

## DESTINATION: BEVERLY HILLS

Run like a  
celebrity

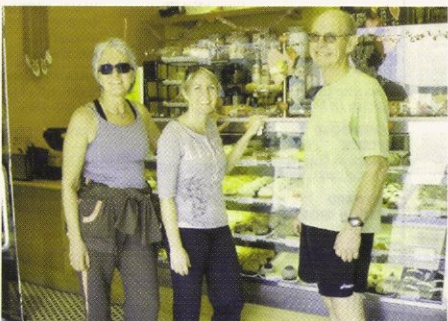
By Lara Boyko

Whether it's on *TMZ*, *Extra* or even CNN, it seems like not a day goes by without hearing about a small army of paparazzi chasing a celebrity through the streets of L.A.

Now instead of just hearing about it, you can actually experience it on foot thanks to a new running tour called "Running from the Paparazzi." Created by Cheryl Anker of Off 'N Running Tours, this workout, built with the tourist in mind, offers a 4-mile trek through the paparazzi corridor of Beverly Hills and West Hollywood.

"In November 2007 I was interviewed for *Globe Trekker* on PBS and they came out to film me while doing one of my tours through Beverly Hills," Anker said. "We were out on the tour and while they were telling me about things they were going to do that day, they happened to mention that they were coming to Robertson Boulevard later. For some reason, in the middle of the night a few days later, I thought that I should do a tour called *Running from the Paparazzi*."

With Los Angeles being the epicenter of



**PIECE OF CAKE:** Runners enjoy a treat at a cupcake shop at the conclusion of their running tour through the paparazzi district.



celebrity sightings, this dream is now a reality for those hoping to catch their favorite A-lister either dining or shopping on the more trendy streets in the 90210.

"There isn't an exact course, but there are places I know where to go and the course usually starts going down Beverly Gardens along Santa Monica Boulevard," Anker said, a runner since 1990. "We then cut off and have gone down by the new Beverly Hills City Hall, the fire department, the court house (since that's always in the news) and then we might go back up on to Santa Monica Boulevard. We pick up at different places, but end up coming down on Beverly Boulevard so I can show them the nice furniture stores."

"Then to get to Beverly Boulevard, it's really just the two blocks within Robertson that are the trendy blocks that we run on. We will come back up to Beverly Boulevard to Doheny. From Doheny we will then take Wilshire Boulevard to Rodeo Drive. Then we come back up to Rodeo."

Anker's company also created other area tours: *Stars of the Silver Screen*, a run by homes of classic TV and movie stars; *Marvelous Mansions*, a hilly whirl with views of impressive estates; and *Pacific Pleasures*, an exploration of Santa Monica and Pacific Palisades.

The four to six mile customized sightseeing trips are a hefty \$60 per person but that includes the tour, a souvenir shirt, as well as a trendy cupcake and mineral water. The average size of a group is just four people plus Anker, and can be set up at any time, although only by appointment. It is a great alternative to working out at the

hotel gym and also enables participants to do some window-shopping or other must-dos while in Beverly Hills.

"Last week we ended up taking a detour and went into the Stella McCartney boutique," said Anker, who would personally like to run into Philip Seymour Hoffman one day. "We run, but we are also looking, which makes it fun. I will take them on both sides of the street so if they see a store they want to go into, we will stop sweaty and all and go in to check it out. We've even gone into Kitson. Really it's whatever they want to do."

"Last week when we were running down Robertson, we ran past The Ivy and the serving staff was there setting up tables. I suggested that we see if we could make reservations for lunch. Sure enough they could - at either 11:30 or 2:30. The couple

that was with me was pretty excited about that."

Seeing celebrities is not guaranteed, but recently one of Anker's tours did come across a small pack of hungry paparazzi waiting to take a money shot.

"I did another tour about a week or so ago and this time we came in the afternoon

around 2 p.m. and all of the paparazzi (about 20 different photographers) were on Robertson," Anker said. "Everyone was focused on the Newsroom Café, so when we ran by I asked them who was inside. All they would tell me is that they were waiting for someone."

As the paparazzi tour is fairly new, Anker said she hasn't had any celebrity sightings yet but nonetheless the participants enjoy the experience.

"The Running from the Paparazzi tour was a great way to see Beverly Hills," said Kerri Griffith who was visiting from Indianapolis. "We really enjoyed the pace which allowed us to take in the beautiful sites, peek in store windows, stop for pictures and even make lunch reservations at The Ivy. The cupcake from Crumbs was a very nice touch and a great way to end the tour." <<

For more information on *Running from the Paparazzi*, visit [offnrunningtours.com](http://offnrunningtours.com) or call 310-246-1418.

