

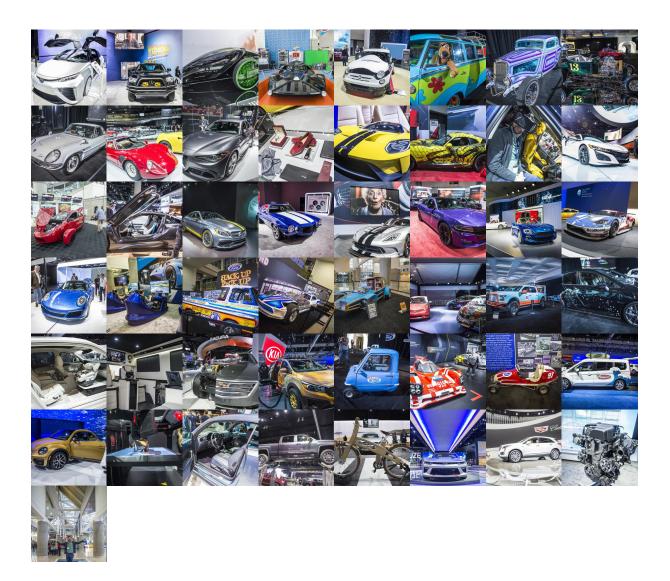
Photos: 'Back To The Future' Cars And Slick Custom Rides At The L.A. Auto Show

by <u>Danny Jensen</u> in <u>Arts & Entertainment</u> on Nov 20, 2015 2:12 pm



Test drive Toyota's new safety features with Virtual Reality goggles

(Photos by Annie Lesser/LAist)



From a tricked-out *Back To The Future*-inspired car and hoverboard, to flashy and sleek concept vehicles, the Los Angeles Auto Show offers plenty of cool rides to check out, even if you aren't a motorhead.

Starting today, the L.A. Auto Show opens to the public at the Los Angeles Convention Center, giving car-loving Angelenos a chance to see the latest designs from automakers. And while visitors will have the chance to check out eco-friendly vehicles like the 2016 Chevy Voltô just named the "Green Car of the Year"ô or buzzed-about rides like the new Fiat 124 Spider, there are also plenty of fun, imaginative and quirky cars to see. And visitors have a chance to get a feel for some of the rides with the help of interactive virtual reality set-ups that showcase performance and safety features.

Even before entering the sprawling halls of vehicles at the Convention Center, the Hot Wheels Epic Race Experience is likely to grab the attention of kids and grown-up-kids-at-heart. From the full-size Darth Vader sports car to the 20 foot high Hot Wheels toy track with massive loops and limited edition collectibles, it's a pretty cool set-up.



The hand-painted DiMora Neoclassic Vicci 6.2 Emperor, a "rolling work of art" (Photo by Annie Lesser/LAist

We also checked out the gorgeously hand-painted Neoclassic Vicci 6.2 Emperor convertibles in the lobby, built by Palm Springs-based DiMora Motorcar and painted by renowned artist Master Lee Sun-Don. The vibrant paint job, 24-karat gold trim and the handbuilt 1930's Art Decoinspired hot rods run for a cool \$1.2 million eachô so a bit out of our price range, but pretty to see.

Toyota's *Back To The Future*-inspired showcase drew our attention next. In honor of <u>all of the hoopla</u> surrounding the film's anniversary, the company outfitted their hydrogen fuel cell-powered Mirai with a flux capacitor, gull-wing doors, a Mr. Fusion tank, a stainless steel finish and a display for time-travel. There's also a Tacoma decked out like Marty's dream truck. And not to be out done, Lexus offers visitors a chance to try out their version of the hoverboard at the Ride The Slide feature.

Throughout the two halls, there is plenty to take in, including lots of debuts and previews of cars and trucks to come. You can get a sneak peek at the 2017 Alfa Romeo Giulia Quadrifoglio and its stylish predecessors. Or, there's the Stormtrooper-styled Fiat, the long-awaited 2017 Acura NSX, and the Porsche 911 Targa 4S, along with plenty other flashy new releases. There are also lots of electric, hybrids and more eco-friendly choices like the new, three-wheeled Elio Motors prototype.

You'll also want to check out Galpin's Hall Of Customs, which offers a cool showcase of rare and exotic rides. From James Bond's new Aston Martin DB10 (or the DB6 from 1966) to Scooby Doo's Mystery Mobile, custom hot rods to one of the world's smallest cars, there's plenty to admire and Instagram.

The L.A. Auto Show runs from November 20 to 29 at the Los Angeles Convention Center, 11835 W Olympic Blvd, Downtown. Tickets are \$12 for adults Monday through Thursday; \$15 for adults on the weekends, \$5 for children and \$10 for seniors. Tickets can be purchased here.

Contact the <u>author</u> of this article or email <u>tips@laist.com</u> with further questions, comments or tips.