ECCENTRIC CALIFORNIA 2005

Being taken around town by tour guide Anne Block has been likened to being shown around by Auntie Mame. Vivacious, hip and audacious, Anne will pick you up in her gold Caddy and show you the 'real' LA, demystifying a city that many people find alien and intimidating. She takes you beyond the standard tour-bus dreams-come-true rap, concentrating on the eclectic, offbeat and outrageous cultural aspects that real people who live here experience. Specializing in the 'gloriously unusual', she calls her business 'Take My Mother*Please' since so many of her clients hire her to take their relatives around so they don't have to. Anne delights in finding the madcap, offbeat soul of the place she truly loves, exploring the ever-changing pop culture that makes Los Angeles so fluid and fascinating. After a day with this 50-something woman, you'll see the city in a whole new light and perhaps even understand the quirky essence of one of the most eccentric places on earth. She began her tour business after escorting the famous comedienne Lily Tomlin to a film festival in Berlin. Anne's tours are totally customized depending upon your interests. Some of her clients' favorites include a beauty day on the Sunset Strip, the LA Confidential tour and the Pretty Woman tour based on the famous movie.

Take My Mother*Please Tours ('or any other VIP) Tours PO Box 35219, Los Angeles, CA 90034; ₹ 323 737 2200; www.takemymotherplease.com