

International Connection

January/February 2008, Volume XXIV, No. 2

Iraq and the Middle East

by Michelle Lee, *Publications Editor*



Fady Hadid from Iraq and Hossein Ataei from Iran

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What are the everyday lives of the citizens of Iraq like? How do they feel about the US in Iraq at the present time? How are the countries surrounding Iraq affected by the current situation? How many people have fled Iraq and where did they go?

These are just some of the questions that were on the minds of those attending the “Iraq and the Middle East” panel discussion, which took place on November 15th as part of the Office of International Services’ State of the World Seminar. Participating in the panel were Fady Hadid from Iraq, a graduate student in the School of Cinematic Arts, Hossein Ataei from Iran, a graduate student in the

Viterbi School of Engineering, Aylin Ece Cicek from Turkey, an undergraduate student in International Relations, and Muhammad Haroun from the United Arab Emirates, also a graduate student in Viterbi.

Fady Hadid was in Iraq during the time of the invasion of Baghdad. He was involved in several student groups who were committed to preserving the arts during the upheaval in his country. From there, he produced a web series called *Hometown Baghdad*, a documentary tracing the real life stories of three young people living in Baghdad, which also is available through YouTube. “I was always asked about the situation in Iraq,” reflected Fady, “and I always

answered them with ‘hometownbaghdad.com’ because that’s the tool to tell the story from my angle – from my class. Also, it was a way to break away from the stereotypical images about the Iraqis in the media.”

In one episode titled “Mentally F’ed Up”, one young Iraqi interviews his younger brother and cousin after they had witnessed a man with “blood and pieces of his brain all over the place.” The helplessness they expressed – as fear prevented anybody on the street from helping – was not unusual or surprising to them. Will they be going to school tomorrow, and will they go off and play now? “Yes” they answered to both questions as they continued on with their everyday lives.

“Liberation”, the second episode presented the three main Iraqi subjects displaying their honest attitudes and feelings toward American presence in Iraq.

The last episode “Sick of This”, illustrated secular conflicts hiding behind a religious divide between the Shiites and the Sunnis. As one young man recounted...

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International Connection

Laurie Cox Assumes Position at the University of Wisconsin, Madison

by Judy Hartwich, *Senior Associate Director*

Laurie Cox, formerly Associate Director at the Office of International Services at USC, is now the Director, Office of International Student Services, at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Laurie started at USC in 1995 as an International Student Advisor before assuming her positions as Assistant and then Associate Director. Before coming to USC, Laurie was the Director of Residence Life and International Student Advisor at Chaminade University in Honolulu, Hawaii, and Residence Area Coordinator at Bentley College in Boston, Massachusetts.

Laurie's contributions to the international community and to the University during her years here are many. She refined the system of passport verification for the more than 1500 new international students each year so that students would be able to register as soon after their arrival in the US as possible. She initiated the online I-20 production program, was liaison to many other departments for advising and career information, was long-time advisor to the International Students' Assembly, and served on many Student Affairs committees.

She began the Dining like a Diplomat series helping international students with interview skills, the World Café series which introduced students to the cuisine and cultures of a wide variety of countries, and for many years oversaw the Thanksgiving Match-Up program which provided thou-



Laurie Cox

sands of international students the opportunity to celebrate Thanksgiving with American families.

"Working at USC has been a wonderful experience, enjoyable at every level," says Laurie, "All of the interactions I've had with students, staff, and faculty have been immeasurably helpful to me in terms of strengthening my knowledge base so that I can assist students with the wide variety of issues that all student affairs professionals encounter at one time or another. My words of wisdom to international students at USC – reach out and become involved in one or more student organizations while you are here and take advantage of the incredible diversity offered in this unique environment."

Laurie will be missed greatly by USC students, faculty, and staff alike. We wish her the very best in her new life in Wisconsin!

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Top Five Pitfalls When Applying for Optional Practical Training

by Laurie Cox, Associate Director

The Office of International Services (OIS) assists over 1200 international students in applying for Optional Practical Training (OPT) each year. While most applications are approved without difficulty, we do notice that there are five common difficulties that some USC international students face in applying for OPT. These problems or pitfalls are often very time-consuming and expensive. Please read this article to ensure these problems do not happen to you, or to find out what to do if they do happen to you.

Moving during the process

Students who think that they may move sometime during the processing of the Employment Authorization Document Card (EAD Card) must provide a permanent address to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) for the mailing of their EAD card. Since the entire application process may take up to 4 months, students should decide BEFORE they complete their OPT applications whether they should provide a friend's address in California for the mailing of the EAD card. Students should not simply change their addresses with the U.S. Postal Service as the Post Office will not forward Federal mail to a new address. We also do not recommend that students change their addresses online at the USCIS web page. It appears that doing so is a lengthy process and it may not be submitted to the California Service Center in time to change students' mailing addresses, and their cards can become lost in the process.

So what should students do if they apply for OPT and later find out they are going to move? The best thing is to

contact OIS immediately and provide an immigration advisor or counselor with your name, WAC number from your Notice of Action Receipt, and your old and new address. The OIS immigration advisor or counselor will email the student's new address directly to the USCIS. If the card is mailed out to the student's old address and is lost, then they must apply for a new EAD card. This second application will take at least 90 days to process.

Bounced Checks

Lately the USCIS has become very strict and severe with international students who submit the \$340 fee for OPT but have insufficient funds in their bank accounts. This problem is known as "bouncing a check". In the past, the government required the students pay the EAD fee, as well as a \$30 inconvenience fee. Lately, the USCIS has begun sending out notices to students advising them that they must submit a new check within 14 days or their ap-

plication will be rejected. Several USC students either failed to understand this communication or received it too late and the government accepted the funds late but made no effort to process their OPT applications. These students finally contacted OIS to find out what the delay was and OIS contacted the USCIS. OIS learned that the government rejected their applications, and that they would need to apply all over again with new applications and checks if they wish to apply for OPT work authorization.

Lost EAD

USC international students who ask friends to receive their EAD cards in the mail, should let their friends know that they will now receive three letters from the government: one thrown out the letter(s) thinking they were "junk mail". Sometimes students have not moved and still have failed to receive their EAD card as it was lost by the Post Office....

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International Connection

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Your comments and suggestions are welcome. Please send them to: Judy Hartwich, OIS, STU 300, MC 0899, email: hartwich@usc.edu.

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The Historic 110 Freeway

by Michelle Lee, *Publications Editor*

You have probably driven down it to hang out with friends in Old Town Pasadena. You have probably seen great views of the Downtown LA skyline while driving down it. And you most likely drive down it to get to your classes at USC. It's the beloved, historical 110 freeway.

As the first freeway in California, and one of the oldest freeways in the nation, Interstate 110 has accumulated its fair share of legal drama, nicknames, and landmarks. This historic freeway, which runs North-South, from Pasadena to San Pedro, has several different aliases. The Southern portion that leads from Gaffey Street in San Pedro to Downtown Los Angeles is known as the "Harbor Freeway." When the freeway hits the 10 freeway, it is then called the "Pasadena Freeway" until Glenarm Street. Most Southern California drivers believe that the Pasadena Freeway ends at Arroyo Parkway, however, from Glenarm Street and onward, the freeway is just another part of the City of Pasadena. Here's where it gets even more confusing: the section running from the I-5 to Glenarm Street was originally known as the "Historic Arroyo Seco Parkway". This specific part of the freeway was the very first fraction that was built.

First opening in the 1940s, the Pasadena Freeway was complete by 1953 with short on and off ramps, no shoulders, and for safety purposes, no trucks. The Harbor Freeway, was constructed during the 1950s and 60s, first opening in 1952. It's known for its overhead carpool lanes and four level interchange. Throughout the history of the freeway, it has been defined in different ways, and different segments of the freeway have held various names and titles such as Route 47,



The 110 Freeway by downtown

Route 66, or CA State Route 110. But, for simplicity's sake, we will just refer to it as the 110 Freeway.

With such a vast history, and 33 miles under its wing, there are sure to be an array of neighborhoods, landmarks, and points of interest from exit to exit. Starting from the South moving up to the North, here are some recommended exits you can take off the 110.

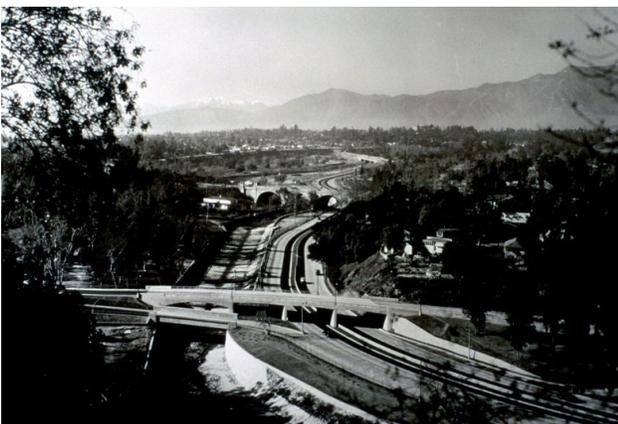
Remember to fasten your seatbelt (it's the law) and obey the speed limits!



The California State Route shield (1971) for the Pasadena Freeway



The Interstate shield (1971) for the Harbor Freeway.



Arroyo Seco Parkway in 1940

Caltrans

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Alternative Market Choices!

by Lindsay Plake, *International Program Assistant*

Do you find yourself tired of grocery shopping at the same market, walking down the same sterile aisles, buying the same branded products? Or, perhaps you are craving that certain delicacy that you just cannot find at a mainstream grocery store anywhere. Are you asking yourself about Los Angeles, with such cultural diversity, “well, where are the diverse markets?” They are around and I am here to help you find the best. They may be hard to find, but alternative markets that specialize in ethnic goods do exist in the Los Angeles area, providing a rich cultural experience. Listed are four great markets that reflect the flourishing diversity of Los Angeles.

Bangkok Market

4757 Melrose Ave.
Hollywood, CA 90029
(323) 662-9705

This small yet inspiring market focuses on Thai products, but also includes goods from the Philippines, Japan, and Indonesia. Stocking everything from fresh vegetables to canned sweets, Bangkok Market has a comprehensive array of asian-imports. There is also a butcher counter with meats including pork and fish. With an urban ambiance, this market feels like the real deal as international families bustle down the store aisles to find delicacies and necessities absent from most American stores. Most notable is Bangkok Market’s incredible selection of Thai spices.

Store Hours:
Daily: 9am - 9 pm

Mario’s Italian Deli and Market

740 East Broadway Blvd.
Glendale, CA 91205
(818) 242-4114

When walking into this quaint market and deli combination, one walks into

another locale that looks and smells like Italy. From the vintage Italian wines to the staples, meats, olive oils, and other delectables imported straight from Italy, Mario’s Italian Deli and Market has everything that a shopper can ask for plus more. In business for more than 40 years, this deli has been voted “Glendale’s Best” for five years and “LA’s Best” for two years. Oh, and don’t forget to order a sandwich on your way out.

Store Hours:
Mon-Fri: 8:30 am - 6:30 pm
Sat: 8:30 am - 6 pm

Kitanda Brazilian Market

13715 Ventura Blvd.
Sherman Oaks, CA 91423
(818) 995-7422

Though it is a bit far from the USC area, I highly recommend a trip to this fine market. The employees at Kitanda (which is an African word for “market”) are extremely kind and the atmosphere is warm. Aside from edibles, Kitanda also offers a display of clothes, music, souvenirs, and decorative art. From the samba music playing in the background to the rare tropical delicacies located on



The Bangkok Market on Melrose

the shelves, Kitanda Brazilian Market offers shoppers a little piece of South America.

Store Hours:
Mon-Sat: 10 am - 6 pm
Sun: 11 am - 5 pm

Tehran Market

1417 Wilshire Blvd.
Santa Monica, CA 90403
(310) 393-6719

For an authentic store that specializes in Iranian, Persian, and Afghani goods, fresh produce, and cookware, Tehran Market is the place to go. Many of their products are difficult to find in mainstream supermarkets, especially their assortment of herbs. Many discover this market and consider it a hidden treasure. One sure thing is that their pastries are delicious.

Store Hours:
Mon-Sat: 9 am - 8:30 pm
Sun: 9 am - 7 pm

*Please call beforehand to confirm store hours.

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Iraq Seminar

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... the 2-3 bodies he sees daily being taken to the morgue, he reflects, “We will suffer until each side loses.”

The panel discussion followed the screening, giving the audience an opportunity to understand the perspectives of the four panelists.

Surprised by the American people’s lack of awareness of everyday life in Baghdad, Fady compared the living conditions in Baghdad both before and after the war. Expressing the indefinable transition for Iraq, Fady pointed out that “Iraq went from one bad situation to another bad situation.” He reflected that there had always been different ethnic and religious groups living harmoniously together in Baghdad before the invasion. It was not until the early 2000s that the division between conflicting parties became more pronounced. But, after 2003, Fady believes that Iraqis were hopeful – they did not feel as much hostility toward the US, but simply wanted to go their separate ways and part from the US. Then with rising tension, unease was fueled by radicals with agendas and religious leaders with strong influence.

With the desire to document the radical changes occurring in Baghdad and with an intention to educate those outside Iraq, Fady found the perfect way to put his skills to use along with his discovered passion for film and art. After battling unending obstacles in getting his films screened on mainstream media, Fady turned to the internet, which made distribution a much simpler process.

Hossein Ataei stepped in to express his own opinion on how the media depicts the war, and more specifically, to comment on the conflict in relation to his home country Iran. He talked about the initial happiness Iranians felt with the removal of Saddam Hussein. He recalled, “When I saw back home on CNN, they were bringing down the Saddam statue, it was a great moment for me as an Iranian who suffered from the war with Iraq.” Still, he emphasized the growing influence and power of religious leaders – especially in comparison to political leaders. Unfortunately, with the growing authority of religious leaders, came the underlying “complicated layers.” He brought attention to the instigators and forces behind the ethnic and religious conflict between the Sunnis and the Shiites. Hossein stressed that the religious argument is not so much about fundamental differences as it is

about the profits to be made behind the scenes. The investors, the governments, and the companies involved with the conflict may also be the sources turning a minor religious difference into a war.

Also recognizing the problems at hand, Aylin Ece Cicek exemplified her understanding of the conflict and how it impacted her native Turkey. “Our main concern in Turkey is the turmoil that is going on at our borders,” Aylin lamented. This turmoil is felt among Turkey’s borders as it remains neutral, yet caught in the middle. She further demonstrated her sentiments by relating the confidence and pride felt by Turkey in the face of conflict due to its democratic stability and secular status. While, for the most part, Aylin expressed that the impact on Turkish citizens as a whole is small, there are still pressures, dilemmas, and increasing violence on the Turkey-Iraq border. There has been a rise in casualties at the border and the PKK terrorist group has become more prevalent. With a concern for the national integrity and condition of Turkey’s borders, Aylin reiterated the firm stance Turkey maintains in the face of turmoil.

And last to speak, Muhammad Haroun left the listeners with several points in mind. He brought attention to the anti-American sentiment prevalent amongst the youth in many Arab countries, the crackdown and heightened security on petty crimes particularly in Syria, and the declining rate of tourism. Muhammad pointed out, “The rich are getting richer. The people who are losing are the middle class and the lower class.” Elaborating on this, he ventured to explain the requirements in terms of talent and education in order for refugees to have a chance at being permitted into the UAE. According to Muhammad, the discrepancies and problems engendered by the wave of Iraqi refugees...



Aylin Ece Cicek from Turkey and Muhammad Haroun from United Arab Emirates

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LA Today Plans Trip to Big Bear in February!

Have you ever tried skiing or snowboarding? Are you a seasoned pro with years of experience on the slopes? Whether you are a beginner or an advanced skier/snowboarder, you cannot miss out on this great event!

As requested by a large number of students, L.A. Today and the Office of International Services are planning a trip to Big Bear. On Sunday, February 10th, we'll take a bus load of 50 people up to Big Bear for a full day of skiing and snowboarding. This is a one-of-a-kind opportunity because, honestly, how many chances do you get to go skiing or snowboarding in California? So come take a break from the warm LA weather, and join us in hitting the cool and snowy slopes!

The fee will be about \$85, which includes breakfast, transportation to Big Bear, lift tickets, a 2-hour lesson, and rentals. You can choose to either ski or snowboard. For advanced skiers/snowboarders, you are free to skip the lessons and enjoy your day on the mountain. For beginners, you can participate in the 2-hour lesson before getting started. It's entirely up to you.



If you are interested in joining us for this fun trip, come to the Office of International Services at STU 300. Sign up NOW as space is very limited. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ruby or Jeff at (213) 740-9742 or latoday0708@gmail.com.

Top Five OPT Pitfalls

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Other times students receive their EAD cards, but their wallets or purses that held their cards were lost or stolen. Should students learn or suspect that their EAD cards have been lost or stolen, they should contact an OIS immigration advisor or counselor immediately and they will advise students regarding the best course of action.

Security Checks

During the period that international students' OPT applications are being processed by USCIS, these applications will undergo one or more security checks. These security checks are completed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). If students have a common name in their home countries, then this process may take a longer time

and their applications may be delayed. Such delays have taken three months or more. The USCIS staff may not approve student applications until they get the go-ahead from the FBI. Therefore, if a student's application is not approved by the 90th day after the USCIS received his or her application, then the student should contact an OIS immigration advisor or counselor with their names, SEVIS numbers and WAC numbers from the Notice of Action, and they will check with the USCIS on the students' behalf.

Mistakes with Signature

Some students have made mistakes in providing their signatures on the bottom of the I-765 form which they submit to OIS with other parts of the OPT application. Common mistakes include writing their signatures too large, writing their signatures over the lines on the application, etc. If a signature is deemed unusable by USCIS they will return the

application to the student directly and request a new signature causing delays in processing the application.

Final note

USC international students should always consult with an OIS immigration advisor or counselor for answers to their questions regarding OPT applications. When students meet with OIS staff they should always bring copies of any government communications they may have received. The good news is that most problems can be avoided by following the directions that OIS provides students at the OPT workshops, by consulting with OIS immigration advisors or counselors if students move or suspect their EAD cards are lost, or have questions about any aspects of the OPT process.

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Middle East Panel Discussion

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...fleeing to different parts of the Middle East have also raised issues concerning the rise of real estate prices, the increase in crime, and the tensions felt due to the current unwelcoming sentiments now expressed by a traditionally Arab-refugee-welcoming country.

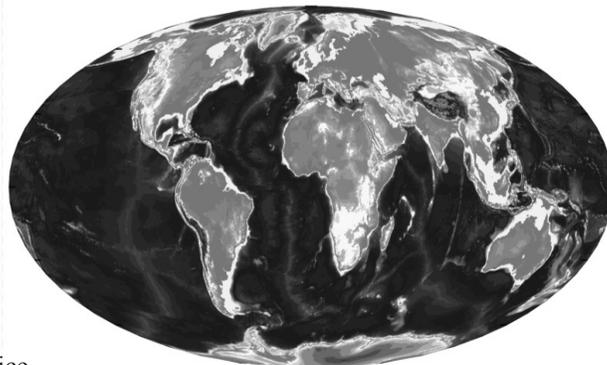
Each from a different country, but each with a common ground, the perspective that each panelist shared was that violence is becoming a more and more “regularized” occurrence in Iraq - not having to do with the common Iraqi citizen, but caused by different groups of radicals who ignite fear and fuel conflicts disguised as dilemmas focused on religious differences. And as religious leaders become more influential than political leaders, the disguise gains strength while the moneymakers and power mongers continue to thrive.

For more information on the State of the World Program, please visit the OIS website at www.usc.edu/student-affairs/OIS. From there, click on “Activities and Events” and then “OIS Programs.” Then follow the “State of the World Seminar” link to read more about the program! If you have suggestions for future panel discussions, please feel free to email stateoftheworld0708@gmail.com.

Calling all Global Nomads!

We invite you to join our dynamic group.
You know you're a Global Nomad / Third Culture Kid when.....

- 1) You have the urge to move to a new place every couple of years.
- 2) You flew before you could walk.
- 3) You have a passport, but no driver's license.
- 4) You think in grams, meters, and liters.
- 5) You worry about fitting in and wear a native wrap around the dorm.
- 6) You read the international section before the comics.
- 7) You don't know where *home* is.
- 8) You sort your friends by continent.
- 9) You are grateful for the speed and efficiency of the U.S. Postal Service.
- 10) Someone brings up the name of a team and you get the sport wrong.
- 11) You believe vehemently that football is played with a round, spotted ball.
- 12) You refer to gravel roads as highways.
- 13) Your parents' siblings are strangers to you, but you have 50-60 aunts and uncles who are of no blood relation to you at all.
- 14) You have 400 facebook friends, but have no one you feel comfortable spending Christmas with.
- 15) You get upset when people don't finish their food and feel worse when they scrape it into the trash.
- 16) You don't do well in job interviews because you were taught to be modest.
- 17) You have a hard time living with a roommate who isn't a foreigner.
- 18) You think VISA is a document stamped in your passport, and not a plastic card you carry in your wallet.
- 19) The best word you can find to describe the U.S. is “fake.”
- 20) You automatically take off your shoes as soon as you get home.
- 21) You don't know whether to write the date as month/day/year, day/month/year, or some variation thereof.
- 22) The best word for something is the word you learned first, regardless of the language.
- 23) Your legal drinking age depends miraculously on which country you're at.
- 24) Your blood is not good enough for donation.



If you are interested in the topic of intercultural experiences, and how they impact the way you see the world and think about life, please join us.

We meet every Tuesday from 12 pm to 1 pm in the Upstairs Conference Room of the YWCA Building. Bring your own lunch. Students, faculty, and staff welcome.

A Guide to Los Angeles Guidebooks

by Michelle Lee, *Publications Editor*

Although I have lived in Los Angeles my whole life, I still get reminded everyday that there are a handful of places I have yet to visit. Reflecting on that, I am certain Los Angeles newcomers can feel lost, not knowing where to start with this fast-moving city. Many LA transplants will visit their local bookstore and purchase a city guidebook. This book can become a lifesaver for someone in a new city. The problem is that there are a number of these books to choose from, creating another dilemma for the LA visitor. So, on a trip to a nearby bookstore, I sat down with four books that stood out the most to me.

Here is a brief review of these books that can take you through the streets of LA:

Access Los Angeles

By Richard Saul Wurman
\$21.95

The quoted review on the back of the book said, “You can slip it into your coat pocket.” Well, frankly, I’m not sure what coat has pockets that big. It definitely was not pocket-sized. Not at all. The rest of the positive reviews were



valid, however. Though a bit pricey, the book was very easy to use. Each chapter covered a different neighborhood in Los Angeles. The Color-coding and numbering made it easy to reference locations and other details. Included were hotels, restaurants, attractions, shopping sights, parks, and outdoor spaces. Large easy-to-use maps were a plus. In addition, the guide ventures a little into Los Angeles neighbor, Orange County. One unique aspect was that there was a chapter on

“Gay Los Angeles” for a sometimes overlooked perspective of LA. Friendly and casual writing made it an easy read.

Moon Metro Los Angeles 2nd edition
\$16.95



A guide entirely map-based would be complicated, right? No. This guidebook was extremely sleek and advice-driven. There were many laminated maps that could fold out in this book. Color-coding and numbering with an introduction on

how to use the book properly made it very user-friendly. It covered sights, restaurants, nightlife, shops, arts & leisure, hotels, essentials, and a street index. It’s no wonder that the book was put out by the Metro establishment itself. A recommended “Day in LA” was given, but I found it a bit unrealistic (there is no way a trip to the Getty Center and Venice Beach could be done leisurely in one day, when you take traffic into account). A Star-Studded section was also given, which served as an LA-appropriate addition. Similarly, a segment on Freeway Art was also a one-of-a-kind feature. Though overall, this guide was not the most comprehensive, it has its merits including an important section on health & emergencies.

eat.shop. los angeles 2nd edition
Cabazon books by Agnes Baddoo
\$14.95

This is the type of book I would place on my coffee table for guests to look at. It was attractive, simple, and had an interesting design.

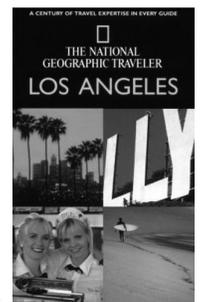


There were a lot of photos and graphics

as well as a clean look. The square-shaped book was smaller than the rest of the lot, but also focused on hand-picked points of interest and businesses. One thing that stood out to me was that the book seemed very author-centric – many of the suggestions were based on the author’s own personal anecdotes of time spent in LA. There is a section for hotels, a top twenty list, and maps; however, the book is mainly dedicated to eating and shopping (what else is there to do, right?). As the guide says, it cover approximately 90 “carefully picked businesses” from all ends of the price spectrum. I found this book to be more of a novelty gift book and less of a useful guide. It was not as helpful, but was very easy on the eyes. Also, I was pleased to see that my favorite restaurant, the Alcove Café was included. And, one cute aspect was the empty lined-pages provided for the traveler’s notes.

National Geographic Traveler: Los Angeles
\$22.95

This book reminded me a lot of the actual National Geographic magazines. I found reading this guide strangely similar to reading a handful of National Geographic articles on Los Angeles. Which is basically what the book added up to be. It covered the Los Angeles history, culture, downtown area, amongst other highlights. While there were excellent photos and captions offered, I did not find this particular book very practical. It would serve as a nice addition to someone’s book collection, but not so much as a guide for a new Los Angeles resident.



International Connection

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Vincent Thomas Bridge

110 Freeway

Gaffey Street – As an endpoint for the freeway, this street can lead you to scenic views of the coast, ocean cliffs, and the Gaffey Street Diner. One of Southern California’s best “roadfood” restaurants with “The Best Homecooking in the Harbor” located at 247 North Gaffey Street. Take Gaffey all the way to 37th Street where you will find 3700 S Gaffey Street, the location of the Korean Bell of Friendship. Given to the United States in 1976 by the Republic of Korea to honor American Veterans in the Korean War, it is Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument Number 187. It was also featured in the movie *The Usual Suspects*!



Korean Bell of Friendship

Terminal Island (SR 47) – This exit will take you on to the Vincent Thomas Bridge (3rd longest suspension bridge in California). You will then find yourself on Terminal Island, a manmade island used by the Port of Los Angeles and the Port of Long Beach. If you continue onward, you will be taken on to the Gerald Desmond Bridge, landing you at your final destination: Long Beach, CA.

Pacific Coast Highway (SR 1) – The famous Pacific Coast Highway (aka State Route 1) will guide you along the Pacific coast. Known as an “All-American Road”, this highway is one of the most scenic routes to take you up through California.

Torrance Boulevard – Going west along this boulevard will take you through Torrance, right down to the Redondo Beach Pier.

Century Boulevard – To visit the Watts Towers, go east on Century, turn right on Compton Ave, left on 103rd Street, right on Graham Street, and a final left on 107th Street to end at 1765 E 107th. Nine major sculptures that are



Carol M. Highsmith

Watts Towers

described as a part of the “environmental art” genre, the Watts Towers were created by Simon Rodia and are listed as a National Historic Landmark.

Martin Luther King, Jr. – Over 600 American cities have named a street after Martin Luther King, Jr. Los Angeles changed the name of its “Santa Barbara Boulevard” to “Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard” in 1983.

Exposition Blvd/Adams - These are the most commonly taken exits to get to the University of Southern California. Go Trojans!



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Downtown LA exits (Pico, Olympic, 9th, 8th, 6th, 4th, 3rd)

– These exits can lead you to the various attractions of Downtown Los Angeles:

Walt Disney Concert Hall
(111 S. Grand Ave.)

Ahmanson Theater (135 N. Grand Ave.)

Staples Center (1111 S. Figueroa St.)

Grand Central Market (317 S. Broadway)

Museum of Contemporary Art
(250 S. Grand Ave.)

Japanese American National Museum
(369 E. 1st St.)

Stadium Way - This exit will take you straight to the reknowned Dodger Stadium.

Figueroa Street Tunnels – The set of four historic tunnels are located around the Figueroa Street exit.



Los Angeles' Dodger Stadium

Jake N.

Figueroa Street – The Los Angeles River Center and Gardens is a great place to gather with friends, have a picnic, or take a walk. Get there by taking the Figueroa Street exit, make a slight right, and then a left on W. Avenue 26, ending at 570 W. Avenue 26.

Avenue 43 – Heritage Square Museum exhibits the history of Southern California development between the Civil War and the early 20th Century. Take this exit and make a right on Homer St.

where the museum is located at 3800 Homer St.

Fair Oaks Avenue – Take this exit to experience the “Center of Town” where the avenue hits Colorado Boulevard.

Glenarm Street – The final exit of the freeway, Glenarm Street marks the Pasadena endpoint for the diverse 110.

Arroyo Seco Parkway towards Colorado Blvd. – Although this is not technically an exit of the freeway, if you continue straight after Glenarm Street on the 110, you will eventually hit Colorado Blvd. Make a left and you will find yourself in the middle of the shops and restaurants of Old Town Pasadena.



Figueroa Street Tunnels

Steve Devorkin of Caltrans



Walt Disney Concert Hall

International Connection



International students celebrate Thanksgiving dinner with Rabbi Susan Laemle and her family as part of the OIS Thanksgiving Match-Up Program, November 2007

**International Connection
Office of International Services
University of Southern California
Student Union 300
University Park
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0899**