

Living in the Claremont Colleges on a Budget

A Guide Compiled by the Quest Scholars Network of Pomona College

Even if you're a full financial aid recipient, college can be expensive. We created this guide in hopes of helping you adjust and have just as much of a memorable college experience as other students. Additions and comments greatly welcome :)

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\$- Cheapest options

\$\$- Fairly pricey

\$\$\$- Quite pricey. You'll rarely see this in this guide.

Shopping for Essentials

Trader Joe's- \$/\$\$

Good for: Snack foods

How to get there: Walk north along North College Avenue until you reach Foothill (near the end of the Claremont Colleges). Turn left and walk until you see Citibank and The Spot Cafe (\$\$/\$\$\$). It should take approximately 25-30 minutes of walking.
UberPool/ Lyft Line: \$4-7

This place has an interesting assortment of snack foods, produce, frozen meals, breads, and so on. Just about everything is the Trader Joe's brand. But it's a brand that rivals the name brands. Good place to buy study snacks, or snacks for club events.

Walmart- \$

Good for: Mostly everything

How to get there: Walk to 1st St & Mills Ave (In Front of CUC), and take 492 East: Montclair Transit Center (fare is \$1.25) to the Moreno and Fremont Ave. Then take OMNITrans 66 Eastbound (EB) (fare is \$1.75) to Foothill and Benson Ave. Walk past the McDonald's and you'll see walmart.

UberPool/ Lyft Line: \$4-8

Walmart is one of the cheapest options in Southern California for just about everything. It is a little bit further away than Target is, but it's a lot cheaper in just about every respect. Good for a one go trip where you buy everything you need.

Target- \$\$

Good for: Mostly everything, though it is expensive

How to get there: Walk there (2 miles), or take 480/492 eastbound. Get off at Moreno and Fremont. If you're taking the bus, ask for a transfer so that you don't have to pay double to return (but rather 1.75)

UberPool/ Lyft Line: \$4-8

This Target is actually quite pricey, but it's the closest major supermarket near the Claremont Colleges. Look at the weekly ad for specials; things that are not on sale tend to be very expensive.

99 Cents Only Store- \$

Good for: School supplies, cheap extension cords, paper plates and utensils, some food items, Party supplies

How to get there: It's adjacent to the above Target.

UberPool/ Lyft Line: \$4-8

99 cents only store is cheap, but in general a hit or miss. Definitely worth an investigation if you're going to go to Target, though.

CVS- \$\$

Good for: Medicine, packaged foods

How to get there: Head to 1st and Harvard, and take 187 West to Foothill and Towne. Takes 15-20 minutes.

UberPool/ Lyft Line: \$4-7

There is a pharmacy store in the Village, and it is extremely expensive. It also has limited stock. This CVS is easier on the wallet. Make a free CVS card to get discounts.

Sprout's Farmers Market- \$ to \$\$

Good for: Produce

How to get there: Follow the above instructions for 187, but get off at Foothill and Mountain Avenue. Takes 12-15 minutes.

UberPool/ Lyft Line: \$4-7

Good for cheap and fresh produce.

Malls- \$\$/\$\$\$

Montclair Plaza- 480 or 492 (See Target Directions above)

Takes about 10-20 minutes

Stores: <http://www.montclairplaza.com/directory>

Within walking distance of this mall are a lot of fast food chains, Ross Dress for Less, Target, Chase Bank, and US Bank.

Ontario Mills- San Bernardino Line (\$10-16) then 82 EB to Mills Circle 1, or at Claremont Transit Center take 690 East to Montclair Transit Center, then transfer to 204 to Mills Circle 1

UberPool/ Lyft Line: \$10-21

Huge 1 million square feet + mall

Takes about an hour

Stores: <http://www.simon.com/mall/ontario-mills/stores>

Within walking distance to Target, Sam's Club, Costco, Bank of America, and fast food chains. Close to Ontario Airport.

Victoria Gardens- San Bernardino Line (\$10-16) to Rancho Cucamonga then 82 WB to Day Creek & N. Mainstreet (1 hr) or Claremont Transit Center take 187 East to Montclair Transit Center, then board 66 EB to Day Creek and Foothill (1.5 hrs).

Takes about 1.5 hours- go early!

Stores: <http://www.victoriagardensie.com/directory>

UberPool/ Lyft Line: \$9-22 (about 35 minutes)

Cheap Meals Outside of the 5C's (<\$10)

Because one can get bored even with seven dining halls

Saca's Mediterranean- In the Village

\$5 for a Gyro Sandwich, less than \$10 for just about everything

Last Drop Cafe- In the Village

\$6.95 for a hearty sandwich and cookie. Show your ID for a 10% student discount.

Domino's/Round Table- Order Online or Call

Student specials available. Ask about them. \$5.99 for a medium pizza isn't too bad either. You can even walk to the Domino's to forgo the delivery charges.

Yogurtland- In the Village

Very cheap- probably no more than \$3-4 for a nice container of froyo with whatever toppings you want. Show your ID for a 10% student discount.

Poke Dot - In the Village

3 Scoops Bowl (regular size) for less than \$10. Good for take-out. No Delivery.

42nd Street Bagel

Great for a breakfast bagel. Both the Coop Fountain and Honnold/Mudd Library get their bagels from here. Bagels are \$1.15. Toasted Bagels w/ Cream Cheese are about \$3. Coffee is \$2.10. Good place for people who want breakfast before Frank opens, but usually packed on weekends.

In N Out- At Pomona near Indian Hill. Either walk there or take 480 (around 10 minutes).

Burgers around \$3-4. Shakes and fries around \$3.

Mixbowl- Either walk there, take 480 (same as above In N Out), or order delivery (cash only).

Around \$5-8 for fried rice, pad thai, and other Thai foods.

Sanamluang- Same directions as Mixbowl, but no delivery available

This place offers much better thai food than Mixbowl in my opinion. And the same price. Too bad they don't have delivery.

Sr. Baja- Same route as the Walmart listed above.

99 cents Fish Tacos on Wednesday. Good if you want to go to walmart and then grab lunch/dinner here on the way back.

Little Ceasar's/Subway- Walk south of Pomona College and turn west on Arrow Highway. The destination is between Olive Street and S. Indian Hill (takes about .5 miles from the very south of campus).

\$5-7 for a large pizza or a 12 inch sub

Bua Thai- In the Village

Not the cheapest option, but the additional cost of transportation for the other thai places makes this around the same cost. \$8-10 for noodle and rice dishes. Order to go for a huge portion. Drunken fried rice (doesn't actually have alcohol) is highly recommended.

Online Shopping

You can ship things to your Pomona mailbox on August 11th. Use online shopping to send heavy things like fridges directly to Pomona so you don't have to worry about carrying it. Rest be assured it will be held for you securely.

Amazon.com- \$-\$\$\$

As a Pomona student, you have four aliases to get three 6 month subscriptions to Amazon prime (free two day shipping!). Use these wisely. Your aliases are in the format of abc02015@mymail.pomona.edu, first.last@pomona.edu, and first_last@pomona.edu, abc02015@pomona.edu

Amazon can be very useful for fairly priced books, clothing, some appliances, toiletries, and even groceries. As a Prime Member you get access to "Amazon Pantry" in which you can fill a box with nearly 10 pounds of groceries (priced at or cheaper than Walmart prices) and have it all shipped for \$5. Plus, there are reviews listed so you know what's good and what's not.

Use Amazon Warehouse as well to find discounts on many products.

Amazon can be anywhere from your cheapest to your most expensive option. Do your research.

Walmart.com- \$-\$\$

Walmart.com has a lot of college essentials, like comforters, fridges, and school supplies, for a good price. It's best advised that you purchase \$50+ worth of items so that you can qualify for free shipping, otherwise shipping can be pretty heavy. Walmart.com does take a while to ship though, so plan this out in advance. Best used for buying essentials and then shipping them to your Pomona mailbox.

Bedbathandbeyond.com- \$\$-\$\$\$

If there is a retailer near you, you can shop for dorm appliances and essentials and then get a registry so that you can arrive at the SoCal Bed Bath and Beyond and have it there for pickup. You can also use the online service to ship for free with orders of up to \$50. Bed Bath and Beyond is fairly pricey, but the quality of the materials tends to be higher than Walmart.

Chino Hills Bed Bath and Beyond- 492/480-->291/2192 (Use Google Maps, takes 1.5 hours)

Upland Bed Bath and Beyond- 492/480--> 67 (Use Google Maps, takes 1.25 hours)

Visiting LA's/California's Most Famous Sites on a Budget and with Public Transportation

It's best to go in groups. Make sure to bring extra cash in case of emergencies, a portable charger is possible, and a water bottle.

Download the [LA Metro App](#) and the [Metro Link App](#)

**** Check [Facebook](#) and your email for events sponsored by Quest!!!!****

Walt Disney Concert Hall- [Student Insiders](#)- \$10 to 20

This program enables college students to get tickets to a premier orchestra performance at one of the world's leading philharmonics for \$10-20. Tickets usually tend to be \$65-\$200. Purchase your tickets through the program link above, and early!

How to get there: Take silver streak or San Bernardino line to Union Station, and then take the Red Line to the Civic Center (takes an hour each way).

Santa Monica and Venice Beach- Free

It is possible to get to these beaches via public transportation! But you need to plan this one out. It takes about 2 to 3 hours to get there and back, so go early and leave before 7 PM!

Way 1- Jump on the opportunity for a Quest sponsored beach trip. Free and Fast.

Way 2- Buy an all day weekend pass (10\$), take the train, and then pay \$4 for a roundtrip on the Big Blue 10= \$14. Quickest Method.

Way 3- Buy the all day pass, take the train, and take the Metro Buses (33/733). Your fare on the buses is free with the pass = \$10

Way 4- Take the Silver Streak from Montclair to Union Station (fare = 2.45). Take the Metro bus or Big Blue (1.50-2). Total cost for round trip = \$7.9-8.9. Slowest Method.

NOTE: You can also take Way 2/3 to get to Venice Beach, another famous destination. The buses (33/733) stop along Venice Beach first before heading to Santa Monica Beach.

47 Things Trips/PEC Off-Campus- Free to \$30- Pomona Only

This is the BEST way to explore LA's most famous sites and performances. Tickets are highly subsidized, and transportation is covered. ***Take advantage of these!!***

Strategy to camp out: Do it early and plan it with people. 3 is ideal. For the most popular trips, bring all your stuff around 12 PM (seriously), and then break down camping shifts with one person watching over the other two people's stuff. This way you can do dinner in shifts. Do not have more than 3 people because otherwise others will be pissed that you weren't there for long enough. And the time distribution won't be fair, so you'll be pissed off too.

Just to give an idea of what's been offered before:

- Knott's Berry Farm Amusement Park- \$15 (usually \$35)
- Cirque du Soleil Tickets- \$20 (usually \$65-110)
- Walt Disney Concert Hall Performance- \$15 (usually \$55)
- The Book of Mormon Broadway Musical- \$15 (usually \$55)
- Six Flags Magic Mountain- \$18 (Usually \$43)

- Whale Watching at Newport Beach- \$10 (Usually \$36)
- Spurs vs Clippers Basketball- \$18 (Usually \$50)
- San Diego Zoo- \$5 (Usually \$46 + \$21 for transportation)
- Dodgers vs. Giants Game + All U Can Eat Concessions- \$15 (Usually \$60)

Universal Studios- Possibly Free

To get to Universal Studios, take the train or bus to Union Station, take the Red line from there to Universal City Station, and then take the free shuttle to Universal Studios which runs each day until an hour after closing! All in all this takes about an hour and a half to two hours.

You can buy the annual pass for the price of a one day ticket (around \$109). You need a college ID for this one though, and it's done through <http://www.universalstudioshollywood.com/college/>

California Science Center- Free

Take the train or bus to Union Station, and transfer to the silver line. Takes about an hour and twenty minutes each way. Admission is free :D

The Getty Museum/Getty Villa- Free

Tough to get to via public transportation, so plan it out (takes about 3 hours each way). But it's a breathtaking museum on a breathtaking site, so it's definitely worth one trip!

These are actually not on the same site! The Getty Villa is an architectural site in Malibu, while the Getty Museum is an art collection in Los Angeles.

To get to the Getty Villa, pre-purchase free tickets from the museum site or by calling them. Then take the train to Union Station with a weekend pass, and then take 33/733 to Venice and Cadillac, and then transfer to 534 to Pacific Coast Highway and Coastline (your metropass gives you free access to buses). You then walk a little road up to the Villa. Be mindful of the time because 534 and 33/733 stop running around 6:30 PM.

To get to the Getty Museum, take the train to Union Station and then walk up to Chavez and Broadway. From there, take 2/302 to Church and Supelveda. Then from there walk to the Getty (around a mile).

The Broad - Free (Need Advance Reservation)

<https://ticketing.thebroad.org/>

Take Train to Union Station. Take the Purple/ Red Line to Civic Center/ Grand Park Station. Walk down Hill St. Towards 1st then take a right. Walt Disney Concert Hall should be in front of you on the left and the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion should be in front of your on the right. Turn left on Grand Ave and walk until you see the Broad on your right.

MOCA - Free or \$8 w/ Student ID

Admission is free every Thursday from 5pm to 8pm, sponsored by

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General Museums SoCal- Free

<http://www.socalmuseums.org/free/>

Cultural Areas- Depends

To get to Little Tokyo, China Town, and Olvera Street, you just need to head to Union Station. Olvera is directly adjacent; Little Tokyo and Little Tokyo are about a mile away. All should take around an hour or so to get there. The Japanese American Museum in Little Tokyo is free on Thursdays after 5 PM and definitely worth a visit.

Korea Town is accessible through the Purple Line at Union Station. A quicker route to Little Tokyo and China Town is available through the Yellow Line. If you rode the train to get to Union Station with a weekend pass, your pass will be valid on these lines all day!

You can get to Hollywood through the Red Line from Union Station, though it's not that great. Definitely should visit though if you haven't seen it- just be careful of hasslers!

Little India is in Artesia, California (not in Hollywood- that's a restaurant!), and unfortunately quite difficult to get into compared to the other places. But it can be

done! Takes 3 hours each way. Take 492 to El Monte Station and then take 577 to Gridly and 187th, and then walk half a mile to Little India.

Other Nearby Famous Cities- \$7 to \$70 for round-trip

San Francisco or Las Vegas- \$5 to 20 to get to Union Station, \$2-50 to get to these cities

Buy tickets on Megabus.com. **The earlier you purchase the tickets, the cheaper they'll be.** Be very mindful of the timing window with which you purchase your tickets.

To take the Megabus, you need to board at Union Station, which means you'll have to take either the train or bus to get there. I recommend the bus because your weekend pass is only valid for one day, and your trip will likely encompass two days.

Come an hour or so before the departure time to ensure that you'll get a great spot.

Las Vegas takes around 6 hours each way; SF takes around 7 hours. The best option would be to book your ticket for night on both ways so that you have the whole day to explore.

Visit **SF, LA, or Oakland** through Draper Center for Community Partnerships:

For more info visit:

<https://www.pomona.edu/administration/draper-center/students/programs>

"Coordinators lead 3 trips each spring, in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Oakland (in partnership with the Office of Black Student Affairs). You can sign up to participate on a trip during the fall."

San Diego- \$21-22 for a round trip

Best done on a weekend. Get a Metrolink Weekend Pass, and take the earliest train to Union Station. From there, transfer to the Orange County Line and ride it south to Oceanside. You'll be at Oceanside around 6:30 or 7:00 A.M. From Ocean Side, take the Coaster to San Diego, which drops you right into downtown in around an hour or a hour and a half. It's **highly recommended** you buy a day pass for the Coaster, which is only \$1 more than the roundtrip fare on the Coaster and also lets you ride the San Diego public transport and trolleys for all day.