Halloween, Thanksgiving and Weekend Trips. Time is passing by so quickly in the still pretty warm Los Angeles! It’s been almost 3 months since I have been living in the American Hotspot of Media, Arts and Film. As Halloween was approaching, I got really excited to experience the real American Halloween which is by far bigger than in Germany. I visited a big, annual Halloween Carnaval in West Hollywood. Cinderella, a herd of pigs and a toilet cycling on a unicycle - You won’t believe what crazy costumes were dancing on and staggering around the well known celebration on Santa Monica Blvd. 200,00 from all over America gather here every year to horse around and have fun. I had a blast curiously experiencing what Halloween's like in Los Angeles.

A lot of Angelenos - Yes, that’s how the inhabitants of Los Angeles are called - love to go hiking since the mountains are so close and I must say I also started to like it. The mountains nearby are really beautiful although pretty dry. I wanted to hike to a waterfall the other day, there was not a single drop of water, though. Yet, the nature was amazing.

Recently, I made a weekend trip to San Diego with two friends. After being in LA, it was pretty enjoyable to be in a smaller city. Everything was in walking distance and so we could cover everything quite well in the two days. Starting off, we explored Little Italy, a sweet little remake of the European country with one Italian restaurant after another. Also, we saw the harbor, the gas lamp quarter, Seaport village and the baseball stadium. A burger later, we ended our first day at the National Comedy theatre San Diego. We watched an improvised show that also involved the audience which made it not only entertaining but also quite interactive. On the next day we visited Balboa park which is a really big park with painters, artists, stunning nature and - of course - a lot of tourists. Unfortunately, the weekend was almost over and so we hit the road home to LA. Oh, and not to forget, on the way we stopped at La Jolla, a sympathetic little part in the North of San Diego, ate Mexican food and watched seals hanging out on the shores. What a great trip and an amazing city!

Not to forget: I celebrated thanksgiving, of course. For lunch, I was at a families house in Santa Clarita, which is far in the north of Los Angeles. I was invited by a friend of a friend of a friend and so on of my parents. The whole extended family gathered at the big house in this rural area and since they had Korean roots, the feast as well as the food was kind of a mixture of American and Korean which was amazing because this way I killed two birds with one stone. As the feast was coming to an end I headed off to another families house in Hollywood. I was very happy that a friend of my coworker invited me to that thanksgiving dinner which was actually more a friendsgiving dinner since they invited lots of friends of my age. I think it was really exciting to get to know and talk to all those great people that are all working in the film industry and with the big movie stars. The food was delicious and I felt like it tasted like the season of fall - I don't know why. Maybe because everything was brown and orange. Anyway, I enjoyed the day with two thanksgiving celebrations and am really happy I had the chance to experience a little bit more of american culture.