feet onto your favorite celebrity's footprints at the Chinese theater. This amazing Redline tour changes Hollywood from ordinary to extra-ordinary!



Afterwards, if off to Universal Studios Theme Park, for STEM study of course!

Universal Studios Hollywood – Find a day of action-packed entertainment all in one place at Universal Studios Hollywood! With thrilling park rides and shows, a real working movie studio and top Los Angeles' shops, restaurants and cinema at CityWalk, Universal Studios Hollywood is a unique experience that's fun for everyone. Witness real sets from some of your favorite movies on the world-famous Studio Tour; experience hair-raising thrills and heart-pounding surprises on rides like Mummy thrill coaster and the Jurassic Park 80-foot raft plunge! It's a day of fun not to be missed!



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While visiting, we will engage in one specialty Master Class tour which will be chosen by the trip leader prior to travel. Current options include:

- ✚ **Stunts & Pyrotechnics Master Class Tour** - Research and observe the fascinating secrets behind the stunts and pyrotechnics of WaterWorld® in a special on-site class. With the assistance of a technician, students will research the secrets behind the stunts and special effects of WaterWorld®, including discovering the mystery of the Sea plane landing, the Mariner Jet Ski entrance & the practical application of the soundboard operations. Students utilize observations, mathematical equations and operations, critical thinking, problem solving and scientific methodologies throughout the lesson. This tour is ideal for students to see practical uses for physics or math in the “real world.”
- ✚ **Special Effects Technical Tour** - Experience the technology behind some of your favorite box office hits at the famous Special Effects Stage at Universal Studios Hollywood, where industry professionals take students through the secrets of Hollywood. Students will experience the technical secrets of Hollywood with a behind-the-scenes view of how technology impacts the way movies are made. Students will learn about elements to moviemaking such as stunt work, Foley effects, Motion Capture photography and digital imagery. With the assistance of a professional Theatrical Team, students receive an in-depth tour both backstage and on-stage, and get a detailed view into motion picture production.

This evening, **dinner will be on your own at the park** so you can enjoy a full evening of fun. As group walk-in reservations will not be possible, if you would like us to book a formal dinner for your group to dine at one time, please alert us. In this instance we would recommend [Buca di Beppo](#) or [Bubba Gump Shrimp Company](#), both housed at Universal’s CityWalk, for a great group experience.

Day 5

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Rise and shine California! It’s time to learn about sharks. We’re going to take a special tour at Cal State University this morning. In the afternoon, we’ll wrap up the Natural History Museum and then round out our final night at Disney’s El Capitan Theatre!



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California State University Shark Lab – Join Dr. Chris Lowe and his team to learn about the incredible work going on at Cal State’s Shark Lab. The university offers a master’s degree in Biology through the Shark Lab. The mission of the Shark Lab is to study the physiological and behavioral ecology of marine animals, emphasizing the effect of human activity on the ocean; to utilize and develop innovative technology to answer challenging questions important for the conservation and restoration of depleted populations; and to train the next generation of marine biologists. Dr. Lowe often speaks on a range of marine science topics including sharks, shark attacks, stingrays, fishing, fisheries, marine protected areas and general marine biology. While here, we will tour the amazing facilities and start to understand about sharks and biology, but also understand what it takes to be accepted as a student in a program like this. Get ready to be educated!



L.A. Natural History Museum & Master Class - Explore L.A. and the world at NHM—dinosaurs, gems and minerals, gardens, Latin American treasures, and beloved dioramas to name a few. Discoveries are made here every day—by scientists, historians, and you! While visiting, schools will enjoy a Guided Tour, a 3D Theatre experience, plus an Educational Master Class. Teacher will pick one of the following Master Class options prior to travel:



- ✚ **URBAN CARNIVORES** - Discover the carnivores that share our city! Learn about a local mammal and work together to craft a solution to the real-world challenges it is facing today. Located in our exhibitions. 45–60 minutes, indoors.
- ✚ **BACKYARD BIODIVERSITY** - Experience the biodiversity of Los Angeles! Survey for insects then identify and record collected specimens to reveal the diversity that surrounds us. Located in the Nature Gardens; weather dependent. 45–50 minutes, outdoors.

In the evening, we’ll have our farewell dinner and then we’re off to catch a movie at a very special place!

Disney’s El Capitan Theatre Hollywood - El Capitan Theatre is a landmark ‘movie palace’ in Hollywood that features exhibits and stage shows along with the latest Disney movie screenings. It is a fully restored movie palace originally built in the 1920s by real estate developers Charles Toberman and Sid Grauman, also the builders of Hollywood’s Egyptian & Chinese theatres. Stars of the stage attended the opening of the El Capitan



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Theatre, the largest legitimate theatre in Hollywood in 1926, filling the 1,550-seat theatre dubbed "**Hollywood's First Home of Spoken Drama**".



In 1941, the El Capitan Theatre was converted from a playhouse to a movie theatre. Searching for a theatre in Hollywood to premiere his controversial film, CITIZEN KANE, Orson Welles rented the El Capitan. In 1989, the Walt Disney Company joined forces with Pacific Theatres and launched a restoration of The El Capitan, achieving the goal to recreate the original 1926 look and feel including original design elements such as the ornate plasterwork and the opera boxes in the main auditorium. The theatre reopened its doors to the public in 1991 for the world premiere of Walt Disney Pictures' THE ROCKETEER, becoming the first of many Walt Disney Pictures feature films to premiere at the El Capitan Theatre.

Day 6

Breakfast (dependent upon departure times)

Good morning Los Angeles! After breakfast, it's off to the airport or coach-ride home. We're hoping that you are inspired and taking home wonderful memories that will last a lifetime! If you would like to add in any last-minute stops, simply enquire with your Ambassador who will make sure you are set up for success.

California
find yourself here



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Want to add on days to your itinerary? Here are some suggestions:

Please remember though, the general Los Angeles metro area is very spread out and spans a long reach. Added activities will impact transportation costs so please let us know your thoughts and we will help you to create the perfect itinerary for your group.

[Animal Tracks](#)
[Cabrillo Marine Aquarium](#)
[Catalina Island Excursion](#)
[Channel Islands Maritime Museum – Oxnard](#)
[Flight Path Museum at LAX](#)
[Gibbon Conservation Center](#)
[Hornblower Dinner Cruise in Marina del Ray](#)
[Knott's Berry Farm Theme Park](#)
[Los Angeles Zoo](#)
[Medieval Times Dinner Theatre & Tournament](#)
[Melting Pot Food Tours – Pasadena](#)
[Music Master Classes – Musician's Institute](#)
[Newport Landing Whale Watching Tours](#)
[Pirates Dinner Theatre](#)
[Six Flags Magic Mountain Theme Park](#)
[Sony Studios Tour](#)
[Spend the Night on the Queen Mary](#)
[The Getty Museum of Los Angeles](#)
[Rodeo Drive Walking Tour](#)
[Theatre/Drama Master Classes – Stella Adler Academy of Acting](#)
[Walt Disney Concert Hall - Tour](#)



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L.A. STEM - CALIFORNIA

Minimum Booking Numbers:

20 students

What's Included:

Round-trip flights or motorcoach transfers
5-nights' accommodation
Breakfasts & dinners daily starting with dinner on arrival (with the exception of dinner on Day 4) and ending with breakfast on departure (dependent upon departure time)
Transportation for programmed activities (mainly via metro) & coach airport transfers
Heal the Bay & Aquarium – Marine Master Class Tour & Environmental Speaker Presentation
California Science Center with Endeavor Pavilion admission and IMAX
Santa Monica Pier excursion
La Brea Tar Pits with Excavator Tour & 3D Experience
UCLA Campus Visit
Griffith Observatory & Planetarium with 1 show included
Hollywood Walking Tour with Redline
Universal Studios Hollywood Theme Park
Universal Studios Pyrotechnics or Special Effects Master Tour
California State University – Shark Lab Tour
L.A. Natural History Museum & Master Class
Disney's El Capitan Theatre
Personal Tour Ambassador
Fund-a-Forest: A tree is planted in the name of each guest
Dollar\$ For Scholars: \$2 donation in the name of each guest
24-hour emergency cover

What's Not Included:

Dinner on Day 4
Lunches and other meals/snacks not shown in itinerary
Fully comprehensive insurance (mandatory)
Transfers to/from home airport
Transportation for activities not shown in the itinerary
Cost of visas, full or collective passports
Cost of inoculations or medication required for travel
Sightseeing / Entertainment Options not shown in Itinerary
Hotel incidental deposits & bills – meals, mini-bar items, recreation charges, purchases billed to room, etc.
Any gratuities – drivers, hotel services, dive instructors, boat captain and hand tips, ambassador

As always, our staff are always available to you to answer any questions you may have regarding programming. If we may serve you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.



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