

Top 10: the best budget hotels in Los Angeles



The rooftop swimming pool and sun deck at Ace Hotel Downtown Los Angeles is modelled on Hollywood nightclub Les Deux Café.

- Sara Benson, destination expert

10 MAY 2016 • 4:02PM

An insider's guide to the best cheap hotels and motels in Los Angeles, including the top affordable places to stay for rooftop pools, hip bars and Hollywood hills views, in locations including Santa Monica, Downtown, Hollywood and Pasadena.

Magic Castle Hotel, Hollywood

A long-time favourite for families holidaying in Hollywood, this amiable hotel is a great bargain for the location, two blocks from the Hollywood Walk of Fame. It's clean, spacious and contemporary, with 40-plus rooms and suites arranged in three-story buildings that are painted sunshine yellow and set amongst tall palm trees. Personable staff are welcoming and ready to assist with most requests. No restaurant, but complimentary continental breakfast features fresh-baked pastries and muffins from a local bakery and unlimited snacks and sodas are available all day long.

Double rooms from £130

Read the full review: [Magic Castle Hotel](#)

[Check Availability](#)



location near the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Magic Castle Hotel is a great bargain for the

- Where to stay in Los Angeles: hotels by district

The LINE Hotel, Koreatown

A trendy hotel in LA's Koreatown, marked out by a giant 'Peace Tree' mural on the outside wall and its industrial-chic interiors. Hollywood Hills rooms offer a spectacular view of the Hollywood sign on a clear day. An in-room media hub allows guests to plug smartphones or music players into the TV and sound system. Korean food, from hot bots to barbecue dishes, is served up by Roy Choi, a US celebrity chef, in the restaurant. Guests have access to a modest-sized rooftop pool, which is overlooked by around 40 sunbeds. The hotel also has an exercise room, and free bicycle hire for four hours.

Double rooms from £135

Read the full review: [The LINE Hotel](#)

[Check Availability](#)



spectacular view of the Hollywood sign on a clear day.

Hollywood Hills rooms at The LINE offer a

The Bissell House Bed and Breakfast, Pasadena

Ideal for travellers who want to avoid the big-city crush, this tranquil bed-and-breakfast inn is in suburban Pasadena. On the neighbourhood's 'Millionaire's Row,' this graceful home interestingly mixes Victorian and Arts and Crafts architecture and design. Well-kept antiques decorate the historic estate-house, which harbours a handful of light-filled guest rooms with private baths. The friendly owners couldn't be more helpful or accommodating. Guests are offered free tea service throughout the day and an evening sweet dessert. A complimentary hot breakfast is served each morning in the dining room where Albert Einstein once visited. There's a non-heated outdoor pool.

Doubles from £140

Read the full review: [The Bissell House Bed and Breakfast](#)

[Check Availability](#)



and Breakfast couldn't be more helpful or accommodating.

The friendly owners at The Bissell House Bed

Ace Hotel Downtown Los Angeles, Downtown

On South Broadway in Downtown, a thriving and fast-gentrifying area is The Ace. Inside, it has a shabby but considered look: LA Noir meets Old Hollywood. On entering rooms you feel as if you've been handed the keys to a friend's warehouse studio. On entering rooms you feel as if you've been handed the keys to a friend's warehouse studio. It's undone in a polished way, with concrete ceilings and makeshift homosote boards on the walls. The rooftop swimming pool and sun deck, modelled on Hollywood nightclub Les Deux Café, is a welcome summertime spot, with great views. LA Chapter, an all-day brasserie, spills out onto the street and is busy with Angelenos all day.

Doubles from £118

Read the full review: [Ace Hotel Downtown Los Angeles](#)

[Check Availability](#)



On entering rooms at Ace Hotel Downtown, you feel as if you've been handed the keys to a friend's warehouse studio.

The Varden, Long Beach

This boutique hotel was opened in the late 1920s by circus performer Dolly Varden, whose name still shows up on the rooftop marquee. The hotel's cosy lobby has architectural elements of Spanish Colonial Revival design, a timeless look for Southern California. The Varden's ultra-white décor continues inside the 35 rooms, where aquamarine accents are designed to remind guests of the ocean. No restaurant, but the hotel offers a complimentary afternoon wine hour with snacks, continental breakfast and fresh fruit, bottled water and self-serve coffee and tea throughout the day.

Double rooms from £95

Read the full review: [The Varden](#)

[Check Availability](#)



In downtown Long Beach, The Varden is a

boutique, value-conscious pick.

- The best hotels in Los Angeles

The Garland, North Hollywood

Just north of Hollywood, close to the Universal Studios theme park, this reinvented hotel welcomes families, but also offers hip, modern rooms suited for adults traveling solo or as couples. There is an outdoor heated pool with a hot tub and a sun deck, a fitness centre, and free trolley rides to both Universal Studios and the metro that runs to Hollywood. The Front Yard restaurant does American comfort food, and is open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Double rooms from £155

Read the full review: [The Garland](#)

[Check Availability](#)



with a hot tub and a sun deck.

The Garland offers an outdoor heated pool

Hotel Maya, Long Beach

This compact, Hilton-owned resort is modern and comfortable, and sits on the waterfront in Long Beach in 15 acres of tropical gardens. You get affordable parking, colourful interiors and easy access to Disneyland and Catalina Island. There is a heated 100-ft lap-pool, whirlpool, floating cabanas, fire pits, tennis, volleyball and basketball ball courts and bike and boat rentals. The 194 rooms have colourful modern interiors with a Latin inflection. Award-winning El Salvadorian chef Victor Juarez helms the Fuego restaurant.

Rooms from £124

Read the full review: [Hotel Maya](#)

[Check Availability](#)



Award-winning El Salvadorian chef Victor

Juarez helms the Fuego restaurant at Hotel Maya.

The Queen Mary, Long Beach

The Queen Mary is a trans-Atlantic passenger liner dating from the 1930s, moored in Long Beach. Part museum, part hotel, it offers history and faded, old-world glamour with a side-line in ghost tours. The grandeur of the Queen Mary's heyday has been preserved - you can still find tinted pink mirrors dating from the 1930s in some of the hallways; the thinking being that an added touch of colour in their reflection would make seasick guests feel better. Hotel staff are friendly and upbeat. Rooms are basic, but mostly comfortable. Sir Winston's, an elegant top deck restaurant, serves an excellent beef Wellington for just under £35.

Double rooms from £66

Read the full review: [The Queen Mary](#)

[Check Availability](#)



Sir Winston's, an elegant top-deck restaurant

at The Queen Mary, serves an excellent beef Wellington for just under \$50.

The Brentwood Inn, Brentwood

A modern motel with hip interiors and 24-hour service. This is a great spot for those who want to stay in the movie-star enclave of Brentwood, between Santa Monica and Bel Air, for excellent value for money. The 21 guest rooms are small but well appointed. Every one has a custom-made mattress, plasma TV, fridge, writing desk, coffee pot and free Wi-Fi. Continental breakfast can be eaten outside on the charming breakfast patio, tea is available throughout the day, and cookies and milk are available in the afternoon and evening.

Double rooms from £103

Read the full review: [The Brentwood Inn](#)



small but well appointed.

The 21 guest rooms at The Brentwood Inn are

Sea Shore Motel, Santa Monica

For lodgings by the beach in Santa Monica, you'd be hard pressed to find better value than this retro 20th-century motel. It has a vintage 1950s look, with its coral-pink painted exterior, brick and stucco walls, tall palm trees and quaint yesteryear signage. Open-air corridors, bordered by wrought-iron railings and flower boxes, lead to spacious and clean rooms. Welcome extras such as free beach gear to borrow and an outdoor sun deck make staying here more attractive. The affordable Amelia's coffee shop, which is attached to the hotel, serves American breakfasts, espresso drinks and Italian sandwiches, soups, salads and ice-cream for lunch.

Double rooms from £85

Read the full review: [Sea Shore Motel](#)



For lodgings by the beach in Santa Monica, you'd be hard pressed to find better value than Sea Shore Motel.

• **Top 10: the best boutique hotels in Los Angeles**

All prices cited are starting rates for double rooms, based on two people sharing, in low season. These prices are subject to change in high season and during popular holidays and events.