



WALKING TOUR #1 SELF HELP GRAPHICS TO CINCO PUNTOS

1. Self Help Graphics
2. El Super
3. Morin Memorial Square
4. 1946 Comite Civico Cultural Pro Raza 1946 Memorial for the sacrifices of Mexican-American veterans of World War II
5. Evergreen Cemetery
6. El Mercado
7. The First Street Store



Trapped inside steel automobiles, everyone in Los Angeles is crying inside. ELA provides the antidote to this technological death of the soul. Escape the car, walk the sunny dusty sidewalk amid the people. Park that beast at Self-Help Graphics at the corner of Gage Avenue and Cesar Chavez (exiting the 710 freeway at the Cesar Chavez exit, take a right on Floral to Eastern; then a left on Eastern and at the next light, a right on Avenida Cesar E. Chavez.) This walking tour offers a chance to get some exercise like you should, taking in bright hand-painted mom and pop storefronts, the lively pedestrian culture at Cinco Puntos, classic Frank Romero style vistas and colorful views of the downtown skyline from the Eastside. Depending on your velocity, this walk will take you 45 minutes to an hour or so.

Site #1, Self-Help Graphics, 3802 Cesar E. Chavez Ave. Self-Help has provided authentic artistic self-expression for two generations in a community where arts education has been devastated, producing over the years a vibrant, important collection of prints by recognized and emerging Eastside artists.

From Self-Help Graphics walk west on Cesar Chavez for about ten or fifteen minutes to Cinco Puntos, or Five Points, where Cesar Chavez is bisected by both Lorena and Indiana Streets.

Site #2, El Super, 3405 Cesar E. Chavez Avenue. This large Mexican supermarket includes a tortilleria where you can purchase fresh masa or fresh tortillas, fresh herbs including epazote, and a deli counter that offers ceviche or various kinds of fresh salsa instead of macaroni or chicken salad.

Site #3, Morin Memorial Square, actually a triangle, at the intersection of Lorena, Indiana and Cesar Chavez, two flagless flagpoles and a plaque commemorating Raul Morin, "Author – Soldier – Patriot," 1913 – 1967. Chihuahuas celebrate his memory by mating here under the benches.

Site #4, the 1946 Comite Civico Cultural Pro Raza 1946 Memorial for the sacrifices of Mexican-American veterans of World War II. This 'square' on the south side of Cesar Chavez is across the street from Site #3, and besides the pillar memorializing Chicano vets, it also includes possibly the ugliest war memorial monument in existence, the "Armed Forces Time Capsule" which you must take a closer look at to appreciate.

Site #5, Evergreen Cemetery is bordered by Lorena on its east side, First Street on the south, Evergreen on the west side and Cesar Chavez on the north, and is also surrounded by the rubberized Evergreen Jogging Path implanted in the sidewalk in 2003, where you might see the next Golden Gloves or Olympic hopeful boxer circle the old cemetery. If this walk is not aerobic enough so far, hit the jogging path to raise your heart rate.

If you are not jogging, angle left from Cesar Chavez onto Lorena Street (south), keeping to your right when you come onto a one way street, Cheesebrough's, a quiet residential lane that you follow to First Street. Half a block east of Evergreen Cemetery on First, you'll see the three story Mercado, and if it's the weekend you'll note crowds entering the market from the parking lot.

Site #6, El Mercado (at Lorena and First Street), a traditional Mexican urban market, is worth a walk through even if you don't throw your money away. If you brought a date, take them upstairs to the third floor restaurants and join the couples enjoying dining and drinks, accompanied by live mariachi music on weekend afternoons and evenings.

Below, on First Street, you'll be walking east toward Gage. The intricate mosaic murals of Home Savings at Townsend and First Streets mimicked the heroic style of the Mexican muralists, and after the closure of Home Savings, now grace of the facade of the 'Pan American Bank'.

Site #7, the First Street Store, 3640 First Street, also has murals dating back to 1974 that follow the heroic style and themes of the Mexican mural movement. After scanning those sombrero'd campesinos and revolutionaries in their struggles for justice, proceed east a block or so Gage Avenue, and turn left (north) a couple blocks on Gage to return to your starting point at Self-Help Graphics. Thence to return to the world of cars.