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For complete bibliography for further reading visit [laexplorersclub.com](http://laexplorersclub.com)

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Arcadia Bandini  
Stearns de Baker  
*The Woman Behind*  
Santa Monica

A Self-Guided  
Bicycle Tour

Brought to you by  
Los Angeles  
Explorers Club  
&  
Picturing Mexican  
America

Written by  
Yvonne Condes &  
Marissa López



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Arcadia Bandini Stearns de Baker

- **Remember: Ride at your own risk**
- **Follow the rules of the road.**
- **Stop at all traffic lights.**
- **Pedestrians have the right of way.**
- **No riding on sidewalk- please dismount and walk**
- **\*Bike Lane Provided**

## BIKE ROUTE: START HERE

**Start Santa Monica Bike Center- bike rentals/lockers here (Corner of Colorado and 2nd St):**

Turn R on 2nd St\*.

Turn R on Wilshire

Turn R on 4th St. (immediately dismount onto the right sidewalk)

**Stop 1: Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club (11:22 in audio)**

The Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club was founded in 1905 on the corner of Fourth Street and Wilshire Boulevard as "The History Class": an informal gathering of suffragettes discussing history and current affairs while hosting parties and raising charity funds.

Continue South on 4th St. moving immediately to the left lane to make the next left at the signal

Turn L on Arizona\*

Continue onto Texas

Turn R on Barrington

Pull onto the R sidewalk at the sign that reads Tongva Sacred Springs, Home of the Gabrielino Tongva People

**Stop 2: Tongva Kuruvungna Springs Site at University High School 3.9 miles (14:25 in audio)**

This site was once a part of the Kuruvungna Village of the Tongva Indians: the people indigenous to what is now the Los Angeles Basin. During the Portola Expedition in 1769, Spanish Explorer Juan Crespi "discovered" the freshwater spring that was a primary source of water for the tribe before their violent colonization. The Tongva sacred springs are now locked away on the campus of University High School.

Head back North on Barrington towards Texas

Turn R on Texas

Turn L on Federal

Turn R on Wilshire (ok to use Bus Lane)

Veer R onto exit for VA Medical Center Campus

Turn L Bonsall

Turn L on Eisenhower

Pull onto L into parking lot at chapel

## BIKE ROUTE: CONTINUED PAGE 2

**Stop 3: Wadsworth Chapel and Street Car Depot 4.8 miles (18:22 in audio)**

In 1887, Arcadia Baker and John P. Jones donated land to the federal government for a National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. This area was once a tourist attraction and a stop on the Balloon Route Trolley. The Wadsworth Chapel nearby was built in 1900, and it is the oldest building on Wilshire.

Turn R on Eisenhower  
Turn L on Bonsall  
Turn L on Pershing  
Take a L at fork onto Dewey



**San Vicente interlude (25:31 in audio)**

San Vicente was once home to the Balloon Route trolley line. The line ended at Santa Monica's Long Wharf where passengers would ride 4,720 feet over the ocean. Today, the greenway is popular with runners out for a jog or training for the LA Marathon, which has used San Vicente as part of the route for years.

Turn R on Eisenhower  
Exit VA Medical Campus through pedestrian gate  
Turn L on Bringham  
Turn R on San Vicente\*  
Continue West on San Vicente for 3.8 miles  
Turn R on 7th Street/Entrada  
Turn R on San Lorenzo

**Stop 4: Pascual Marquez Family Cemetery- 637 San Lorenzo 9.1 miles (33:19 in audio)**

The Pascual Marquez Family Cemetery is the oldest private cemetery in Los Angeles. In 1839, it was part of the 6656-acre Rancho Boca de Santa Monica land grant awarded to Ysidro Reyes and Francisco Marquez after the colonial, mission system displaced and enslaved Indigenous peoples. Reyes was the great-grandson of Juan Francisco Reyes, an Afro Latino soldier from Jalisco who travelled with Junipero Serra as part of the Portola Expedition.

Head back to Entrada

Turn R on Entrada

Continue straight

onto West Channel

Turn R on Mesa

Turn L on Latimer

Turn L into the Old Santa

Monica Forestry Station just past Hilltree St.



**Stop 5: Old Santa Monica Forestry Station 10.3 miles (39:08 in audio)**

The Old Santa Monica Forestry Station was established in 1887 in the Santa Monica Mountains as the nation's first experimental forestry station. American conservationist, capitalist, and founder of Venice, Abbott Kinney, sat on the board of the station.

## BIKE ROUTE: CONTINUED PAGE 3

Reverse your path back  
Turn R on Latimer  
Turn L on Mesa  
Turn L on East Channel  
Turn R on Ocean  
(street is narrow- ok to use the full lane)  
Pull onto the sidewalk on the right at Palisades Park on Ocean Ave. at Palisades Ave



**Stop 6: Arcadia Baker Statue in Palisades Park 11.9 miles (42:13 in audio)**

The bust of Arcadia Bandini Stearns de Baker by sculptor Masahito Sanae is located near Palisades and Ocean Park Ave. Palisades Park was originally named Linda Vista, and it was built in 1892 on land donated by Arcadia and Jones.

Continue South on bike path in Palisades Park

Turn R on Colorado

Continue straight onto Santa Monica Pier

Let's hop onto the Ocean Front Bike Path by taking the steps down to the beach path

Turn R heading South on the bike path

Stop at Bay Street and look for the plaque embedded in a rock under a palm tree.

**Stop 7: The "Ink Well" Historic Landmark - Bay Street @ Ocean Front Walk 13.4 miles (45:33 in audio)**

At Bay Street and Ocean Front bike path is a plaque in a rock near a palm tree that reads, "The Inkwell: A Place of Celebration and Pain." Although early 19th Century law said that beaches were open to everyone, whites-only beaches could be found all along the coast. This area was a gathering place for African Americans until the 1960s.

Head away from the ocean on Bay Street

Turn L on Ocean Way

Turn R on Pico

Turn L on Ocean Ave\*

**Optional Stop: Tongva Park (48:38)**

Turn R on Colorado Stop at 2nd Street at SM Bike Center or continue on to Stop 8.

From SM Bike Center, Turn L on 2nd St\*

Turn R on Broadway\*

Turn R on 17th St.

Turn L onto Expo Bike Path at @17th & Colorado Ave. Expo Line stop

Turn L onto 20th St.

Turn L into parking lot for Santa Monica Brew Works

Arrive Santa Monica Brew Works- 1920 Colorado 14.1 miles

**Stop 8: Thirsty? Hungry? Continue your ride to Santa Monica Brew Works 1.6 miles from SM Bike Center (50:17 in audio)**

Santa Monica Brew Works is the city's first and only, truly local, independent craft brewery. Just south of here, the freeway tore through the Pico District, displacing a large number of the city's Latino and African Americans. While it's still the city's most diverse area it's currently threatened by ongoing gentrification.