



**TWO
BAD
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Gay Los Angeles – the best gay hotels,
bars, clubs & more

[Los Angeles](#) is home to one of the largest LGBT communities in the world, from West Hollywood, Silver Lake and Los Feliz to the beach cities and the Valley. Countless people move to LA to make it big – music, TV and film – it's all in Los Angeles. And thanks to Hollywood, it has a reputation known around the world and it's a hotspot for film, culture, history, LGBT rights and more. LA is a hugely popular tourist destination with millions of international visitors each year.

What's so great about LA? Ok, so not everything is perfect in Los Angeles, but you take the good with the bad, right? Wannabe models and movie stars with big attitudes way ahead of their would-be success abound – sure. But every city has its pros and cons so let's look up to LA and talk about some fun and exciting things to do, see and explore – because hey, you're going to come here anyways, right?

General Tips

[West Hollywood](#) is definitely where the biggest LGBT scene is located, unless you're really, really into the alternative scene. West Hollywood (called WeHo for short) has a whopping 25 gay bars, 26 gay shops and 69 gay friendly restaurants, and counting. [Silver Lake](#), on the other hand, is where LA's hipsters eat, live and hangout. It's home to Sunset Junction, the start of the LA LGBT civil rights movement at the famous Black Cat Bar (though no longer a gay place). You'll find lots of restaurants, coffee shops, boutiques and vintage stores here. Next to West Hollywood, it's probably the 2nd most popular gay neighborhood in LA.



Transportation & Airport Transfer

If you arrive by plane you'll fly into LAX, Los Angeles' largest and main airport. However, if you're visiting surrounding areas of LA or happen to find a cheaper flight, you might arrive at one of the other regional airports including Burbank, Long Beach, Ontario or Orange County. LA is known for having terrible traffic anytime of the day and getting around takes time given the sprawling layout of the city. Public transport is not always practical and you're probably better off with a car to explore, or at least a ride sharing app like Uber or Lyft. Both apps offer carpool or sharing options to reduce the price of your ride.

You can use the [Los Angeles metro](#) services to get around and avoid traffic, however, learning how to use the system for just a short visit might not be worth the effort. The metro's highest ridership is found en route to favorite tourism hot spots, including Hollywood's Red Line. Both the Red and Blue lines connect to Downtown Los Angeles.

Another option to get around includes one of the hop-on, hop-off bus routes like Star Line Tours or Big Bus Tours, which can take you to many of the major attractions across the city.

The [WeHo Pick Up](#) is WeHo's free nighttime ride with bus service every 15 minutes. It does a 6-mile loop around the neighborhood so you can drink and [party](#) until your heart is content without worrying about transport. Service operates Friday and Saturday from 8pm to 3am.

Gay Hotels in Los Angeles

There aren't currently any [gay hotels](#) in Los Angeles, but there are many gay-friendly options.

LA is a huge city and traveling from one end to the other can easily take an hour or more, depending on traffic. Choose your accommodation based on the areas you most want to visit. Good places to stay include West Hollywood, Hollywood, Santa Monica, Los Feliz, the Arts District or Venice. Below are a few recommended hotels to choose from.

Mid-Range

[Andaz West Hollywood](#) – Just 5 minutes' walk from the Sunset Strip, the Andaz West Hollywood features onsite dining and a rooftop pool. Rooms feature complimentary non-alcoholic beverages and snacks and free WiFi. RH, the West Hollywood Andaz's onsite restaurant features seasonal California cuisine. The restaurant works to highlight "market to table" dishes. RH Bar is a chic evening space serving signature cocktails and appetizers.

[The Standard Downtown](#) – Located in downtown Los Angeles, this unique and minimalistic hotel is 4 blocks from the Walt Disney Concert Hall. It features a rooftop pool and offers modern décor. The Standard Restaurant is open 24/7 and serves American cuisine. Guests of Downtown LA's Standard Hotel can enjoy an outdoor lounge with fire pit, foosball and ping pong tables.

[The Standard West Hollywood](#) – Located on the Sunset Strip in West Hollywood, this hotel offers a rooftop pool with city views. Featuring live music and shag carpets, guests can relax in the lounge. Cocktails and fare are available at the poolside Desert Café. Guests can also enjoy the fine art exhibit located on site.

[Mondrian Hotel](#) – Located in the heart of the Sunset Strip, this West Hollywood hotel offers unique rooms with floor-to-ceiling windows. Guests can enjoy sweeping views of Los Angeles while enjoying a poolside cocktail at the famed Skybar. Mondrian Los Angeles in West Hollywood offers stylish guest rooms which offer breathtaking views of the surrounding areas from the LA skyline to the glittering Hollywood Hills. The Los Angeles Mondrian offers an outdoor pool with underwater music as well as a fitness center.

[The W Los Angeles](#) – let's talk about fabulous hotels. There are so many options in LA to stay so it's best to choose your neighborhood first. Located in Westwood just next to Beverly Hills is the W Los Angeles West Beverly Hills. Stylish, modern and gay-friendly, it could be the perfect option to splurge.



[The Roosevelt Hotel](#) – perhaps you want to stay in Marilyn Monroe's former studio apartment? Look no further! The Roosevelt Hotel in Hollywood is a classic with so much history plus an amazing outdoor pool. If nothing else, you have to at least pay a visit and have a drink at the bar. And guess what? The Roosevelt Hotel was the host of the first Academy Awards! Talk about history.

Budget

[The Hollywood Hotel](#) – Within walking distance of the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Famous former guests include Marilyn Monroe and James Dean. All warmly decorated rooms are furnished with a table and chairs. Guests of The Hollywood Hotel can enjoy a continental breakfast each morning.

[Ramada Plaza West Hollywood](#) – Offering a fitness center and an outdoor swimming pool, Ramada Plaza by Wyndham West Hollywood Hotel & Suites is located near the Los Angeles County Museum of Art/LACMA. Guests can also enjoy the on-site restaurant, Kitchen24.

Apartments

There are many sites for apartment rentals in Los Angeles, with [AirBnB](#) probably being one of the most popular. Prices are generally comparable to budget hotels, especially if you're willing to get a room in a shared apartment. [Book AirBnB →](#)



There are even a few LGBT-oriented booking sites like [misterb&b](#) with listings from gay hosts for gay guests where you can either rent a whole apartment or a private room in a shared apartment. Understanding Los Angeles' gay scene is much more easily done with the help of a local and apartment sharing is one of the best ways to meet someone living in the city who knows how things work, where and when are the best nights to go out, and what places to eat at and which to avoid.

Sightseeing & Activities in Los Angeles

[The Bradbury Building](#) – ok, this building doesn't look like much from the outside, but the interior is a real treat. It's been used as a backdrop for numerous Hollywood films over the decades. It's free to enter and is worth strolling through during a walk around the historic LA area.

[One National Gay & Lesbian Archives](#) – the largest collection of LGBT history archives in the world. The archive itself (located at USC campus) is perhaps not the most exciting place to visit as it's more of a resource for history buffs or researchers. But you can visit the satellite location in WeHo which is a [small Gallery & Museum](#) with rotating exhibits.



[Out of the Closet](#) – this thrift store located in West Hollywood plus several other LA locations offers designer clothes at ridiculously low prices. Even better – all proceeds go to the AIDS Healthcare Foundation Pharmacy so you can feel good about your purchase.

[The Getty Center](#) – this is a cool museum and cultural center in an even cooler setting. It's located at the top of a hill west of Los Angeles and features various types of art exhibits and amazing views of LA from several different look out points. Some works on display include pre-20th century paintings, drawings, photographs plus a collection of sculptures displayed on the outdoor terraces and in the gardens.

[The Wall Las Memorias Project](#) – this monument was setup in 1993 and it's the first publicly funded AIDS monument in the country. It's an outdoor cultural landmark that honors all AIDS victims and is found in Highland Park.

Gay Tours in Los Angeles

[Out & About Tours](#) – Check out an awesome gay tour of Hollywood. You'll explore the history of Hollywood a bit off the touristy trail with plenty of gay flare.

Restaurants and Cafes

[Marix Tex Mex Café](#) – this restaurant located in West Hollywood is a gay LA institution. Come for the strong margaritas, good food and cute servers. If you're around on Tuesday, stop by for all-you-can-eat Taco Tuesday for just \$8.

[Grand Central Market](#) – this indoor market in downtown LA has over 40 merchants selling great produce, snacks, coffees and miscellaneous food items. Go for lunch and enjoy cuisine ranging from Mexican and Asian to Cuban and American.



[Pump Restaurant Lounge](#) – recently opened by Real Housewife, Lisa Vanderpump, this restaurant serves up delicious food and drinks by even more delicious servers. Probably all aspiring actors and models, their day job is sadly (or maybe not so sad for you!) to fulfill your order at this fabulous restaurant and bar with an amazing outdoor garden.

Los Angeles Gay Bars

Gay nightlife in LA is diverse and has something for everyone. The best spots are located in West Hollywood, Silver Lake area and downtown LA. Discover these top gay-friendly favorites.

[The Abbey](#) – a gay landmark in West Hollywood. It's a large, welcoming space with indoor and outdoor seating, several bars and a good size dance floor in the back to shake it. You'll find beautiful people and even more beautiful go-go dancers. This is where LA's trendy gays come to play.

[Flaming Saddles](#) – guys, you won't find any go-go dancers here. Yes, it's located in WeHo but this is where you'll find hunky cowboys line dancing or Coyote Ugly-style routines on top of the bar. Need we say more?

GYM Bar – another totally different type of WeHo bar, unlike the Abby and Flaming Saddles in every sense. This is where the sports fans can go to watch the game. Which game you say? Ya, we're not sure either but hey, it might just be your thing. It's also the hub for many of LA's gay sports leagues.

Mustache Mondays – located in downtown LA, this is the favorite party spot on Monday for dancing located at a bar called La Cita.

Akbar – this is Silver Lake's popular and trendy bar, but don't worry – it's not pretentious or snobby. The crowd is more alternative than WeHo and it's where all the hipsters go out.

Gay Beaches in Los Angeles

Santa Monica State Beach is an inspired, albeit safe, choice for a day out by the ocean. Down the shore, at Lifeguard tower 18, Ginger Rogers Beach is recognized as LA's only (unofficial) gay beach. It's not the best water for swimming, but who cares? This is a place to schmooze, lay out, and hopefully run into your speedo-wearing crush.

Additional Beaches in Los Angeles

Marina del Rey – this peaceful 12-acre lagoon is easy walking distance from most of the Marina's hotels. Staffed by lifeguards, the beach has playground equipment, sheltered picnic tables, and no surf, making it ideal for families.

Venice Beach – swimming, surfing, fishing, bicycling and bike rentals, skating and rentals, volleyball and basketball courts, shopping, weightlifting area, handball courts, racquetball courts, picnic areas, restrooms, and showers.

Gay Events in Los Angeles

West Hollywood is the host to LA pride, the massive Halloween Costume Carnival, and Outfest. These are the largest and most well-known gay events in LA.



[Outfest](#) – this is LA’s LGBT film festival with 40,000 attendees each year. It’s LA’s largest and longest running film festival to date.

[LA Pride](#) – the gay pride of Los Angeles takes place each summer in June. With more than 500,000 attendees it’s a load of fun and a good reason to visit in June.

[Halloween Street Party](#) – the largest Halloween street festival in the world is officially called the West Hollywood Halloween Carnival. This event also draws a crowd of 500,000 people to enjoy food, live entertainment, music and costume contents. Dress to impress – in a costume, that is.

[Gay Days Anaheim](#) – an unofficial event in October at Disneyland where more than 30,000 LGBT+ community members wear red shirts and visit for the weekend. The event has special events and [parties](#) are organized the same weekend.

Day Trips from Los Angeles

[Palm Springs](#) – discover all that Palm Springs has to offer, including stunning desert scenery, luxe celebrity homes and high-end shopping, during this 12-hour day trip from Los Angeles. Ascend into the mountains above town on the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, enjoying the amazing landscape below. Then check out the unique flora and fauna at the Living Desert Zoo and Gardens. Finish your day by admiring the exclusive celebrity homes along El Paseo and search for a few designer bargains at the Desert Hills Premium Outlets. [Book tour →](#)

Want more info? [Check out this Gay LA website](#) from the local tourism office for more inspiration.