



## Asian Art and Culture in Los Angeles September 15<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Join us this fall to see *Realms of the Dharma: Buddhist Art Across Asia*, an ambitious international survey of Buddhism and Buddhist art, at the **Los Angeles County Museum of Art**. Its Curator of Asian Art will show rare and extraordinarily beautiful Buddhist sculptures, paintings, and ritual objects from the time of the religion's origins in India, through its spread to mainland and island Southeast Asia, the Himalayas, and East Asia – all to underscore key concepts of Buddhist thought and practice.

### Other Tour Highlights

- **Curator-led tours** at three of LA's most important art museums:
  - **The Getty**, where our specialist tour will focus on Chinese porcelain (mostly Kangxi period) with added mounts, and where we will have time to explore its four spectacular gardens
  - **The Hammer**, where we will see a special exhibition, *Rising Sun, Falling Rain: Japanese Woodblock Prints*
  - **The Broad**, whose dynamic collection features in-depth representations of influential contemporary artists
- **Visit to three private collections** including those of:
  - An Iranian-American author and activist who collects Persian art and sculpture and champions works by contemporary artists from the Iranian diaspora
  - A movie producer with a wonderful collection of early stone and bronze Buddhist sculpture
  - A Taiwanese mega-herbalist with one of the finest private collections of Chinese art in the United States.

- Private tour of the **Japanese American Cultural and Community Center**, where its arts director – an ordained Shingon Buddhist priest, master of Japanese archery, and artist – will show us some pieces of an exhibition of his works which will open at the center shortly after our visit. The center includes a Noguchi-designed plaza, a theater, Japanese tea garden, and an exquisite gift shop.
- Opportunities to explore **UCLA's outdoor sculpture**, and see ethnographic and archaeological objects from world cultures at **The Fowler at UCLA**
- Farewell dinner at **Lulu**, a farm-to-table restaurant from Alice Waters, the founder of Chez Panisse
- Stay at the **Palihotel Westwood Village**, a 55-room boutique hotel on a quiet residential street on the edge of the UCLA campus, with many cafes and restaurants nearby.



***The trip is limited to 20 SAA members, and registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.***

*TOP PHOTOS (left to right):*

The Buddhist Deities Chakrasamvara and Vajravarahi, Tibet (by a Newar artist), circa 15th century.  
Mineral pigments and traces of gold on cotton cloth, 54 x 45 in. (137.16 x 114.3 cm)  
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, from the Nasli and Alice Heeramaneck Collection  
M.70.1.3

Lidded Vase; artist unknown; about 1730; hard-paste porcelain with enameled decoration; 72.DE.62.  
Courtesy of The Getty Center.

James Irvine Japanese Garden, Little Tokyo, festooned with a banner for New Years and other festivals.  
Courtesy of JACCC.

*BOTTOM PHOTOS:*

Photos courtesy of the Palihotel Westwood Village including the front entrance, patio, bedroom, and lobby breakfast room, with Continental Breakfast offerings.

**Fitness Level: EASY**

This trip involves a stay in just one hotel. There will be standing and walking for extended periods during museum visits or tours. Walking is typically on flat terrain with elevators often available. While we encourage participation in all group activities, a tour participant can opt-out when necessary. We will be walking to restaurants in the evening, which will take 5 to 10 minutes. Travel insurance is recommended for this tour if there is any chance of a health event for you or a family member prior to or during the tour dates.

**Health Requirements:**

Participants should be in good health and with overall good mobility and should be comfortable participating in at least three to five hours of activity per day. Any condition that may require any individual accommodation or special medical attention must be reported at the time you make your reservation.



## Itinerary in Brief

### Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup>

### Reception

- Arrive in **Los Angeles** no later than today.
- Check-in to the **Palihotel Westwood Village** by 5 p.m., located on a quiet residential street on the edge of the UCLA campus.
- Optional: Self-guided walking tour of UCLA's **Franklin D. Murphy Sculpture Garden**, which features more than 70 modern and contemporary works on five beautifully landscaped acres
- **Welcome reception and orientation** at Violet Bistro, a Cali-French eatery around the corner from the hotel.
- Dinner on your own. *A list of Suggested Restaurants will be provided.*
- Evening Option: Concert at the Hollywood Bowl: *Neil Young and the Chrome Hearts: Love Earth Tour*, 7:30 p.m.

### Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>

### Continental Breakfast

- Curator-led tour of ***Realms of the Dharma: Buddhist Art Across Asia***, an exhibition of pan-Asian Buddhist art comprising 180 magnificent artworks from LACMA's permanent collection, with **Stephen Little**, Curator and Head, Chinese, Korean, and South & Southeast Asian Departments.
- Lunch on your own at nearby restaurants: Uovo, Descanso Restaurant, and Meyers Max Restaurant (inside the iconic Petersen Automotive Museum)
- Return to LACMA for self-guided viewing of the extensive contemporary art galleries and two contemporary Asian exhibitions – one by Chinese painter and video artist Zheng Chongbin and another of contemporary Chinese calligraphy. Also be sure to see an outdoor display of Ai Weiwei's *Circle of Animals/Zodiac Heads*.
- Dinner Option: No-host dinner at Toranj, a Persian restaurant located steps from the hotel.

### Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>

### Continental Breakfast

- Special visit at the **Japanese American Cultural & Community Center (JACCC)** with **Hirokazu Kosaka**, JACCC Visual Arts Director, including the Japanese Garden and the theater building.
- Lunch on your own at restaurants either in Little Tokyo or near The Broad.
- Curator-led tour at **The Broad** focusing on the permanent collection, followed by time on your own to see ***Jeffrey Gibson: the space in which to place me***, a special exhibition adapted from this Indigenous.
- Happy Hour Option: Happy Hour at Perch LA (4-6 p.m.), one of the hottest roof-top restaurants in Los Angeles, located downtown not far from The Broad.
- Dinner and the evening are on our own.
  - Optional: Visit the **Fowler Museum** at UCLA to see its ethnographic collections. *Open until 8 p.m. on Wednesday.*
  - Optional: See ***Am I Roxie?*** at the Geffen Playhouse on the UCLA campus, a “fiercely funny one-woman tour-de-force” based on the writer/actor’s own life about navigating the chaos of her mother’s mental decline.

**Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup>****Continental Breakfast**

- Guided tour at **The Getty Center** with **Jeffrey Weaver**, Associate Curator of Decorative Arts, focusing on Chinese porcelain (mostly Kangxi period) with added mounts, and other Chinese and Asian objects; as well as pointing out the “stars” of the South Pavilion (non-Asian included).
- Free time to explore other galleries and the four spectacular gardens.
- Lunch on their own in The Getty Café.
- Visit the **home of a private collector of Iranian art**.
- Dinner and the evening are on our own.

**Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup>****Continental Breakfast, Dinner**

- Guided tour at the **Chen Art Gallery**, located over an hour south of LA in Torrance. Founded by Dr. Tei Fu Chen, a renowned herbalist and pharmacist, the non-profit museum showcases a vast collection of Chinese art spanning 5,000 years, including artifacts like pottery, jade, bronze, and paintings.
- Lunch in Torrance.
- Return to the hotel.
- Late afternoon curator-led tour at **The Hammer Museum** focusing on the special exhibition, *Rising Sun, Falling Rain: Japanese Woodblock Prints* from UCLA’s Grunwald Center for the Graphic Arts. (open until 6 p.m.)
- Farewell dinner at Lulu Restaurant, inside The Hammer Museum.

**Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>****Continental Breakfast****LOS ANGELES / RETURN HOME**

- Visit a **private collection** in Beverly Hills, which features early pan-Asian Buddhist sculptures.
- Return to the hotel.
- Tour ends. Check-out and head to the airport, or extend your stay.

**TOUR PRICE PER PERSON** *(based on a minimum of 16 participants)*

Tour Cost, based on double \$2,250

Tour Cost, based on single \$3,115 including a single supplement of \$865

**EXTRA NIGHT(S) AT PALIHOTEL WESTWOOD VILLAGE** *(subject to availability)*

Room rates vary. Please contact Meg MacDonald at Travel Muse for more information.

**TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE AND MAKE A PAYMENT:**

Click on this link to access the full itinerary and complete the Registration Form:

<https://tri.ps/KgyOK>

Or simply call Meg MacDonald at Travel Muse to register over the phone.

Trip insurance is not required but is strongly encouraged to protect your trip investment should you cancel or need to interrupt your trip. To preview coverage provided by USI Travel Insurance Services, a flyer is attached for your review.

An e-brochure with the detailed tour program and the Participant Travel Agreement including the cancellation policy may be downloaded from the Registration link.

**For questions or assistance to register, please contact Meg MacDonald, Travel Muse Inc., at [meg@travelmuse.net](mailto:meg@travelmuse.net) or (617) 480-0250.**

## What's Included

Accommodations	Five nights at Palihotel Westwood Village, including taxes. Rooms offer a choice of one king or two queen beds.
Meals	Continental breakfast daily, one welcome reception with two glasses of wine or beer per person and cheese-and-charcuterie platters, and one farewell dinner including wine
Transportation	Private coach for two days, September 17 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup>
Curator and Docent Tours	As indicated in the itinerary
Entrance Fees to Museums	As indicated in the itinerary
WiFi	Complimentary WiFi internet access at the hotel

## What's Not Included

Arrival/Departure Expenses	To and from Los Angeles
Airport transfers	To and from the hotel
Meals	Meals not otherwise included
Transportation	From and between sites by taxi or ride-share services, as indicated in the itinerary, unless otherwise noted

## Payment Terms

### **Tour Cost**

\$2,250 per person, based on double occupancy  
\$3,125 per person, single occupancy (\$875 supplement)

### **Registrations and Payment Schedule**

- Full payment due upon registration by major credit card, electronic check or paper check

## Cancellation Policy

When a participant cancels, the following schedule of per person charges is incurred:

<b>Written Notice of Cancellation received:</b>	<b>Refund / Cancellation Fees (Per Person): *</b>
On or before July 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2025 (60 days prior)	Refund all monies minus \$500 non-refundable fee
After July 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2025	No refund

*\* Travel insurance is the best way to protect your tour investment. Information will be sent to you upon receipt of your Registration.*

**A complete Itinerary is provided on the Registration weblink (powered by WeTravel). The complete Terms and Cancellation Policy are stipulated in the Participant Tour Agreement, which is posted on the Registration weblink and which you will need to provide a signature indicating that you have read and understand the Agreement.**