

# Gay & Lesbian

*'I love Los Angeles. I love Hollywood. They're beautiful. Everybody's plastic, but I love plastic. I want to be plastic.'*—Andy Warhol

In 2011, the plastic fantastic cliché so often applied to Los Angeles rings as true as ever. Hollywood is a très gay land of dreams, glamor and reinvention, and if you don't honor that truth at the door, then you're not 'getting' the unique charm of California's largest urban jungle (and America's second most populous city). Porn star mayoral candidates, soap actors, Angelyne and Paris are as much a part of the landscape as the palm trees, because everyone belongs here.

Beckoning beneath the famous Hollywood sign is the epicenter of the world's gayest candy store: West Hollywood. Venture just a little east and you'll hit Hollywood, cleaning up its once-lost glory as a glamor nightlife hub. Further east sits one of gay LA's brightest stars: Silver Lake, where the grittier gay scene offers respite from the twinkie turns of WeHo.



## RESOURCES

For gay and lesbian resources, including the LA Gay & Lesbian Center and health clinics, *see p307*. Admission to venues is free unless stated.

## PROPOSITION 8

In a town that's known for awards ceremonies over activism, gay LA has undergone a radical transformation of late. Proposition 8, the anti-gay marriage bill, has sharpened the town's well-manicured claws. Rallies, protests and a slew of fundraisers have transformed tepid charity functions to celebrity-swarmed must-RSVPs. And, beyond stimulating the nightlife, Prop 8 has stoked a well-needed dose of anger. As Elizabeth Taylor remarked during the height of 1980s AIDS hysteria, Hollywood is a town that simply wouldn't exist without homosexuals. And the fight to reclaim rights has only just begun.

## THEATER & FILM

LA's gay theater scene remains intimate and accessible. The **Celebration Theatre** (7051

Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, 1-323 957 1884, [www.celebrationtheatre.com](http://www.celebrationtheatre.com)) is the most renowned LGBT theater in SoCal, and offers both irreverent and socially conscious works. The two theaters at the **Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center** (*see venue index*) have staged everything from one-woman musicals about Dusty Springfield to plays by Tennessee Williams. Conversely, the shows at **Highways** (1651 18th Street, Santa Monica, 1-310 315 1459, [www.highwaysperformance.org](http://www.highwaysperformance.org)) are edgy for LA, while the **Cavern Club Theater** nights at Silver Lake's Casita del Campo (1920 Hyperion Avenue, 1-323 969 2530, [www.cavernclubtheater.com](http://www.cavernclubtheater.com)) are camper and more raw.

**Outfest**, LA's gay film festival (*see p229*), retains a presence all year. Outfest Wednesdays, held roughly twice a month at the American Cinematheque's Egyptian Theatre (*see venue index*), were on hold as this guide went to press, but it's worth checking to see if they're back on.

## Gay

Gay LA is colored dramatically by the town's entertainment industry: a number of gay clubs feel like studio soundstages, and big-name designers art-direct venues as if they were film

sets. The climate plays its part, too; come sun, Santa Ana winds, or heatwave, LA's glorious gay scene belongs to the great outdoors. Gorgeous, sun-filtered patios are where the gays play: sunbathing, after all, is a Californian art form. And when temperatures drop below 60°F and local TV anchors deliver stern 'Storm Watch' warnings, the restaurants and bars just bring out their gas lamps.

## INFORMATION

To find out what's on, pick up one of the free magazines found in bars, cafés and shops in West Hollywood. Titles include *Frontiers* ([www.frontiersweb.com](http://www.frontiersweb.com)) and *Edge* ([www.edge-losangeles.com](http://www.edge-losangeles.com)), both published fortnightly.

## WEST HOLLYWOOD

Despite an influx of straight immigration (blame it on the reality shows immortalizing the area), West Hollywood belongs to the gays. A modern experiment in habitation (there's a curious subculture of conservative Russian immigrants who co-exist peacefully with the homos), WeHo has risen from ghetto to upscale gay suburb, but the area retains its edge. Today, it succeeds beautifully as both an elegant residential enclave and an exuberant party town. It's safe, serene and, thankfully, never subtle.

Main Street WeHo is **Santa Monica Boulevard** between N Doheny Drive and N Fairfax Avenue, a notorious stretch of bars, clubs and über-gay coffeehouses. The area's epicenter, though, is **Robertson Boulevard**, where gorgeous gays and lesbians with liposculptured bodies leave little to the imagination.

## INSIDE TRACK TAKING THE MICKEY?

It may sound unlikely, but Gay Days at Disney is a weekend-long event that is celebrated once a year at the Disneyland and Disney California Adventure theme parks. Events include a kick-off party, musical performances, Saturday's Gay Day, and Magic Mountain's one-night-only private party (*see venue index*). While Disney does not officially endorse the event, PRIDE, its LGBT group, works closely with Gay Days organizers. The event attracts 30,000 enthusiastic fans. Those not dressed as Disney characters in drag don red shirts to stand out among the crowds. Additional dough can purchase tickets to VIP parties, events and lounges. Hotel discounts of up to 40 per cent are offered at Disney hotels.



East West Lounge. *See p244.*

## Where to Stay

All West Hollywood hotels (*see pp135-38*) are gay- and lesbian-friendly, but the **Chamberlain** (*see venue index*) is particularly popular among the queer crowd.

## Ramada

8585 Santa Monica Boulevard, at W Knoll Drive (1-310 652 6400, [www.ramadaweho.com](http://www.ramadaweho.com)). Bus 4, 105, 305, 550, 704/I-10, exit La Cienega Boulevard north. Rates \$139-\$199. Credit AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, V. Map p328 B2.

The Ramada may be West Hollywood's gayest accommodation because of its direct proximity to Boys Town, but there's more here than just convenience: friendly staff, clean quarters in art-deco style and modern accoutrements (including 42-in flat-screen TVs) as well as Wi-Fi access from your sunlounger next to the heated pool.

## Bars & Nightclubs

### Abbey

692 N Robertson Boulevard, at Santa Monica Boulevard (1-310 289 8410, [www.abbeyfoodandbar.com](http://www.abbeyfoodandbar.com)). Bus 4, 105, 305, 550, 704/I-10, exit La Cienega Boulevard north. Open 8am-2am daily. Main courses \$17. Credit AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, V. Map p328 A2.

The grande dame of WeHo, the Abbey is still a very popular spot, and increasingly so with celebrities and hets. On any given night of the week you'll find a busy scene. The large outdoor patio with statues and fairy lights is a pleasant spot; the food is decent and won't break the bank; and the martinis are beyond reproach.



A relative newcomer to Boys Town, Eleven has quickly become a popular fixture, and the bar is an excellent early option on any night of the week. Tuesday is trivia night, which tests players on general knowledge, pop culture and, mostly, Barbra.

### Factory/Ultra Suede

652 N La Peer Drive, between Santa Monica Boulevard & Melrose Avenue (1-310 659 4551, [www.factorynightclub.com](http://www.factorynightclub.com)). Bus 4, 105, 305, 550, 704/I-10, exit La Cienega Boulevard north. **Open** noon-2am daily. **Admission** \$3-\$10. **Credit** Bar only AmEx, DC, MC, V. **Map** p328 A2.

Two venues for the price of one, run by the same team and almost sharing a building, The Factory's line-up is highlighted by Friday's top-40 Popstarz party. Saturday nights aren't always gay nights – call ahead to check.

### Fiesta Cantina

8865 Santa Monica Boulevard, at Larrabee Street (1-310 652 8865). Bus 4, 105, 305, 550, 704/I-10, exit La Cienega Boulevard north. **Open** noon-2am daily. **Credit** AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, V. **Map** p328 A2.

A West Hollywood oasis, Fiesta Cantina is Club Tropicana for gays and their straight gal-pals, celebrating island life with drinks and loud music. Things pump harder during happy hour (4-8pm).

### Fubar

7994 Santa Monica Boulevard, between N Laurel & N Edinburgh Avenues (1-323 654 0396, [www.fubarla.com](http://www.fubarla.com)). Bus 4, 217, 218, 704/I-10, exit Fairfax Avenue north. **Open** 4pm-2am daily. **Admission** usually free but varies. **Credit** AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, V. **Map** p328 C2.

Wild times abound at Fubar, particularly at Thursday night's Big Fat Dick soirée: genitalia flashes while the WeHo scene's celebs swarm to California electro-trash.

### Gold Coast

8228 Santa Monica Boulevard, at N La Jolla Avenue (1-323 656 4879, [www.goldcoastweho.com](http://www.goldcoastweho.com)). Bus 4, 217/I-10, exit La Cienega Boulevard north. **Open** 11am-2am Mon-Fri; 10am-2am Sat, Sun. **No credit cards**. **Map** p328 B2.

Leather daddies and cocktailin' senior gays swing east to this WeHo rough diamond. It's dark and dive bar-ish, but there's a classic locals feel – and drinks cost less than at most West Hollywood joints.

### Here Lounge

696 N Robertson Boulevard, at Santa Monica Boulevard (1-310 360 8455, [www.herelounge.com](http://www.herelounge.com)). Bus 4, 105, 305, 550, 704/I-10, exit La Cienega Boulevard north. **Open** 8pm-2am Mon-Sat; 4pm-2am Sun. **Admission** free-\$10. **Credit** DC, MC, V. **Map** p328 A2.



Saint Felix.

### East West Lounge

8851 Santa Monica Boulevard, at Larrabee Street (1-310 360 6186, [www.eastwestlounge.com](http://www.eastwestlounge.com)). Bus 4, 105, 305, 550, 704/I-10, exit La Cienega Boulevard north. **Open** 4.30pm-2am Mon-Fri; 3.30pm-2am Sat, Sun. **Credit** DC, MC, V. **Map** p328 A2.

Martini drinkers mingle to the sound of slinky beats at this upscale bar. The place packs in a well-heeled mix of gays and lesbians most nights, but is all-girl on Thursdays. The back room tequila bar offers tastings of high-end tequilas. Come for the weekday happy hour, from 4.30pm to 7.30pm. *Photo* p243.

### ★ Eleven

8811 Santa Monica Boulevard, at Palm Avenue (1-310 855 0800, [www.eleven.la](http://www.eleven.la)). Bus 4, 105, 305, 550, 704/I-10, exit La Cienega Boulevard north. **Open** 5pm-midnight Mon-Thur; 3pm-2am Fri; noon-2am Sat; 10am-midnight Sun. **Credit** AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, V. **Map** p328 A2.

Located off the Santa Monica Boulevard drag, the minimalist, upscale Here Lounge accommodates a large crowd comprised of the scene's prettiest and cruiseiest guys. The Sunday afternoon/early evening Size event is when the locals come out in force.

### Micky's

8857 Santa Monica Boulevard, between Larrabee Street & N San Vicente Boulevard (1-310 657 1176, [www.mickys.com](http://www.mickys.com)). Bus 550, 10/48, 4/US-101, exit Santa Monica Boulevard west. **Open** 4pm-2am Mon-Thur; 4pm-4am Fri; 1pm-4am Sat; 1pm-2am Sun. **Admission** \$7-\$10. **Credit** AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, V. **Map** p328 A2. This historic bar has rebounded brightly after a fire. Go-go boys entertain a mix of the young and broke nursing nightly drink specials – all under the watchful eye of seasoned sugar daddies.

### ★ Motherlode

8944 Santa Monica Boulevard, at N Robertson Boulevard (1-310 659 9700, [www.motherlode-westhollywood.com](http://www.motherlode-westhollywood.com)). Bus 4, 105, 305, 550, 704/

## Bear Essentials

*The bears are back in town.*



Blame it on LA's obsession with babyfaces, but the city's recent 'bear' revolution is a welcome backlash to WeHo twink bars blasting Taylor Swift. **Bears in Space**, a self-described 'sexy cosmic bear beats disco', held on the second Sunday of the month at Akbar (*see venue index*), is the most popular of the recent influx, and it's a wildly successful antidote to the usual scene. Crowds consist of all ages, colors, shapes and sizes, and there's a wilder, retro-fueled air to the proceedings. You'll find all sorts here: Radical Faeries, leather worshippers, S&M guys and anyone headed East for a respite from WeHo.

I-10, exit La Cienega Boulevard north. **Open** 3pm-2am daily. **No credit cards**. **Map** p328 A2. Everyone's favorite beer bust is held on Sunday afternoons at LA's friendliest gay bar. An unexpectedly straightforward hangout, especially for this part of town.

### ★ Saint Felix

8945 Santa Monica Boulevard, at N Robertson Boulevard (1-310 275 4428, [www.saintfelix.net](http://www.saintfelix.net)). Bus 2, 4, 302, 550/US-101, exit Santa Monica Boulevard west. **Open** 4pm-2am daily. **Credit** AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, V. **Map** p328 A2. WeHo's newest star may shine less brightly than its flashy counterparts, but the intimate scene is a respite from rainbow flags, and the crowd is diverse.

## Restaurants & Coffeehouses

In addition to the venues listed below, **Urth Caffé** on Melrose Avenue (*see venue index*) attracts a celebby crowd. **Hugo's** (8401 Santa Monica Boulevard, 1-323 654 3993,



Bears in Space.

Among our other favorites are **Cub Scout**, on the first Friday of the month at Eagle LA (*see venue index*), and **Brutus**, a collaborative effort between promoter Chris Bowen and Mario Diaz (Dirty Sanchez) held on the second Saturday of the month at Faultline (*see venue index*). Other clubs that attract bears (and their admirers) include **A Club Named Rhonda** at El Cid, held around once a month (4212 Sunset Boulevard, Silver Lake, [www.facebook.com/AClubCalledRhonda](http://www.facebook.com/AClubCalledRhonda)), and **Shits & Giggles**, on the third Friday of the month at 3100 Club (659 S Westmoreland Avenue, [www.myspace.com/shitsandgigglesla](http://www.myspace.com/shitsandgigglesla)).

www.hugosrestaurant.com) is also reliable and popular, while **Tender Greens** (8759 Santa Monica Boulevard; *see venue index*) draws in protein-craving gym bods.

### Café La Bohème

8400 Santa Monica Boulevard, at N Orlando Avenue (1-323 848 2360, [www.globaldiningca.com](http://www.globaldiningca.com)). Bus 4, 105, 704/I-10, exit La Cienega Boulevard north. **Open** 5-10pm Mon-Thur, Sun; 5-11pm Fri, Sat. **Main courses** \$26. **Credit** AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, V. **Map** p328 B2.

Fine dining goes gay and goth at this sophisticated but unstuffy restaurant. You get the feeling this is what Cher's dining room looks like: glamorous, OTT and a bit tacky. A mix of gays, celebs and industry folk bask under chandeliers and down martinis.

### Hamburger Mary's

8288 Santa Monica Boulevard, at N Sweetzer Avenue (1-323 654 3800, [www.hamburgermarysweho.com](http://www.hamburgermarysweho.com)). Bus 4, 704/I-10, exit Fairfax Avenue north. **Open** 11am-midnight Mon-Thur; 11am-1am Fri; 10am-1am Sat; 10am-midnight Sun. **Main courses** \$12. **Credit** AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, V. **Map** p328 B2.

Burger hounds have a tricky choice. Do they go to this gay-oriented mini-chain, which hosts a celeb-infested drag queen bingo every Wednesday night? Or should they head across the street to try **Irv's Burgers** (8289 Santa Monica Boulevard, 1-323 650 2456), a tiny mainstay for decades? Or do both?

### ★ Marix

1108 Flores Street, at Santa Monica Boulevard (1-323 656 8800, [www.marixtexmex.com](http://www.marixtexmex.com)). Bus 4, 217, 105/I-10, exit La Cienega Boulevard north. **Open** 11.30am-11pm Mon-Fri; 11am-11pm Sat, Sun. **Main courses** \$14. **Credit** AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, V. **Map** p328 B2.

This local institution recently celebrated 25 years – practically senior citizen status for West Hollywood. Owned by two local lesbians, it serves up decent Tex Mex cuisine and what some swear are the best margaritas in town. Come down on Sunday afternoons when patrons party, or on all-you-can-eat Taco Tuesdays.

**Other locations** 118 Entrada Drive, Santa Monica (1-310 459 8596).

► *Around the corner from Marix is Basix (8333 Santa Monica Boulevard, 1-323 848 2460, [www.basixcafe.com](http://www.basixcafe.com)), a local favorite for comfort food.*

### ★ Sur

606 N Robertson Boulevard, at Melrose Avenue (1-310 289 2824, [www.surrestaurantandbar.com](http://www.surrestaurantandbar.com)). Bus 4, 105, 305, 550, 704/I-10, exit La Cienega Boulevard north. **Open** noon-3pm, 5-10.30pm Mon-Thur; noon-3pm, 5-11pm Fri, Sat; 5-10.30pm Sun. **Main courses** Lunch \$16. **Dinner** \$26. **Credit** AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, V. **Map** p328 A2.



Marix.

Romance and dining go hand in hand at this Southern European-inspired eaterie, co-owned by one of the Real Housewives of Beverly Hills. Delicious California/Mediterranean dishes are enjoyed by an upscale mixed crowd.

### Gyms

Gay-friendly gyms include **24-Hour Fitness** (*see venue index*), distinguished by its pool and cruisey atmosphere (the Hollywood branch, at 6380 W Sunset Boulevard, 1-323 461 2024, has a particularly lively gay scene), and **Equinox** (8590 W Sunset Boulevard, 1-310 289 1900, [www.equinox.com](http://www.equinox.com)), a high-end but friendly facility with a spa and classes from abs to yoga.

### Crunch

8000 W Sunset Boulevard, at N Laurel Avenue (1-323 654 4550, [www.crunch.com](http://www.crunch.com)). Bus 2, 217, 302/I-10, exit Fairfax Avenue north. **Open** 5am-11pm Mon-Thur; 5am-10pm Fri; 7am-8pm Sat; 8am-8pm Sun. **Rates** \$25/day. **Credit** AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, V. **Map** p328 C1.

It's hard to know which is more breathtaking: the views of the Hollywood Hills, or the Adonises who choose the hills as the backdrop for their exercise. Flirtation can be part of the workout: wash up in the oft-discussed 'peek-a-bo' see-through showers.

### Bathhouses & Sex Clubs

#### Midtowne Melrose Spa

7269 Melrose Avenue, at N La Brea Boulevard, Fairfax District (1-323 937 2122, [www.midtowne.com](http://www.midtowne.com)). Bus 10, 212, 312/I-10, exit La Brea Avenue

north. **Open** 24hrs daily. **Admission Per 8hrs** \$29 room; \$17 locker; \$4 processing fee. **Credit** AmEx, DC, MC, V. **Map** p328 D2. This two-storey spa close to WeHo attracts a varied clientele. Amenities of note include a rooftop patio, a huge adult movie room, a darkened maze for anonymous action, and a resident sex therapist.

### Shops & Services

If you're looking to soak up the LA sunshine and snap the stars, head to the Grove (*see venue index*). Whether navigating the Studio 54-like circuit scene of Abercrombie & Fitch or soaking up Donna Summer's 'Last Dance' blaring from speakers by the Bellagio-inspired water show, this open-air mall is the local homos' favorite shopping haunt.

### Chi Chi LaRue's

8932 Santa Monica Boulevard, between N Robertson & N San Vicente Boulevards (1-323 337 9555, [www.chichilarue.com](http://www.chichilarue.com)). Bus 2, 4, 302, 550/US-101, exit Santa Monica Boulevard west. **Open** 10am-midnight Mon-Wed; 10am-2am Thur-Sun. **Credit** AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, V. **Map** p328 A2.

Famous drag queen and porn producer extraordinaire Chi Chi LaRue presides over this gay-themed adult megastore. The retail clerks are porn stars, and there's a playful vibe that's sexy, not seedy.

### LASC

8592 Santa Monica Boulevard, at W Knoll Drive (1-310 657 2858, [www.shoplasc.com](http://www.shoplasc.com)). Bus 4, 105, 305, 550, 704/I-10, exit La Cienega Boulevard north. **Open** 10am-8pm daily. **Credit** AmEx, Disc, MC, V. **Map** p328 B2.

Not only is LASC a popular West Hollywood landmark, it's also ground zero for local events and parties. Ask any of the attractive, friendly staff for nightlife advice, while trying on the latest threads.

### HOLLYWOOD

Cleaner and safer than it's been for years, Hollywood has undergone an urban facelift of late, with the addition of a mall and a number of paparazzi-infested clubs. Gay nightlife revolves around designated nights in the gymnasium-sized danceplexes.

### Bars & Nightclubs

**Circus Disco** and **Arena**, two related clubs (6655 Santa Monica Boulevard; *see venue index*), both host gay nights: the former has Boyz Night Out on Tuesdays, while the latter runs Boys Night on Saturdays. On Thursdays, a trendy crowd heads to **Avalon** (1735 N Vine Street; *see venue index*) for TigerHeat.

### Spotlight Bar

1601 N Cahuenga Boulevard, at Selma Avenue (1-323 467 2425). Metro Hollywood-Vine/bus 163, 180, 181, 210, 212, 217, 312, 363, 780, LDH/US 101, exit Hollywood Boulevard west. **Open** 6am-2am daily. **No credit cards**. **Map** p329 B2. Midweek, trannies abound, but there's a diverse clientele most nights and days (including a few straights and the occasional celeb) at LA's oldest gay bar.

### Bathhouses & Sex Clubs

#### Hollywood Spa

1650 N Ivar Avenue, between Hollywood Boulevard & Selma Avenue (1-323 464 0445, [www.hollywoodspa.com](http://www.hollywoodspa.com)). Metro Hollywood-Vine/bus 163, 180, 181, 210, 212, 217, 312, 363, 780, LDH/US 101, exit Vine Street south. **Open** 24hrs daily. **Admission Per 8hrs** \$28-\$32

## Gay Beaches

*Sand, sea and super-hot bodies.*

Many of Southern California's beaches are gay-friendly, but those listed below are three of the best. Gay men and lesbians both head here, but the scenes are male-dominated.

#### Laguna Beach

*Laguna Beach: off PCH, 30 miles south of Long Beach. Gay beach: just past the pier; look for the rainbow flag.* It's a long drive from LA on busy Saturdays, but the water is clean and the beach is hot.

#### Venice Beach

*Venice: see pXX. Gay beach: where Windward Avenue meets the beach, next to the wall, just down from Muscle Beach.*

It figures that LA's most bohemian district should also welcome the gay community. The quasi-legendary Roosterfish (1302 Abbot Kinney Boulevard, 1-310 392 2123, [www.roosterfishbar.com](http://www.roosterfishbar.com)) is a must-see for the guys.

#### Will Rogers State Beach

*Will Rogers State Beach: on PCH, two miles north of Santa Monica Pier, in front of the Beach Club.* This cruisey beach is packed on sunny weekends, and it's easy to see why: it's free, it's got tons of guys playing volleyball and it lasts until sunset.



Mustache Mondays

*Metro Vermont-Santa Monica/bus 2, 4, 302, 704/US 101, exit Vermont Avenue north. Open 4pm-2am Mon-Fri; 2pm-2am Sat, Sun. Admission free-\$5. No credit cards. Map p330 B3.*

Porn plays alluringly on the monitors as leather daddies get their boots polished at LA's premier leather and fetish bar. Throbbing Thursdays are the busiest; other events come with self-explanatory names such as Boot Camp and Meat Rack.

### Faultline

*4216 Melrose Avenue, at N Vermont Avenue (1-323 660 0889, www.faultlinebar.com). Metro Vermont-Beverly/bus 10, 204, 754/US 101, exit Vermont Avenue north. Open 5pm-2am Wed-Fri; 2pm-2am Sat, Sun. Admission free-\$10. Credit AmEx, MC, V. Map p330 A4.*

Leather men hold Faultline in the highest regard, but other fetishes are catered for, too: bikers, body-builders and body piercers are all regulars. The DJs have a strict 'no divas' music policy, spinning an edgy mix of electronica and rock. The weekly beer bust is Silver Lake's most popular Sunday soirée.

### MJs

*2810 Hyperion Avenue, at Rowena Avenue (1-323 660 1503, www.mjsbar.com). Bus 175/US 101, exit Silver Lake Boulevard east. Open 4pm-2am Mon-Sat; 3pm-2am Sun. Admission free-\$10. Credit AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, V. Map p330 C2.*

This bar is more West Hollywood than Slakers care for, but outlandish theme nights keep everyone happy. Tuesday belongs to Rim Job, a homage to homo sleaze that unites WeHo queers and Silver Lake boys; arrive before 10pm to beat the long line.

### ★ Other Side

*2538 Hyperion Avenue, between Evans & Tracy Streets (1-323 661 0618, www.flyingleapcafe.com). Bus 175/US 101, exit Silver Lake Boulevard east. Open 6-10pm Tue-Thur, Sun; 6-11pm Fri, Sat. Admission phone for details. Credit AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, V. Map p330 C2.*

The average age may be 60-plus, but the talent performing at this classy piano bar is phenomenal and the atmosphere is always welcoming. LA kitsch at its finest, increasingly sought out by straights.

### Bathhouses & Sex Clubs

#### Slammer

*3688 Beverly Boulevard, between N Virgil & N Vermont Avenues (1-213 388 8040, www.slammerclub.com). Metro Vermont-Beverly/bus 14/US 101, exit Beverly Boulevard west. Open 8pm-late Mon-Fri; 2pm-late Sat, Sun. Admission \$23. No credit cards. Map p330 B5.*

A sex club mostly for the leather crowd. Tuesdays are for gym buffs and Wet Wednesdays attract those into watersports. Don't expect many of Hollywood Spa's pretty guys. Free HIV testing is available.

room; \$18-\$22 locker. Credit AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, V. Map p329 B2.

A Hollywood mainstay most LA locals have visited (though few will admit). An after-hours mix swarms under soft lights through the palatial Hollywood digs, plus there's a steam room, sauna and cabins. Other locations 5636 Vineland Avenue, North Hollywood (1-818 760 6969).

### SILVER LAKE

If the West Hollywood scene seems too vanilla and whitewashed, head to Silver Lake. LA's rougher, older, queer scene may be fancier than it used to be, but it still eschews the 'boys' for the men. You'll find S&M, bears, Spanish, leather, cubs, daddies and older homos and lesbians who lived here when the town was an edgy *barrio*.

### Bars & Nightclubs

#### ★ Akbar

*4356 W Sunset Boulevard, at Fountain Avenue (1-323 665 6810, www.akbarsilverlake.com). Metro Vermont-Sunset/bus 175, 2, 302/US 101, exit Echo Park Avenue north. Open 4pm-2am Mon-Fri; 7pm-2am Sat, Sun. Admission free-\$5. Credit AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, V. Map p330 B3.* Silver Lake's most famous gay bar is where the alterna-boys and cool straights hang equally loose. Come for the rock-themed Friday and Saturday night dance parties.

#### ★ Eagle LA

*4219 Santa Monica Boulevard, at W Sunset Boulevard (1-323 669 9472, www.eaglela.com).*

### DOWNTOWN

#### Bars & Nightclubs

#### Mustache Mondays

*Every Monday at La Cita (see venue index). Open 4pm-2am. Admission free 4-10pm; \$5 10-11pm; \$8 11pm-2am. Credit AmEx, MC, V. Map p331 C3.* Mustache Mondays hosts world-class DJs, performance artists, drag queen luminaries and a polysexual crowd. Come mustachioed and get in free.

### Lesbian

From bi-curious Lindsay Lohan smooching for the cameras at Sunday's girl night at the Abbey or a Melissa sighting at Marix, LA's lesbian scene is nothing if not glamorous. But it's more intimate than you might expect. That's not to say there isn't a prolific community: there is, but you'll need to look a little harder for it.

#### INFORMATION

For information, see free monthly mag *Lesbian News* (www.lesbiannews.com) or *Frontiers*, which covers women's issues too.

### BARS & NIGHTCLUBS

Few LA venues devote themselves to lesbians seven days a week, so pick events carefully. The week kicks off Wednesdays at **Fubar** (see p244) with the Betty, an all-ladies dance night with female DJs. At the **Here Lounge** (see p244), Thursdays warm up with KYSS (arrive early to beat the long lines) before things get really hot over at **East West Lounge** (see p244) – it's a popular watering hole for women on any given night, but at its liveliest on Thursdays, with a pick-up scene that brings out lipstick femmes and butch queens. On Fridays, the Here Lounge hosts the grungier Truckstop; **O-Bar** (see venue index) offers upscale LUSH (Ladies' Ultra Sexy Hangout); and **MI-6** (9077 Santa Monica Boulevard, 1-310 859 8369, http://clubmi6.com) features the Girlbar, the biggest night of the week. Sundays at the **Abbey** (see p243) bring out local lesbian celebrities.

#### Jewel's Catch One

*4067 W Pico Boulevard, at S Norton Avenue, Midtown (1-323 734 8849, www.jewelscatchone.com). Bus 30, 31, 210/I-10, exit Crenshaw Boulevard north. Open 9pm-2am Mon; 10pm-3am Fri; 10pm-4am Sat. Admission \$2-\$5. Credit AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, V. Map p329 B6.* Opened in 1972 as the first nightclub aimed at the African American gay communities, Jewel's Catch One continues to draw a mixed clientele with a variety of nights that stretch from hip hop to leftfield rock.

#### Oil Can Harry's

*11502 Ventura Boulevard, between Colfax Avenue & Tujunga Avenue, Studio City (1-818 760 9749, www.oilcanharrys.com). Bus 150/US 101, exit Tujunga Boulevard south. Open 3.30-7.30pm Mon; 7.30pm-12.30am Tue-Thur, 8pm-2am Fri, Sat; 6pm-2am Sun. Admission varies. Credit AmEx, DC, MC, V.*

Bring your cowboy boots and affect your best country twang at this femme-dominated line-dancing joint. There's always someone to dance with. Lessons are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays (7.45-9.15pm).

#### Palms

*8572 Santa Monica Boulevard, between Westbourne Drive & W Knoll Drive, West Hollywood (1-310 652 1595, www.thepalmsbar.com). Bus 4, 105, 305, 550, 704/I-10, exit La Cienega Boulevard north. Open 8pm-2am daily. Admission free-\$10. Credit AmEx, DC, MC, V. Map p328 B2.*

The oldest lesbian bar in LA is still going strong, supplementing its mellower evenings with regular dance nights inside its cozy confines. The Sunday afternoon beer bust remains popular.

### RESTAURANTS & CAFÉS

Popular gay venues include the **Abbey** (see p243), **Marix** (see p246), froyo **Yogurt Stop** (see p173 **Cold Comfort**), and **Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf** (8735 Santa Monica Boulevard, 1-310 659 8207) in West Hollywood. In Silver Lake, try the **Coffee Table** (see venue index).

### Out and About

*A fascinating guide to gay LA.*

Forget the cheesy 'stars' homes' tours and instead try the **Out and About Tour**, a lively and insightful look at LGBTQ Los Angeles that, of course, includes cocktails. The three-hour tours take in monumental locations in WeHo, Echo Park and Silver Lake, including notorious gay homes and hotbeds of famous gay activity. It's all delivered with saucy,

comedic monologues from a guest lesbian or gay actor/tour guide. Tours are held on Saturday and Sunday afternoons; if you're in town on the last Sunday of the month, book the SunGay Brunch Tour, which includes a stop-off for brunch at a popular gay restaurant (venues vary). Tours take place in everything from a vintage double-decker bus to a luxury minibus or 'VIP SUV', and private tours are available. For reservations and more information, go to [www.outandabout-tours.com](http://www.outandabout-tours.com).