

# Long Beach Historical Pike Hike Guide

**Overview:** The Pike Hike Award was developed to promote interest in Long Beach history within Scouts. The modern history of the City of Long Beach began in 1880 when Jotham Bixby sold 4,000 acres of Rancho Los Cerritos to William E. Willmore who hoped to divide it and create Willmore City. His business venture failed and he was eventually bought out by the Long Beach Land and water Company who changed the name of the community to Long Beach. The City of Long Beach was officially incorporated in 1897.



The enclosed hike will introduce Scouts to the early development of Long Beach and its unique architecture. This 5.2 mile route is a perfect conditioning hike and takes about 2-3 hours. Units are encouraged to conduct the hike in smaller groups, or start at staggered times, due to the crowded and narrow sidewalks. Long Beach weather is generally mild, but “Be Prepared”. Sunscreen, hats and water bottles will be needed in the summer. Jackets, water bottles and possibly rain gear will be needed in the winter. If conducting this walk in April, you may run into detours due to the Toyota Grand Prix of Long Beach. There are many places to eat in downtown Long Beach, especially in the Pike area and along Pine Avenue.

Number of Nights	Day Hike
Trailhead Location	Long Beach City Hall, 333 W. Ocean Blvd
Directions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Metro Blue Line: The Metro Blue Line runs from downtown Los Angeles to Long Beach. Exit at the Long Beach Transit Mall and head one block West to Long Beach City Hall, 333 W. Ocean Blvd.</li> <li>• Bus: Bus service also stops at the Long Beach Transit Mall.</li> <li>• Bike: Bike racks are located at City Hall and the Main Library.</li> <li>• Parking: Parking is available at the City Hall Parking Structure for a fee. The City Hall parking structure is on the southeast corner of Broadway and Chestnut. Remember that Broadway is a one-way street going East. Metered parking is also available on the north side of Broadway, on the south side of Ocean Blvd, and at various parking facilities in the downtown area within walking distance of City Hall.</li> </ul>
Distance	5.2 mi
Elevation	30 ft.
High Adventure Award	LBAC Pike Hike Award
Water Source	Multiple business locations/parks along route
Bathroom Facility	Multiple business locations/parks along route
Cost	\$4 (award)

**Pike Hike Route**

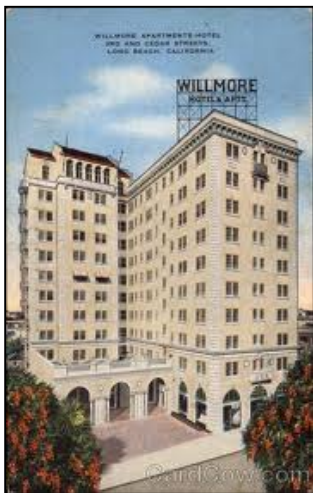
**Begin at the Long Beach City Hall Plaza**



The Long Beach City Hall (333 W. Ocean Blvd.) was built in 1976. This 12-story building is the fourth City Hall for the City of Long Beach. Models of the former City Hall buildings can be seen in the lobby of the current City Hall.

The building to the southeast is the Long Beach Main Library (101 Pacific Ave.), built in 1977. The previous library on this site was built in 1908 with funds provided by Andrew Carnegie. The Carnegie library burned down in 1972. The Library was designed with a park on the roof, but due to roof leakage, the park had to be removed.

**Proceed North to Broadway, cross Broadway at Cedar Ave., proceed North on Cedar Ave. to 3<sup>rd</sup> St.**



At the southwest corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> St. and Cedar Ave. is the First Congregational Church (241 Cedar Ave.). This Church was built in 1914 and founded by members of the Bixby family.

At the northwest corner is the Willmore Building (315 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> St.), named for William Willmore. Mr. Willmore tried to establish a farming community called “Willmore City” in 1881, but was not successful. Just a few years later, the City of Long Beach was established.

**Cross 3<sup>rd</sup> St. and continue east to The Promenade.**



The building at the northeast corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> St. and Pine Ave. is the Farmers and Merchants Bank building (302 Pine Ave.), which opened in 1923. This 10-story building was the first “skyscraper” in Long Beach.

On the north side of 3<sup>rd</sup> St. at The Promenade you will see a mosaic mural called “Recreations of Long Beach” that was originally located on the Municipal Auditorium, which was located where the Long Beach Performing Arts Center now stands. The mosaic required 40 artists to complete in 1938 as part of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) program that was developed by President Franklin Roosevelt to create jobs during the Depression. The mural is made of 462,000 pieces of ceramic tile.

**Cross 3<sup>rd</sup> St. and continue South on The Promenade**



At 205 East Broadway is the Insurance Exchange Building. This building was constructed in 1925 and the sign for the original tenant, Middoughs Boys Shop, can still be seen on the south side. Look for the sea serpents in the decoration.

**Continue South on The Promenade to Ocean Blvd., cross Ocean Blvd.**



To your right is the Breakers Hotel (200 E. Ocean Blvd.). The hotel opened in 1926 and many movie stars dined at the Sky Room restaurant at the top of the building. During World War II, anti-aircraft guns were mounted on the roof. Today the building is a retirement home.

Continue East on Ocean Blvd

To your right is the Long Beach Performing Arts Center (300 E. Ocean Blvd.), which contains the Terrace Theater and the Center Theater. This is the original location of the Long Beach Municipal Auditorium where the mosaic mural you saw on 3<sup>rd</sup> St. was located.

Behind the Performing Arts Center is the Long Beach Arena. It was painted by the artist Wyland and is the World's Largest Mural (according to the Guinness Book of World Records). The mural is called "Planet Ocean".

Note the historical markers on the concrete wall on your right as you pass the east side of the Performing Arts Center.

**Continue East on Ocean Blvd. to Alamitos Ave.**



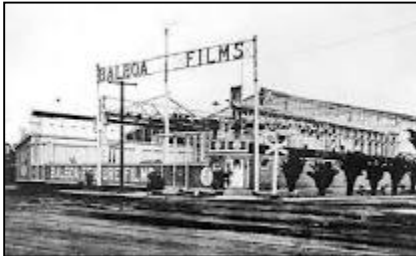
Compare the architecture of the two buildings on the south side of the intersection of Ocean Blvd. and Alamitos Ave. The round building at the southwest corner is the International Tower (700 E. Ocean Blvd.). This 32-story residential building was completed in 1966. The building at the southeast corner is the Villa Riviera (800 E. Ocean Blvd.). This residential building was constructed in 1929 and was the second tallest building in Southern California at the time (the tallest was the Los Angeles City Hall). Look for the gargoyles on the roofline.

**Cross Ocean Blvd. and proceed North on Alamitos Ave., keep to the right to remain on Alamitos Ave.**



The gray and red building on the east side of Alamitos Ave. (278 Alamitos Ave.) was once the Long Beach Skating Palace, a roller skating rink. This building is now used for artists' residence and work spaces.

**Continue North on Alamitos Ave. to 6<sup>th</sup> St.**



The building across the street to your right is the Museum of Latin American Art (MOLAA). The museum was built in 1996, but this location was the site of the Balboa Studios, which produced silent movies in the 1910s and 1920s, long before Hollywood was developed. Outside scenes for Westerns were filmed on Signal Hill.

**Proceed West on 6<sup>th</sup> St**



On the south side of 6<sup>th</sup> St. at Olive Ave. is St. Anthony's Catholic Church (600 Olive Ave.). The original St. Anthony's was built on this site in 1904. This Church was soon found to be too small and was moved to Cerritos Ave. near Long Beach City College, where it is still located. The existing Church was built after the second Church was destroyed in the 1933 Long Beach earthquake. The mosaic on the front was added in 1954.

Just after Lime Ave., on the left is Robert Louis Stevenson Elementary School (515 Lime Ave.) which was built in the 1930s. It was named for the author of Treasure Island and Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.

**Continue West on 6<sup>th</sup> St. to Atlantic Ave., proceed South on Atlantic Ave.**



On your left is the First United Presbyterian Church (600 E. 5<sup>th</sup> St.), also known as the Little Brown Church. The first Presbyterian Church in Long Beach was built at this location in 1905. The current Gothic Revival style Church was built in 1939.

**Continue South on Atlantic Ave. to 4<sup>th</sup> St.. Cross Atlantic Ave. and proceed West on 4<sup>th</sup> St.**



On the west side of Pine Ave., north of 4<sup>th</sup> St. are the Walker Building and Kress Lofts. The Walker Building (115 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St.) was built in 1929 and the Kress Lofts building (100 W. 5<sup>th</sup> St.) was constructed in 1925. Both buildings originally contained a department store but both have been converted to condominium units.

**Continue West on 4<sup>th</sup> St. to Magnolia Ave**



Look on the west side of Pacific Ave. to see the Dolly Varden sign. This hotel was built in 1929 and was supposedly named for a circus performer from San Francisco who left a trunk full of jewels when she died.

As you pass Cedar Ave., you are entering the Drake Park/Willmore City Historic District.

**Proceed South on Magnolia Ave. to Ocean Boulevard, proceed West on Ocean Boulevard. Continue West on Ocean Boulevard to Golden Shore Drive. Turn South on Golden Shore Drive.**



On the right is the Golden Shore Marine Biological Reserve Park. This restored wetland area reflects the original state of much of the shoreline area. Look for herons, cormorants and pelicans.



**Continue South on the bike path. NOTE: Walk in single file and watch for cyclists.**



On your right is the Los Angeles River. Most of this river had been lined with concrete to prevent flooding of the surrounding areas.

Across the river you will see oil pumps. Oil was first discovered in Signal Hill in 1921. Thousands of oil wells were drilled throughout the City of Long Beach and oil production continues to this day.

To the south and west you will see the Port of Long Beach and the Port of Los Angeles. The Port of Los Angeles is the busiest container port in the United States and the Port of Long Beach is the second busiest. Products from all over the world come in through these ports and American products are shipped to international destinations.

**Proceed East on Golden Shore, south of the California State University Building and the Catalina Express Building. Continue on Golden Shore South around the Catalina Landing Harbor and then head East crossing under Queens Way.**



The ship that you see across the Harbor is the Queen Mary. This luxury ocean liner was constructed in 1930 in Scotland. The Queen Mary was painted gray and used as a troop transport ship during World War II. The ship was brought to Long Beach in 1967 and is now a museum and hotel. The Queen Mary is reported to be one of the most haunted locations in Southern California.

**Continue East and turn North at Pierpoint Landing (you will see an anchor on your left).**

To the left past Pierpoint Landing is the Aquarium of the Pacific (100 Aquarium Way). The roofline of this building is designed to resemble waves and it was constructed in 1998.

**Continue past the Aquarium and proceed up the steps (or ramp) to your left. Proceed across the Roller Coaster Bridge.**



This area contained an amusement park known as "The Pike" from 1902 until 1979. The bridge you are crossing represents the roller coasters associated with the Pike, including the "Jackrabbit Racer" (1915-1930) and the "Cyclone Racer" (1930-1968).

You are now crossing over the track of the Toyota Grand Prix of Long Beach, which has run since 1975. If you are here in April, you will see preparations for the race including barricades and grandstands.

**Continue on the Roller Coaster bridge over Aquarium Way and then proceed to the movie theater and then go down the stairs (or escalator or elevator) to your left. Turn left and then left again to go East on Bay Street and proceed to Pine Avenue.**

Ahead of you is the Long Beach Convention Center. Initially constructed in 1962 and expanded in 1994, the Convention Center contains exhibit halls, ballrooms, meeting rooms and an Arena.

**Proceed North on Pine Avenue to Ocean Boulevard**



To your left is the Ocean Center Building at 110 W. Ocean Blvd. This office building was constructed in 1929. A tower and lantern at the top of the building had to be removed after the 1933 Long Beach earthquake.

There is a tunnel, known as the Jergins Subway that runs from the vacant lot at the southeast corner of Ocean Blvd. and Pine Ave., under Ocean Blvd. The tunnel was built in 1927 to provide access from Pine Ave. to the Pike, but has been closed since 1967.

**Cross Ocean Blvd. and continue North on Pine Ave.**



On the northwest corner of Pine Ave. and 1<sup>st</sup> St. is the First National Bank Building (101 Pine Ave.). Built as a three story building in 1900, three more stories were added in 1906. The clock was added in 1907 and is six feet in diameter. On the northeast corner of Pine Ave. and 1<sup>st</sup> St. is the Security Pacific National Bank Building (110 Pine Ave.) built in 1924.

The Masonic Temple at 230 Pine Ave. is the building on the east side of Pine Ave. with a three peaked roof. Masonic symbols can still be seen painted inside this 1903 structure.

**Continue North on Pine Ave. to Broadway and turn West on Broadway**



At the northwest corner of Pine Ave. and Broadway is the Rowan/Bradley Building (205 N. Pine Ave). This colorful building originally housed the Bank of Italy (now called Bank of America). Later it was a jazz club called Birdland West.

**Continue West on Broadway to Cedar Avenue and proceed South to the Long Beach City Hall and the beginning location.**

**Recommended Packing List**

Item	Qty	Notes	Packed?
Class B troop shirt	1	worn	
Socks	3	(1) worn, (2) packed	
Sweatshirt, fleece, jacket	1	Warming layer, packed (consider bringing a second)	
Gloves	1	Pair, packed (season dependent)	
Winter hat	1	Packed (season dependent)	
Pants	1	Worn (season dependent)	
Shorts	1	Worn (season dependent)	
Hat	1	Wide brim preferred	
Shoes	1	Worn, hiking boots	
Daypack	1	Carried	
Water bottle and/or camelback	2	(2) minimum, 3 or more recommended	
Pocket knife and/or multi-tool	1	With Whittling or Tottin Chit	
Sunblock	1	Packed	
Rain gear	1	Gortex shell or poncho	
Sun glasses	1	Recommended	
Flashlight	1	Packed	
Medications, medical form (Part A/B)	1	As appropriate, packed	
First aid kit, personal	1	Packed	
Fire starting materials	1	Packed, lighter, matches	
Camera	1	Recommended	
Map and compass	1	Packed, of route	

**Sponsor:** The Pike Hike Award was developed by Mr. David Simon of Troop 67 to celebrate the rich history of downtown Long Beach and its “Pike” waterfront amusement park. He was inspired by a similar hike that he had participated in as a Boy Scout in his native Baltimore, Maryland.

