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# NEWS FROM THE GETTY

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## **THE GETTY CENTER VISITOR EXPERIENCE**

LOS ANGELES—Situating in the foothills of the Santa Monica Mountains off the 405 Freeway in the Sepulveda Pass, the 110-acre Getty Center has attracted over 14 million visitors since opening in December 1997. Designed by architect Richard Meier, the Getty Center houses the J. Paul Getty Museum, the Getty Research Institute, the Getty Conservation Institute, and the Getty Foundation.

The public aspects of the campus include the Museum, a full-service restaurant, two cafes, a Museum Store, and the 450-seat multipurpose Harold M. Williams Auditorium. The gallery and library of the Getty Research Institute are also open to the public.

Eighty-six acres of landscaped gardens and terraces, including the Central Garden designed by artist Robert Irwin, provide sweeping views of the Los Angeles basin, the mountains, the ocean, and the surrounding 600 acres preserved in their natural state.

The Getty Center has earned a Silver-level LEED® (Leadership in Energy & Environment Design) Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. LEED certification recognizes the Getty Center's efforts to reduce waste and energy use throughout the facility.

Admission to the Getty Center is free, and no reservations are required.

### **Tram**

Visitors enter the Getty Center from Sepulveda Boulevard through Getty Center Drive. Once they park their cars, they take a tram three-quarters of a mile to the Arrival Plaza. Along the winding, tree-lined tram route, they can see Century City, downtown Los Angeles, Westwood, UCLA, the San Diego Freeway, and Mount St. Mary's College. The driverless, computer-operated tram ride takes about five minutes. The Getty's trams are emission-free and glide on a cushion of air generated by electric blowers. Each of the two three-car trams has room for 100 passengers, is wheelchair accessible, and can transport as many as 1,200 passengers an hour. This is the only tram system of its kind on the West Coast of the United States.

## **Architecture**

From the Getty Center's site in the Santa Monica Mountains, visitors can take in prominent features of the Los Angeles landscape—the Pacific Ocean, the San Gabriel Mountains, and the vast street-grid of the city. Inspired by this interplay, architect Richard Meier sought to design the modernist complex so that it highlights both nature and culture, offering framed panoramic views of the city. Clad in cleft-cut Italian travertine and off-white, enamel-coated aluminum panels, the campus possesses a bright openness and a horizontality reminiscent of such Southern California modernists as Rudolf Schindler, Richard Neutra, and Frank Lloyd Wright, while its curvilinear elements may call to mind the Baroque.

## **Travertine**

Travertine, a variety of limestone, is used throughout the Center. The 1.2 million square feet used as pavement and wall cladding were quarried in Bagni di Tivoli, Italy, 15 miles east of Rome. The stone's rough-cut effect was achieved through a guillotine process developed especially for this project. A total of 290,000 blocks weighing 16,000 tons were required for the project, most of it cut into 30-inch squares. The stone itself is believed to have formed between 8,000 and 80,000 years ago. In the process, organic matter—leaves, branches, fish, even a deer antler—was trapped in the rock. The fossilized remains are visible today on many of the rough-cut wall tiles.

## **Central Garden**

Robert Irwin's 134,000-square-foot Central Garden was commissioned by the Getty Trust as a work of art. The garden offers visitors constantly changing experiences determined by the weather, the hour of day, the time of year, and the use of seasonal plants. An inviting, tree-lined walkway zigzags across a stream and gradually descends to a plaza where bougainvillea arbors provide scale and a sense of intimacy. The stream culminates in a cascade of water over a stone waterfall or "chadar," into a pool in which a maze of azaleas appears to float. Around the pool is a series of specialty gardens. All of the foliage and elements of the garden have been selected to accentuate the interplay of light, color, and reflection. While Irwin's plan for the garden sprang from the powerful, controlled geometries of the architecture and from the site itself, he conceived the garden as a "conditional" work of art. In contrast to the more static nature of the buildings, the Central Garden is always in flux.

### **The Museum**

Five two-story pavilions, clustered around an open courtyard, house changing exhibitions and the J. Paul Getty Museum's expanding permanent collections of pre-20th-century European paintings, drawings, illuminated manuscripts, sculpture, decorative arts, and 19th- and 20th-century American and European photographs. Gallery talks, lectures, films, concerts, lively family programs, interactive media, and art demonstrations all enrich the visitor experience of the collection. Visitors can rent audio guides, pick up a map, and view a 10-minute orientation film in the Museum's entrance hall. Located throughout the Museum, GettyGuide computer stations offer an array of in-depth information.

### **Family Room**

The Family Room provides a hands-on environment where kids and parents can play and learn together. In the Family Room, kids can stretch out on a luxurious bed just like an 18<sup>th</sup>-century French aristocrat, draw on a wall-sized illuminated manuscript, build a tube sculpture inspired by the Getty's monumental Martin Puryear installation, explore David Hockney's photography with camera lenses and a wall of mirrors, and much more.

### **Museum Store**

The Museum Store is among the most comprehensive art bookshops on the West Coast, offering selections on art, architecture, art education, cultural studies, history and classic literature, as well as Los Angeles and regional titles. The store carries all books, posters, and other materials published by the Getty, including a large selection of children's offerings. Visitors will also find videos on art history, museums, and related subjects, in addition to T-shirts, mugs, and exquisite gifts. Satellite shops in each pavilion offer exhibition catalogs, collection handbooks, postcards, calendars, tram pens, and other items of interest. Merchandise for younger visitors is also available, including pencils, buttons, educational games, backpacks, and children's books. A special satellite store for children is located on the lower level of the West Pavilion.

### **The Getty Research Institute**

The Research Institute, on the southwest side of the campus, houses a gallery and Research Library that are also open to the public. The gallery offers changing exhibitions that highlight

the GRI's priceless special collections, consisting of rare archival materials from all major areas of European art history, with significant holdings in 19th- and 20th-century materials. The Research Library is the largest art and architectural research library in the world, visited by scholars from all over the world. The Library's online catalog is accessible through [www.getty.edu/gri](http://www.getty.edu/gri).

## **Dining Options**

Visitors to the Getty Center enjoy a number of dining options, both indoors and out, with a range of menus and prices.

### *Picnics*

- Visitors may bring their own picnics, which they can enjoy in a picnic-table area at the lower tram plaza or on the lawn near the Central Garden, or they may prefer to buy a convenient take-out lunch from the Cafe to eat on the many terraces and courtyards.

### *Cafe Espresso*

- Food and beverage carts are located throughout the Getty Center, serving espresso drinks, coffee, tea, soft drinks, juice, wine, beer, sandwiches, salads, soups, and snacks

### *The Garden Terrace Cafe*

- The Garden Terrace Cafe is located at the lower level, underneath the Exhibitions Pavilion. It offers a quick option for visitors to eat a casual meal outdoors. Overlooking the Central Garden, diners can enjoy sandwiches, salads, soup, desserts, soft drinks, and beer and wine. Prices range from \$6 to \$8.

### *The Cafe*

- Located in the same building as the Restaurant and surrounded by pink bougainvillea, the self-service Cafe offers a wide variety of hot and cold entrees including international cuisine, grill items, seafood, special salads, pizza and sandwiches in a casual setting. The Cafe also features a soft drinks, and beer and wine. Visitors may dine in the 265-seat dining room or outdoors on the arbor terrace with views of the mountains and ocean. Prices range from \$4 to \$8 per entrée.

### *The Restaurant at the Getty Center*

- Featuring one of the best views in Los Angeles, the Restaurant at the Getty Center offers a fine dining menu for lunch and dinner in a simple yet elegant setting. The Restaurant's chefs focus on using the freshest and best ingredients and presenting them beautifully and tastefully. A distinctive wine list and full bar are also available. The 150-seat dining room features *Taste*, a large mixed-media installation by Los Angeles-based artist Alexis Smith. Diners can also enjoy the 75-seat outdoor terrace that wraps around the Restaurant, with views of the Santa Monica Mountains and Pacific Ocean. Prices range from \$8 to \$18 for lunch and \$20 to \$32 for dinner.

### **How to Visit**

#### *Hours*

- Sunday, Tuesday through Friday                      10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- Saturday    10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- Closed on Mondays and major holidays.

#### *Admission*

- Admission to the Getty Center is always free. Parking is \$15 per car. Reservations are not required.

#### *Reservations for special events and Restaurant dining*

- Reservations are required for special event seating, and groups of 15 or more. Reservations are recommended for the Restaurant. Please call 310-440-7300 (English or Spanish) for reservations and information. The TTY line for callers who are deaf or hearing impaired is 310-440-7305. Additional information is available on the Getty Web site at [www.getty.edu](http://www.getty.edu).

### *Accessibility*

- Wheelchairs are available for free on a first-come, first-served basis. Assistive listening devices are available for all public programs, talks, and tours. Selected information is available in large print/Braille. Sign language interpretation can be arranged by calling (310) 440-7300 10 days in advance.

### *Children*

- Children are welcome at the Getty Center. Strollers are available for free on a first-come, first-served basis. All restrooms include diaper-changing tables. A family restroom, equipped with a private nursing area and a unisex stall, is located in the South Pavilion.

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### **MEDIA CONTACT:**

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**The J. Paul Getty Trust** is an international cultural and philanthropic institution devoted to the visual arts that features the J. Paul Getty Museum, the Getty Research Institute, the Getty Conservation Institute, and the Getty Foundation. The J. Paul Getty Trust and Getty programs serve a varied audience from two locations: the Getty Center in Los Angeles and the Getty Villa in Malibu.

### **Visiting the Getty Center:**

The Getty Center is open Tuesday through Friday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. It is closed Monday and major holidays. Admission to the Getty Center is always free. Parking is \$15 per car, but free after 5pm on Saturdays and for evening events throughout the week. No reservation is required for parking or general admission. Reservations are required for event seating and groups of 15 or more. Please call 310-440-7300 (English or Spanish) for reservations and information. The TTY line for callers who are deaf or hearing impaired is 310-440-7305. The Getty Center is at 1200 Getty Center Drive, Los Angeles, California

### **Additional information is available at *www.getty.edu*.**

Sign up for **e-Getty** at *www.getty.edu/subscribe* to receive free monthly highlights of events at the Getty Center and the Getty Villa via e-mail, or visit *www.getty.edu* for a complete calendar of public programs.