

The New York Times

NYTIMES.COM

"All the News That's Fit to Print"

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2024

Reprinted With Permission

Travel

52 Places to Go in 2024

Arts, Nature

40 Pasadena, California

An artsy, walkable corner of Los Angeles County that's worth the Metro ride



TANVEER BADAL FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

By ANNELISE SORENSEN

Pasadena's natural beauty is clear as soon as you roll into town — maybe on the Los Angeles Metro, where the just-opened Regional Connector project makes possible a one-seat ride from the sands of Long Beach to the stands of the Rose Bowl. The San Gabriel Mountains preside over Pasa-

dena like a sylvan crown, and hiking and biking trails framed by forested valleys and tumbling waterfalls abound in places like the Angeles National Forest.

The leafy city center is eminently strollable, with a vibrant main street and the nearby Norton Simon Museum, which features a sculpture garden inspired by Monet's grounds at Giverny. The Tony Award-winning Pasadena

Playhouse offers serious drama as well as youth-focused programming. And PST Art, a Getty museum project, will include exhibitions at Pasadena museums and art centers this year. To fuel up, try the innovative newcomer Bar Chelou (its name means "weird" in French) or a new wave of Asian restaurants, notably the Cantonese-influenced Colette.