



Nature and Then Some

Whether you're a hiker, biker, jogger, or walker, there are numerous sites in the region to accommodate almost every outdoor desire imaginable.

The [Arboretum of Los Angeles County](#) [301 North Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, (626) 821-3222] offers plant services, a herbarium and research library, and walking and tram tours of its 127-acre site. Historic buildings on the grounds include the century-old Queen Anne Cottage, once home to Lucky Baldwin, the Hugo Reid Adobe, and the Santa Anita Railroad Depot.

The [Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden](#) [1500 North College Avenue, Claremont, (909) 625-8767] features gardens focusing entirely on the native plants of California. Since California is home to the largest diversity of plant species in the U. S., its eighty-six acres are filled to capacity with everything from cacti to oases.

Nature lovers of all kinds will enjoy the 668-acre [Schabarum Park](#) [17250 East Colima Road, Rowland Heights, (626) 854-5560] which includes playgrounds, barbecue facilities, and portions of the Skyline Trail (a hiking and equestrian trail that goes from Mt. Baldy to the Pacific Ocean).

To combine a historical outing and nature excursion, [Heritage Park](#) [12100 Mora Drive, Santa Fe Springs, (562) 946-6476] might just be the place. Visitors can stroll through a variety of landscapes ranging from wide lawns to formal gardens and explore a greenhouse, too. A carriage barn located on the grounds contains exhibits of local history.

Nature and industry come together at the [Olinda Oil Museum and Trail](#) [4025 Santa Fe Road, Brea, (714) 671-4447]. The City of Brea and the California State Parks have partnered to create a twelve-acre historical park that encourages visitors to discover the sights, smells, and sounds of Olinda's early oil history. At this site, patrons can visit Olinda Oil Well #1, a working oil well that was originally drilled in 1897; the field office that acted as the headquarters of the Olinda oil operations; and the records vault that stored company documents and explosives. A trail scheduled to open above the park will offer the public a chance to walk in the footsteps of early oil pioneers as they take in beautiful scenery.





If an assortment of plant life is what you're looking for, head to the [Fullerton Arboretum](#) [1900 Associated Road, Fullerton, (714) 278-3407]. At this twenty-six acre site, visitors are treated to a collection of more than 4,000 plants that range from native habitats from the Mediterranean to the redwood forests.

Also located on the grounds are the **Orange County Agricultural and Nikkei Heritage Museum** and the **Heritage House**. The museum, designed to resemble a historic packing house, highlights the history, development, and impact of agriculture, as well as the contributions of the Japanese American community to the growth of Orange County. The Heritage House, built in 1894, was the home and office of Fullerton's pioneer physician, Dr. George C. Clark. The restored Eastlake-style Victorian house serves as a museum of family life and medical practice of the 1890s.

This is one of six sections of the Homestead Museum's *Hidden Treasures* resource. Find more on-line at www.homesteadmuseum.org.

Homestead Museum • 15415 East Don Julian Road • City of Industry • California • 91745 • (626) 968-8492

© 2010 Historical Resources, Inc.