

Visit Berkeley this Winter

Fun Things To Do

By Betty Bailey

Berkeley, California, may conjure up images of tie-dyed garments, flower children and anti-war politics, but it's also a great destination for a low-key holiday escape. From the Habitot Children's Discovery Center to architectural walking tours, there are plenty of activities to keep a traveler busy.

WHAT TO DO:

Holiday shopping - Find one-of-a-kind gifts on a self-guided tour through the workshops and galleries of 100 local artists and craftspeople who open their doors to the public. It's an excellent opportunity to chat up the artists and get a glimpse into their creative process. The event takes place on Saturdays and Sundays, from 11am – 6pm, from November 25 through Christmas Eve. The event is free. Pick up a printed map at any of the participating locations. You'll find a list on their website berkeleyartisans.com.

For film lovers - The Graduate turns 50 this month! Take a tour of locations from the 1967 film starring Dustin Hoffman, Anne Bancroft and Katherine Ross that won an Oscar for director Mike Nichols. Named number seven among top-ranked American films by the American Film Institute, The Graduate helped define the spirit of a generation that was questioning the conventions of the past. Guided and self-guided tours of the film's locations are available at local hotels. Look for special packages for weekends during the holidays.

Sound of the 60s - A host of artists contributed to the Bay Area's rich legacy of music. Enjoy the sounds of artists like Janis Joplin, Bob Dylan, Jimi Hendrix, Creedence Clearwater and Berkeley local Country Joe McDonald on display at Berkeley's Historical Society. The exhibit Soundtrack to the 60s: The Berkeley Music Scene runs through April. The hours of operation are 1-4pm, Thursday – Saturday. Admission is free.

Contemporary beats - If you're looking for more a more current Berkeley vibe, check out Freight & Salvage, The Back Room or Cornerstone. Be sure to stop by The UC Theater, an all-ages venue that offers a wide range of live performances to promote the understanding and appreciation of music and culture. The recently

renovated theater is run by The Berkeley Music Group, a non-profit 510(c)(3) organization founded to modernize and manage the theater.

Berkeley art scene - Catch the new installation at the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA) by South African street artist and designer Karabo Poppy Moletsane. She's known for her work with Nike and with Apple on the RED campaign. This is her first museum exhibit in the United States. It runs through July 15, 2018.

WHERE TO EAT:

Chez Panisse - The birthplace of California cuisine, started in 1971 by food activist Alice Waters, calls on top-quality, organically grown ingredients from local farms, dairies and ranches to make unforgettable meals. Along with earning a Michelin star, Chez Panisse was named Best Restaurant in America by Gourmet magazine (2001) and ranked number 12 in the world by Restaurant magazine (2003). The menu changes daily to reflect the bounty of the season.

Berkeley Bowl Marketplace - There's a café at Berkeley Bowl that serves burgers, sandwiches a host of vegan and gluten-free dishes but the real treat is getting to walk through the market. You'll find everything from fresh produce to Asian groceries and housewares. There are two Berkeley locations with hours from 9am-8pm M-Sat and 10am-7pm on Sunday.

The Cheese Board Collective - Located in Berkeley's Gourmet Ghetto, which is famous for putting the town on the culinary map, this worker-owned coop dates back to 1971. The Cheese Board bakery sells nearly 400 cheeses and a dozen types of bread, from sticky buns to light rye. There's also a full coffee bar. If you're looking for a heartier meal, head to Cheese Board Pizza, a few doors down, for pizza made with local organic ingredients. Closed Sundays and Mondays. Check the website for hours (cheeseboardcollective.coop).

Zachary's Chicago Pizza - This place has won more than 175 "best pizza" awards. Enough said.

For a full calendar of local events, go to visitberkeley.com/events.



The Cheese Board Collective, est. 1971
Credit: Visit Berkeley



Berkeley, CA - Credit: Visit Berkeley



Country Joe McDonald
Credit: Berkeley Historical Society



Berkeley's Telegraph Avenue
Credit: Visit Berkeley



Berkeley's all-organic farmer's market
Credit: Visit Berkeley