

Renting a Car for the Day

How Easy Is It to Rent a Car from Each Area?

Car rental information for the LAX area covering **pick-up convenience**, **daily rates**, and **parking costs**. Also included are suggested **self-drive itineraries** for coastal, city, and extended day trips. Critical advice for navigating LA's often-congested traffic is given, detailing peak times, problem freeways, and **navigation tips**. [Get an Online Quote >>](#)



Century Boulevard (LAX Area)

Ease of Pick-Up:

Very easy — most of the major car rental brands (Alamo, Avis, Budget, Enterprise, Hertz, National, Dollar, Thrifty) are located nearby in the **LAX Rental Car area along Airport Blvd and Century Blvd**. Some are walkable from hotels like the **Renaissance LAX** (close to Avis/Hertz), while others like **Alamo** might require a short Uber/taxi.

New conRAC Facility:

Coming soon is the **LAX Consolidated Rent-A-Car (conRAC) facility**, located near Aviation and Century Blvd. This will centralize all major rental companies into one modern, easy-to-navigate hub with a dedicated **automated LAX shuttle connection** to the airport terminals and Century Boulevard hotels. Once open (expected late 2025/2026), it'll make car hire from this area seamless.

On-Site Hotel Option:

The **LAX Marriott** has a **Hertz desk** on-site — ideal for easy pick-ups and drop-offs if you're staying there or close by.

Cost for a Day's Hire:

Approx. **\$75-120 USD per day** depending on vehicle type and insurance.

Parking Costs:

- Airport hotels: Typically **\$40-55 USD per night for valet/self-park**.
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El Segundo

Ease of Pick-Up:

Limited direct rental locations within downtown El Segundo itself, but a few rental offices operate near **Pacific Coast Highway (PCH)** or the **El Segundo Plaza commercial area** (adjacent to LAX). Most people staying here tend to pick up cars from LAX or Century Boulevard.

Confirmed Companies:

Enterprise Rent-A-Car typically has a local presence in El Segundo, along with Budget/Avis locations near Sepulveda Blvd.

Cost for a Day's Hire:

Approx. **\$75-110 USD per day**.

Parking Costs:

- Many hotels offer cheaper or complimentary parking (**\$15-30 USD per night**).
 - Downtown El Segundo street parking is generally **free or metered during business hours**.
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Marina Del Rey

Ease of Pick-Up:

Super convenient — there's a **Hertz rental desk at the Marina Beach Marriott**, perfect for picking up a car for a day trip.

Cost for a Day's Hire:

Approx. **\$85-120 USD per day**.

Parking Costs:

- Hotel parking typically ranges from **\$35-50 USD per night**.

- Public parking lots and metered street parking available near the marina (**\$10-20 USD per day**).
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Manhattan Beach & Hermosa Beach

Ease of Pick-Up:

No large rental depots directly in the beach towns. The nearest car rental offices are generally along **Sepulveda Blvd (PCH)** in **Manhattan Beach** — including **Enterprise** and **Avis/Budget**.

Cost for a Day's Hire:

Approx. **\$85-120 USD per day**.

Parking Costs:

- Beach hotels: Typically **\$30-50 USD per night**.
 - Public beach parking: **\$10-15 USD per day** or metered parking near the piers and downtown.
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Suggested Self-Drive Itineraries

Here are some easy, rewarding drives for a day with your rental car:

Classic Coastal Drive

- **Route:** LAX > Santa Monica > Malibu (El Matador State Beach) > Topanga Canyon > Venice Beach
 - **Highlights:** Pacific Coast Highway views, Santa Monica Pier, lunch in Malibu, Topanga State Park.
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Hollywood & Griffith Park Loop

- **Route:** LAX > Sunset Boulevard > Beverly Hills > Hollywood Boulevard > Griffith Observatory
 - **Highlights:** Walk of Fame, Rodeo Drive, Hollywood Sign views, Observatory city skyline views.
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South Bay Beach Hop

- **Route:** Marina Del Rey > Manhattan Beach > Hermosa Beach > Redondo Beach > Palos Verdes
 - **Highlights:** The Strand, Manhattan Beach Pier, Hermosa Beach nightlife, stunning cliffs at Palos Verdes.
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Desert or Wine Country Day Trip

- **Option 1: Santa Barbara** (via 101 Freeway — 1.5-2 hours each way)
 - **Option 2: Temecula Wine Country** (inland — about 1.5 hours each way)
 - **Option 3: Palm Springs** (about 2.5 hours one way)
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Important Driving Tips for Los Angeles

Traffic in LA is famously unpredictable and congested, especially on the freeways (known locally as "the 405", "the 10", "the 101", etc.). Here's what you need to know before hitting the road:



Congestion Warnings

- **Peak Traffic Times:**
 - **Weekday mornings:** 6:30am – 10:00am
 - **Weekday evenings:** 3:30pm – 7:00pm
 - **Fridays:** Traffic tends to start earlier in the afternoon, especially heading toward the beach or southbound on the 405.
- **Freeways to Watch:**
 - **I-405 (San Diego Freeway):** Often the most congested, especially between LAX, West LA, and the Valley.
 - **I-10 (Santa Monica Freeway):** Busy east-west route to Santa Monica, Downtown LA, and the Inland Empire.
 - **US-101:** Can get jammed heading through Hollywood and into Downtown.

Tip: Always check **Google Maps** or **Waze** before setting off to get real-time traffic and alternate route suggestions.



Best Times to Drive

- **Mornings:**
 - Leave after **10:00am** to avoid the morning rush.
- **Afternoons:**
 - Aim to be back at your hotel by **3:00pm** before the evening gridlock sets in or leave after **7:00pm** when it eases off.
- **Weekends:**
 - Generally quieter in the early mornings and evenings, but beach routes (especially Pacific Coast Highway and the 405) can still back up by late morning.

Tip: Coastal drives and local routes like **Vista Del Mar**, **Sepulveda Blvd**, and **Palos Verdes Drive** can be beautiful and less stressful alternatives during heavy freeway congestion.

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