

IF YOU WANT TO VISIT THEIR GRAVES
AND SEE EVERYTHING IN TWO DAYS

I realize that some of you want to squeeze in as much sightseeing as possible in two days, along with the club meeting. So, here is how you can do it:

SATURDAY – visit Nelson’s grave before the driving tour.

This can easily be done early in the morning. Drive to Hollywood Forever Cemetery.

Hollywood Forever Cemetery
open 9 am to 5 pm every day
6000 Santa Monica Blvd (between Gower and Van Ness Ave)

I would be there as close to 9 am as you can. You’ll need about ½ hour at the least to see Nelson Eddy Drive and the resting places of Nelson, his mother and his wife. Allow more time if you want to check out other famous folk there. Make sure you leave the cemetery around 10 to 10:15 am, no later!

When you leave the cemetery, why not grab a quick glance at Paramount Studios, where Jeanette began her film career. To do that all you have to do is drive around the block. Turn right onto Santa Monica Blvd Turn right again at the first corner (Van Ness Ave). At Melrose Ave, turn right again (Paramount Gate is on your right halfway up the block). Go one block to N Gower St, turn right. As you look north you’ll be able to see the famous Hollywood sign up in the hills.

Take North Gower to Hollywood Blvd, turn left. You will drive along Hollywood Blvd, past Vine St., past the Egyptian theater (on left) and finally Grauman's Chinese (on right). Soon after passing Graumans, turn left on La Brea Ave. You'll see a record studio on your left - that was Charlie Chaplain's studio. Go to Santa Monica Blvd, turn right. In about two short blocks you will see Trader Joes/Movietown Plaza Shopping Center on your left. Turn left on N. Poinsetta Pl and then turn right into the Movietown Plaza Shopping Center where the Trader Joes is. Address: 7304 Santa Monica Blvd, West Hollywood. Be there no later than 11 am.

SATURDAY – Visit Jeanette’s grave before the club luncheon.

Jeanette is buried at Forest Lawn Glendale, in the Freedom Mausoleum.

Forest Lawn Glendale
1712 S. Glendale Ave, Glendale
Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (summer hours), every day

Again, I would recommend arriving around 9 am. Friday, June 25 is the one-year anniversary of Michael Jackson’s death and he is buried at Forest Lawn – though in a different mausoleum. There may be a lot of fans there as well as security for crowd

control. Hopefully by Sunday morning it will have calmed down. When you drive through the gate if security is there, let them know you're going to the Freedom Mausoleum. Follow the signs to it – you will wind up a hill through the cemetery till you reach the top. It's a large white building on the left side of the road. You can normally park your car on the right side of the road for a few minutes to visit...but who knows how it will be this particular weekend.

When you walk inside, turn right and go down a couple rows, you'll see her crypt on the left. You'll know you're in the right place when you see the bust of Alan Ladd. The area is roped off but even if a guard is there you can step around it, take your pictures and look around.

You will drive around the Freedom Mausoleum and back down to the exit. As you pass around the building, know that Blossom Rock and her husband are buried near a tree to your left.

Assuming you leave Forest Lawn no later than 10:15 am, you can make one more stop on your way to the club luncheon. A 12-minute drive will take you over to Mariposa St where Nelson had another hideaway house – a tiny two-bedroom one – at 812 S. Mariposa (off Riverside Dr). It's all torn down (with new ugly buildings instead) but a quick visit to the street will show you the area where Nelson and Jeanette used to ride their horses. As you turn onto Mariposa, immediately to the left is where Nelson was photographed in the 1940s coming out of the stables. Midway down the left side of the street is where, set back well behind the main house sat Nelson's house with a white picket fence and orange roses in the front yard. Far beyond that on the stables property was another house where Bugsy Siegel ran his illegal gambling. Again – all of it is gone now but you can walk or drive the short block of Mariposa right to the Los Angeles River and imagine what it was like then in quieter, gentler times. There was another stable at the end of Mariposa...and then a bridge for the riders to cross over to the back end Griffith Park area (where Nelson was seen riding over the years). Looking across the bridge you'll also see the other Forest Lawn Hollywood and the 134 Freeway.

You can print out the map and directions for this. Make sure you leave Mariposa and are continuing on to the Sportsmans Lodge no later than 11:30 am. It will take you about 11-15 minutes or Mariposa to Sportsmans, depending on traffic. You will be driving past Disney Studios and Warner Bros en route! Be at Sportsmans Lodge no later than 12 noon.

If for some reason you need to drive directly from Forest Lawn to Sportsmans Lodge, print out the itinerary for this. The drive will take you about 20 minutes.

Please google your directions to the cemeteries from wherever you are staying in the LA area.