



## From Lions to Lummis – A Day of Hidden LA History

### Step Into Hidden LA – Arcadia Travelers Exclusive with Curt Tucker

Discover a side of Los Angeles that's wild, weird, and wonderfully unforgettable. This isn't the LA of Hollywood stars and palm-lined boulevards—it's the city's hidden history, waiting in crumbling zoo cages, frontier galleries, and stone castles. Every stop reveals a story you won't hear anywhere else.

#### The Old LA Zoo

Our day begins in Griffith Park, where the ruins of the Old Los Angeles Zoo (opened 1912, abandoned 1966) still cling to the hillside. Walk among moss-covered stone grottoes and peek into rusted steel cages where lions once roared, bears once paced, and Angelenos came for Sunday picnics.

It's part ghost town, part movie set (you've seen it in *Anchorman*, *Bridesmaids*, and countless TV shows)—but in person, it feels like stepping into a lost world. For photographers and history-lovers alike, this is one of LA's strangest, most atmospheric hidden gems.

#### The Autry Museum of the American West

From the eerie to the epic, we move across the park to the Autry Museum, founded in 1988 by singing cowboy Gene Autry. Here, history comes alive through art, artifacts, and stories of the American frontier:

“Art of the West” – sweeping masterpieces from Remington to Russell.

Imagined Wests – an immersive gallery exploring how Hollywood, myth, and memory shaped our vision of the Wild West.

#### Lunch at the Tam O'Shanter

Next, feast at one of LA's most storied restaurants: the Tam O'Shanter, built in 1922 by the owners of Lawry's and designed as a cozy Tudor-style inn. Known as Walt Disney's favorite hangout (he even sketched Mickey Mouse at his regular booth!), the Tam oozes Old Hollywood charm. You'll enjoy a hearty plate of prime rib sliders, paired with a refreshing drink, and finish with their legendary hot fudge sundae—a sweet bite of LA history.

#### The Lummis House (El Alisal)

Our journey ends at the fortress-like home of Charles Fletcher Lummis (1859–1928)—journalist, adventurer, preservationist, and one of the city's most colorful figures.

Lummis famously walked 3,500 miles from Ohio to Los Angeles in 1884 to take a newspaper job, chronicling the trek in dispatches that made him a national celebrity. Once in LA, he became city librarian, founded the Southwest Museum, fought to preserve California's missions, and opened his home to artists, writers, and political thinkers.

 Friday, January 16, 2026 • Depart 9:00 AM • Return ~4:00 PM

 Arcadia Community Center, 365 Campus Dr., Arcadia • \$150 per person

 Walking Level 2.5 (moderate walking; uneven surfaces at Old LA Zoo & Lummis House)

 Reservations: Arcadia Travelers Travel Desk – (626) 821-4377