



maveric2003

Low-key Los Angeles Bars

Culver City, Los Angeles, 2 Days

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: Here I have collected a number of Los Angeles dive and neighborhood bars. Not every night is the occasion for champagne, high heels and glitter! Sometimes you just want to find a no-frills place to have a beer or a stiff drink and maybe even meet some locals. There are a bunch of somewhat friendly hole-in-the-wall bars here in Los Angeles, this list is just to get you started on a low-key night out.

Day 1: Downtown and Eastside Bars

Day 2: Miracle Mile and Westside Bars

[Photo courtesy of skampy]

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Los Angeles

DAY NOTE: Downtown and Eastside



Footsie's
Rock n roll



Hop Louie
Low-key bar (and restaurant) in Chinatown



Bar 107
Hidden downtown dive bar



King Eddy Saloon
An authentic downtown dive bar



Hank's Bar
The oldest bar in downtown L.A.



Gold Room
Echo Park's Prime Watering Hole



Little Joy Cocktail Lounge
Hip dive bar in Echo Park



Club Tee Gee
Dive bar in Atwater Village



Drawing Room
Great jukebox



Ye Rustic Inn
Great neighborhood bar



The Smog Cutter
Dive Bar With Friendly Crowd



HMS Bounty
Old fashioned feel-good bar



Frolic Room
Dive bar



Coronet Pub
Excellent place for casual drinks



Cinema Bar
A Classic Bar

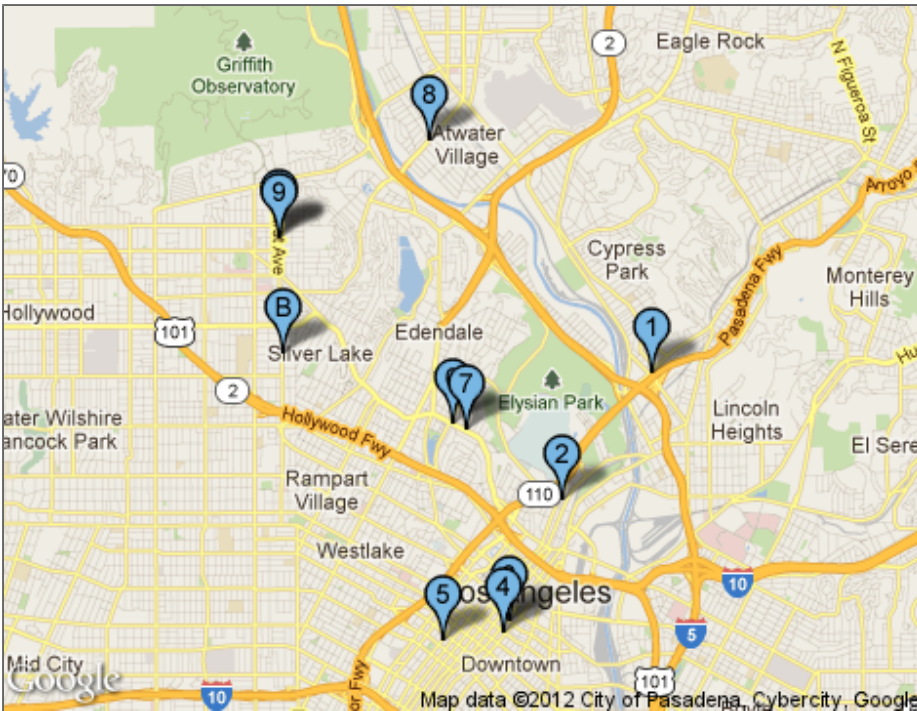
Day 2 - Los Angeles, Culver City

DAY NOTE: Miracle Mile and Westside



Frank N Hank's
Awesome dive bar with cheap booze

Day 1 - Los Angeles



QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: Downtown and Eastside

contact:
tel: 323 226900

1 Footsie's

location:
2640 North Figueroa Street
Los Angeles CA 90012

DESCRIPTION: Here's your opportunity to step onto the time machine. The decor, music as well as the drink prices belong to the 70s - and no one's complaining about that! Just don't forget to put on your dancing shoes before you head down to Footsie's because the rock music is too good to hold still to. Otherwise, take a pick from the jukebox or catch a game of pool. This place offers the perfect formula for a rocking time. © wcities.com

hours:
Mo to Su from 04:00 PM to
02:00 AM

contact:
tel: (213) 628-4244

2 Hop Louie

location:
950 Mei Ling Way
Los Angeles CA 90012

DESCRIPTION: This is an unpretentious and reasonably priced place to get drinks. The crowd varies from almost none on some nights to packs of hipster "emerging artists" on nights when there are gallery openings on nearby Chung King Way. The bartenders will not try to be your best friend (which I consider a plus) and the jukebox is good. The scene is much more down-to-earth here than at Mountain Bar (the hipster haven across the way).
© NileGuide

hours:
Mo to Su from 12:00 PM to
02:00 AM



Photo courtesy of Dust Storm

contact:

tel: (213) 625-7382
<http://www.myspace.com/bar107>

location:

107 4th Street
Los Angeles CA 90013

hours:

Su to Sa from 03:00 PM to 02:00 AM

3 Bar 107

DESCRIPTION: Bar 107 is to Downtown LA what Tiny's is to Hollywood: the token punk bar of the area. Not goth, industrial or cosplay, but just your good old, stripped of niceties and pretenses punk bar. The décor is cheerfully artless, with a full-length mirror wall pasted with local fliers on one side and a mile-long bar on the other. The demographic is certainly weighted towards early-to-mid-twenties. The vibe is rowdy and restless, and some nights do get sardine can-packed. Old TVs suspended up top tend to flicker out some adorable, god-awful 80s classic. Drinks are cheap and substantial, and prices are refreshingly low. If you need a change of pace from more chic and sophisticated downtown haunts, stop by here any night. - Kate Sobol © wcities.com



citysearch

contact:

tel: (213) 629-2023
<http://kingeddysaloon.com/>

location:

131 East 5th Street
Los Angeles CA 90013

4 King Eddy Saloon

DESCRIPTION: At one a hub for of alcohol distribution through tunnels beneath downtown during prohibition, the King Eddy Saloon in the King Edward Hotel holds Los Angeles's oldest standing liquor license. This low-key bar is the oldest and most authentic dive bar downtown. It is right next top Skid Row and has some cheapest alcohol prices around. If you like dive bars this is the place for you. If you are for something a little upscale, downtown offers plenty more stylish and trendy nightspots that you can check out. Other low-key, more divey joints in downtown Los Angeles included Hanks Bar and Bar 107. © NileGuide



Photo Courtesy of King Eddy

contact:

tel: 213 623 7718
http://losangeles.citysearch.com/profile/31448/los_angeles_ca/hank_s_bar.html

location:

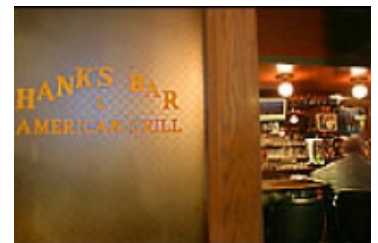
840 South Grand Avenue
Los Angeles CA 90017

hours:

11a-1:30a M-Su

5 Hank's Bar

DESCRIPTION: Frequented by everyone from local businessmen to politicians to policemen to hipsters, this is purported to be the oldest bar in downtown Los Angeles. It has been around since before World War II and remains a highly respected spot on the Los Angeles map. The bartenders mix a mean martini and just about anything else you might desire. There is a reason this place has stayed popular for so many years, because of its combination of atmosphere and great drinks. © wcities.com



citysearch

contact:
tel: +1 213 482 5259

location:
1558 West Sunset Boulevard
Los Angeles CA 90026

hours:
Su to Mo from 12:00 PM to
02:00 AM

6 Gold Room

DESCRIPTION: A classic drinking establishment, this place has got some serious whiskers and a unique vibe. On better nights, you will be served by two motherly buxom waitresses, who look like they could just be visiting from the islands, slinging drinks with precision under the watchful eye of a Latino manager, who is a distinguished old-timer sporting a handlebar mustache and a three-piece golden watch chain. The clientèle is likewise gem-studded with a few singular characters. In keeping with the general quirkiness, the ceilings are adorned with the subtly flickering scene of a starry sky. Drink prices are startlingly low. Complimentary peanuts are dispensed generously. On a few nights, Gold Room shows its appreciation to perpetually thirsty customers by serving them free tacos fresh from the kitchen. - Kate Sobol © wcities.com



wcities

contact:
tel: (213) 250-3417
http://losangeles.citysearch.com/profile/38058875/los_angel_es_ca/little_joy_cocktails.html

location:
1477 West Sunset Boulevard
Los Angeles CA 90026

hours:
Daily 5pm-2am

7 Little Joy Cocktail Lounge

DESCRIPTION: Local band flyers and photocopied want ads greet customers walking through the angular entryway, which obstructs the goings-on inside from street view. Bud Light lampshades hang over tattered tan-vinyl booths up front. Two pool tables in the back are perpetually lined with quarters--don't be surprised if the eight or cue ball are missing. Cute bartenders serve reasonably priced drinks, but don't expect top-shelf liquor. Jukebox variety favors '80s new wave and '90s indie rock, and DJs often set up in the back corner, where they spin everything from Ella Fitzgerald to Siouxsie & the Banshees. Little more than a hole-in-the-wall, this unsuspecting venue has become a prime post-9pm destination for an unusual mix of the artsy, just-turned-21 set, longtime locals and gay and lesbian crowd.



Photo by Noah Albert

contact:
tel: (323) 669-9631
http://losangeles.citysearch.com/profile/68693/los_angeles_ca/club_tee_gee.html

location:
3210 Glendale Boulevard
Los Angeles CA 90039

8 Club Tee Gee

DESCRIPTION: This is a friendly dive bar that has been around since 1946. It is an unpretentious, neighborhood type of place. The decoration is reminiscent of a basement from the 70's. Overall its a chill place with a diverse clientele and it's generally not too crowded.
© NileGuide



Photo courtesy of Omar Omar

contact:

tel: 323 665 0135
http://losangeles.citysearch.com/profile/52399/los_angeles_ca/drawing_room.html

location:

1800 Hillhurst Avenue
Los Angeles CA 90027

hours:

6a-2a M-Su

9 Drawing Room

DESCRIPTION: This tiny, often busy bar features a jukebox you won't be able to keep your quarters away from. The crowd is very diverse and friendly. Never has been or ever will be a terribly cool spot, which might be one of its positives; only the locals know about it and they like it that way. Plus, its great Los Feliz location (one of the last great neighborhoods in L.A.) makes it a wonderful diversion from the more familiar trendy path. Bring your cash, as credit cards are not accepted. © wcities.com



citysearch

contact:

tel: 323 662 5757

location:

1831 Hillhurst Avenue
Los Angeles CA 90027

hours:

10a-2a M-Th, 9a-2a F-Su

A Ye Rustic Inn

DESCRIPTION: This is a bar that perfectly serves the hip Los Feliz area. This casual two-room watering hole is a comfortable spot that's welcoming to both the aging regulars and the on-their-way-to-Hollywood younger crowd. The main room has a long, beaten-up bar filled with the kind of extras you only see in an Oliver Stone film. The back room offers booths for a more private night out. You can't build this kind of place—it has to age like fine wine. © wcities.com



citysearch

contact:

tel: +1 323 660 4626
http://losangeles.citysearch.com/profile/56972/los_angeles_ca/smog_cutter.html

location:

864 North Virgil Avenue
Los Angeles CA 90029

hours:

Daily 1p-2a

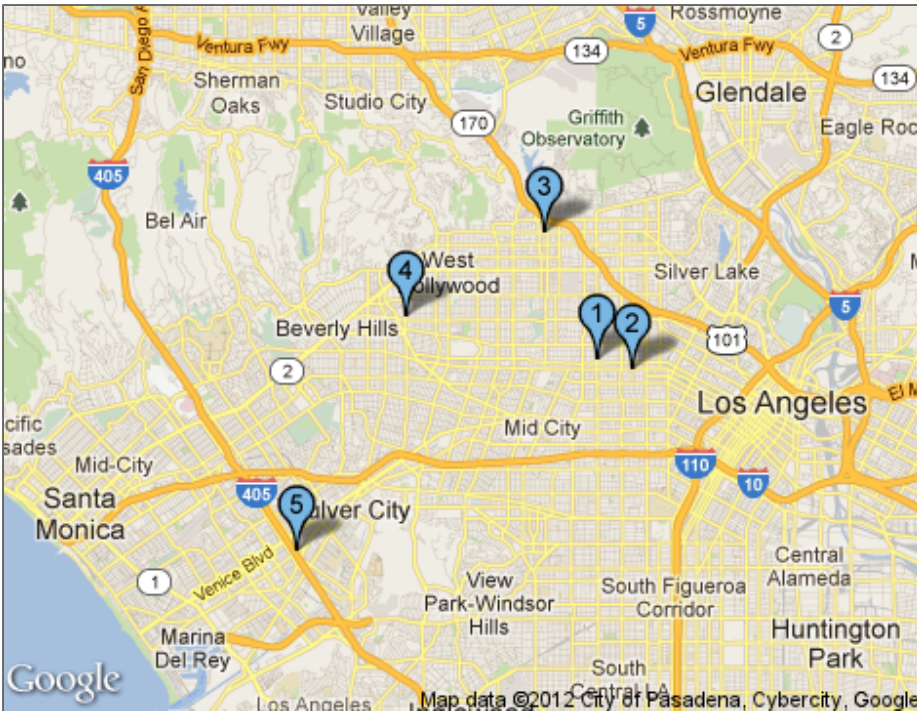
B The Smog Cutter

DESCRIPTION: Although the neighborhood isn't great, Smog Cutter is certainly safe enough to hang in for a night. The crowd is a nice mix of regular locals and those who know how to find a safe bar with friendly prices. The karaoke machine offers its own brand of entertainment, although that's not always a good thing. Don't be fooled by its rough exterior - this is a great place to forget your troubles. The bar does not accept credit cards, so keep some cash ready. © wcities.com



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Day 2 - Los Angeles, Culver City



QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: Miracle Mile and Westside

contact:

tel: (213) 383-2087
http://losangeles.citysearch.com/profile/11416045/los_angel_es_ca/frank_n_hanks.html

location:

518 S Western Ave
Los Angeles CA 90020

hours:

Daily 5pm-2am

1 Frank N Hank's

DESCRIPTION: A local Koreatown bar serving cheap drinks and food for the masses. Go relax after work or play and enjoy shooting some pool, playing darts or just sit back and enjoy the music and company around you.



citysearch

contact:

tel: 213 385 7275
<http://www.thehmsbounty.com/>

location:

3357 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles CA 90010

hours:

11a-2a M-Su

2 HMS Bounty

DESCRIPTION: Walking into this long-time haunt is like stepping back in time. Although the place has been open since the 1930s and hasn't changed all that much since, no one's complaining. The nautical theme is evident in the decor. The small menu (fish & chips, sandwiches, etc.) and the crusty regulars, are as friendly as they are devoted to this watering hole. A slightly younger crowd fills the place on weekends. This is a really fun place that's definitely not like every other place out there. © wcities.com



citysearch

contact:

tel: +1 323 462 5890
fax: 818 955 9013
<http://www.bobsfrolicroom.com/>

location:

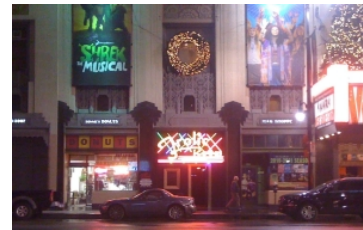
6245 Hollywood Blvd
Los Angeles CA 90028

hours:

11a-2a M-Su

3 Frolic Room

DESCRIPTION: The "divest" of the dive bars, this tiny hole next to the famed Pantages Theater has been a Hollywood legend for decades. Used frequently in films for its authentic broken down feel, the bar remains good-natured about its appearance. Don't be dismayed by the shabby interior, however. The bartenders are always friendly and the crowd is made up of Hollywood musicians of many varying levels of success. And despite its "flannel shirt" appeal, don't be surprised to see a really famous face or two drop in once in a while. © wcities.com



wcities

contact:

tel: 310 659 4583
http://losangeles.citysearch.com/profile/81713/west_hollywood_ca/coronet_pub.html

location:

370 North La Cienega
Boulevard
Los Angeles CA 90048-1925

hours:

6p-2a M-Su

4 Coronet Pub

DESCRIPTION: This place is quite an anomaly, considering the surrounding area and its proximity to the Beverly Center. Located next to the Coronet Theater, it's your basic dive, only a really popular one. Nearly every night draws a crowd from all parts of town, including theatergoers from next door. There's a strip club right across the street, which doesn't serve alcohol, so some young men travel back and forth during the night. Most know, however, that once you get a table here, it's best to hold on to it. © wcities.com



citysearch

contact:

tel: +1 310 390 1328
<http://www.cinemabar.net/>

location:

3967 Sepulveda Boulevard
Culver City CA 90230

hours:

Mo to Su from 02:00 PM to
02:00 AM

5 Cinema Bar

DESCRIPTION: Take a break from all the hustle bustle and enjoy a drink or two at the classic Cinema Bar. Since many years, this pub-cum-lounge has been delighting the city locals with some great country music and awesome drinks. The classic wooden interiors give it a very beautiful and timeless appeal. Watch out for the 'Tip Of The Jar'—a live music extravaganza held every Wednesday night, which features some of the best live country music bands. Because of all this, and more, The Cinema Bar is still considered as one of the best Country music nightclubs in the city and even after all these years, is frequented by a number of faithful locals. © wcities.com



Photo by Noah Albert

Los Angeles Snapshot

Local Info

People either love it, or they hate it--but no matter what, Los Angeles makes no excuses and changes itself for no one. And you've got to admire that. Made up of dozens of communities, there is no one single experience that can sum up the life and the heartbeat of this city. But what can be noticed about Los Angeles by both tourists and locals alike is the hustle-and-bustle lifestyle, the vibrant and unique neighborhoods, and the extreme diversity that sets it apart from any other city. From the eternal sunshine and Hollywood glitz to all the small communities with their own distinct cultural personalities, this City of Angels will forever be many things to many people.

Downtown

While not exactly in the center of town geographically due to the sprawling nature of the city, Downtown Los Angeles is still teeming with activity. There are cultural hotbeds like Olvera Street and Chinatown that are just minutes away from Los Angeles landmarks such as the Bank of America Building and the Walt Disney Concert Hall. And if you have a hankering for more art and culture while Downtown, the Museum of Contemporary Art(MOCA) is a definite must-see.

Hollywood

The big sign just about says it all--Hollywood is glitz, glamour, and unavoidable. While many people are critical of Hollywood, they still can't help but satiate their curiosity by visiting this busy area. The center of things is, without a doubt, Hollywood Boulevard, location of world-famous tourist spots including Mann's Chinese Theater, the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and the Kodak Theatre where the Oscars are now held annually.

The Miracle Mile/Hancock Park area is another of L.A.'s historical neighborhoods. Here you will find Wilshire Boulevard's Museum Row. The museums are contained within Hancock Park, a small but peaceful oasis in the center of hectic urban activity. To venture into the far distant past, stop by the Brea Tar Pits, La, and to immerse yourself in a famous museum, the LACMA: Los Angeles County Museum of Art is a popular attraction on Miracle Mile.

Ritz West Hollywood is home to one of the city's most famous(or infamous) attractions: the Sunset Strip. Here you'll find most of the city's hippest clubs frequented by up-and-coming actors and socialites, as well as some of the city's finest hotels and shopping, including the upscale Melrose Avenue Shopping District. West Hollywood is also the center of the city's gay and lesbian community, and it puts on one of the flashiest and most exhilarating annual Halloween parades in the state.

Beverly Hills and the Westside

This world-famous city with its world-famous zip code is synonymous with wealth, status, and celebrity. The understated elegance and grace of the residential neighborhoods are balanced out by Rodeo Drive, which offers some of the finest(and most expensive) shopping in the world.

Santa Monica and Beach Cities

Back in the heyday of Route 66, Santa Monica was the end of the line. Today, this beachfront community offers the best in entertainment for all ages on its famous Santa Monica Pier. You can enjoy some carnival-style food and games or take a ride on the ferris wheel for a breathtaking view of the city and shoreline. When you're ready for some shopping, the active Third Street Promenade has a diverse directory of stores and eateries.

The motto of the coastal community of Malibu is "27 miles of scenic beauty," and that about describes it best. The main attraction here is the drive along the Pacific Coast Highway, which takes you past beach after beach on one side of the road and million-dollar hilltop estates on the other. Make sure you have plenty of film and sunscreen. Even at night, the stars just seem brighter.

Venice, just south of Santa Monica, is the city's home to all things eclectic and many things downright bizarre. This small, artsy beach town offers one of the greatest collections of cafes, bars, galleries, antiques and one-of-a-kind shops around. Weekend afternoons on the boardwalk are definitely a memorable experience for any visitor to the city.

San Fernando Valley

On the other side of the Hollywood Hills sits "The Valley," as known by locals. It features a seemingly endless sea of suburban cul-de-sacs, strip malls, funky shops and restaurants. Hollywood makes its presence known in the cities of Burbank and Universal City, which are home to Warner Bros. Studio and Universal Studios. There are two things you can always count on in the Valley: the earthquakes always feel stronger, and the temperature is always 10 degrees hotter.

South Central and Compton

Although the South Central neighborhood of Crenshaw gained worldwide publicity as the center of the infamous 1992 riots, this area is rich in history and culture. South Central also is home to famous Los Angeles landmarks such as the Watts Towers, the historic Shrine Auditorium, and Exposition Park. Within the famed Exposition Park is the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, the California Science Center, and the IMAX California Science Center. It has also long been a place of culture and diversity, as evidenced by the African American Cultural Center.

Long Beach and the South Bay

Long Beach is a fairly large city in its own right and is a neighbor to the well known district of Orange County. Aside from a plethora of shopping and dining options, this beach community is perhaps best known for the Queen Mary, a Titanic-esque ocean liner now permanently docked here and open for tours. They also have many outdoor activities for tourists to take advantage of, as well as museums and beaches that all can enjoy.

The South Bay is made up of smaller beach towns and quiet neighborhoods such as Hermosa Beach, Redondo Beach, Manhattan Beach and Palos Verdes Estates.

Pasadena and Points East

Pasadena is one of the most prominent communities in the entire state of California. Old Town Pasadena provides one of the greatest clusters of bars, shops, cafes and restaurants in the entire L.A. area. The city is also known for the Norton Simon Museum, which is the largest collection

Los Angeles Snapshot continued

of art owned by one man, and the Rose Bowl. And every New Years' Day, this not-so-sleepy town becomes the focus of the entire world for the annual Tournament of Roses Parade.

East L.A., as evidenced by its name, forms the eastern edge of the city and is a great example of a neighborhood rich in cultural expression.

LAX and Inglewood

LAX is one of the largest airports in the United States, when it comes to the sheer number of people passing through its hallways. The airport is the main feature of the otherwise-sleepy, suburban neighborhood of Westchester. This pocket of quiet, tree-lined streets and neighborhood schools and churches is a refreshing oasis in an often-frenetic city.

Inglewood features a wide variety of restaurants, music and sports venues. Here you will find Hollywood Park Racetrack and the The Forum arena, an entertainment hotspot. Inglewood also hosts the annual Hollywood Black Film Festival, which pays homage to African-American filmmakers of past, present and future.

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