



nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



maveric2003

Romance in the Southland

Malibu, West Hollywood, Santa Monica, Marina del Rey, Beverly Hills, Burbank, Los Angeles, 2 Days

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: If you are looking for good views, classy places, good service, and an all around romantic time, here are some options for you in the Los Angeles area.

Day 1: Dining

Day 2: Hotels












Photo courtesy of Keith Cooper

Itinerary Overview












things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Los Angeles, Burbank, West Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Malibu

DAY NOTE: Romantic Dining Spots

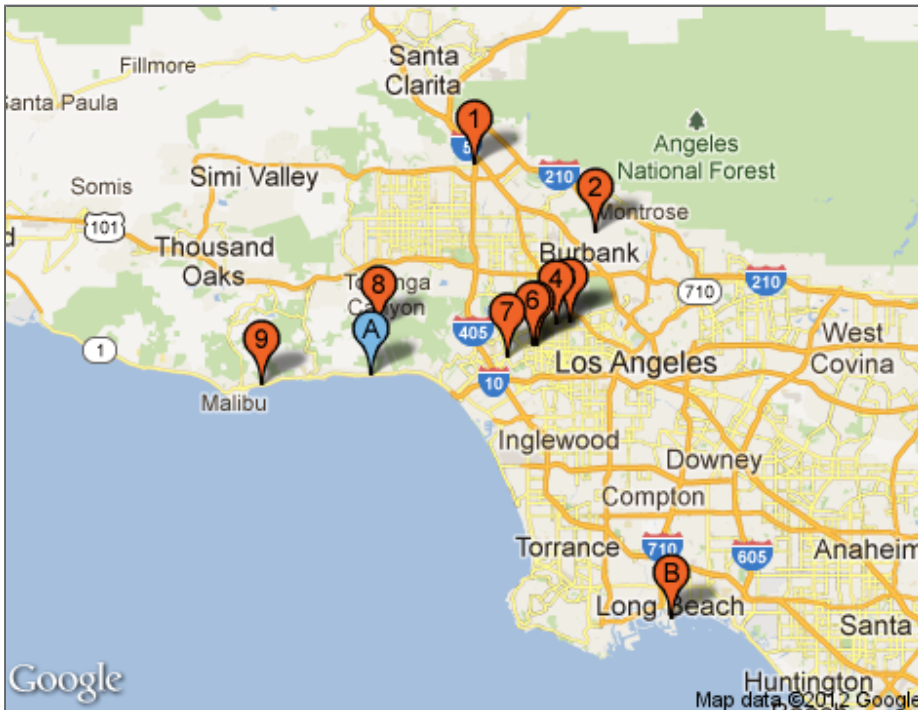
	Odyssey
	Castaway
	Cafe Des Artistes French food in intimate Hollywood setting
	Dar Maghreb Moroccan on the Sunset strip
	Petrossian Cafe & Boutique Shopping and hogging
	Il Cielo Tuscan-style romance in Beverly Hills
	Lunaria A bebop hangout
	Inn of the Seventh Ray Inventive and peaceful vegetarian
	Geoffrey's Drinks with an ocean view
	Moonshadows See And Be Seen
	The Reef Right next to the Queen Mary

DAY NOTE: Romantic Hotels

	Millennium Biltmore Hotel Los Angeles Opulent and historic
	Hilton Checkers Los Angeles Elegant, historic monument
	Valadon Hotel Private but close to the action
	Beverly Wilshire In the Heart of the City
	Peninsula Beverly Hills Superior luxury and location
	Venice Beach House Warm and Victorian
	Channel Road Inn, A Four Sisters Inn Pampering touches
	Hotel Shangri-La Art deco hotel with ocean views
	Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel World-class luxury
	The Ritz-Carlton, Marina del Rey A waterfront paradise
	Malibu Beach Inn Luxury up the coast

Day 2 - Los Angeles, Beverly Hills, Santa Monica, Marina del Rey, Malibu

Day 1 - Los Angeles, Burbank, West Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Malibu



QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: Romantic Dining Spots

contact:

tel: (818) 366-6444
<http://www.theodysseyrestaurant.com>

location:

15600 Odyssey Drive
Granada Hills CA 91344

1 Odyssey

DESCRIPTION: The Odyssey Restaurant is a vision of the Valley, featuring fine dining with a breathtaking view from any area in the dining room. Everything gleams from the oak paneling, brass fixtures to the crystalline windows and a panoramic view of San Fernando Valley. Open for Lunch Monday through Saturday and Dinner daily, the Odyssey menu offers delicious California cuisine specializing in steaks and fresh seafood. On Sundays the Odyssey serves their award-winning champagne Sunday offering over 100 specialty items. The Odyssey also offers a lovely lounge and cocktail patio with the same spectacular view as the restaurant. The lounge features a full bar and happy hour, which is offered Monday through Friday from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

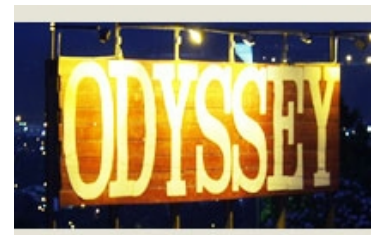


Photo courtesy of Odyssey

contact:

tel: (818) 848-6691
www.castawayrestaurant.com/
/burbank/

location:

1250 East Harvard Road
Burbank CA 91505

hours:

Mon-Thu 11am-3pm,
4pm-10pm Fri-Sat 11am-3pm,
4pm-11pm Sun 9:30am-3pm,
4:30pm-10pm

2 Castaway

DESCRIPTION: The Castaway Restaurant and Events is located high in the Burbank hills overlooking De Bell Golf Course, with a breathtaking city view that is spectacular day or night. Castaway has been a landmark in the Burbank area for over 40 years.

What can be more romantic than Valentines Weekend at Castaway? Make your reservations now. For pricing or more information please contact us at (818)848-6691 or e-mail us at www.castawayrestaurant.com



Photo courtesy of Castaway

contact:

tel: 1 323 469-7300
www.cafedesartistes.info/client/
artistes/homepage.htm

location:

1534 North McCadden Place
Los Angeles CA 90028

hours:

11:30a-3p, 5:30p-11p M-W,
11:30a-3p, 5:30p-2a Th-F,
5:30p-2a Sa, 5:30p-11p Su

3 Cafe Des Artistes

DESCRIPTION: This is a romantic place for both the highly artistic and the rest of us who only experience creative dreams. Low lighting, pale-colored walls, wooden tables and chairs create an unusual but relaxed atmosphere for this French bistro. The menu offers simple and basic French favorites such as Vichyssoise and Veal Blanquette, along with original dishes seasoned with special spices. Those who insist on American cuisine will find steaks and several seafood plates available. The food is one of the city's best values for its quality, and the beautiful setting will help to make your meal memorable. © wcities.com

contact:

tel: 1 323 876 7651
http://www.darmaghrestaurant.com

location:

7651 West Sunset Boulevard
Los Angeles CA 90046

hours:

Dinner: 6p-11p M-F,
5:30p-11p Sa, 5:30p-10:30p
Su, Lunch: only on booking

4 Dar Maghreb

DESCRIPTION: Get ready for a unique dining experience. This is a traditional 15th Century-style Moroccan royal residence on the bustling Sunset Strip. Belly dancers add to the fun and make you feel that you are in a land far from Hollywood. Even the U.S. floor-level lounge seating in the traditional fashion creates the perfect mood for what's ahead. Two large purple accented dining rooms are intimately set. The staff is very helpful in explaining the dishes to those who need a little help. The food is exotic, but easy to get used to. The delicious chicken dishes and flaky sweet desserts are worth mentioning. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Dar Maghreb

contact:

tel: 1 310 271 0576 / 1 800
828 9241 (Toll Free)
fax: 1 310 271 8256
http://www.petrossian.com/index.php

location:

321 Robertson Boulevard

5 Petrossian Cafe & Boutique

DESCRIPTION: So your taste is a tad exclusive, and you still haven't found the right place for a steaming cuppa? Do not fear, this Parisian café-boutique offers the most exquisite eating and drinking options! Basically a caviar shop with a small coffee bar, Petrossian Cafe & Boutique has loyal patrons who swear by its high quality food products, and simple, elegant ambiance. Nothing is reasonably priced, and you are expected to carry enough dough, especially if caviar is on your shopping list! © wcities.com

West Hollywood CA
90048-2415

hours:
M-Sa 9a-6p

contact:
tel: 1 310 276 9990
<http://www.ilcielo.com>

location:
9018 Burton Way
Beverly Hills CA 90211

hours:
Monday - Thursday: Lunch
- 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Dinner - 5:30 p.m. to 10:30
p.m. Friday & Saturday:
Lunch - 11:30 a.m. to 3:00
p.m. Dinner - 5:30 p.m. to
11:00 p.m. Sunday: Lunch
- Closed Dinner - 5:30 p.m.
to 10:30 p.m.* (*We may be
closed for a private event on
select Sundays)

6 Il Cielo

DESCRIPTION: Il Cielo is modeled after the hotel belonging to the family of the owner, in the Tuscany region of Italy. This space is known to locals as the wedding party restaurant for its popularity as a reception site. It is also reputed to be the site of more marriage proposals than any other spot in town. The romantic dining room consists of two garden-style courtyards and an interior white room. Inside is a 35-foot retractable glass ceiling. Tuscan style seafood specialties include Lobster Ravioli and various other seafood pasta dishes. Fresh fish offerings change daily according to market availability. © wcities.com



citysearch

contact:
tel: 1 310 282 8870
fax: 1 310 282 0502
<http://www.lunariajazzscene.com/>

location:
10351 Santa Monica
Boulevard
Los Angeles CA 90025

hours:
Lunch: 11a-2:30p M-F,
Dinner: 6p-9:30p Tu-Sa

7 Lunaria

DESCRIPTION: This place is truly one of a kind. The delightful dining room features a sliding wall that reveals a hidden stage where a live jazz combo entertains until late into the night. The kitchen closes at the times listed below but the music goes until about midnight on weekdays, and until 1a on Friday and Saturday nights. Decorated in handpainted watercolors, the dining room allows patrons to relax in large wicker chairs and enjoy a menu offering wonderful fresh fish, steak tartare and roasted chicken with pomme frites. Call for the musical schedule. © wcities.com

contact:

tel: 1 310 455 1311
http://www.innoftheseventhra
y.com/

location:

128 Old Topanga Canyon
Road
Topanga CA 90290

hours:

Lunch: M-F 11:30a-3p,
Sa 10:30a-3p, Brunch: Su
9:30a-3p, Dinner: M-Su
5:30p-10p

8 Inn of the Seventh Ray

DESCRIPTION: Enter a near-Nirvana state as you walk down the steps into this delightful outdoor setting. Romantic, candlelit tables overlook a quiet brook creating a truly unique dining experience. Inventive vegetarian, macrobiotic and organic specialties are featured here. The many salads, seafood dishes and pastas are all appealing and made with only the freshest organic ingredients. Try the prix-fixe Sunday brunch buffet where you can try a little bit of everything. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Inn of the Seventh Ray

contact:

tel: 1 310 457 1519
fax: 1 310 457 7885
http://www.geoffreysmalibu.c
om/

location:

27400 Pacific Coast Highway
Malibu CA 90265

hours:

Brunch: Saturday - Sunday,
10:00am - 3:30pm. Lunch:
Monday - Friday, 11:30am
- 3:30pm. Dinner: Sunday -
Thursday, 4:00pm - 10:00pm
Friday - Saturday - 4:00pm -
11:00pm Open for Mother's
Day and Father's Day Brunch
and Dinner!

9 Geoffrey's

DESCRIPTION: This place is mostly known as a restaurant with a great view of the ocean. The outdoor patio, however, is known by locals as a great place to watch the sun set and sip the drink of your choice. You can order eats from the menu or just enjoy the view. It's one of those places where time seems to simultaneously stand still and rush by at incredible speeds. In other words, come for the view and a drink and you may wind up staying for dinner. © wcities.com

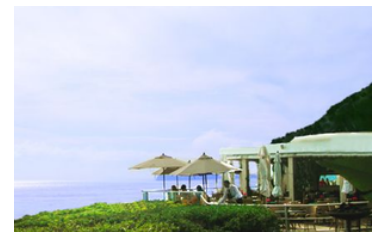


Photo courtesy of Geoffrey's

contact:

tel: 1 310 456 3010
fax: 1 310 456 7718
http://www.moonshadowsmal
ibu.com/

location:

20356 Pacific Coast Highway
Malibu CA 90265

hours:

See website for specific hours

A Moonshadows

DESCRIPTION: You can hear the water beneath you at this scenic Malibu bar. The terrace over the ocean is great, the food is expensive, and the parking is valet. Good place to take in the Pacific over a couple of drinks.
© NileGuide



citysearch

contact:

tel: (562) 435-8013
<http://www.reefrestaurant.com>
/

location:

880 S. Harbor Scenic Dr
Long Beach CA 90802

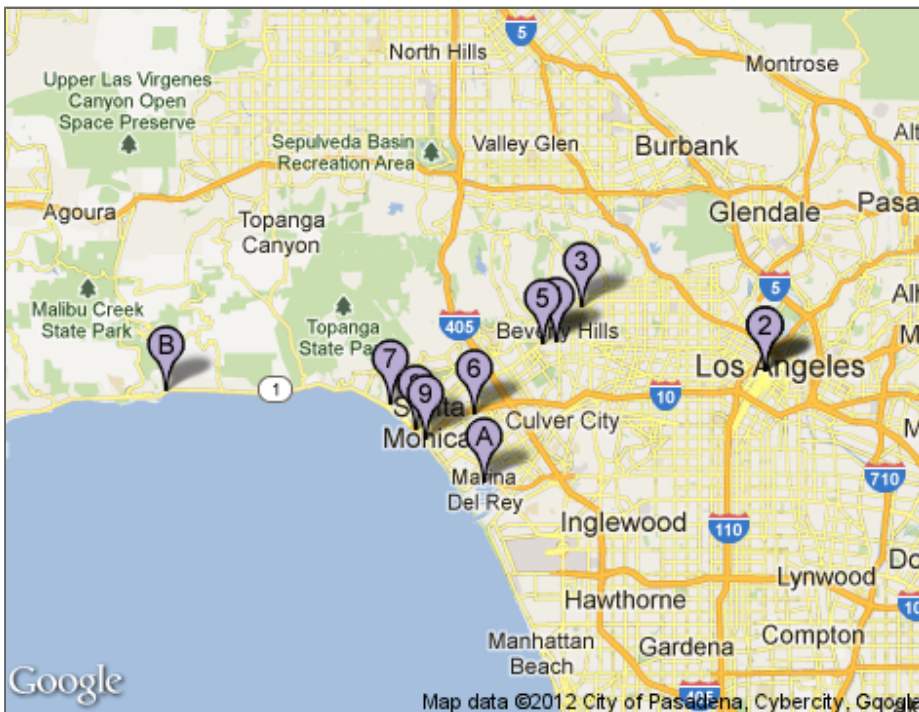
B The Reef

DESCRIPTION: Nestled next to the Queen Mary, The Reef Restaurant offers an unparalleled dining experience, starting with the enchanting front walk surrounded with waterfalls and beautifully manicured gardens. Large windows offer a stunning view of Queensway Harbor and the downtown Long Beach skyline that can be enjoyed from all the tables, and from two open patios perched above the water line, while the Sundeck Terrace, with its backdrop of The Queen Mary and harbor waters make for a breathtaking place for intimate weddings. The Reef Restaurant provides such a romantic ambiance, that many couples have been engaged here and married in one of the beautiful banquet rooms overlooking the waterfront. The Reef's selection of choice seafood and prime steaks is the star attraction that will delight the palate, along with an extensive fine wine list to complement each and every dish offered, from the succulent Australian lobster to the cowboy rib-eye steak topped with blue cheese.



Photo courtesy of The Reef

Day 2 - Los Angeles, Beverly Hills, Santa Monica, Marina del Rey, Malibu



QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: Romantic Hotels

contact:

tel: +1 213 624 1011 / +1 800 245 8673 (Reservations)
fax: +1 213 612 1545
<http://www.millenniumhotels.com>

location:

506 S Grand Ave
Los Angeles CA 90071

1 Millennium Biltmore Hotel Los Angeles

DESCRIPTION: The Italian-Spanish influence is evident everywhere at this hotel. The hand-painted frescos, the bas-relief décor, the fountains, the polished wood floors, the ornate ceilings and the abundant flowers all contribute to class and elegance that is practically beyond words. A favorite since 1923, and a member of Historic Hotels of America, this famed hotel, once called the Regal Biltmore, hosted the Academy Awards during the 1930s and 1940s. Guests have included dignitaries like Winston Churchill, Presidents Kennedy, Ford, Carter and Reagan, as well as British royalty. Smeraldi's offers excellent California cuisine. The Rendezvous Court hosts afternoon tea and evening cocktails. © wcities.com



Hotels.com

contact:

tel: +1 213 624 0000 / +1 800 445 8667 (Toll free)
fax: +1 213 626 9906
<http://www.hiltoncheckers.com/>,
http://www1.hilton.com/en_US/hi/hotel/LAXCHHF-Hilton-Checkers-Los-Angeles-California/index.do

location:

535 South Grand Avenue
Los Angeles CA 90071

2 Hilton Checkers Los Angeles

DESCRIPTION: Previously known as the Wyndham Checkers, everything about this grand classic in downtown Los Angeles is top-of-the-line. The furnishings are elegant, the art is exquisite, the service is impeccable, and the amenities are first-rate. The hotel, built in 1927, is a Historic Cultural Monument. It is a four-star, and four-diamond property furnished with hand-carved headboards, marble bathrooms, artwork and antiques as well as all modern amenities. Part of the historic district, many rooms overlook the city's beautiful and historic Central Library. © wcities.com



Hotels.com

contact:

tel: +1 310 854 1114
fax: +1 310 657 2623 / +1 800 835 7997
<http://www.petitermitage.com/>

location:

8822 Cynthia Street
Los Angeles CA 90069

3 Valadon Hotel

DESCRIPTION: Formerly known as Le Reve, this converted apartment building is still close to all of the action on Sunset Boulevard. The hotel is nestled into the foothills of Hollywood and a country French and pine motif graces each of the unusually large suites. This is certainly a nice option for those looking to be close to the strip, yet also want to be able to find some peace after a hard day of shopping, exploring and attending the many wonders of the trendy area. © wcities.com



wcities

contact:

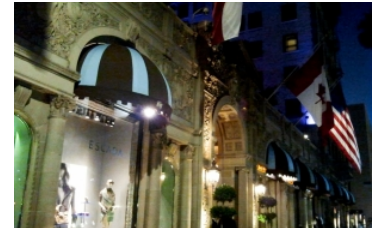
tel: +1 310 275 5200
fax: +1 310 274 2851
<http://www.fourseasons.com/beverlywilshire/>

location:

9500 Wilshire Boulevard
Beverly Hills CA 90212

4 Beverly Wilshire

DESCRIPTION: Formerly known as the Regent Beverly Hills, this glamorous hotel is now the Beverly Wilshire Beverly Hills. One can experience the best of the Four Seasons hospitality right here. The rooms and suites are stylishly comfortable, the best you can experience. The hotel's spa offers several treatments, some of which include the use of aromatherapy oils and marine and plant extracts. If you're looking for a while away from the kids you should consider the spa's Ice Cream "Treat"ments for kids! Call ahead or check website for more details. © wcities.com



wcities

contact:

tel: (310) 551-2888
fax: +1 310 788 2319
<http://beverlyhills.peninsula.com/>

location:

9882 South Santa Monica Blvd
Beverly Hills CA 90212

5 Peninsula Beverly Hills

DESCRIPTION: The Peninsula Beverly Hills offers the perfect, luxurious oasis, set in one of the most prestigious areas of Los Angeles, in the heart of Beverly Hills. Located at the intersection of Wilshire and South Santa Monica Boulevards, the hotel is within easy walking distance of the financial and shopping areas of Century City and Beverly Hills, including the famous Rodeo Drive, and only 20 minutes from Los Angeles International Airport. The only hotel in southern California to earn the distinction of an AAA Five-Diamond and Mobil Five-Star rating for 13 consecutive years, The Peninsula Beverly



Hotels.com

Hills is designed to resemble a gracious private residence, offering 193 elegantly appointed guest rooms, including 36 suites and 16 private villas, nestled amid lush, tropical gardens. © wcities.com

contact:

tel: +1 310 823 1966
fax: +1 310 823 1842
<http://www.venicebeachhouse.com/>

location:

15 Thirtieth Avenue
Los Angeles CA 90291

6 Venice Beach House

DESCRIPTION: Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this two-story, ivy-covered 1911 Craftsman bungalow is now a homey bed-and-breakfast on one of funky Venice's unique sidewalk streets, just a block from the beach. The interior has a homey lived-in look -- shelves of vintage books, antique furnishings, hardwood floors, faded Oriental rugs -- that adds charm for romantics but won't live up to the expectations of travelers who like their lodgings to be flawless (or who aren't keen on possibly sharing a bathroom). What's more, the inn hums noisily with activity when there's a full house -- seekers of absolute quiet and designer appointments will not be comfortable here. Still, the huge repeat clientele base doesn't seem to mind these minor caveats. My favorite room is the upstairs Venice Pier Suite -- light and airy, with a wood-burning fireplace, king-size bed, private bathroom, and sunny sitting room. An expanded continental breakfast with homemade baked goods is served in the sunroom overlooking a splendid garden. © Frommer's



Photo courtesy of "Los Angeles" (Wikimedia Commons)

contact:

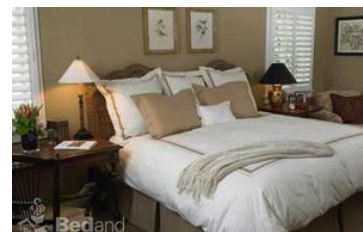
tel: +1 310 459 1920
fax: +1 310 454 9920
<http://www.bedandbreakfast.com/california-santa-monica-channelroadinn.html>

location:

219 W Channel Road
Santa Monica CA 90402

7 Channel Road Inn, A Four Sisters Inn

DESCRIPTION: Channel Road Inn recently was ranked by Conde Nast Traveler as one of the Best Bed and Breakfast inns in Los Angeles. Located in the seaside community of Santa Monica, this charming inn boasts many rooms with ocean views, fireplaces and/or jetted spa tubs. The finely crafted historic inn offers visitors to the Los Angeles area a relaxing haven by the sea. Guests enjoy the fabulous complimentary amenities including a bountiful breakfast and afternoon wine and hors d'oeuvres.



more at BedandBreakfast.com

contact:

tel: (310) 394-2791
www.shangri-la.com

location:

1301 Ocean Ave
Santa Monica CA 90401

8 Hotel Shangri-La

DESCRIPTION: A recent \$30 million renovation has made this iconic Santa Monica hotel even more luxurious and impressive. Within walking distance of Santa Monica Pier, and a short drive from Rodeo drive, the Getty and Malibu, the Hotel Shangri-La is ideally located. Sweeping ocean views, a gourmet restaurant, an elevated pool and cabanas and a rooftop bar complete its "air of playful exclusivity." © NileGuide



Photo courtesy of the Shangri-La Hotel

contact:

tel: +1 310 458 6700
fax: +1 310 458 6761
<http://www.santamonicaloews.com/>

location:

1700 Ocean Ave
Santa Monica CA 90401

9 Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel

DESCRIPTION: L.A.'s finest family-friendly hotel is also a great choice for anybody looking for comfortable accommodations, an A-1 Santa Monica location, outstanding service, and a wealth of first-rate facilities. Loews isn't exactly beachfront -- it's on a hill less than a block away -- but the ocean views are fabulous. Immediately upon entering, guests are wowed by the dramatic atrium lobby with its playful SoCal style, which serves as a great backdrop for the spectacular ocean views. The guest rooms have an inviting, contemporary style in light, earthy colors. But the best news is still the top-rated facilities, which include an excellent heated pool, plus the fitness center and spa with a state-of-the-art gym, yoga and Pilates classes, health and fitness counseling, and full slate of spa and salon services. The restaurant **Ocean & Vine** offers California farm-to-table cuisine and expertly paired wines to match. The Papillon Lobby Bar is a classy spot for a drink. © Frommer's



Hotels.com

contact:

tel: +1 310 823 1700
fax: +1 310 823 2403
<http://www.ritzcarlton.com/en/Properties/MarinadelRey/Default.htm>

location:

4375 Admiralty Way
Marina Del Rey CA 90292

A The Ritz-Carlton, Marina del Rey

DESCRIPTION: The Ritz Carlton at Marina Del Rey is located near Venice Beach and Malibu, and offers easy access to the numerous attractions in the surrounding area. This picturesque waterfront hotel offers luxurious accommodations, and facilities like a 24-hour fitness center and a spa. Indulge yourself in a stylish setting and an ambiance that never ceases to pamper you! © wcities.com



Hotels.com

contact:

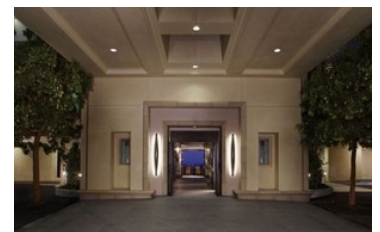
tel: +1 310 456 6444 / +1 800 462 5428
fax: +1 310 456 1499
<http://www.malibubeachinn.com/>

location:

22878 Pacific Coast Hwy
Malibu CA 90265

B Malibu Beach Inn

DESCRIPTION: Luxury gets top billing at this oceanside inn. The setting is picturesque, the rooms are amazing, and the service is warm and enthusiastic. For those looking for a beachfront experience, this is a perfect getaway destination. Step into rooms with balconies, fireplaces (in most) and your own private soft-sided Jacuzzi tub. Sliding glass doors open to an uninterrupted view of the ocean and the sound of waves can lull you to sleep at night. © wcities.com



Hotels.com

Burbank Snapshot

Local Info

The “Media Capital of the World” is, in fact, a small city nestled in California’s San Fernando Valley (known as “The Valley” to locals) in the Los Angeles metropolitan area. Just a few miles northeast of Hollywood, Burbank is home to a plethora of big wig media and entertainment companies, among them Warner Bros., Disney, ABC, and NBC.

Although most of these studio headquarters are closed to the public, this is the place to catch a taping of some of the most popular

shows on television, including the Tonight Show with Jay Leno. NBC Studios and Warner Brothers, however, do offer studio tours that take visitors behind the scenes. Although NBC’s tour is the better bargain by far, the iconic Warner Brothers tour, conducted from twelve-person carts that putt around the grounds, is not to be missed.

Entertainment in Burbank is big business, and the locals you run into here are likely to be connected in some way to big motion picture and television studios. People generally choose to live in Burbank

for its small-town feel and proximity to Hollywood’s nightlife and “scene.”

“Beautiful downtown Burbank,” also known as the Burbank Media Center, is the best bet for visitors looking to shop, take in a movie, or have a bite. The oldest remaining Bob’s Big Boy (a classic California burger institution) location is here in Burbank too, near the Warner Brothers Studio main gate. It’s a prime location for some celebrity stalking.

© NileGuide

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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