

# LA STORIES

## Happy Birthday, Hollywood!

On December 8, 1923, in the hills above the home of Los Angeles' film industry, a massive white sign saying 'Hollywoodland' was lit up for the first time. Erected by a real estate company, it was to become the most famous billboard in the world - with the word 'land' being removed during renovation in the 1940s.

For its 100th birthday, it's had a fresh lick of white paint, and the plan is to reilluminate it - using projected light - on the anniversary date. Hollywood Hikes has a 2.5-hour walking tour which takes you as close as you can get to the sign (Hollywoodhikesla.com, £20pp).

## Go Barbie girl in Venice Beach

Images of Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling in lurid, 80s-style neon lycra, rollerblading along Venice Beach in a scene for the Barbie movie are bound to bring visitors to this cult hangout.

The area is a heady mix of street art, laid-back beachfront, and cool cafes, bars and restaurants. Make a beeline for Abbot Kinney Boulevard, lined with indie boutiques and hotspots like

There's a lot going on in Barbie's 'hood as it celebrates the Hollywood sign's 100th birthday, says **Laura Millar**

Salt & Straw, for the best ice cream in LA (saltandstraw.com) or try a walking tour of Venice to reveal the history and hidden corners of this hip neighbourhood, (around £55pp, bikesandhikesla.com).

## Park and ride(s)

LA's theme parks are having a moment; this year Warner Bros turned 100, as does Disney, and Universal Studios has

just launched Super Nintendo World. Take a Warner Bros studio tour to learn all about the practical side of moviemaking, see the sets where Gilmore Girls and Big Bang Theory were made, and get a photo on the sofa in front of the Friends' fountain (£56, wbstudiotour.com).

Next, dive into the toadstool-filled surrounds of Mario, Luigi and Princess Peach at Universal; take the interactive Mario Kart: Bowser's Challenge and see how many gold coins you can bag on a race for the winning cup (one-day admission from £87, universalstudioshollywood.com).

## Museum madness

As well as entertainment, LA can also do culture; check out the recently opened Academy Museum of Motion

Pictures, dedicated to the history of film-making. Ever-changing exhibits about costume, screen-writing, set design and more include the likes of how The Godfather was filmed, a homage to Spanish filmmaker Pedro



Almodóvar and the making of Casablanca. Grab the opportunity to film your own Oscar acceptance video (clutching an actual Oscar) and don't miss the sight of Bruce, one of the only remaining models of the shark from Jaws (tickets £20, academymuseum.org).

## Getting there:

Return flights from London to Los Angeles from £400, virginatlantic.com. Rooms at the oh-so-hip-it-hurts Mama Shelter in the Vinyl District from £164 pp, mamashelter.com.



## DUBAI #1 POPULAR DESTINATION IN THE WORLD



DISCOVER MORE

**5★ Hilton Dubai Jumeirah** 3nts BB from **£565** pp  
• Save up to 35% • Kids Stay & Eat for FREE\*

**5★ Andaz Dubai The Palm** 3nts HB from **£575** pp  
• Save up to 35% • FREE Half Board • Kids Stay & Eat for FREE\*

**5★ Marriott Resort Palm Jumeirah Dubai** EXCLUSIVE 3nts HB from **£625** pp  
• Save up to 35% • FREE Room Upgrade\* • FREE Half Board Dine Around\* • Kids Stay on All-Inclusive for FREE\*

**5★ JA Palm Tree Court** 3nts HB from **£659** pp  
• Save up to 60% • FREE Half Board • Kids Stay & Eat for FREE\*

**5★ W Dubai The Palm** EXCLUSIVE 3nts HB from **£665** pp  
• Save up to 48% • FREE Half Board • Kids Stay & Eat for FREE\*

**5★ Le Meridien Mina Seyahi Beach Resort & Waterpark** 3nts HB from **£669** pp  
• Save up to 50% • Kids Stay & Eat for FREE\* • FREE Half Board Dine Around\* • FREE Unlimited Access to Jungle Bay Waterpark\*

**5★ Sofitel Dubai The Palm** 3nts HB from **£685** pp  
• Save up to 62% • FREE Half Board • FREE Room Upgrade\* • Kids Stay & Eat for FREE\* • AED 200 Spa Voucher per stay\*

**5★ Atlantis, The Palm, Dubai** 3nts HB from **£1,065** pp  
• Save up to 40% • Kids Stay & Dine for FREE\* • FREE Half Board Dine Around\* • Access to World's Largest Waterpark\*

## INDIA

**Golden Triangle**  
• Delhi • Agra • Jaipur  
8 days / 6 nights BB from **£999** pp

## FAR EAST

**5★ The Ritz Carlton Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**  
3nts BB from **£805** pp  
• Save up to 10% • FREE Room Upgrade\*

**5★ Anantara Hua Hin Resort & Spa, Thailand**  
7nts BB from **£809** pp  
• Save up to 30%

**4★ Candi Beach Resort & Spa, Bali, Indonesia**  
7nts BB from **£1,085** pp  
• Save up to 10% • FREE One 60 Minute Spa Treatment\*

**USA, CARIBBEAN & MEXICO**

**4★ The Lexington New York City, Autograph Collection, USA**  
3nts RO from **£799** pp  
• Discounted Prices

**5★ Barceló Bávaro Palace, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, Caribbean**  
7nts AI from **£1,129** pp  
• Save up to 30%

**4★ Wyndham Alltra Cancun All Inclusive Resort, Mexico**  
7nts AI from **£1,135** pp  
• Discounted Prices

## TURKEY & GREECE

**5★ Rixos Pera Istanbul, Turkey**  
5nts BB from **£659** pp  
• Discounted Prices

**5★ St. Nicolas Bay Resort Hotel & Villas, Crete, Greece**  
7nts HB from **£1,095** pp  
• Save up to 30%

## MALDIVES

from only **£1,219** pp

Coco Palm Dhuni Kolhu

**4★ Coco Palm Dhuni Kolhu** 7nts FB from **£1,219** pp  
• Save up to 50% • FREE Full Board

**4★ Adaaran Club Rannalhi** 7nts AI from **£1,395** pp  
• Save up to 30% • Kids Stay & Eat for FREE\*

**5★ Villa Nautica, Paradise Island** 7nts FB from **£1,479** pp  
• Save up to 25% • FREE Full Board • FREE One-Way Transfer\*

## INDIAN OCEAN

from only **£959** pp

Royal Palms Beach Hotel, Sri Lanka

**5★ Royal Palms Beach Hotel, Sri Lanka** 7nts BB from **£959** pp  
• Stay 7, Pay 6 Nights

**4★ Zilwa Attitude, Mauritius** 7nts AI from **£1,255** pp  
• Save up to 10%

**5★ Story Seychelles** 7nts BB from **£1,445** pp  
• Save up to 30%



Call us today free on **0800 408 8021** or visit **southalltravel.co.uk**

**Southall Travel**

scan for LATEST EXCLUSIVE OFFERS



Prices shown are per person based on sharing a twin/double room including return flights. Correct at the time of publishing. \*All prices and offers are subject to change and are extremely limited. ~All Kids & Teens offers are valid when staying with paying adults, number, age restrictions apply. Terms and Conditions apply. All prices and offers are based on selected departure dates in Aug'23, Aug-Sep'23, Aug-Oct'23, Sep'23, Sep-Oct'23, Sep-Dec'23, Oct'23, Oct-Nov'23, Nov'23, Jan-Mar'24, May'24. Supplements on request for travel from regional airports, upgraded flights/room types and longer durations. Tours includes flight, transfers and sightseeing.