Go on an Adventure With Antaeus Theatre Company

As part of our free podcast series, The Zip Code Plays – a celebration of the diverse culture and history of six Los Angeles neighborhoods – we’ve created this tour so you can visit some of our favorite landmarks and small businesses. Have fun!

Highlights of This Tour:
- 786 Degrees
- Pink Motel and Cadillac Jacks Cafe
- Stonehurst Recreation Center
- Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants
- La Tuna Canyon Trailhead

786 Degrees
8879 Laurel Canyon Blvd Unit # A
Sun Valley, CA 91352

We’re not the only ones who recommend you get a slice of pizza at 786 Degrees, they’ve also been written about in Eater, the Food Network, LA Weekly, and more! Our favorite is the Moroccan pizza, which has the taste of a kabob while being 100% vegetarian. Make sure to order online and pick up at their Sun Valley location! Can’t make it to Sun Valley? You’re in luck! You can still get your pizza fix at their Pasadena location that offers plenty of patio seating.

Pink Motel and Cadillac Jacks Cafe
9457 San Fernando Rd Sun Valley, CA 91352

Built by Maximillian and Gladys Thomulka in 1946, the Pink Motel and Cadillac Jacks Cafe (formerly known as the Pink Cafe) is an eye-catching pink landmark on San Fernando Road in Sun Valley. With its Mid-Century Modern style and a star topped neon sign, it definitely stands out today.

Located on Historic Route 66, which was the main highway running north and south before the Golden State Freeway was completed in 1962, the Pink Motel became an easy resting place for people traveling in or out of Los Angeles. In 1959, the Thomulkas added a fish-shaped swimming pool to the property.

In the 1980s, the Thomulkas’ son Monty started renting the property to production companies. The Pink Motel and Cadillac Jacks Cafe are now primarily used as a film location and have been featured in a number of movies and TV shows, including Netflix’s GLOW, Dexter, Drive, The O.C., and Westworld.
Born in 1895, Daniel Lawrence Montelongo moved near the San Fernando Mission as a young boy. By his mid-20s, he had served as a ranch hand, been in the Army, was a sheriff with Los Angeles County, worked on oil fields, and helped build the Owens Valley Aqueduct, one of the major transporters of water to the City of Los Angeles.

In the 1920s, he married Delfina Valencia Moreno and the couple raised their family in Sun Valley.

Montelongo began construction of the Stonehurst Historic Preservation Overlay Zone—a neighborhood of 92 homes built out of local river rock from the nearby washes and the foothills of the Tujunga Valley. Around 1930, he built the Stonehurst Recreation Center using natural river rock that was rough-stacked to create the building. The building was saved from demolition when local residents petitioned to have it designated as a historical landmark in 1977.

Theodore Payne was born in Church Brampton, Northamptonshire, England a small village on the Althorp Estate in 1872. Orphaned by the age of twelve, he was sent to study at Ackworth Academy, a Quaker boarding school in West York, where he was encouraged to study nature.

After he completed his study at Ackworth, Payne was apprenticed to J. Cheal & Sons, a nursery and seed business where he traveled between departments learning the ins-and-outs of the nursery business. In 1893, Payne traveled to the United States, and then made his way to Southern California. Soon after, he found a job as head gardener for Madame Helena Modjeska, a renowned actress who specialized in Shakespearean and tragic roles, on Modjeska Ranch which they called Arden after the forest setting in Shakespeare’s As You Like It. It was there that he began his lifelong interest in California native plants.

A few years later, he started working for Germain Seed Company, where he was responsible for their flower, tree, and palm seed departments. In 1903, he opened his own nursery featuring California wildflowers and native plants first in Downtown Los Angeles, and eventually in Atwater Village. In 1907, he married Alice Noyes and together they took many trips into wild areas of California to collect seeds. By the time he retired in 1958, Payne had introduced over 450 species of native plants to the public through his nursery. The Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants was founded in 1960 to serve as a nursery and gallery that features and fosters education around California native plant life, carrying on Payne’s life’s work.
La Tuna Canyon Trailhead
5 La Tuna Canyon Rd Sun Valley, CA 91352

Located on the north slope of the Verdugo Mountains, 1,100-acre La Tuna Canyon Park provides trail access into the steep upper reaches of the mountains.

There are several trailheads you can choose from: The Grotto Trail, a 0.15-mile round trip that ends in a seasonal waterfall that is usually visible during the rainy season; La Tuna Canyon Trail, a 4.5-mile round trip hike that ascends a ridge and a pair of canyons with an elevation of 1,350 feet; and Hostetter Fire Road to Verdugo Mountain, a 7.5-mile round trip hike up La Tuna Canyon which reaches the highest point in the Verdugo Mountains. Depending on which trail you follow, you will explore oak and sycamore-lined canyons or majestic views of the San Gabriel Mountains, the San Fernando Valley, and downtown Los Angeles.