Pasadena, California, has hosted the annual Tournament of Roses parade since January 1, 1890. The first Tournament of Roses football game (the first post-season football game) was played at Tournament Park on January 1, 1902.

Tournament House is the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association headquarters and is surrounded by Wrigley Gardens, which features more than 1,500 varieties of roses, camellias, and annuals. The Centennial Rose Garden contains the award-winning rose that was developed especially for the Tournament of Roses Centennial.

Museums in Pasadena include the Armory Center for the Arts, which features contemporary and modern art. The Norton Simon Museum of Art displays collections of Asian, European, and modern and contemporary art. The Pasadena Museum of California Art exhibits California art, architecture, and design. The Pacific Asia Museum presents the arts of Asia and the Pacific Islands. Pasadena Museum of History promotes an appreciation of history, culture, arts, and sciences relevant to Pasadena and adjoining communities. Kidspace Children’s Museum has programs and exhibits geared to children aged 1 to 12 years.

Historical sites include the San Gabriel Mission, which was the fourth of California's 21 missions. The Old Mill was built for the mission in about 1816 and is the oldest commercial building in southern California. The Gamble House was designed in American Arts and Crafts style in 1908 and is a National Historic Landmark.

In addition to the Tournament of Roses parade, Pasadena is home to the annual Doo Dah Parade, which features eccentric and often irreverent satiric floats and participants.

Pasadena has many venues for performing arts. The Ambassador Auditorium is the winter home to the Pasadena Symphony and POPS. As the official State Theatre of California, The Pasadena Playhouse is committed to cultural and theatrical diversity and launches new works and landmark revivals. Furious Theatre Company is a resident company of The Pasadena Playhouse’s second stage. Boston Court Performing Arts Center presents diverse theatrical and musical programs. The historic Pasadena Civic Auditorium Civic hosts Broadway musicals, ballet, symphony orchestras, and celebrity speakers. A Noise Within Theater produces works of drama in rotating repertory. MUSE/IQUE performs live music and multidisciplinary arts at various venues. The Levitt Pavilion for the Performing Arts at Memorial Park features free summer concerts.

The Lineage Performing Arts Center hosts free dance and music performances, theatre productions, and comedy and poetry readings.

**NEIGHBORHOODS**

Old Town is Pasadena’s original business district and boasts several residential properties, both within the historic district and nearby. New or renovated housing options include town houses, apartments, condominiums, and lofts. Once an annex to the famous Hotel Green, the seven-story Moorish Colonial and Spanish-style Castle Green is now a luxury condominium complex.

California Bungalows built between 1900 and 1930s dominate many Pasadena neighborhoods. Bungalow Heaven and Garfield Heights Landmark Districts are recognized for these mostly single-story homes that feature low-pitched roofs, deep verandas with overhanging eaves, and foundations and chimneys made of local river rock. Some of these homes were manufactured by Sears Roebuck or Pacific Ready-Cut Homes and shipped to the owners in thousands of pieces. Garfield Heights also has historic two- and four-unit apartment complexes. Housing styles in the Historic Highlands Landmark District include bungalows and Spanish Revival.

In contrast, bungalow-style homes in Oak Knoll were designed by architects and located on large estates with winding, oak tree-shaded streets. Interposed with these bungalow mansions are sprawling ranch-style homes from the 1960s, as well as Spanish Revival and Georgian Revival homes. The adjacent Madison Heights neighborhood’s homes are not quite as large as those in Oak Knoll. Streets in this area are lined with century-old oak trees.

Many residential areas with homes that vary in style and size are situated within several blocks of Huntington Hospital.

**PARKS AND RECREATION**

Pasadena has 21 parks with amenities that include amphitheaters; community centers; playgrounds; baseball and soccer fields; basketball, volleyball, handball, and horseshoe courts; trails; exercise courses; a skate park, an aquatics center, and an off-leash dog park.

The Arroyo Seco Natural Park is the city’s largest natural open space. It is home to the Rose Bowl Stadium, Rose Bowl Aquatics Center, Kidspace Children’s Museum, Brookside Golf Course, Brookside Park, Hahamongna Watershed Park, La Casita del Arroyo, an archery range, bird sanctuary, casting pond, disc golf course, equestrian facilities, fields, playgrounds, and 22 miles of trails.

The Rose Bowl Stadium was constructed in 1922 and is home to the UCLA Bruins Football team and the Rose Bowl Game between the Big Ten and the Pac-12 Conferences.

**EDUCATION**

The Pasadena Unified School District educates more than 18,600 pre-K to 12th grade students in Altadena, Pasadena, Sierra Madre, and unincorporated parts of Los Angeles County with 15 elementary schools, 3 middle schools, 2 K–8 schools, and 4 high schools.

Many opportunities for higher education are available in Pasadena. The California Institute of Technology awards bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees in science and engineering. Art Center College of Design grants bachelor’s and master’s degrees. Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts is a culinary and hospitality school. LAMA College for Music Professionals provides intensive training in the essentials of contemporary music making. Pasadena City College offers associate degrees and certificates.

North-West College is a medical and dental vocational college. Pacific Oaks College assists adults and nontraditional students in completing their bachelor’s degree and pursuing master’s degree in several fields. Providence Christian College offers degrees in liberal arts and Bible studies. Fuller Theological Seminary is a multidenominational seminary.

**HEALTH CARE**

Pasadena is served by one 625-bed hospital. The city also has a facility that specializes in mental health and substance abuse.

**CITY STATS**

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Photograph courtesy of Pasadena Convention & Visitors Bureau.