

# THE ULTIMATE WESTERN GARDEN GUIDE

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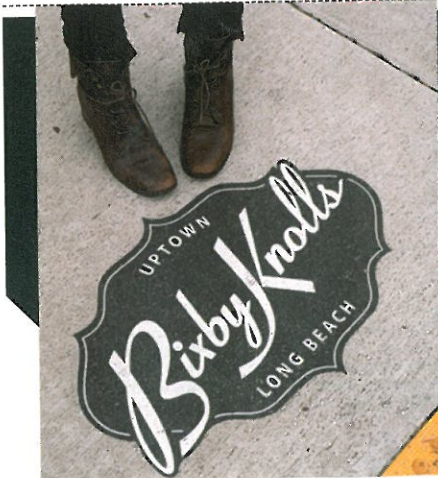
## DAY TRIP

### Bixby Knolls

In Long Beach's buzziest hood, you'll find a quirky street fest, Mexican meatballs, and a little movie magic.

#### Legendary pie

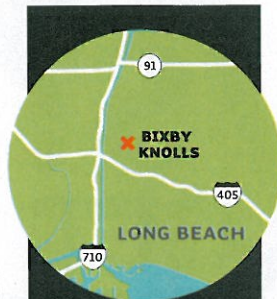
At **Jongewaard's Bake-n-Broil**, the line for a table often winds out the door even on weekday afternoons, but you'll forget all about the wait when you sit down to a piece of lemon meringue. Sweet and fluffy on top, tart and smooth on the bottom, this version of the classic melts on your tongue. It's just one of the dozen or so housemade pies and cakes the diner offers every day, including red velvet cake and banana cream and berry pies that would make a 1950s coffee shop proud. No wonder locals are so often spotted carrying Jongewaard's bakery boxes to dinner parties and potlucks. \$; 3697 Atlantic Ave.; 562/595-0396.



#### Hollywood cred

Remember Ferris Bueller's suburban Chicago house? It's in Bixby Knolls. So are homes from *American Pie*, *Dexter*, and *Beverly Hills, 90210*. Dozens of movies and TV shows have taken advantage of the neighborhood's photogenic architecture, which runs the gamut from colonial to Craftsman, Tudor to midcentury modern. Some of the grandest homes line **Country Club Drive**, or you can see a bigger cross section of the area on foot with the **Bixby Knolls Strollers**, who walk a different guided 4-mile loop every Saturday morning (and have downloadable route maps). [bixbyknollsinfo.com](http://bixbyknollsinfo.com) >38

## DAY TRIP



Bixby Knolls is in uptown Long Beach. From L.A., take I-405 to the Atlantic Ave. exit and head north about 3 miles.

**70**  
The number of new shops and restaurants that moved into Bixby Knolls in 2012

### Sample the globe on restaurant row

On just eight blocks of Atlantic Avenue, you can find traditional Mexican meatball soup at **Patricia's** (\$; [patriciasmxfood.com](http://patriciasmxfood.com)), gnocchi with housemade pesto at **La Taverna Cucina Italiana** (\$\$; 562/427-8600), salmon tartare and fig "lollipops" at the **Factory Gastrobar** (pictured, \$\$; [thefactorylb.com](http://thefactorylb.com)), and English pub-type fish and chips at **E.J. Malloy's** (\$; [ejmalloypub.com](http://ejmalloypub.com)). No matter where you eat, grab a nightcap at the **Willmore** (562/244-4517), a new wine bar that's more local pub than trendy hot spot.



### Two class acts

**Bella Cosa Boutique** (pictured) and the new **Chef Tech Cooking School** share more than the same block of main drag Atlantic Avenue. Both are owned by locals with Long Beach roots, occupy funky old buildings (a Greyhound Bus depot and a 1950s-era bakery, respectively), and offer weekend workshops (*from \$19*) that go beyond your typical craft and cooking classes. With a little planning, you could create a pendant out of precious-metal clay at Bella Cosa in the morning, then hop across the street and make bacon from scratch at Chef Tech in the afternoon. *Bella Cosa*: 3803 Atlantic, [bellacosaboutique.com](http://bellacosaboutique.com); *Chef Tech*: 3842 Atlantic, [cheftechcookingschool.com](http://cheftechcookingschool.com)



### The monthly street show

Chewbacca on stilts, sword-fighting Shakespearean actors, New Orleans-style jazz bands, and an albino python have all performed for the masses at **First Fridays**, the monthly street fest held along Atlantic Avenue. Sound like an oddball lineup? That's the point. "We might have avant-garde performance art right next to a Girl Scout troop selling cookies," says Blair Cohn, whose organization puts together the event. "We like the mashup. It reflects the neighborhood." Shops and restaurants stay open late with special discounts and menus. *Apr 5*; [firstfridayslongbeach.com](http://firstfridayslongbeach.com) —**ROBIN JONES**