

STUDENT PACKET

MPD TOUR AMERICA, INC. SMG – LOS ANGELES EXPERIENCE NOVEMBER 27 – DECEMBER 2, 2010

Dear Traveler and Host Family:

We hope that you are looking forward to your tour of Los Angeles, “The City of Angels”. Here Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Santa Monica and Venice Beaches await you. You will be spending an entire day at Knott’s Berry Farm with amazing rides. Next a visit to downtown LA, and more beach time. To top it all off you’ll go to Universal Studios and its spectacular attractions followed by a fabulous dinner at the famous Hard Rock Café on the Universal City Walk. Get ready to enjoy the sun and surf Southern California style.

You will be staying at the following hotel:

This is the hotel you will be lodging at for 5 nights: Checking in on November 27 and checking out on December 2, 2010.

FOUR POINTS SHERATON – LAX

Located: 9750 Airport Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90245

Telephone: 310-645-4600 Fax: 310-649-7047

This hotel is located near Los Angeles (LAX) airport approximately 5 minutes away. Also, this hotel has an outdoor heated swimming pool, ***BRING YOUR SWIMSUIT!***

AIRPORT INFORMATION

WHEN DEPARTING FROM YOUR DEPARTURE CITY AIRPORT

(You're Host Family Home):

PLEASE DOUBLE CHECK IF STUDENT HAS IDENTIFICATION WITH THEM BEFORE DEPARTING FOR THE AIRPORT.

Please arrive at your departure airport at least 1-1/2 hours before your flight, and allow more time if you are departing from a busy airport. Please be aware of restrictions on what you are not allowed to carry on board the plane. (Sharp items, liquids over 3oz, flammable items, etc.) All airports require you to check in and get a boarding pass before going through to security check and then onto gate area. Also you can print a boarding pass for some airlines online before going to the airport. You may want to call your airline and find out if your flight is on time and confirm yourself on that flight. **MAKE SURE YOU HAVE YOUR PASSPORT WITH YOU PLUS ANOTHER PICTURE I.D** (Identification). Sometimes you need this for identification when you are using Travelers' Checks etc.

WHEN CHECKING IN BAGGAGE (LUGGAGE) – MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A TAG WITH YOUR HOST FAMILY'S NAME, ADDRESS & TELEPHONE NUMBER ON IT! TAKE OFF YOUR NATURAL FAMILY'S TAG INFORMATION FOR THIS TRIP. ALSO, MAKE SURE YOU CHECK WITH YOUR AIRLINE CARRIER FOR BAGGAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR WEIGHT AND # OF BAGS CHECKED IN FOR ANY EXTRA CHARGES THAT MAY OCCUR PER BAG COST AND OVERWEIGHT.

If you are making connection flights, when you check in for your first flight, get assigned seats and boarding passes for your whole trip. Also, make sure you tell the agent at the check-in counter to put your luggage through to your final destination which is Los Angeles (LAX) airport. When departing on December 2, 2010, you are departing from (LAX) airport, again have luggage go to your final destination (your host family, airport.).

If your flight is cancelled or delayed more than 60 minutes, or if you are transferred to another airline, please call MPD Tour America, Inc. representative at **1-917-691-3097** so we know where and when to meet you when you arrive. Do not miss your flight to telephone us. We will try and track your flight anyway if this should happen. **PLEASE WRITE DOWN THE FOLLOWING TELEPHONE NUMBER ON A PIECE OF PAPER AND KEEP IT WITH YOU IN YOUR WALLET AT ALL TIMES.**

1-917-376-7225, this will be the emergency number for airport days and also throughout the tour. Just remember there maybe other students and host families and area representatives calling the phones!

ARRIVAL DAY IN LOS ANGELES (LAX) AIRPORT

Please go straight to **BAGGAGE CLAIM AREA** – this is where our staff will be looking for you, not at the gate area when you get off the plane. If you have a cell phone please call our emergency number (1-917-376-7225) and let us know you arrived and are walking to baggage claim area. Look for our staff holding a sign that reads:

MPD TOUR AMERICA



We will do our best to meet you at BAGGAGE CLAIM AREA on time, however if other flights are delayed, it throws us off our schedule. If you do not see us upon arrival, we are assisting other students. Please give us time to get there. Staff is all over airport in different terminals and it takes time to get to each terminal for different flight arrival times. We will be looking for you at baggage claim areas – so please stay in this area.

Please do not panic, we are at the airport until each and every student on the tour arrives. We are also helping students, getting lost baggage claim reports, etc. and sometimes this does take time. So please do not wonder off around the airport, especially if you meet other students. We need to make sure you arrived and we now are responsible for you!

If your luggage is lost, please let staff know as soon as they meet you so that they can assist in filing a lost baggage claim form if you did not file one already. (Claim office is near baggage claim area, so you can still see if our staff is looking around for you awhile you do this, they know to check here for students also).

Once a student is met we advise them to call the host family and tell them you have arrived safely! At least 50% will not call. PLEASE REST ASSURED THAT IF YOUR STUDENT DOES NOT SHOW UP WITH THEIR SCHEDULED FLIGHT WE WILL CALL YOU. IF YOU DO NOT HEAR FROM US – THIS MEANS EVERYTHING IS OK.

NOTE: ON DEPARTURE DAY FROM LOS ANGELES (LAX) TO YOUR HOST FAMILY WE WILL TRANSFER YOU FROM THE HOTEL TO (LAX AIRPORT) AND MAKE SURE FLIGHTS ARE GOING OUT. IF THERE IS A CANCELLATION OR DELAY WE WILL NOTIFY YOUR HOST FAMILY. IF A CANCELLATION OR DELAY IS ON A CONNECTING FLIGHT (once you depart LAX) WE WILL NOT HAVE THIS INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US SO, YOU NEED TO NOTIFY YOUR HOST FAMILY OF CHANGES ONCE YOU FIND OUT, BUT ONLY IF YOU HAVE TIME TO CALL THEM – DO NOT MISS A FLIGHT BY MAKING A TELEPHONE CALL!

.....

BRIEF ITINERARY

- DAY 1:** Airport arrivals all day. Hotel transportation included.
Check in hotel. Get to know your activities.
Dinner at hotel included.
- DAY 2:** Continental Breakfast at hotel included.
Board bus for city tour of Los Angeles. Stops will be made at Venice Beach, Santa Monica, and Beverly Hills. (Food and shopping available at each stop. (Time permitting))!
Dinner at Farmer's Market, shopping after dinner included.
Depart for a Live Comedy Show included.
Return to Hotel.
- DAY 3:** Continental Breakfast at hotel included.
Board motor coach for Knott's Berry Farm all day!
Food & shopping available!
Dinner in the Park included.
Return to Hotel.
- DAY 4:** Continental Breakfast at hotel included.
Board motor coach for LA City touring.
Revisit the Beaches. Downtown Los Angeles, Olvera Street area and Union Station, Hollywood and Kodak Center.
Dinner in Santa Monica included. Shopping at Santa Monica Mall.
Walk around 3rd Street Promenade Shops and Santa Monica Pier.
Return to Hotel.
- DAY 5:** Continental Breakfast at hotel included.
Board motor coach for Universal Studios.
Dinner at the Hard Rock Café (included) at Universal City Walk.
Time after dinner to visit Universal City Walk shops.
Return to the hotel.
- DAY 6:** After breakfast (included) and good-byes transfer to the airport for flights home throughout the day.

WEATHER INFORMATION:

Los Angeles and Southern California average in the low 60's to the high 70's. Temperatures can range from the 50's in the early morning to the high 70's in the afternoon and early evening drop again to 65-70's.

WHAT DO I BRING?

The trip is for 6 days, casual dress is okay for everywhere we go to. In Los Angeles you need a light jacket at night. One suitcase and a light backpack or carry on is all you need to bring.

Bring a SWIMSUIT. Our hotel has an outdoor heated pool. The hotel provides towels by the pool or you can bring your own beach towel if you would like to. Some times in Los Angeles walking around Parks etc. you may need suntan lotion or sun block.

Bring comfortable shoes. There will be a lot of walking in some areas we visit.

Please do not bring a lot of jewelry or other expensive items. Please consider Travelers Checks instead of cash. Travelers Checks can be replaced if lost or stolen. You are responsible for taking care of your own property. Los Angeles is a big city and tourist theft is something we should always be aware of. Keep your money and wallet in your front pockets and try not to pull your money out on the street. Watch your possessions at the airport as well. If bringing Travelers Checks you do need Photo Identifications (I.D.) along with them.

You will need enough money for airport snacks, for lunches each day and for souvenirs and shopping.

Bring a camera. Since there are a lot of great places to take pictures of but I'm sure you know that already. Film should be packed in your carry on bag and not in your checked in luggage since x-ray machines can destroy film.

You will need to bring your health insurance cards and identification.

We know most of you have cell phones but it's a good idea to have a phone card with you as well. **DON'T FORGET THE PHONE (CHARGER). PLEASE KEEP WITH YOU AND NOT PACKED IN YOUR LUGGAGE!**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE NOTE: ADJUST WATCH FOR TIME!

Keep in mind the time difference you will be on the Pacific Standard Time.

So once you arrive into the LAX airport adjust your watches to this time.

Usually the flight crew announces the local time before departing the aircraft and if not just ask someone at the airport or look for a clock at the airport most of the time it is correct.

REMINDER OF TRIP RULES!

There will be a curfew every night. This trip has long days, and many Night time activities. We do room checks each night to make sure everyone is in their own assigned rooms; we expect cooperation with these rules.

We expect everyone to abide by all U.S. laws, as well as rules of your host organizations.

We have a zero tolerance policy for drugs and alcohol. If drugs or alcohol are found in your room, we will assume the whole room is involved.

We do not discipline students: We send you back to your host families at your own expense and allow your host organization to punish you in any manner they see fit.

This is an English speaking tour. There are many languages and countries represented on this trip, please try to keep this in mind.

This is a group trip, which means that all the activities are geared to the whole group. There are opportunities to shop in little groups, but never alone. We have a policy of having at least 3 or more students together when breaking off from large groups for shopping etc.

SMOKING: This is a non-smoking trip. If you plan on smoking you will need to bring a copy of your host organization paperwork allowing you to smoke, and then and only then we will allow you to smoke as well. No paperwork means no smoking! Also you must abide by all smoking laws in the places we visit.

Your guides will review further rules for this tour with you when you arrive. Just remember we want to have a safe and fun trip for All!

.....