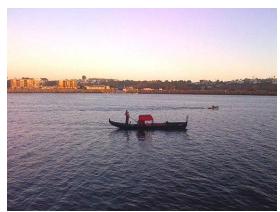# Long Layover at LAX? Head to Marina del Rey and Get on a Gondola

By Jimmy Im
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A gondola ride around Marina del Rey

Even with the swanky new Tom Bradley International Terminal having recently opened, we'd still prefer not to loiter at LAX between flights if we can help it. The charming seaside town of Marina Del Rey—home to the world's largest marina—is only around 15 minutes away from LAX on the bus and is a perfect spot to kill a really long layover. These are our favorite activities in the area:

Take a gondola around the marina: Is there anything more soothing than soaking up the warm California sun and feeling the breeze ruffle through your hair as you glide gently across the water in a gondola? A relaxing, one-hour gondola ride across the marina is the perfect way to break up a long, cramped plane journey. Sit back on those plush pillows and nibble on chocolate while admiring the pelicans and seals that come out to play. *(14045 Panay Way; 310-736-7301)*

Get pampered: The luxurious spa at the Ritz Carlton Marina del Rey is just a ten-minute drive from LAX. Here, you can work out those stiff, cramped muscles with an hour long full-body massage. The spa's $175 reLAX package—created specifically for long layovers—also gives you $50 food and beverage credit at the Ritz Carlton's dining outlets, access to spa facilities (including the Jacuzzi), and a travel-sized Natural Bisse Vitamin spray to take with you on the next flight. *(4375 Admiralty Way; 310-574-4356)*

Grab a bite by the water: The Chart House by Marina del Rey easily has one of the most stunning waterside views in the area, not to mention steak that will make you forget that horrid plane food. If you're looking for a spot that's a little more low-key, head to El Torito at Fisherman's Village. It also boasts a great harbor view, fried ice cream, and cheap but delicious margaritas (be careful not to drink too many, though). *(The Chart House: 13950 Panay Way; 310-822-4144; El Torito: 13715 Fiji Way; 310-823-8941)*