

# CALIFORNIA

## CULTURE'S EDGE

African culture sounds a West Coast riff. Settlers with roots from the Deep South to Port-au-Prince to Addis Ababa stir the mix, change the meter, alter the perspective. Savor this simmering gumbo. California is an African American marketplace.

Slaves walked here and found freedom. Black miners staked their claims in the Gold Rush. The record of African American achievement is written in sculptures, prints, photographs, architecture, paintings and performed in concert halls and on open-air bandstands.

Feel the heartbeat of black communities like San Francisco's Fillmore, Southeastern San Diego, Los Angeles's Watts. Creativity flourishes. Witness the depth and richness of the African American experience in

museums, galleries, libraries and cultural centers throughout California. Discover the impossible-to-find, the never-heard-of, the always-wished-for. Try on the latest from black designers. Visit

churches where thousands worship each week, clubs where veteran musicians jam and fledglings test their chops, studios where dance is crafted and art is forged.

Good vibrations are everywhere. The beat is irresistible. Gospel. Reggae. Jazz. Blues. Bebop. Rap. High Life. Hip-hop.

Traditions passed down through generations. Expressions just invented. Each story has its own style. Slip into wearable art. Have a heaping plate of soul food. Try Jamaican, Creole, Haitian, Ethiopian cuisine. Listen to the stories of today and tomorrow. Surrender to the flavors, tones, accents and aromas of this fragrant bazaar.



Begin your day in Central Los Angeles at WLCAC THE CENTER (10950 South Central Ave., 213-563-5639). Have breakfast at the Center's Market Place adjacent to a water garden and *The Mother of Humanity*, an inspirational bronze monument by Nijel Binns. Then visit the Ted Watkins Center for Communications. This center houses an interactive replica of a slave ship hold and The Civil Rights Museum.

[www.CaliforniasEdge.com](http://www.CaliforniasEdge.com)