

SUMMER 2011

Cheap Living...

OPIA's Guide to Affordable Housing, Transportation,
Food, and Fun in Major Cities for HLS Students
Spending a Summer Working in the Public Interest

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Los Angeles

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Congratulations! You've gotten a great public interest internship. You're ready for the challenges and rewards of your job, but are you ready to move to, navigate, and enjoy a new city on a modest salary?

It can be difficult to live cheaply in some of the world's most expensive (and exciting) cities, so OPIA and the 1L Public Interest Section Representatives have put together a guide to give you a few tips on how to get by (and have fun) on a public interest salary. We'll tell you how to find safe, inexpensive housing, get around in the city, eat out or in, hang out, and explore the city's cultural offerings. In compiling these guides, we relied on numerous sources: our own experiences, law school career service offices, newspapers, the Internet, and especially Harvard Law School students. The information in *Cheap Living* is meant to be helpful, not authoritative. No doubt, we have missed some stellar bargains. By listing a feature in the guide, we do not mean to endorse it, other than to say that a student like you has mentioned it as a great deal. *Cheap Living* remains a work in progress. Restaurants and attractions

continuously open and close. If you notice any listing is out of date or if you have suggestions or additions for 2010, please let us know!

A very special thanks to all of the 1L Section Reps who researched and wrote this year's *Cheap Living Guides*. Even in the midst of exams, the Auction, Ames, and everything else that consumes 1L year, they made time to make sure that their classmates get the most out of their public interest summer internship experience. Have a wonderful summer!

- Kirsten Bermingham, OPIA Assistant Director for Administration

**The LA Guide was updated by 1L section representatives Lena Silver, Lisa Ma and Lara Berlin.*

HOUSING

Los Angeles is unique because downtown is not the center of the city. Instead it is composed of many smaller communities, each with its own distinct personality. A good starting point is to study a map and identify the location of your summer job. Then look around that area, factoring in your means of transportation and travel time. The one stereotype that holds true for Los Angeles is that there is always traffic. It may be two in the morning and you will find yourself in traffic along the 405 freeway. Ask your summer colleagues about popular local communities. A good rule of thumb is that 20 miles will be (at least) an hour-long commute during peak rush hour traffic. If at all possible, live within 5 miles of your office.

Expect prices for sublets to share to range from \$700 to \$1,200 a month. Your best bet is to explore the following roommate and apartment services and to canvass local universities (UCLA and USC) as many students can provide sublets for the summer. Another alternative is to live in one of the universities' myriad fraternities, which is sure to provide an unforgettable summer at more modest prices.

Rentals and sublets

Craigslist: (losangeles.craigslist.com) A free service that lists classified notices for shared and temporary sublets.

NALP Online Apartment Exchange: (www.nalpexchange.org) A free online resource provided by the Association for Legal Career Professionals.

Westside Rentals: (www.westsiderentals.com) A sixty-day membership costs \$60. It is an internet listing service that provides tailored searches. There are also networking parties at various locations listed on the website.

Fraternities: Contact local universities for more information. The cost for a single room could run from \$595/month or \$900 for the entire summer depending on the individual house.

University newspapers: (<http://www.dailybruin.com/index.php/housing/>, <http://www.dailytrojan.com/classifieds>) Includes summer sublet listings by local university students.

Los Angeles Neighborhoods

Don't be fooled. There's a lot more to Los Angeles than Hollywood. Many suburbs encompass the L.A. sprawl and they offer a wide range of housing opportunities. When choosing a place to live, prime considerations should not only be price, location, and means of transportation, but also safety. Below are popular areas for students and young professionals.

Santa Monica and the Beaches (Malibu, Santa Monica, Venice, Marina del Rey, Manhattan, Hermosa and Redondo Beaches): These are the local beach communities. **Santa Monica** is home to the Santa Monica Pier (a mini amusement park with rides and summer concerts) and Third Street Promenade (great shopping) while **Malibu** is home to many celebrities. Therefore, they are generally pricier than **Venice**, which is famous for its eclectic

people, great restaurants, and Ocean Front Walk. The South Bay consists of **Manhattan, Hermosa, and Redondo Beaches**. Although they are not particularly close to Downtown, these areas can be a reasonable commute to jobs located in Century City and the Westside. Many locals endure the daily trek due to the area's beautiful beaches and laid-back culture. Regardless of the time of day, rollerbladers, cyclists, and joggers traverse the boardwalk and people slurp margaritas on Pier Ave. Beach volleyball is also a popular pastime.

Westside and Beverly Hills (Beverly Hills, West Hollywood, Bel Air, Brentwood, Westwood, Century City, West Los Angeles): Generally, these are the most expensive areas to live in Los Angeles. There is a high student population that translates into great restaurants, museums, movie theaters, etc. UCLA is located in **Westwood**. Consequently, it supports its own little city with coffee shops and movie theaters on every corner. It's definitely filled with a young student population, though during the summer it is much quieter as all of the undergraduates have gone home. Parking here is almost always terrible, though if you are only going to be there for a couple of hours, the Broxton garage is free for two hours before 6 pm and \$3 afterwards (1036 Broxton Ave.). **West Hollywood** is home to some of the hippest clubs and restaurants and is also the center of L.A.'s gay community.

Palms and Culver City: The equivalent of Somerville for UCLA graduate students. Geographically located south of **Westwood** and **West LA**. Vibrant neighborhoods with a diverse mix of young professionals, UCLA/USC graduate students, and immigrant families. The **Santa Monica** Big Blue Bus serves many parts of Palms and Culver City and will take you to the UCLA campus or **Century City**—a great option if you won't have a car. Also close to tons of great restaurants on Venice Blvd. The intersection of Washington and Culver Boulevards in **Culver City** is in the middle of an up-and-coming area where warehouses and old movie studios are being converted into galleries, cafes, restaurants, and bars. Expect lots of young children in the neighborhoods. Very reasonable rents and there are usually plentiful sublets available during the summer months. There's also street parking without a permit in most parts of **Palms**, but finding spots after 6 pm is difficult, and be wary of break-ins and the weekly street cleanings! If you want to live on the Westside and work in downtown, this area is a great bet. You'll generally be going in the opposite direction of traffic and your commute from **Palms** or **Culver City** may only be 20 to 45 minutes, depending on your parking situation at your job.

Hollywood: (Melrose, Wilshire District) Tourists flock to Hollywood Blvd. to see the Walk of Fame, Grauman's Chinese Theatre, and celebrities. Instead they normally only find drug dealers, prostitutes, and pan handlers. Parking is always a challenge. **Melrose Avenue**, however, is a funky shopping district lined with one-of-a-kind boutiques, trade shops, and thrift stores. The **Wilshire District** is home to many of the city's most famous museums. Many of these areas are a few miles removed from the freeway which leads to aggravated traffic and added travel time.

Mid-City (Koreatown, Mid City, Jefferson): Incredibly dense population, but generally affordable in terms of living. **K-town** is known for excellent Korean food, Asian markets, karaoke, and is sandwiched relatively equidistant from downtown and the Westside. It is in the process of gentrification.

Downtown (Silver Lake, Los Feliz, Exposition Park, Echo Park): **Silver Lake** is home to the old Hollywood studios. In recent years, it has undergone major gentrification and now

houses an eclectic mix of hipsters and artists. The music scene is incredible and there are myriad dive bars in the area. **Echo Park** is emerging as an artists' neighborhood, though the movement seems to still be in its beginning stages. North of downtown, the commute to the Westside is difficult and traffic is always bad on the freeways, but housing here is generally affordable and spoken word readings still occur in and around the area. The Los Angeles Zoo and Griffith Park are located in **Los Feliz**. Although adjacent to Downtown, **Silver Lake** and **Los Feliz** don't have the urban feel of other local areas. USC is located near **Exposition Park**, which is known for its museums. This area gets dangerous quickly, so only look at apartments in the immediate vicinity of USC.

San Fernando Valley: (Universal City, Burbank, Glendale, Pasadena) The Valley, as it's known, provides less expensive housing. Universal Studios is located in **Universal City** and many of the city's television and radio shows can be found in **Burbank**. Commuting down the 101 or 5 to downtown can be a nightmare, but subway stations can be found in **Universal City** and **Pasadena**.

TRANSPORTATION

While living in the suburbs may be cheaper, it comes at the cost of transportation issues. Traffic snarls in L.A. are pretty bad, particularly in the downtown area where four freeways merge together (the 10, 110, 5 and 101), in Westwood during rush hour, and pretty much any time of day on the 405, which seems to know neither rhyme nor reason in terms of traffic. Your life in L.A. will be much, much easier if you have a car as well as if you can manage to live about 4 to 5 miles from where you work. The most helpful source for L.A. commuters is **Thomas' Guide**, which is available at any L.A. bookstore. As the definitive road atlas for Los Angeles and Orange County, it is so accurate that you can use it to pinpoint any location down to the hundredth of a block. In addition, it is extremely helpful for unraveling the L.A. freeway system. If you absolutely need a car, renting a car can be somewhat affordable. Monthly rates on the web as of April 2006 begin at \$650/month with unlimited mileage, excluding insurance. Rates can be found at www.supercheapcar.com/travelguide-la-working-in-LA.html. Depending on the city, parking may be scarce, especially around UCLA and downtown. It might be good to get a monthly parking pass if possible; California has recently decided to increase its revenue intake by issuing more parking and traffic tickets. Those meter maids will get you every time, particularly in Westwood. Parallel parking skills are invaluable. Ask around at work about the cheap places to park – there are all-day parking lots for as little as \$6 downtown. Zipcar operates around Hollywood, UCLA and USC (www.zipcar.com).

If you don't have a car, there are still ways to survive. L.A. has a public transport system called the **Metropolitan Transportation Authority**, www.mta.net/default.asp. It has many services including buses, commuter rail, and the DASH inter-neighborhood system. If you have to take the bus to work, be sure to live within the immediate area of your destination. Those living on the Westside (anywhere west of La Cienga Blvd) should see if the **Santa Monica Big Blue Bus** (www.bigbluebus.com) runs nearby—one line will take you to downtown LA, and the BBB covers most of the Westside.

Generally, **reliable bus service** runs between lower Santa Monica and Downtown L.A., from Sherman Oaks, Studio City and Encino in the San Fernando Valley to Downtown, and from

Hancock Park and Mid-Wilshire to Downtown. Plan on bus commutes of a half-hour to an hour or more from the Valley. Again, if your employer is not located downtown, it is best to live near work.

To/From the airport: The cheapest option for getting to and from the airport is the **FlyAway Bus**, which leaves from UCLA, Van Nuys and Union Station in downtown, http://www.lawa.org/welcome_LAX.aspx?id=292. The price ranges from \$5 to \$25 one-way.

The MetroLink also runs new, clean and very reliable **commuter rails** between Long Beach, Santa Clarita Valley and Downtown, www.metrolinktrains.com/. The Santa Clarita train makes several stops in the San Fernando Valley. The Long Beach commuter rail, known as the “blue line,” makes it feasible to live in the relatively affordable Long Beach and enjoy an easy, stress-free commute to Downtown.

MTA also runs an inter-neighborhood bus service called **DASH**, www.ladottransit.com/dash/index.html. For only **35 cents** the service shuttles people around Downtown, Hollywood, and the San Fernando Valley. In the Downtown area, the shuttle takes passengers from the Metrorail stop and Union Station to different locations within Downtown.

Taxi’s – Since most people in LA have cars, you won’t see too many taxis outside of the airport and near hotels. If you’ll need one, be sure to call ahead. A taxi can be requested by phone fairly quickly from one of the following companies:

- Checker Cab 213.481.1234
- United Taxis 323.653.5050
- Valley Cab 818.205.9721

Commuter Assistance Numbers

MetroLink 800.371.LINK (5465)

MTA Public Transit 1.800.COMMUTE (266.6883)

Vanpool Information 800.VAN.RIDE

You may request a personalized commute planner called a *RideGuide* from Southern California Commuter Information Center. The *RideGuide* provides personalized information for carpooling and vanpooling, a step by step public transit and rail itinerary for your commute, Park & Ride lot locations, and a map with time-saving carpool lanes.

Additionally, you may contact Smart Traveler/MTA Public Transit at 1-800-Commute (266-6883). Smart Traveler offers useful transportation information for Los Angeles, Ventura, Inland Empire, Orange and San Diego Counties. Facts, subways/light rail fares, bus information, traffic reports and highway conditions are just a small portion of the information that can be found at Smart Traveler.

FOOD

Los Angeles is a city of immigrants, which means amazingly diverse food that caters to even the most discriminating tastes. Although there are fabulous restaurants throughout the city, there are certain neighborhoods that are known for their specialties, including **Little Ethiopia, Chinatown, Koreatown, Little Tokyo,** and **Olvera Street** for Mexican food. L.A. is also a vegetarian friendly city with many delicious vegan and vegetarian specialty restaurants. The best way to live on a shoestring budget, of course, is to cook your own meals. But everybody deserves a night out, especially in a city like Los Angeles.

Zagat's, which is available at all major bookstores, or on-line at www.zagat.com, is a great resource for restaurants. Citysearch, at www.citysearch.com, also provides a large listing of local restaurants.

Grocery Stores

There are supermarkets everywhere. The most popular supermarket chains include **Ralph's** and **Vons/ "Pavilions"**, which are essentially the equivalents of Shaws/Star Market in Boston. **Gelson's** is an upscale, trendy supermarket in West L.A. and in the valley that provides many distinctive options. **Trader Joe's** (www.traderjoes.com) is an affordable and unique market filled with organic food and a well-stocked freezer section with prepared, ready to thaw meals. They offer cheap wine, delicious bakery items, and awesome pre-packaged salads. Best of all, they're everywhere. **Whole Foods** (www.wholefoodsmarket.com) is a pricier health foods market for organic and natural foods. For Asian cooking, there's several large Asian markets in Koreatown and **Nijiya** is located on Sawtelle Blvd. in Santa Monica for Japanese cooking needs.

Farmers Market

Farmers markets are an ideal way to take advantage of the gorgeous Los Angeles weather and fresh California produce. Dozens of options are listed at www.laokay.com/FarmersMarkets.htm. The Farmers Market (www.farmersmarketla.com) at 6333 W. 3rd St. (at Fairfax Ave.) in Hollywood is one of the most popular. It is home to 70 shops and a variety of options, from flowers to international cuisine. It is also adjacent to **The Grove** (<http://www.thegrovela.com>), a large outdoor mall and entertainment center whose concept is the inspiration for every new mall opening in America this year.

Restaurants

Santa Monica and the Beaches: El Cholo (1025 Wilshire Blvd., (310) 899-1106) is a popular after-work Mexican food restaurant that serves award-winning margaritas in Santa Monica. For special occasions, **Café Bizou** (2450 Colorado Ave., (310) 582-8203) offers relatively cheap yet elegant dining, with locations in Santa Monica and Pasadena. This French bistro has quickly become one of L.A.'s most popular restaurants for its good food and bring-your-own-wine policy; for \$2 you can bring the wine of your choice to the restaurant, have them open it, and save on exorbitant liquor bills. **Buca di Beppo** is an eclectic Italian-American chain restaurant with locations in Santa Monica and throughout the city. Family style ordering helps keep meals less costly. **Bay Cities Italian Deli and Bakery** (1517 Lincoln Blvd., (310) 395-8279) is often

heralded as having the best sandwiches in Santa Monica and worth the inevitable wait in line. **Marix** (118 Entrada Dr., (310) 459-8596), which specializes in Tex-Mex cuisine, has locations in West Hollywood and Santa Monica, and offers specials like \$7.95 all-you-can-eat soft tacos on Tuesday nights. Check out **Jody Maroni's Sausage Kingdom** (2011 Ocean Front Walk, (310) 822-5639) in Venice for delicious “haute dogs” and sandwiches. **Good Stuff** is another crowd pleaser with locations in Hermosa Beach, Redondo Beach, West L.A. and Manhattan Beach. Be prepared for a line at **Martha's Corner** (25 22nd St, (310) 379-0070) in Hermosa Beach. Located on the strand, this popular hang-out for locals and their dogs is well worth the wait. For organically delicious sandwiches, salads, and lattes, try **Urth Café** (2327 Main St., (310) 314-7040), located on the border of Santa Monica and Venice.

At **Crème de la Crepe** (424 Pier Ave., (310) 937-2822) you can bring your own wine and they serve free escargot on Thursday nights in Long Beach. **El Pollo Inka**, with locations in Santa Monica, Lawndale, Hermosa Beach, and Torrance, serves up incredible South American cuisine at very reasonable prices. **California Pizza Kitchen** is another chain with locations throughout Los Angeles. **Father's Office** (1018 Montana Ave, (310) 323-BEER) has arguably the best burger in the United States and the friendly bartenders will help you find a new favorite beer from their 50+ microbrews on tap. It recently opened up a new location in Culver City (3229 Helms Avenue, (310)736-2224) that is much larger than the original, so if you go with a larger group of people you will be much more likely to find a table there. If you like to get creative with your burgers, mix and match 63 different patties, cheeses, toppings, and buns at LA's other contender for world's best burger, **The Counter** (2901 Ocean Park Blvd. (310) 399 8383). Another notable burger can be found at the **Hole in the Wall Burger Joint** (11058 Santa Monica Blvd.).

Westside and Beverly Hills: Although it is not particularly inexpensive, **Jerry's Deli**, with locations in Westwood, Los Angeles, Universal City, Studio City, Marina Del Rey, Encino, Woodland Hills, and Costa Mesa, is hailed by students as the best Jewish deli in L.A. The menu is endless and they're open 24 hours a day. While in Westwood, check out **Diddy Riese**. This popular Westwood mainstay serves up ice cream sandwiches for \$1.50 and cookies at 3 for \$1. Although there is often a line out the door, the wait is short and worth every minute. **Crazy Fish Sushi** (9105 W Olympic Blvd., (310) 550-8547), a small, casual mom-and-pop type restaurant serves renowned sushi at surprisingly reasonable prices (but you'll have to tolerate bad service and deal with a significant wait if going in a group. It's definitely worth it though!). Another tasty and affordable Japanese restaurant is **Mishima's** with several locations in the city. **Toi**, a trendy Thai restaurant, has locations at 7505 ½ W. Sunset Blvd. and in Santa Monica at 1120 Wilshire that is open until 4 am. Also check out **Natalee's**, an affordable Thai place, with locations in Hollywood, Venice, and Westwood. Try **Don Antonio's**, (11755 W. Pico Blvd, (310)312-2090) on Pico between Bundy and Barrington, on Wednesday nights for unlimited \$1 tacos (be sure to get the tacos de papas, they are excellent!). If you want to mingle with celebrities and don't mind spending a little cash, check out **Koi** (730 N. La Cienega Blvd., (310) 659-9449), an Asian-fusion restaurant.

Hollywood: No trip to Los Angeles would be complete without a visit to **Roscoe's House of Chicken 'n' Waffles** (1518 N. Gower St., (323) 962-0276). There are several locations—including two in Los Angeles, and one each in Hollywood, Pasadena and Long Beach—and

make sure to come hungry to this Los Angeles soul food mainstay. With portions the size of a celebrity's ego and prices the size of a super model's waist, you can't find a bigger or better tasting breakfast than **The Griddle Café** (7916 W Sunset Blvd., (323) 874-0377). **Versailles** boasts excellent Cuban food for under \$12 a plate and offers locations in Manhattan Beach, Encino, and two in Los Angeles at 10319 Venice Blvd. and 1415 S. La Cienega Blvd. **Mel's Drive-In** (8585 W Sunset Blvd, (310) 854-7200) is a popular spot on the Sunset Strip. If you want to mix dinner with music, check out **Genghis Cohen** (740 N. Fairfax, www.genghiscohen.com) which serves up Szechuan cuisine and local musical talents. Also, **Pink's Hot Dogs** (709 N. La Brea, (323) 931-4223) is famous for its 24 varieties of hot dogs.

Downtown: **Tommy's** (2575 Beverly Blvd., (213) 389-9060), an L.A. legend, is a fabulous 24-hour burger stand and a popular hangout after a late night on the town. **The Original Pantry** (877 S. Figueroa St., (213) 972-9279) offers greasy but good diner food for reasonable prices and it never closes. **La Luz Del Dia** (1 Olvera St., (213) 628-7495) unabashedly serves the heaviest, most fattening and delicious authentic Mexican food around. **Cha Cha Cha** (656 N Virgil Ave, (323) 664-7723) serves delicious Latin-Caribbean cuisine and yummy sangria together in a vibrant and boisterous atmosphere. **Chano's** (3000 S. Figueroa St., (213) 747-3944), one of the only restaurants with the drive-thru pick-up window on the passenger side, is a USC favorite and one of the oldest restaurants on Figueroa. **Yang Chow** (819 N. Broadway, (213) 625-0811) is known as the best Chinese restaurant in Chinatown, as shown by the many celebrity pictures lining the restaurant's walls. Lastly, **Philippe's** (1001 N. Alameda, (213) 628-3781), established in 1908, is famous for its French dipped sandwiches.

Fast Food: There are a handful of reliable chain food joints that provide tasty budget meals. For cheap, good fast food, check out **Baja Fresh** which serves up fantastic burritos worth much more than the \$5 charge. **Wahoo's Fish Taco** is a Mexican-meets-surf chain. The chill ambience includes walls plastered with stickers and \$2 Beer of the Month specials. One of the best Mexican fast food places is **Rubio's Fish Tacos**. If you're from California, you'll already know about this, but if you're not, make sure to try **In-N-Out** burgers while you're here. Their fries are made from real potatoes sliced on location and you should order a hamburger "animal style" (served with grilled onions and extra sauce) at least once. For lighter fare, **Noah's Bagels**, with numerous locations throughout the metropolitan area, sells authentic New York bagels in stores modeled after subway stops. There's a **Subway** on every corner and **Fatburger** is a popular late night hamburger stand. **Jamba Juice** is a trendy smoothie spot during the summer months serving up healthy juices and smoothies, and wheatgrass for the super health conscious folks.

Vegetarian: There are myriad vegetarian restaurants in Los Angeles. **Native Foods** (1110 1/2 Gayley Ave., (310) 209-1055) in Westwood serves scrumptious and unique vegan options. The nachos are delicious. Though not a vegetarian restaurant, **Nature's Way Café** ((310) 824-0240) at 10917 Lindbrook Dr. in Westwood offers a top-notch seitan burger with air fries. **Real Food Daily**, another popular organic vegan restaurant, has two locations, 514 Santa Monica Blvd. off of 4th St., and 414 N. La Cienega Blvd. It is definitely pricier, but delicious. If you are in the South Bay, try **Green Temple** (1700 S. Catalina Ave, (310) 944-4525), which serves gigantic salads with almost all of their entrees. There are even a variety of raw restaurants, including **Taste of the Goddess Café** at 7253 Santa Monica Blvd. For a special occasion, try **Inn of the**

Seventh Ray (128 Old Topanga Canyon Rd., (310) 455-1311), an upscale organic restaurant romantically set in the hills of Topanga Canyon. **Vegetarians in Paradise**, at www.vegparadise.com/restaurants.html, provides an abundant listing of vegetarian restaurants throughout Los Angeles County.

Other food by type: There are so many great restaurants in Los Angeles, your best bet is to pick up a guidebook or conduct some research on the internet. Moreover, the above listing is only a sampling of affordable restaurants with many more options if you are willing to spend the cash. A couple of other options by meal/food type include the following:

Breakfast: Snug Harbor (2323 Wilshire Blvd.) offers an assortment of pancakes and omelets for breakfast, sandwiches and salads for lunch. The best part is the hole in the wall atmosphere, and there is a small back porch with blankets to wrap around your shoulders if it's chilly. **S&W Country Diner** (9748 Washington Blvd.) has pancakes made to order. According to one editorial, the options range from crumbled Oreos to corn and Ortega chili. A Westwood staple, **Headlines**, has cheap deals and is often filled with hungry UCLA students, located at 10922 Kinross Ave., in Westwood. **The Griddle Cafe** serves up "BIG and crazy pancakes" according to one review, located at 7916 Sunset Blvd. According to one article published in the LA Times, **La Maison du Pain** (5373 W. Pico Blvd., (323)934-5858) offers the best cinnamon roll in Los Angeles—they're moist and flaky with just enough frosting to make them a good dose of sugar in the morning. Best if purchased early when they are still fresh. **Bread Bar** (10250 Santa Monica Blvd., (310) 277-3770). Think bread. Enough said. **King's Road Cafe** (8361 Beverly Blvd.) a bit pricey, but it has a front patio to enjoy the LA sun. **The Abbey** (692 N Robertson Blvd., (310) 289-8410), apparently voted the Gay Headquarters in Los Angeles, serves up a good, though slightly pricier, breakfast.

Dinner:

Mexican: When in Los Angeles, you must eat Mexican food. It's still not quite the same as the taco stands in Tijuana, but you're certainly going to get much closer to authentic in Los Angeles than you will ever find in Boston. The following are a few spots recommended by Los Angelesans in addition to those already mentioned above: **Hecho in Mexico** in El Sereno (4976 Huntington Dr. S.); **Tito's Tacos** (11222 Washington Place, Culver City); **Las Fuentes** (18415 Vanowen St., West San Fernando Valley); **El Tarasco** in Manhattan Beach (316 Rosecrans Avenue) is a classic hole-in-the-wall burrito joint - good for a late night or afternoon burrito after a day of surfing at the beach; **Grand Central Market** (317 S. Broadway). Go to any of the taco stands and be prepared for a monster taco. **Mama's Hot Tamales** (2122 West Seventh St., Downtown Los Angeles) is not actually only Mexican food, but serves up tamales from a variety of Latin American countries. It is actually a non-profit business training restaurant, and all proceeds from the Café are reinvested in the organization's programs, which are focused on urban neighborhood revitalization.

Japanese: The best two areas in Los Angeles to find Japanese food are Little Tokyo in downtown Los Angeles and Sawtelle Blvd., between Santa Monica and Olympic Blvds. **Daikokuya** (327 E. 1st St.) is a Little Tokyo staple. It always has long waits but the Daikoku ramen and Tsukemen noodles are well worth the wait. **Mikawaya** offers shaved ice (Japanese style with Azuki beans and sweetened condensed milk) and other Japanese treats for dessert (118 Japanese Village Plaza). On Sawtelle, some of the freshest sushi can be found at **Hide Sushi**

(2040 Sawtelle Blvd.); the menu is limited but the fish is fresh. **Midori** is also nearby at 11695 National Blvd. and has “all you can eat sushi and good quality.”

Korean: Koreatown (or K-Town) is filled with good Korean restaurants for both Korean barbecue tofu soup, naeng myun and other types of Korean dishes. In general, Korean barbecue will run between about \$15-\$20 per person for an all-you-can-eat meal. Though it’s a bit pricier for a single meal, there is no need to eat meat for several days following, and if you go for lunch, there is definitely no need to eat dinner. Just make sure that you don’t have to do much thinking afterwards as the food coma will set in quickly. A couple of highly recommended options: **Tahoe Galbi House** 3986 Wilshire Blvd; **Chweh Ga Neh Korean BBQ** 3916 Wilshire Boulevard; and **Mu Dung San** (1040 S. Western Ave.). If you have a group of more than four people, the four-course family-style spicy crab soup at **Ondal 2** (4566 W Washington Blvd., (323) 933-3228) is a must try!

Italian: There are a number of great Italian restaurants, but they are not generally of the lower budget variety. One popular destination for large groups and parties is **C&O Trattoria** (31 Washington Blvd., Marina Del Rey). The portions are large, there are unlimited garlic rolls, which they bring out fresh throughout your meal, and everybody (yes, that includes guests as well) sings “It’s Amore” at least once nightly. Other, slightly pricier options include **Brunello Trattoria** (6001 Washington Blvd., Culver City), **Fritto Misto** (601 Colorado Avenue, Santa Monica), and **Pizza Mozza** (641 N. Highland Ave.).

Chinese: The Chinese food offerings in Los Angeles are fewer and farther between than might be expected. Most of the best Chinese is found in Monterey Park, which is about 10 miles east of downtown Los Angeles on I-10, which may or may not be worth the drive in the evenings. However, a couple of places within the greater Los Angeles area include the following: **Din Tai Fung** (1108 South Baldwin Avenue), famous for its steamed dumplings; **Har Lam Kee** (150 E. Garvey Ave., Monterey Park); and **Class 302** (1015 S. Nogales St., #125, Rowland Heights).

Dessert: Los Angeles has a penchant for dessert fads. A few years ago a cupcake craze hit the city. Two years ago, Korean-style frozen yogurt entered the market. The remnants of these trends continue to hang on. **Sprinkles** is not exactly cheap, but it is one of the most famous of the cupcake cafés, now located in both Beverly Hills and Newport Beach. **Sweet Lady Jane's** also boasts a variety of cupcakes but offers other desserts as well (8360 Melrose Ave.). The primary competitors in the Korean frozen yogurt craze are **Pink Berry** and **Red Mango**, both of which have a number of locations scattered throughout the area. **Scoops** (712 N. Heliotrope Dr.) is an ice cream parlor, but it serves up unusual flavors of ice cream—perhaps most notably “brown bread”—which customers may invent and suggest. Another unusual ice cream shop is **Mashti Malone’s Ice Cream** (1525 N. La Brea Ave.), which serves Persian ice cream and has such flavors as rosewater, ginger and rose.

One last tip: Remember to call ahead and inquire about corkage fees. Many restaurants allow you to **bring wine for free** or for a nominal charge. Stop by Trader Joe’s and you can celebrate in style on a tight budget.

ENTERTAINMENT

Amusement Parks/Zoos

There are many great weekend options in the Los Angeles area whether you like rollercoaster thrillers or experiencing wildlife.

Disneyland: (www.disneyland.com) Located about an hour away from downtown L.A., this is a must-see for the children at heart. Tickets to “The Happiest Place on Earth” are about \$50 but you can often find deals through websites or grocery stores. Remember to bring your sunscreen and patience for this full day affair.

California Adventure: (www.disneyland.com) Adjacent to Disneyland, this homage to all things California contains more rides, attractions, shows, and of course, food. One and two-day park hopper tickets are available for the theme parks.

Knott’s Berry Farm: (www.knotts.com) Knott’s began as a roadside stand for preserves but now serves as a hot spot for thrill-seekers. Admission is slightly less and there are discounted prices for Southern Californians. Check out the website for a list of rides and attractions

Universal Studios: (www.universalstudioshollywood.com) For a slightly different experience closer to home, check out this theme park/movie studio. You can buy tickets online for \$67 and get a second day free. The park integrates its rides with blockbuster movies for a truly unique experience. You can also go behind the scenes with studio tours of movies and television shows.

Six Flags Magic Mountain: (www.sixflags.com/parks/magicmountain/index.asp) Located about 45 minutes from L.A. in Valencia, this amusement park boasts some of the country’s best roller coasters and tickets that can be bought online for as low as \$39.99 (definitely don’t wait in line at the park). This is virtually one of the only places left where you can get funnel cakes and churros.

Hurricane Harbor: (www.sixflags.com/hurricaneharborLA/) Next door, this water park draws huge crowds during the hot summer. You can purchase dual passes to both parks (Magic Mountain and Hurricane Harbor). The park offers water slides, rafting, and wave pools.

Raging Waters: (www.ragingwaters.com) Another water park located south of L.A.. More water slides, rafting, and wave pools.

Legoland: (www.lego.com/legoland) Designed for younger patrons, this Carlsbad amusement park is about a 1 ½ hour drive from Los Angeles. One of only four parks in the world, Legoland offers attractions and Lego replicas of everything, including the Empire State Building and Mount Rushmore.

San Diego Zoo: (www.sandiegozoo.org) This world famous zoo houses 4000 animals from 800 animal species. The zoo is about a two-hour drive from Los Angeles. Save money by purchasing tickets online.

Wild Animal Park: (www.sandiegozoo.org) If you prefer to see animals in their natural habitat, check out this park where you can view the animals from a caravan safari. You can purchase special passes that are good at the Zoo, the Wild Animal Park, and Sea World.

Sea World: (www.seaworld.com) Also in San Diego, this park offers rides, shows, attractions, and, of course, Shamu. Tickets are about \$65 but you can usually find deals on the internet.

Los Angeles Zoo: (www.lazoo.org) It's no San Diego Zoo, but there are many exhibits and shows to keep you busy (beware of the throngs of students from surrounding schools).

Sightseeing

Around Town

Santa Monica and the beaches: The best sightseeing is from a beach towel at one of the city's beautiful beaches. **Santa Monica** is a popular spot, but consequently a tourist trap, so often the South Bay (**Manhattan Beach** and **Hermosa Beach**) beaches are more picturesque and relaxing. Most beaches have bike, rollerblade, and surf rentals. Many of the beaches, including **Marina del Rey**, provide kayaking excursions. **Santa Monica Pier and Third Street Promenade** are popular destinations because the pier includes roller coasters, rides, and games. The Promenade is located on Third Street just on the cliffs above the pier and is a great place for shopping, eating, and watching street performers at night. **Venice's Ocean Front Walk** is also a great people-watching experience. This is the home of the "muscle beach" area where you can see some pretty intense body builders. **Zuma Beach at Point Dume**, north of Malibu and a bit of a drive is arguably one of the best beaches in the vicinity, offering outdoor rock climbing and a somewhat hidden cove at the very end of the beach if you are willing to make the trek. This beach is known for dolphin sightings.

Westside and Beverly Hills: A trip to Los Angeles probably wouldn't be complete unless you cruise Sunset Blvd for a star map vendor and then check out the celebrities' homes in this upscale area. You can also walk around **UCLA's** beautiful campus and peruse the shops of **Westwood**. **Rodeo Drive** is also located in Beverly Hills off of Wilshire and is the home of the most upscale shops in the area. Unless you suddenly hit the lottery or win big in Vegas, it is not advisable to try to shop around here, but it is an interesting place to people watch.

Hollywood: Hollywood is most famous for the **Hollywood Walk of Fame** on Hollywood Blvd. You can also view the famous **Hollywood sign** from here. No trip to Hollywood would be complete without visiting **The Hollywood Guinness World Records Museum** (6764 Hollywood Blvd., (323) 463-6433), **The Hollywood Wax Museum** (6767 Hollywood Blvd., (323) 462-8860), and **Ripley's "Believe it or Not" Odditorium** (6780 Hollywood Blvd., (323) 466-6335). Also check out the famous Hollywood landmark, **Grauman's Chinese Theatre** (6925 Hollywood Blvd., (323) 464-MANN). Walking down the **Sunset Strip**, you will find some of the most famous bars and clubs, including the **Whiskey A Go-Go** where the Doors played. **Farmers Market** (6333 W. 3rd St.) is a relaxing stopover from a long day of walking and offers lots of good eats. To top off the evening, you may choose to attend a live-audience taping (www.tvtickets.com), be a game show contestant (www.cbs.com/daytime/price/tickets for *The Price is Right*), or appear on a reality show. Anything can happen in L.A.!

Downtown: There is always a lot to do Downtown. **Olvera Street** is the original site of the first Spanish settlement in Los Angeles. Today it is a heritage site and a Mexican style market with great food, shopping, historical buildings and music on the weekends. **Griffith Park** is a sprawling park with horseback riding, golfing, swimming, and biking. The **Griffith Observatory** (2800 E. Observatory Rd., (213) 473-0800), made famous by James Dean in *Rebel Without A Cause*. Also, check out the **Watts Towers** (1727 107th St., (213) 847-4646) for a breathtaking example of Los Angeles folk art.

Outside the City

If you feel the urge to flee the city, remember that **San Diego** and the **Mexican border** are only three hours away by car or train. And if you want to try to double your summer stipend, **Las Vegas** is about a four hour drive depending on traffic. **Catalina Island** is two and a half hours by ferry, with kayaking, snorkeling, and parasailing, among other attractions. You can get to **Big Sur** and the beautiful **Monterey** shoreline in about four hours by car. **San Francisco** is a day's drive (six hours) or an hour's flight away and is a great city for sightseeing, eating, and partying. If you are planning to visit San Francisco or Las Vegas, round trip tickets cost can be relatively inexpensive with advance purchase. If you can manage it, most all destinations are best visited on a weekday when crowds and hotel prices are lower.

If you enjoy hiking, L.A. is ringed by 10,000 foot mountains with views that would tempt anyone. There are several good hikes within 1-2 hours' drive from the city. A hike up **Mount Baldy** or **Mount San Geronio** provide commanding views of the region and something to brag about to your friends (each peak is about two miles high). At the **Malibu State Park** it is 35 minute hike to the partially restored site of the M*A*S*H television show. Parking is \$10 (1925 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, CA, www.malibucreekdocents.org). Closer to the city, Runyon Canyon Park offers several hiking trails and a great view of the city (2000 N. Fuller Ave.)

To cool off and enjoy the peace of a mountain lake, take a two-hour drive up to **Lake Arrowhead** or **Big Bear Lake**. If you want to be wowed even more and don't mind a 4-6 hour drive, then some of the country's most beautiful and rugged wilderness is available to you. Coastal treats include any number of hikes along the largely unspoiled coastline between **Santa Barbara** (a beautiful coastal town two hours north of Los Angeles by car) and **San Francisco**, particularly the **Big Sur** area. There is a great concentration of first class hiking and camping opportunities in **Sequoia National Park** along with the world's most massive trees. Further north, **Yosemite National Park**, has something to offer wilderness veterans and casual hikers alike. Excellent services in the valley area allow everyone to access the park's natural wonders while the less-visited backcountry offers plenty of peace and beauty away from the crowds. For an even more rugged experience, try California's spectacular eastern Sierras, home to the tallest peak in the lower 48 (Mount Whitney at 14,500 feet) and many other fourteeners. The **Big Pine Lakes**, **Kearsarge Pass**, **Bishop Pass**, and **Mount Whitney Main** trails are all highly recommended (though the last trail can be too crowded on weekends). Also, if you would like to climb to the peak of Mount Whitney, permits must be obtained fairly far in advance. Plan early if possible. If any of these outdoor excursions sound good, pick up a California hiking or outdoors guide to plan your trip.

Museums

There are countless world-renowned museums throughout Los Angeles. Check out their websites for special events (including free jazz at LACMA) or free-day schedules. **The Museum of Contemporary Art** has three locations and is free on Thursdays from 5-8 pm. ((213) 626-6222, www.moca.org). **Los Angeles County Museum of Art**, better known as **LACMA** (5905 Wilshire Blvd, (323) 857-6000, www.lacma.org), is one of the best art museums in the country and the exhibitions are free after 5pm. Sundays here are also free admission. **The Getty Center** (1200 Getty Center Dr., (310) 440-7300, www.getty.edu) is located in West L.A. and free to the public but \$10 dollars for parking. Perched on the Santa Monica mountains, it provides an incredible view of the city. **The Getty Villa** in Malibu (www.getty.edu), modeled after a Roman villa, houses the Getty's collection of ancient Greek and Roman art. Tickets are free but have to be reserved in advance online or by calling ahead; parking is \$10. Los Angeles has several smaller art museums. UCLA's **Hammer Museum** is free on Thursdays and \$7 the rest of the week (10899 Wilshire Blvd, 310.443.7000, www.hammer.ucla.edu). The small but funky **RedCat** gallery features contemporary work and is free to the public. It is located in the Walt Disney Concert Hall (631 W. 2nd St., 213.237.2800, www.redcat.org). **Bergmot Station** in Santa Monica is an eight acre complex of contemporary art galleries, with free parking and no admission (2525 Michigan Ave., Santa Monica, www.bergamotstation.com).

Another favorite, **La Brea Tar Pits and Page Museum** (5801 Wilshire Blvd., (323) 934-PAGE, www.tarpits.org), consists of tar pits in the middle of Los Angeles and there is free admission on the first Tuesday of every month and \$4.50 for students with IDS on other days. **The Paley Center for Media**, formerly The Museum of Television and Radio (465 N. Beverly Dr., (310) 786-1025, www.mtr.org) provides information about the country's vast entertainment history. If you are interested in Hollywood history, try **the Hollywood Museum** (1660 N. Highland Ave., (323) 464-7776, www.thehollywoodmuseum.com), admission is \$15. For a glimpse into a variety of cultures, check out the **Japanese American National Museum** (369 E. 1st St., (213) 625-0414, www.janm.org), **The Museum of Latin American Art** (628 Alamitos Dr. in Long Beach, (562) 437-1689, www.molaa.com), **The Southwest Museum of the American Indian** (234 Museum Dr., (323) 221-2164, www.southwestmuseum.org; temporarily closed for renovations), **The California African American Museum** (600 State Dr., (213) 744-7432, www.caamuseum.org), and **The Skirball Cultural Center** for Jewish history (2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd., (310) 440-4500, www.skirball.org). **The Museum of Tolerance** (9786 W. Pico Blvd., (310) 553-8403, www.museumoftolerance.com) is an incredible museum designed to expose prejudice and teach tolerance through hi-tech multimedia displays that discuss sensitive issues, such as hate crimes and genocide. Discounted admission for students. Check out Exposition Park for a host of museums, including the **California Science Center** (700 State Dr., (323) SCI-ENCE, www.californiasciencenter.org), the **National History Museum of Los Angeles County** (900 Exposition Blvd., (213) 763-DINO, www.nhm.org). This is just a sampling of museums, so be sure to look online for other options.

Arts and Theater

Los Angeles is one of the hot beds of American theater, buzzing with nascent stars, avant-garde directors, and groundbreaking writers. It is also home to world-renowned musicians. During the

summer, you can catch both large productions and intimate concerts. Some of the more well-known musical and theatrical venues include:

Ahmanson Theatre: (www.taperahmanson.com) A 2,000-seat marble complex in downtown Los Angeles that offers the big-bucks Broadway productions. Public rush tickets available. The Ahmanson is in the same complex as the playhouse, the Mark Taper Forum.

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion: (www.losangelesopera.com) Right across from Ahmanson, this classy theatre is home to L.A.'s opera productions. Student rush tickets available.

Kodak Theatre: (www.kodaktheatre.com) The new home of the Academy Awards, this high-tech theatre in Hollywood shows large-scale ballet, dance, and musical productions.

Pantages Theatre: (www.ticketmaster.com/venue/90160) Once home to vaudeville and Oscars, the Pantages Theatre is beautiful (don't let the exterior fool you) and has an eye for high-profile productions and musicals. Student rush tickets available for some shows.

Geffen Playhouse: (www.geffenplayhouse.com) Located in Westwood and owned by UCLA, this playhouse attracts many off-Broadway shows.

Hollywood Bowl: (www.hollywoodbowl.org) For concert-goers, bring your own wine and picnic dinner to this open air venue.

John Anson Ford Amphitheatre: (www.fordamphitheatre.org) Located in a park, this intimate venue features music and theater all year long.

Walt Disney Concert Hall: (www.laphil.org) Designed by architect Frank Gehry, it is home to the Los Angeles Philharmonic. You can get tickets for as little as \$20!

Comedy

1. **Groundlings:** (www.groundlings.com) The Groundlings is an improvisation and sketch comedy theatre that has been entertaining LA audiences for over 36 years. Located in Sometimes tickets are as cheap as \$5.

2. **Laugh Factory:** (www.laughfactory.com) Recognized as “the #1 comedy club in the country” by such high-profile media as *USA Today*. With southern California locations in Hollywood (its original Sunset Boulevard locale) and Long Beach.

Shopping

If you live in LA long enough, you will likely become a shopaholic because there are a ridiculous amount of options and you can find great deals if you just look in the right places. Malls and shopping centers abound in L.A., but if you're a bargain hunter, you'll find great deals in the garment district. You'll feel like you're in an actual city in this downtown bargain madhouse. Some popular malls are the **Beverly Center** (at Beverly Blvd and La Cienega Blvd), the **Westside Pavilion** (at Pico and Westwood in West LA), **Century City** (on little Santa Monica before it crosses Wilshire), and the **3rd Street Promenade** mall (4th and Broadway). The

promenade stretches down Third Street and features several thrift stores, Urban Outfitters, Gap, Banana Republic, Abercrombie, J. Crew, and tons of reasonably priced boutique stores. Also, check out **Old Town Pasadena** which consists of four blocks on Colorado Blvd. **The Grove** is the newest trendy shopping place in town, located mid-town off Fairfax. Used bookstores and record stores (the best are **Rhino** in Westwood, **Bleeker Bob's** on Melrose, **Penny Lane** in Westwood, Pasadena and on Melrose, and **Moby Disc** in Sherman Oaks on Ventura Blvd and on Colorado and Raymond in Old Town Pasadena), can be fun places to pass the time. The **Virgin MegaStore** at the corner of Sunset Boulevard and Crescent Heights in West Hollywood is perhaps the largest record store you will ever visit.

Thrift stores: What do you think happens to all the trendy clothes in this town when people tire of them?? LA has some of the best thrift stores anywhere. You may find yourself shocked by the selection at your local **Goodwill** and **Salvation Army** (there is an enormous Goodwill on La Brea south of Wilshire and a nice one on Santa Monica and Stoner in west LA, check your phone book for more locations). Another great non-profit thrift store is **Out of the Closet** which raises money for AIDS project LA (locations throughout the city including on Santa Monica Blvd in West Hollywood, on Colorado Blvd. in Pasadena, and another on Sawtelle and Santa Monica Blvd.).

If you're willing to pay \$10 for that polyester shirt instead of \$4, check out some of LA's for profit thrift stores, with a selection taken from hipsters selling their clothes and professional shoppers pillaging the goodwill for their best merchandise. **Jet Rag** on La Brea near Melrose and **Buffalo Exchange**, also on La Brea just north of Wilshire, are two of the trendiest. Scour Melrose for slightly pricier, but also slightly hipper thrift stores. Another place to make \$20 feel like infinitely more is **Aardvarks**. Just a step above goodwill in selection and price, Aardvarks has several locations including one on Melrose and one in Venice.

The **Garment District** is another unique feature of Los Angeles that you should definitely check out if you are into shopping. The shops in the area have become less quality over time (at least according to people who were old enough to shop there 40 years ago) but you can still find some decent, tailor made suits if you're willing to go into enough of the shops to find which ones are quality. **Morrie's** (934 Maple Avenue, Los Angeles) is generally good to find designer clothing left over from sample sales and marked down to fairly low prices, though it can be hit or miss depending on what has recently come in. Sample Sales are also a good place to find high quality designer clothing for "normal-person" prices. The dates for the sales can be found at <http://www.fashiondistrict.org/show.aspx?mi=2428> and are usually the last Friday of each month. They are warehouse sales, generally heavy on women's clothing and with little offerings for men, but you bring your own bags, cash only, and try on clothing in the middle of the store, fighting off other women for the same items and best prices. It's an experience if you can get away from work on a Friday morning even if you don't end up purchasing anything.

Movies

If you enjoy movies, then you're in the majority in L.A., which along with New York gets early releases on nearly everything that comes out in the theaters. Look for bargain matinees, student discounts, and cheaper prices at art houses. The **Nuart** on Santa Monica, just west of the 405, 11272 Santa Monica Blvd (310) 281-8223 sponsors a terrific version of the Rocky Horror Picture

Show every Saturday night at midnight. You can also find independent and foreign films there. For less eclectic viewing, the easiest way to find great bargains is to check the Arts section of the Sunday **L.A. Times**. Visit the **Mann Village** in Westwood to watch a movie like the stars. They hold premieres occasionally in this enormous movie palace featuring red velvet everything and a plush balcony. Though it's difficult to get into the premieres themselves, it's completely free to watch the celebrities arrive and parade around the red carpet.

A super-cool movie experience can be had in Hollywood at the **ArcLight** theater, which boasts literal surround-sound speakers, assigned seating and the occasional star movie-goers like Brad Pitt and Sandra Bullock (\$12 a ticket for weekdays/\$15 on weekends!) Another cool theater is located at **The Grove**, which is designed to look like a 5-star hotel inside, bellhop uniforms and everything. For a cheaper option, try the Film & TV archives program at UCLA at Billy Wilder Theater, 10899 Wilshire Blvd, (310) 206-3456 or check www.cinema.ucla.edu for classics or www.tft.ucla.edu for newer films. The prices range from \$7 to free. Also, check out the famous Grauman's Chinese Theater at 6925 Hollywood Blvd, 323/464-6266. For the most information in one spot, log on to losangelesmovietimes.com This site covers everything from movie reviews, show times for theatres located in any part of Los Angeles, and maps to get there. If you prefer to use a phone, try 777-FILM for theatres and show times.

Another worthwhile event that takes place every year in Westwood is the Los Angeles Film Festival. This year, the festival will run from June 18-28; more information can be found here regarding tickets and scheduling <http://www.lafilmfest.com/>. If you have time, volunteering at the Festival is generally a good way to see the films for free.

Coffeeshouses

Over 50 coffeeshouses have surfaced, and for the cost of an expensive cup of coffee you can linger in a coffeeshouse until 4 a.m., listening to live music, playing chess, shooting pool, or just hanging out. The coffeeshouses vary in atmosphere and clientele—from 40ish yuppies to teens. Some popular coffeeshouses include: **Insomnia Café** (Beverly and Poinsettia), which was featured in Seinfeld, **Horseshoe**, which is in Sherman Oaks, and **Bourgeois Pig** (on Franklin, (323) 464-6008) in Los Feliz. To witness the extremely trendy and hip, and ruin any sense of self-esteem you may have, check out **the coffeeshouse** located on Sunset Blvd. Frequented by beautiful Hollywood types on their cell phones. On the Westside, **Un-Urban Coffee House** 3301 Pico Blvd, Santa Monica, (310) 315-0056, features inexpensive breakfasts and evening performances. **Novel Café** 212 Pier Ave, Santa Monica, (310) 396-8566, which includes a used book store and great sandwiches. **Sacred Grounds** 399 W. 60th St San Pedro (310) 514-0800 is a beatnicky coffeeshouse with free shows at night.

Espresso Mi Cultura is a Latino/a coffeeshouse/bookstore/live music venue on Hollywood Blvd., also check out **Zona Rosa** in Pasadena on Colorado Blvd.

Nightlife

The best guide to what's going on in LA is the LA Weekly www.laweekly.com. Published every Thursday, the free newsweekly lists restaurants, coffeeshouses, bars, clubs, live music, art shows, and anything else your heart might desire. They also often list specials and free nights in clubs.

Definitely check out their Scoring the Clubs section to find out about the best local and touring bands that are playing that week. Below are some favorites:

Live Music

The Hollywood Bowl: In the summer, the Los Angeles Philharmonic performs at the Hollywood Bowl, a huge outdoor amphitheatre that boasts classical, jazz, reggae, and other types of music with the most famous performers in the world, like James Brown, Sarah Chang, etc. Their fireworks concerts are a must-see. It's a huge cultural event in L.A., with very cheap seats at the top and expensive dinner boxes in the orchestra area. Most everyone brings picnic dinners and camps out on the grounds before the concert. Parking is expensive (\$13-30) in the lots, but there is special Hollywood Bowl bus transportation from virtually every area of the city. Check out www.hollywoodbowl.com for shows, ticket prices, etc.

House of Blues: An old tried and true staple on the Sunset strip.

Hotel Cafe: A small Los Angeles venue that brings in up and coming local artists as well as some bigger names. They have different concerts almost every night of the month, and tickets can be purchased online or at the door; though if you go when there is a more well-known band going, tickets are apt to sell out. Located at 1623 ½ N. Cahuenga Blvd., there is parking in the alley near the venue, but if you decide to park on the street, give yourself plenty of time to find a spot.

Juicy Beats Artist Exchange: 305 S. Hewitt Street in Downtown Los Angeles. Originally created as a vehicle to fund the downtown arts community, Al's Bar often has great local bands at cheap prices.

Spaceland: 1717 Silverlake Blvd in Silverlake. One of Beck's favorite local haunts, Spaceland is often the place to go for those in the know about up and coming artists.

The Derby: Seen the movie *Swingers* and thought that should be your life, if only you knew where to go? Then head over to The Derby for great swing and jazz bands every night of the week on Los Feliz and Hillhurst. Arrive early for swing dancing lessons. Period garb is definitely encouraged. 323/663-8979

Baked Potato: Excellent local and world-renowned jazz artists make an appearance at the Baked Potato. A whole in the wall venue, but high quality music; similar in nature perhaps to Wally's Café in Boston. Definitely check out the calendar before you go, however, as they occasionally have more random bands that are not exactly jazz musicians. 3787 Cahuenga Blvd. W in North Hollywood, 818/980-1615 or www.thebakedpotato.com.

Harvelle's: This is the kind of blues joint you'd expect to find in a dark Chicago alley. Even if it's your first visit, it feels familiar. 1432 4th St. Santa Monica (310) 395-1676.

Troubadour: On Santa Monica and Robertson, Troubadour, a favorite of Cheryl Crow, plays a lot of your rock and indie faves. 310-276-6168

McMurphy's Tavern: On Fair Oaks and Union (one block north of Colorado Blvd) in Old Town Pasadena. On Thursday nights, get there before 9 to get in for free, and treat yourself to some great local bands playing out on the patio. 626-666-1445

Lighthouse Café: Free music wknights, karaoke Monday nights and Jazz Thursdays. 30 Pier Ave. Hermosa Beach (310) 376-9833.

3 Clubs: DJ's play Rock music and live bands on Thurs nights. 1123 N Vine St. (323) 462-6441

Summer Music Festivals

Summer Season at the Hollywood Bowl: The Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, the LA Philharmonic and other performers are scheduled throughout the summer at the historic Hollywood Bowl.

When: June through September

Where: 2301 N. Highland Ave., Hollywood

Cost: Varies

Info: (323) 850-2000, www.hollywoodbowl.com

Grand Performances Summer Festival: Grand Performances' summer series at California Plaza in Downtown Los Angeles presents world-class, world-renowned artists along with some of the finest homegrown talent. Food and beverages available for purchase.

When: June through October

Where: California Plaza, 350 S. Grand Ave., Downtown Los Angeles

Cost: FREE

Metro: Red Line to Pershing Square

Info: 213-687-2159, www.grandperformances.org

More: [Profile of Grand Performances](#)

Ford Amphitheatre Summer Season: The Ford Amphitheatre presents jazz, world music, dance, classical music, theater, film, choral events, and family shows in an outdoor amphitheatre. Food and beverages available for purchase.

When: May - October, See website for schedule.

Where: Ford Amphitheatre, 2580 E. Cahuenga Blvd., Hollywood

Cost: Prices vary.

Info: 323-461-3673, www.fordamphitheater.org, [Schedule](#)

More: [Ford Amphitheatre Guide](#)

Pershing Square Summer Concert Series: Five weeks of free outdoor evening concerts and films four days a week on Pershing Square featuring a variety of musical genres and performers. Concerts are free with lawn seating.

When: Late June through late August, Wed, Thu, Sat concerts 8-10; Friday movies at dusk

Where: Pershing Square, 532 S. Olive St. Downtown Los Angeles

Metro: Red Line to Pershing Square

Cost: FREE

Info: 1-888-527-2757, <http://www.laparks.orgwww.laparks.org/pershingsquare/>

Twilight Dance and Music at the Santa Monica Pier: The Annual Thursday Twilight Music and Dance Series at Santa Monica Pier features some of LA's favorite hometown and visiting bands.

When: Thursdays, End of June or beginning of July through August

Where: Santa Monica Pier

Cost: Free

Parking: 2030 Barnard Way lot, a four to six-minute walk from the concert.

Info: (310) 458-8900, www.santamonicapier.org

LA County's Free Concerts in Public Places: LA County's Free Concerts in Public Places is a diverse schedule of free public concerts in community venues in all the districts of Los Angeles County.

When: May through October, (click on each month on the website)

Where: Various locations throughout LA County

Cost: FREE

Info: <http://lacountyarts.org/free.html>

Live Music at Hollywood & Highland: On Tuesday Wine and Jazz evenings in the Babylon Courtyard at Hollywood & Highland the music is free and bar sales benefit Project Angel Food.

When: June through August, Tuesdays 7-9 pm

Where: Babylon Courtyard at Hollywood & Highland Center, corner of Hollywood and Highland, Hollywood, CA 90028

Cost: Free

Metro: Red Line to Hollywood & Highland

Info: www.hollywoodandhighland.com

Sizzling Summer Nights: LA's top Latin bands perform at the Autrey National Center in Griffith Park starting at 6:30 pm; There are salsa lessons during intermission; children's dance floor

When: Every Thursday in July and August, 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Where: Autrey National Center, 4700 Western Heritage Way, Los Angeles

Cost: \$5; Free for members

Info: 323-667-2000, www.autrynationalcenter.org

Bars

Lava Lounge: On La Brea, north of Sunset, Lava Lounge has a hip Polynesian atmosphere with novelty music, subject to the DJ's strange whims. The crowd consists of alterna-chic twentysomethings and rejects from the highly overrated Garden of Eden club across the street, infamous for their crowd of aspiring actors/actresses/models and snooty bouncers. 1533 N. La Brea Ave. Hollywood 323/876-6612

Beauty Bar: 1638 Cahuenga Blvd in Hollywood. Beauty salon by day; trendy bar by night. A place for scenesters to get manicures with their martinis and hot spot for "beautiful people". (323) 464-7676

Burgundy Room: 1621 ½ N. Cahuenga Blvd, Hollywood. This deep dark bar has cult and B-movie night on Mondays, but be sure to check out Thursdays and Fridays when DJ Loomis spins punk rock trash. (323) 465-7530

Room: Across from the Burgundy Room, with the same owners, this free bar/club could be easily missed unless you know where to look. Good house music scene.

Liquid Kitty: On Pico east of Bundy, look for the flashing neon martini. The Westside's attempt at a hidden, dark atmosphere. 310/473-3707

Bar Fly: In the heart of the Sunset strip. A very happening place to spend the entire evening or go to after a night of dancing somewhere else. There might be a wait getting in, however, if you go past 11PM on a Thursday or Saturday night. Bouncers can become picky and attractive (aggressive) females are favored. 8730 W. Sunset Blvd.

Saddle Ranch: Also on Sunset strip, this place is a very popular L.A. place for a drink, schmoozing, and riding on the mechanical bull. The dress is trendy casual, and the crowd is quite lively.

Cat & Fiddle Pub: 6530 Sunset Blvd; 323/ 468-3800. Check out free snacks and happy hour everyday 4-7pm or free jazz on Sunday nights.

The Parlor: 1519 Wilshire Blvd; 310/ 395-4139. A popular venue for watching sporting events. Happy Hour runs every day from 4-8 pm for cheap drinks and a variety of beers.

Palominos: 10877 Wilshire Blvd; 310/ 208-1960. An excellent happy hour every day from 4-7 pm and after 10 pm. As of 2007, all of the appetizers were half-off and pizzas were \$5.

Bacaro l.a.: 2308 South Union Ave. 213/ 748-7205. A wine bar opened up by some graduates from USC; they serve cicheti (the equivalent of Spain's tapas, but in Venice, Italy) and offer a good selection of wines. Happy hour lasts on Fridays and Saturdays from 5-11 pm and 5-7 pm.

Online Resources

For more information on L.A.'s entertainment options, consult the Calendar section of the Los Angeles Times or the L.A. Weekly. The L.A. Weekly can be obtained for free in most L.A. bookstore and record stores and has a variety of alternative entertainment options listed each week. Also, check out travel guides. The internet is an invaluable resource for all aspects of living in L.A. Here are some sites to get you started:

- **Calendar Live:** www.calendarlive.com
- **LA Weekly:** www.laweekly.com
- **City Search:** www.citysearch.com
- **LA.com:** www.la.com

- **@LA:** www.at-la.com
- **Theatre L.A.:** www.theatreLA.org
- **TV Tickets:** www.tvtickets.com
- **L.A. Times.** L.A.'s major daily also offers an excellent site detailing living and entertainment options in the city. www.latimes.com
- **Goodeats.** A great page listing and reviewing “good eats” in L.A and more. www.dailycandy.com

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