

Public Transportation 101 - Downtown

First of all, have a great time! Secondly, be safe and try not to get *too* lost. Third, try to cross as many of these things off your list you can. And finally, film as much of it as possible! If you think you're getting lost, or if you don't know which street/train/etc. to take, ask somebody (people with nametags often know a lot). If you think something's strange, funny, adorable, film it! Keep in mind though: the point of this exercise is for you to get to know Los Angeles, so feel free to amend these instructions at any point, if you see something cooler happening nearby.

Instructions:

Step #1: Make your way to the Red Line Metro Station at Wilshire and Normandie. Take the train to Union Station. When you get to Union Station, find the main lobby, and then the Alameda Street exit. Find out what train you would take to get to Union Station if you were coming from Azusa (tell your friends!). Grab a few schedules and transit maps while you're there.

Step #2: Cross Alameda Street and look for the B Dash Bus (a little north of Union Station), and board a southbound bus. Make sure you grab a few copies of the DASH schedules when you get on the bus. After you've made the turn onto 5th from Grand, get off the bus. Cross the street walk around to the main entrance of the LA Central Public Library at 5th and Flower. If you have time, get a library card! Also, ask someone why the building across the street is called "library tower" (and film it).

Step #3: Exit the main entrance and cross north back over 5th Street. Go north on Flower Street. What differences do you notice about these different neighborhoods? If you have time, walk into a few of the buildings' lobbies and take a few minutes to note the architecture, people, and businesses in each neighborhood you visit.

Step#4: Walk to the Westin Bonaventure Hotel (@ 4th and Flower) and find out what movies have been filmed there. From there, walk east on 4th and north on Hope until you see the Disney Concert Hall. Find a (legal) way to walk onto the roof.

Step #5: Next, walk south on Hope to 4th street and find the Ketchum Downtown YMCA. Go in and find out about their rates and services (see if they have a student discount!).

Step #6: Next, go east on 2nd street to Grand and walk south to the Museum of Contemporary Art. Find times/prices/exhibits/etc. Keep south on Grand and then a left on 5th Street. Find Pershing Square and enjoy the view for a bit (film anything interesting). If you have some time here, try to finish the discussion questions.

Step #7: Finally, walk east on 6th Street for two blocks, right on Spring Street, and meet up with the rest of the group at Syrup Desserts at 611 South Spring Street.

Remember, when in doubt, film it!

When you're finished with your adventure (or you've successfully filled up your Flip camera), call Ben @ (213) 304-1132 or go straight to **Syrup Desserts (611 South Spring Street, near the intersection of Spring and 6th downtown)

Public Transportation 101 – Hollywood

First of all, have a great time! Secondly, be safe and try not to get *too* lost. Third, try to cross as many of these things off your list you can. And finally, film as much of it as possible! If you think you're getting lost, or if you don't know which street/train/etc. to take, ask somebody (people with nametags often know a lot). If you think something's strange, funny, adorable, film it! Keep in mind though: the point of this exercise is for you to get to know Los Angeles, so feel free to amend these instructions at any point, if you see something cooler happening nearby.

Instructions:

Step #1: Take the 720 Rapid Bus one stop west to Wilshire/Western (or feel free to walk—about 10 min.). Take the Hollywood/Wilshire DASH bus north. (Make sure it's the Hollywood/Wilshire and not the Wilshire Center/Koreatown bus.) The DASH bus is 25¢, so have a quarter ready.

Step #2: Along the way, notice you're surroundings. Not only the people on the bus, but also the communities you drive through. What studio do you pass along the way? (film all of it too!)

Step #3: Get off on the Hollywood and Vine stop. Turn left on Hollywood and walk west on Hollywood Blvd. Visit Yonni's Bistro off Wilcox and Hollywood (good veggie burgers). What types of stores line these streets? Film 5 random things you can buy there. How much do movies cost at the Vine Theater? Who runs the Hollywood Education and Literacy Project? (If you don't already know, go in and ask.)

Step #4: After wandering for a bit, go back to the Hollywood and Vine Metro Red Line Station at Hollywood and Argyle. Along the way, film some art on the walls. Get on a train headed toward Union Station. Get off at Vermont and Sunset. Walk north on Sunset 2 long blocks until you get to Hollywood Blvd. Turn left on Hollywood until you get to the Barnsdall Art Park at 4800 W. Hollywood. Walk up all the stairs and follow the signs to the Gallery Theater. In the admin building, find out what exhibit is showing next in the municipal art gallery. Pick up a brochure for future reference.

Step #5: Wander around the Art Park for a bit (film what you can). When you leave, walk back to Vermont. Take the Metro Rapid 754 bus south to Santa Monica Blvd. Get off at LA City College. Walk around campus for a while. What do you notice about the student body, campus, and buildings? Find out how much it costs per unit at LACC. Find a college paper. How do they all differ from APU? If you have some time here, try to finish the discussion questions.

Step #6: From there, take the Red Line (Vermont/Santa Monica station) to Union Station. Once in Union Station, find the main lobby and the Alameda St. exit. Cross Alameda Street and look for the B Dash Bus (a little north of Union Station), and board a southbound bus. Make sure you grab a few copies of the DASH schedules when you get on the bus. After you've made the turn onto 4th from Grand, get off the bus and walk east on 4th street (4 blocks), then take a right on Spring St. and find Syrup Desserts at 611 South Spring Street (about two blocks down Spring).

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Public Transportation 101 – Miracle Mile/Fairfax

First of all, have a great time! Secondly, be safe and try not to get *too* lost. Third, try to cross as many of these things off your list you can. And finally, film as much of it as possible! If you think you're getting lost, or if you don't know which street/train/etc. to take, ask somebody (people with nametags often know a lot). If you think something's strange, funny, adorable, film it! Keep in mind though: the point of this exercise is for you to get to know Los Angeles, so feel free to amend these instructions at any point, if you see something cooler happening nearby.

Instructions:

Step #1: Exit the LA Regional Center and cross the street on Wilshire. Take Rapid 720 Bus west. What do you notice about the neighborhoods you pass? How do they change? Any interesting landmarks?

Step #2: Get off at Fairfax Blvd. Head east (back to Downtown LA) on Wilshire to Museum Row. Make sure you walk through the sculpture gardens by LACMA. (Film anything interesting.) What exhibits are showing at LACMA right now? Grab a brochure or two. Find the Arts & Crafts Museum. What other stores/restaurants are around there?

Step #3: Walk through the park near the Page Museum. Who is using this public space currently? Take some time to enjoy the park (La Brea Tar Pits). Walk through the park to 6th Street. What do you notice about the people in the park? If you have some time here, try to finish the discussion questions.

Step #4: Before going south on Fairfax, stop off at Mani's Bakery on Maryland/Fairfax and grab a drink, if you wish. Afterwards walk south on Fairfax (to freeway) to the cross streets of Olympic/Fairfax. Welcome to Little Ethiopia. Before a predominantly Jewish family and business community called SoFAX, Little Ethiopia was branded in 2004 by former LA Mayor James Hahn. What languages are on the signs? What types of shops do you see? Go into a store or two. How do these shops differ than ones in Azusa/where you're from?

Step #5: After you've looked around for a bit, catch the 717 northbound bus at Olympic or Pico (and Fairfax) and take it to 3rd Street. What building do you see on the west side of Fairfax at 3rd? What network studio is just north of The Grove? Walk around The Grove for a bit. Take note of the different people in each neighborhood. How do the stores in The Grove differ from the ones you've been passing all day? What do you think the design of The Grove is supposed to evoke? What effect do you think The Grove has had on the surrounding communities?

Step #6: Walk north up Fairfax to Melrose Ave (about 2 major city streets). At the corner of Fairfax and Melrose, check out Greenway Court Theater (if it's open), home of Da' Poetry Lounge, spoken word poetry every Tuesday night.

Step #7: Take the Metro Local 10 east to 4th Street (and Hill Street). Walk south on Hill through Pershing Square and enjoy the lovely encounters with the locals. Take a left on 6th and then a right on Spring St. There you'll find Syrup Desserts at 611 South Spring Street.

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Discussion Questions:

Take some time to get to know your group by sitting down and going over a few of these questions if you get a chance today. Keep in mind that you do not need to share on a topic if you do not want to. At the same time, this is a great opportunity to share with one another and help build community within the group. It takes risks to build trust, so try to be honest and open about these topics, if you feel comfortable.

- Describe your most forgettable birthday

- What was your most powerful and vivid religious or spiritual experience (and it doesn't have to relate to church)?

- What fears do you have growing up? What are your fears today? Any connection? Where do you think they come from?

- Have you ever said "I love you" to someone (clarify: capital L love)? If yes, what was your experience the first moment it came out of your mouth? If no, how would you expect that moment to be?