

# Chapter 1

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY

### *at a Glance*

**BORDERED BY THE PACIFIC, DIVIDED BY MOUNTAINS,** Los Angeles is a diverse and dynamic metropolis identified in two ways, by city and by county.

The City of Los Angeles is inhabited by 3,694,820 residents and is the largest city in Los Angeles County.

Los Angeles County has a population of 9,519,338 and includes about 125 other cities and towns, some world famous: Beverly Hills, Burbank, Long Beach, Malibu, Pasadena (See map on Page 7).

Often L.A. the City and L.A. the County are spoken of as one. "I'm going to L.A." could mean that I'm going to L.A. the City or the County (or one of the other cities in the county) and for most situations no harm is done. But if you are moving into L.A., it is important to distinguish between the two.

This guide covers all of Los Angeles County and pays special attention to its largest city. See maps on pages 10 and 11.

### **Dimensions**

In land, Los Angeles County covers about 4,061 square miles, about half the size of Israel or Massachusetts. It is not the largest county in California. That honor goes to its neighbor, San Bernardino, about three times its size.

Los Angeles the City covers about 465 square miles. It is the largest and most populous city in California and in comparison to its reputed rival, San Francisco, a giant. San Francisco covers only 48 square miles.

If you drove a freeway east to west across L.A. County at about its middle, the distance covered would be about 55-65 miles. In the dead of night, L.A. County can be traversed in less than an hour. At peak commute hours, the story is much different.

Although the most populous county in the nation, Los Angeles in many places is sparsely inhabited. The San Gabriel Mountains, with their cliffs and steep ravines, run across the center of the county. Mt. San Antonio, also known