

152 of Our Favorite Things!*

Los Angeles

Tennis Shop

Churros

Children's Bookstore

Golf Camp

Brunch

Country Music Joint

Bagels

Bathing Suits

Falafel

Comedian

Organic Facial

Irish Music

Kids' Clothing

Silk Scarves

Wine Flights

Xeriscaper

Flower Arrangements

Water Park



Fried Chicken

Malibu Spa

Indoor Skydiving

Koi Dealer

Croquet

Late-Night Bar Menu

Nail Salon

Pinkberry Alternative

Tableware

Dog Beach

Expensive Cocktail

Charcuterie

Sandals

Fetish Store

iPod Repair

Local Honey

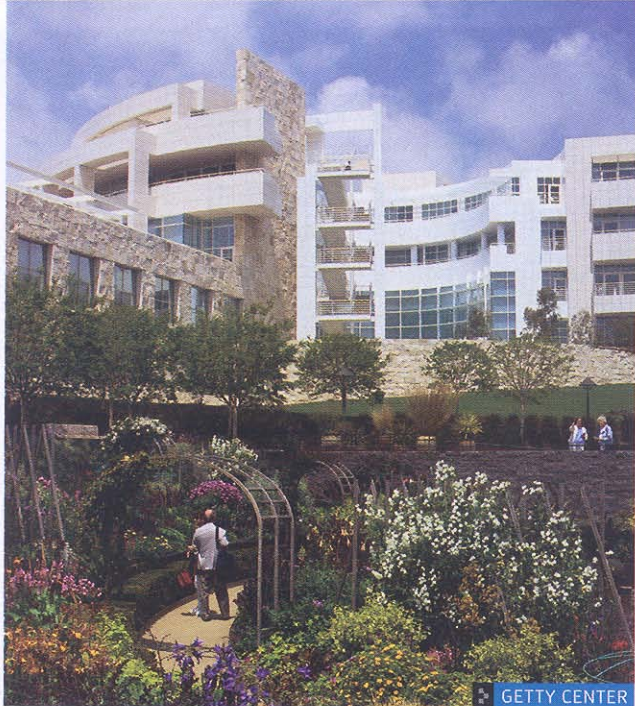
Maternity Eveningwear

...And More!

AUGUST 2008 • \$4.95



* Including the Greatest Thing About LA (as chosen by you)



GETTY CENTER

HOUSEGUEST DROP-OFF

Places that keep friends entertained all day



GETTY CENTER

Aside from the paintings, drawings, sculptures, and photography, the architecture and acropolis setting of the Getty are exhibits in themselves. Guests can take a breather in the café or restaurant or by heading to the Central Garden to check out the cacti, the maze, and the outdoor sculpture. » 1200 Getty Center Dr., Brentwood, 310-440-7300 or getty.edu.

HUNTINGTON GARDENS

The Rose Garden, which has about 1,000 varieties, is in full bloom in April, the Chinese Garden has its own pond, and the Children's Garden is rife with topiaries. Rainy day? No sweat. Recommend the tearoom for crustless sandwiches and the rare books library for a look at a copy of the first book printed using movable type: a 15th-century Gutenberg Bible. » 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino, 626-405-2100 or huntington.org.

GRIFFITH PARK

Along with miles of trails for hiking, biking, and horseback riding, the 4,210-acre park offers tennis and, in summer, swimming. A miniature train chugs through western and Native American village setups. Parents can wax nostalgic around the James Dean bust near the recently remodeled observatory (scenes from *Rebel Without a Cause* were filmed here), and kids will enjoy the planetarium show inside. » 4730 Crystal Springs Dr., L.A., 323-913-4688 or laparks.org/dos/parks/griffithpk.

THE GROVE

Shoppers can traipse from Abercrombie & Fitch to Nike to Theodore. Techies can browse—and take classes—at the Apple Store, while movie buffs can settle in at the Pacific Theatres. Encourage the gang to take the short walk to the Farmers Market for tacos at Lotería Grill. » 189 The Grove Dr., L.A., 323-900-8000 or thegrovela.com.

THE BEACH

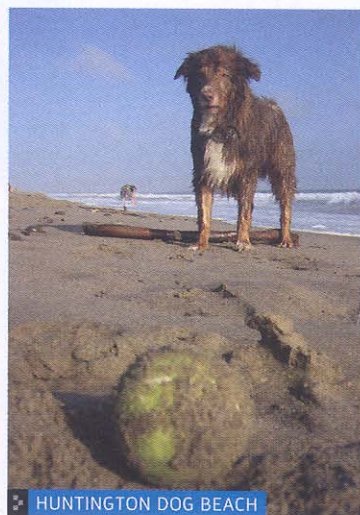
The day can start at Learn to Surf, which holds classes in Zuma, Malibu, Santa Monica, Venice, and Manhattan Beach. After that, your guests can tool around the refurbished Malibu pier or watch the freak show on the Venice boardwalk. » Learn to Surf: 310-663-2479 or learntosurf.com.

EASY-TO-REACH WATERFALL

» THERE ARE NO ELEVATION changes on the just-over-two-mile trail leading to **ESCONDIDO FALLS** in Malibu, but there are scenery shifts galore. A large sign marks the parking lot off Pacific Coast Highway at East Winding Way. Walk up the road past lavish landscaping, tennis courts, and children's play areas. At road's end another sign directs you to a dirt trail, where hikers are swallowed up in a canopy of oak, sycamore, and walnut trees. Soon looms the two-story-high waterfall, which resembles a Hawaiian fern grotto, the fall's rock face looking like a pitted tiki figure. In summer the flow is a feathered trickle, which makes you vow to return for winter's gush. » *Trailhead is located at E. Winding Way and Pacific Coast Hwy.*

SCENIC BIKE PATH

» WITH NO ZONED-OUT PEDESTRIANS (as on the beach) or speeding drivers (PCH), and far better views than both, **PALOS VERDES DRIVE** is cyclist heaven. Signs indicate that bike path regulations are strictly enforced. The wide route flows alongside a eucalyptus-studded median and then joins the coast at Malaga Cove. This stretch has the steepest climbs, but they soon end. As the road drops into Portuguese Bend, you'll feel as if you're on the Amalfi Coast, with ocean vistas enjoyed from several turnouts. The strip is narrowest here, and as Donald Trump learned when part of his golf course slid into the ocean, the earth is susceptible to movement. Proceed with caution. » *Take Hawthorne Blvd. to Via Valmonte to Palos Verdes Dr. N. to Palos Verdes Dr. W. to Palos Verdes Dr. S.*



HUNTINGTON DOG BEACH

WATER PARK

» THE LONG LINES INTO **RAGING WATERS** look scary, but once inside the 50-acre grounds, the crowd quickly scatters to the many rides that make this Southern California's largest water park. The rapids seem to run faster, the waves peak higher, and the water flows a bit clearer than at that other L.A. County aqua fun spot, Valencia's Hurricane Harbor. Even the food stands have more variety. High Extreme provides an adrenaline rush on its 600-foot descent, while the free-fall Drop Out is pure terror. » 111 Raging Waters Dr., San Dimas, 909-802-2200 or ragingwaters.com.

ANIMATED FILM SCREENING

» IF THE WOOD INTERIOR (carved in 1926) of the **EL CAPITAN THEATRE** doesn't suck you in, maybe the preshow organist pounding out melodies on a Mighty Wurlitzer will. By the time a trapdoor in the stage opens and he and the golden monolith are lowered out of sight—the children belting out adieu as he waves good-bye—you're on your

FROM LEFT: ROBERT LANDAU/CORBIS; DENISE PHILIBERT

TOTS + TEENS

CHILDREN'S BOOKSTORE

✦ IF YOU WERE TO MASH together the best features of a Barnes & Noble (massive size and selection) and a neighborhood independent (friendliness, staffers who actually read), it might look something like **STORYOPOLIS**. The beloved Studio City children's bookstore has an enormous story-time room filled with comfortable couches, an art gallery displaying everything from robot sculptures to Gary Baseman prints, and a long wall of kid-lit classics, from *Curious George* to *The Giving Tree*. Storyopolis's claim to fame—besides that time Sarah Ferguson came in and did a reading—is its gift baskets, which include a half-dozen or more books (themes range from “pirate adventure” to “fairy folklore” to Caldecott winners). ✦ 12348 Ventura Blvd., Studio City, 818-509-5600 or storyopolis.com.

FAMILY BEACH BONFIRE

✦ AS ONE OF ONLY TWO L.A. County beaches that allow bonfires—the other is San Pedro's Cabrillo Beach—**DOCKWEILER STATE BEACH** can get busy with marshmallow-toasting children and their parents in the summer. Use is first come, first served. There's plenty of space between the two-and-a-half-foot-wide pits should your party grow as the day goes on, unlike at Cabrillo, where the four pits are tightly grouped. At each site it's bring-your-own-everything, except alcohol, which is banned. Cabrillo has better scenery, but Dockweiler has more privacy. ✦ 12000 Vista del Mar, Playa del Rey, beaches.co.la.ca.us.

KIDDIE BAND

✦ YOU'D THINK YOU WERE AT a Stones concert, except the screaming girls are four and the heartthrob at center stage is wearing pigtails and kneesocks. Give it up for **GWENDOLYN AND THE GOOD TIME GANG**, a seven-member rock band that has inspired kids to dress like them and parents to book them for the hippest preschool parties. When they're not performing “Red Means Stop” or “The Selfish Shellfish,” Gwendolyn and the band's drummer, Brandon Jay, are composing music for the Show-time series *Weeds*. The band proves that tot-centric music needn't be moronic—its fans include parents—and unlike Mick Jagger, Gwendolyn gives hugs after the gig. ✦ gwendolyn.net/gtg.

GOLF CAMP



✦ GET YOUR KID OFF GRAND Theft Auto and into the great outdoors with golf. Typically classes for children can run upwards of 50 bucks for a two-hour session, not counting the cost of clubs. At **TREGNAN GOLF ACADEMY**, a mere \$35 gets you a ten-week course on one of the finest kids-only facilities in Southern California—and the school throws in the use of clubs. Child phenoms from Marco Fortades (Loyola High standout) to Alison Lee (eight-and-under junior world champ) have graduated from the program, which operates on a ten-acre spread in Griffith Park and includes sessions on chipping, putting, and course etiquette. In a post-wildfire rehabilitation, the academy extended the driving range to PGA specs. ✦ 4341 Griffith Park Dr., L.A., 323-906-3858 or laparks.org/dos/sports/golf/tregnan.htm.