

Getty News

VISITING THE GETTY CENTER



LOS ANGELES—High on a hilltop in the Santa Monica Mountains off the 405 Freeway in the Sepulveda Pass, the 110-acre Getty Center has attracted more than 20 million visitors since opening in December 1997. Designed by architect Richard Meier, the Getty Center houses the J. Paul Getty Museum, the Getty Research Institute, the Getty Conservation Institute, and the Getty Foundation.

Public areas of the campus include the Museum, a full-service restaurant, two cafes, Museum stores, and the 450-seat Harold M. Williams Auditorium. The gallery and library of the Getty Research Institute are also open to the public.

Eighty-six acres of landscaped gardens and terraces, including the Central Garden designed by artist Robert Irwin, provide sweeping views of the Los Angeles basin, the mountains, the ocean, and the surrounding 600 acres preserved in their natural state.

Admission to the Getty Center is free, and no reservations are required. Parking rates vary.



Tram

Visitors enter the Getty Center from Sepulveda Boulevard through Getty Center Drive.

Once they park their cars, they take a tram three-quarters of a mile to the top of the hill. Along the winding, tree-lined tram route, they can see Century City, downtown Los Angeles, Westwood, UCLA, the San Diego Freeway, and Mount St. Mary's College. The driverless, computer operated tram ride takes about five minutes. The Getty's trams are emission-free and glide on a cushion of air generated by electric blowers. Each of the two three-car trams has room for 100 passengers, is wheelchair accessible, and can transport as many as 1,200 passengers an hour. This is the only tram system of its kind on the West Coast of the United States.

Architecture

From the Getty Center's site in the Santa Monica Mountains, visitors can take in prominent features of the Los Angeles landscape—the Pacific Ocean, the San Gabriel Mountains, and the vast street-grid of the city. Inspired by this interplay, architect Richard Meier sought to design the modernist complex so that it highlights both nature and culture, offering framed panoramic views of the city. Clad in cleft-cut Italian travertine and off-white, enamel-coated aluminum panels, the campus possesses a bright openness and a horizontality reminiscent of such Southern California modernists as Rudolf Schindler, Richard Neutra, and Frank Lloyd Wright, while its curvilinear elements may call to mind the Baroque.

Travertine

Travertine, a variety of limestone, is used throughout the Center. The 1.2 million square feet used as pavement and wall cladding were quarried in Bagni di Tivoli, Italy, 15 miles east of Rome. The stone's rough-cut effect was achieved through a guillotine process developed especially for this project. A total of 290,000 blocks weighing 16,000 tons were required for the project, most of it cut into 30-inch squares. The stone itself is believed to have formed between 8,000 and 80,000 years ago. In the process, organic matter—leaves, branches, fish, even a deer antler—was trapped in the rock. The fossilized remains are visible today on many of the rough-cut wall tiles.

Central Garden

Robert Irwin's 134,000-squarefoot Central Garden was commissioned by the Getty Trust as a work of art. The garden offers visitors constantly changing experiences determined by the weather, the hour of day, the time of year, and the use of seasonal plants. An inviting, tree-lined walkway zigzags across a stream and gradually descends to a plaza where bougainvillea arbors provide scale and a sense of intimacy. The stream culminates in a cascade of water over a stone waterfall or "chadar," into a pool in which a maze of



azaleas appears to float. Around the pool is a series of specialty gardens. All of the foliage and elements of the garden have been selected to accentuate the interplay of light, color, and reflection. While Irwin's plan for the garden sprang from the powerful, controlled geometries of the architecture and from the site itself, he conceived the garden as a conditional work of art. In contrast to the more static nature of the buildings, the Central Garden is always in flux.

The Museum

Five two-story pavilions, clustered around an open courtyard, house changing exhibitions and the J. Paul Getty Museum's expanding permanent collections of pre-20th-century European paintings, drawings, illuminated manuscripts, sculpture, decorative arts, and 19th-, 20th- and 21st-century photographs gathered internationally. Gallery talks, lectures, films, concerts, lively family programs, interactive media, and art demonstrations all enrich the visitor experience of the collection. Visitors can obtain free audio guides, pick up a map, and view a 10-minute orientation film in the Museum's entrance hall. Maps and audio guides are available in Spanish, Italian, French, German, Portuguese, Chinese (Mandarin), Korean, Japanese, and Russian, in addition to English.

The Getty Research Institute

The Research Institute, on the southwest side of the campus, houses a gallery and Research Library that are also open to the public. The recently expanded gallery offers changing exhibitions that highlight the GRI's priceless special collections, consisting of rare archival materials from all major areas of art history, with significant holdings in 19th- and 20th-century materials. The Research 4 Library is the largest art and architectural research library in the world, visited by



scholars from all over the world. The Library's online catalog is accessible through www.getty.edu/gri.

The Getty Store

The Getty Store offers a broad selection of books on art, architecture, art education, cultural studies, history, and regional topics, including a comprehensive selection of Getty Publications. The Store also offers gifts, apparel, stationery, and jewelry, children's items and unique and unusual items for the home, including hand-blown glass and sculptural reproductions.

The Getty Store has several locations at the Getty Center. The Main Store is found just inside the Museum Entrance Hall and offers the widest selection. The Children's Shop in the West Pavilion (Plaza Level) provides a broader selection of books, art and activity kits, toys, games, and other fun, educational items for children and families—as well as the young at heart.

The Center for Photographs Shop in the West Pavilion (Terrace/L2 Level) offers photography-related books and gifts, including frames, apparel, and specialty cameras. The West Pavilion Plaza Shop features our most popular items in addition to a selection related to changing exhibitions in the adjacent

galleries, while the Exhibition Pavilion Shop and Getty Research Institute Shop also offer books and merchandise that complement special exhibitions.

Dining Options

Visitors to the Getty Center enjoy a number of dining options, both indoors and out, with a range of menus and prices:

- **The Cafe** offers a wide variety of hot and cold entrees including international cuisine, grill items, seafood, special salads, pizza and sandwiches in a casual setting. The Cafe also features soft drinks, beer and wine. Visitors may dine in the 265-seat dining room or outdoors on the arbor terrace with views of the mountains and ocean.
- Featuring one of the best views in Los Angeles, the **Restaurant at the Getty Center** offers a fine dining menu for lunch and Saturday night dinner in a simple yet elegant setting. The Restaurant's chefs focus on using the freshest and best ingredients and presenting them beautifully and tastefully. A distinctive wine list and full bar are also available. The 150-seat dining room features Taste, a large mixed-media installation by Los Angeles-based artist Alexis Smith. Reservations are recommended for the Restaurant. Please call 310-440-7300 5 (English or Spanish) for reservations and information.
- The **Garden Terrace Cafe** offers a quick option for visitors to eat a casual meal outdoors. Overlooking the Central Garden, diners can enjoy sandwiches, salads, soup, desserts, soft drinks, and beer and wine.
- **Food and beverage carts** are located in the Museum courtyard and near the main stairs, serving espresso drinks, coffee, tea, soft drinks, juice, wine, beer, sandwiches, salads, soups, and snacks



Picnics

Visitors may bring their own picnics, which they can enjoy in a picnic-table area at the lower tram plaza or on the lawn near the Central Garden, or they may prefer to buy a convenient take-out lunch from the Cafe or food carts to eat on the many terraces and courtyards.

Families

Children are welcome at the Getty Center, and there are many activities for them, including the Family Room, Art Detective cards, and a family-focused audio guide for the Museum. Family festivals and family art activities are offered throughout the summer. Check getty.edu/visit for a calendar of family events and activities.

The Family Room provides a hands-on environment where kids and parents can play and learn together. In the Family Room, kids can stretch out on a luxurious bed just like an 18th-century French aristocrat, draw on a wall-sized illuminated manuscript, build a tube sculpture inspired by the Getty's monumental Martin Puryear installation, explore David Hockney's photography with camera lenses and a wall of mirrors, and much more.

Strollers are available for free on a first-come, first served basis. All restrooms include diaper changing tables. A family restroom, equipped with a private nursing area and a unisex stall, is located in the South Pavilion.



HOW TO VISIT

Hours

Sunday, Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Closed on Mondays and major holidays.

Admission

Admission to the Getty Center is always free. Parking rates vary. Reservations are not required.

Location

The Getty Center is located at 1200 Getty Center Dr., Los Angeles, California 90049. The only public entrance is at the intersection of Getty Center Drive and Sepulveda Boulevard in the Sepulveda Pass.

Parking

Parking rates vary: \$20 10am-3pm; \$15 after 3; \$10 for evening events. There is no parking on neighborhood streets.

Accessibility

Wheelchairs are available for free on a first-come, first-served basis. Assistive listening devices are available for all public programs, talks, and tours. Selected information is available in large print/Braille. Sign language interpretation can be arranged by calling (310) 440-7300 10 days in advance.

Reservations for special events

Reservations are required for special event seating, and groups of 15 or more. Please call 310-440-7300 (English or Spanish) for reservations and information. The TTY line for callers who are deaf or hearing impaired is 310-440-7305. Additional information is available at www.getty.edu.

Visitor information at www.getty.edu or 310-440-7300.

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Getty is a leading global arts organization committed to the exhibition, conservation, and understanding of the world's artistic and cultural heritage. Working collaboratively with partners around the globe, the Getty Foundation, Getty Conservation Institute, Getty Museum and Getty Research Institute are all dedicated to the greater understanding of the relationships between the world's many cultures. The Los Angeles-based J. Paul Getty Trust and Getty programs share art, knowledge, and resources online at Getty.edu and welcome the public for free at the Getty Center and the Getty Villa.

Visiting the Getty Center

The Getty Center is open Tuesday through Friday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Admission to the Getty Center is always free. Parking rates vary. No reservation is required for parking or general admission. Reservations are required for event seating and groups of 15 or more. Please call (310) 440-7300 (English or Spanish) for reservations and information. The TTY line for callers who are deaf or hearing impaired is (310) 440-7305. The Getty Center is at 1200 Getty Center Drive, Los Angeles, California.

Same-day parking at both Museum locations (Getty Center and Getty Villa) is available for one fee through the Getty's Pay Once, Park Twice program. Visit the Museum Information Desk at the Center or the Villa to obtain a coupon good for same-day complimentary parking at the other site.

Additional information is available at www.getty.edu.

Sign up for e-Getty at www.getty.edu/subscribe to receive free monthly highlights of events at the Getty Center and the Getty Villa via e-mail, or visit www.getty.edu for a complete calendar of public programs.