

on the way to hollywood: The Getty Center

by Mary Barton

One of the architectural attractions of the modern era is The Getty Center, an art museum complex that overlooks Los Angeles, California. Built by oilman J. Paul Getty—one of the wealthiest men in the world during his lifetime—this hilltop Brentwood center was designed by architect Richard Meier. Meier built his reputation around creating structures, including the Getty Center, that are known for their simple, yet arresting, Zen lines of style.

The J. Paul Getty Trust operates the \$1 billion center that consists of six buildings displaying white porcelain, enamel and glass facades. The museum is recognized for its display of pre-20th-century works of art by Rembrandt and Van Gogh, and for its exceptional collection of ancient painted vases and sculpture. The Getty Research Institute, the Getty Conservation Institute, and other institutes dedicated to education, research, art history and museum management are housed on the 124 acres of land.

The property contains magnificent courtyards, covered walkways, fountains, Mexican cypress trees and a cactus garden to the south. Espresso bars, cafes, and musicians replenish the body and spirit while visitors enjoy ancient and modern culture. If you are in the area, consider visiting the museum and attending one of the daily tours.

Architecture Tour:

30-45 minute tour. Meet outside the front entrance of the museum. Mornings at 10:00 and 11:00; Afternoons at 1:00, 2:00, and 3:00.

Art Angles:

60-minute thematic gallery tour. Themes include Gardens in Art, Artists looking at Artists, Art and Power, The Creative Process, Visions of Humanity, and Science and Art. Afternoons at 3:00.

Collection Highlights Tour:

This 60-minute tour gives an overview of major works in the collection. Mornings at 11:00; Afternoons at 1:30.

Curator's/Conservator's Gallery Talk:

This 60-minute gallery talk focuses on materials and techniques. Wednesday afternoons at 1:00.

Exhibition Tour:

This is a 60-minute overview of a current exhibition, including the Premiere Presentations. Afternoons at 1:30 (when offered).

Garden Tour:

45-60 minute tour that begins with an overview of the Getty Center layout, followed by a visit to the Center's four gardens. Mornings at 11:30; Afternoons at 12:30, 2:30, and 3:30.

Object-in-Focus Talk:

This 15-minute talk offers an in-depth look at one object, with a new object featured each week. Afternoons at 4:00.

Orientation Talk:

This 15-minute information session acquaints visitors with the collection and the site. Meet in the museum courtyard at the south end of the fountain, at the model of the Getty Center. Afternoons at noon, 2:30, and 4:30.

The Getty Center Hours:

Tuesday through Thursday

10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Friday and Saturday

10 a.m.–9 p.m.

Sunday

10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Closed Monday

Information:

www.getty.edu or (800) 266-6883

Directions

Take the Getty Center Drive exit from the San Diego Freeway (Interstate 405), not far from the Santa Monica Freeway (Interstate 10), and follow the signs to 1200 Getty Center Drive. The Center cannot accommodate RVs. •