American Council of Construction
Spouse/Guest Tour – February 19, 2015
Cost -- $70 per person

Lots to see and lots to do in LA, Hollywood, Santa Monica, Venice Beach and more. Join the group as we learn the answers to many questions and see many things!
The bus will leave the ship at 9:00 am and we will meet in the registration lobby.

Beginning in downtown LA, we will kick off our visit at Grauman’s Chinese Theatre. With pagodas, temple bells, and stone Heaven Dogs imported from China’s Grauman’s Chinese Theatre, it was a wonder when it opened in 1927 – and this recently restored giant red pagoda with a huge green dragon remains so today.

Though we will not go inside this legendary movie theatre, we stop to give you plenty of time to explore the stars’ footprints. See if you can find: The titans of classic Hollywood – among them Clark Gable, Frank Sinatra, Debbie Reynolds, Gregory Peck, Jack Lemmon, and Sophia Loren

Today’s mega stars – some of them are Richard Gere, Tom Hanks, Robin Williams, Jim Carrey, Nicolas Cage and the three young wizards from the Harry Potter movies

Someone who left the imprint of a fist, and another who left an impression of her famous legs?
Three horses, two cigars and a current top star’s hair?
Three barefoot stars?
Bob Hope and Jimmy Durante both made plenty of jokes about this prominent bit of anatomy – and both left impressions of their own at Grauman’s Forecourt. It’s not a hand or a foot – what is it?

Do you know?

Who were the very first stars to leave their footprints in the Forecourt of the Stars at Grauman’s Chinese Theatre?

Who has left the smallest footprint? (Hint—there are two; one an adult, the other a child star). And who has left the largest?

In a recent movie, a gorilla climbs up the side of Grauman’s Chinese Theatre. Name the movie.

How did Hollywood get its name?

When was the sign erected – and why?

Viewers of 77 Sunset Strip were so smitten with Kookie, a wisecracking beatnik and car jockey who dropped in to help solve mysteries, that a song was written about him. In it, the female singer begs sexy Kookie to lend her something. What is it?

Who was the infatuated female singer of this song?

What is the name of the world’s most expensive store, famously located on Rodeo Drive?

There is a pop song about the famous highway, a symbol for youth and freedom since the 1950s, that starts in Chicago and leads directly to the Santa Monica Pier? What is the song, and who sang it?

Among the charming Art Deco storefronts of Venice are some unusual buildings. One of the strangest is shaped like an instrument used to aid vision. What is it?

Dozens of movie scenes and TV shows have been filmed in Venice. Can you name two? Ironically, the product that is the number one import is also the number one export at Ports of Long Beach – what is it?

How many stories above water is the top of the tower at the highest point on the Vincent Thomas Bridge?

Come along -- we will find out!
We will then take in the famous “Hollywood Sign” as we travel to Sunset Strip. Sunset Strip is the section of Sunset Boulevard between Hollywood and Beverly Hills that includes nightclubs where many big names have appeared – both on stage and in the audience. Mammoth billboards, known locally as vanity boards, are one of its trademarks. The Sunset Strip also has a giant statue of another fan favorite – Bullwinkle the Moose, with his pal Rocky, the flying Squirrel. We’ll also see (but not go inside) two famous (or perhaps infamous) nightspots: The Viper Room, formerly owned by Johnny Depp, is often called “the hippest spot” in this very hip town. Big names aren’t on the show bill here – they simply show up and perform. Among them: Bruce Springsteen, Gwen Stephi and the Smashing Pumpkins. And when Mick is in town, this is where he likes to party.

Since the Whisky a Go Go night club opened its doors in 1964, it has launched the careers of a long list of high profile stars including Jim Morrison and the Doors, Little Richard, Jimmy Hendrix, Janis Joplin and Goldie Hawn”

Of course a day trip to LA must include Rodeo Drive! Who will you spot out for a bit of luxury bling when we stop at Rodeo Drive? It could be Leonardo DiCaprio, Britney Spears, Cher, Warren Beatty, or Rod Stewart you see heading into Gucci or Armani, or strolling along, laden with bags from Cartier, Hermes or Ferragamo. All these stars have been spotted here, as have many of Hollywood’s most famous faces. It’s great fun to check out the luxury goods on display while people watching for a familiar face!

We will be stopping for lunch at Mel's Diner! The ultimate 50’s dining experience! George Lucas filmed scenes for American Graffiti at a Mel’s Diner. The one on Sunset Strip is still a great place for celebrity Spotting! You don’t "have" to have lunch here - but why wouldn’t you want to? You just might recognize someone famous at the next table. Don’t let their clever disguise (Rayban(tm) sunglasses) fool you! Dine with the stars!

And we still have the Santa Monica Pier and Venice Beach. Follow America’s most famous cross country highway to the Pacific Ocean, and you will find yourself at the Santa Monica Pier. Designed as a pleasure palace and park a century ago, currently this restored family playground celebrated its 100th Gala in 2009. Hilary Duff shot a video here, Jim Morrison and the Doors and bandleader Benny Goodman both got their careers started here, and now it is the place actors Jane Fonda, Viggo Mortensen and Elijah Wood call home. It’s Venice Beach, the free-spirited beach resort town beloved for its Bohemian character, boutiques, street performers, artists, fortune tellers on the boardwalk and as a stellar place for people-watching (not to mention star-gazing)!

If you have not signed up for the tour and would still like to join us, please call the ACCE office at 210-495-6161 or email Billye Hall at acce@acce-hq.org. We would love to have you join the group!