

Overview: Central Los Angeles, CA

Los Angeles is the second most-populous city in America, making it exceedingly diverse. With all the big studios located here, it’s no surprise that LA is often called the “Creative Capital of the World” and offers tons of different options for all walks of life and death.

Funeral Homes

If you plan to have a traditional funeral service with the body present (regardless of whether you choose burial or cremation) you must work with a funeral home to make your arrangements. Note: in this area, we were particularly impressed by the funeral homes that were attached to cemeteries.

Name	Rating	Price Level	Religion(s)
Forest Lawn Memorial Park and Mortuaries	Highly recommended	Medium /High	All Faiths
Hillside Memorial Park and Mortuary	Highly recommended	Medium /High	Jewish
Hollywood Forever Funeral Home and Cemetery	Highly recommended	Medium	All Faiths
Holy Cross Cemetery	Recommended	Medium	Catholic
Pierce Brothers Westwood Village Memorial Park and Mortuary	Recommended	Medium	All Faith

Crematories

The choices below are direct cremation companies and tend to be less expensive than working with a funeral home. Most of the funeral homes mentioned, however, offer very reasonably priced cremations.

Name	Typical Price
All California Cremation	Low
Cremation Society of LA	Low

Cemeteries

You will work directly with the cemetery to arrange for a plot and the burial, but many of the details like buying a casket and body transportation will be coordinated by the funeral home you choose. Note: Some of these cemeteries have funeral homes on the premises.

Name	Rating	Price	Religion(s)	Location
Hillside Memorial Park	Highly recommended	Medium /High	Jewish	Culver City
Hollywood Forever Cemetery	Highly recommended	Medium /High	Catholic	Hollywood
Forest Lawn Memorial Park	Recommended	Medium /High	Jewish	Glendale

Funeral Homes and Cemeteries – Complete List

Recommended Highly

(Note: Since many of the funeral homes are connected with cemeteries we combined them for this guide)

Forest Lawn Memorial Park and Mortuaries

6300 Forrest Lawn Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90068
(323) 254-7251
www.forestlawn.com

This is a well-known, beautifully maintained and superbly designed funeral home and cemetery. The cemetery is hilly and has breathtaking views of Los Angeles. The funeral home looks more like a country club than a mortuary. Although the Tutor-style building is very nice, it does have a somewhat dark feel inside and smells like lilies and mildew. There are statues, mausoleums, niches and a special place for burying ashes. They also offer plenty of handouts and information available.

Hillside Memorial Park and Mortuary

6001 West Centinela Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90045
(800) 576-1994
www.hillsidememorial.org

This is an absolutely gorgeous combination Jewish cemetery and funeral home. It's an exceedingly well maintained cemetery featuring different sections from the typical in-ground to niches. There were also beautiful areas with streams, sitting areas and even waterfalls. We were welcomed at the funeral home by a very nice, compassionate, and efficient receptionist named Vaughn. Then Leonard went beyond the call of duty and took the time to explain all the options available at Hillside; he gave a wonderful education and was very considerate. He did ask if we were looking to bury someone Jewish, noting that was necessary at Hillside; however, they happily bury significant others of Jewish people because they think it's more important to keep families together than to be selective. Lots and lots of VIP burials.

Hollywood Forever Funeral Home and Cemetery

6000 Santa Monica Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90038
(323) 469-6349
www.hollywoodforever.com

It's not surprising that Hollywood's A-list chooses to make this cemetery, which is a national historic landmark, their final resting place. The website has a movie of the cemetery that's done in a way that's pure Hollywood. The entire premise is outstandingly beautiful. A full service funeral home is located on the grounds and the staff is exceedingly forward thinking and helpful. Unlike other offices in this industry, each of the directors brought their personal charm to the space. We were calmed not only by Noelle's knowledge and compassion, but also by the Buddhist statues and pictures of her pets in the office. She willingly gave her time, told us about the cemetery, and even gave us a genuine hug when we left her. The cemetery shows movies certain nights and was unbelievably gorgeous. There were peacocks, ducks, lots of vegetation and water and different types of interment options to suit all tastes and religions. This is easily one of the most gorgeous cemeteries ever. Diane Keaton got it right when she said there is "strong positive energy there!"

Recommended

Holy Cross Cemetery

5835 West Slauson Avenue
Culver City, CA 90230
(310) 836-5500
www.holycrossmortuary.com

Located within the **Holy Cross Cemetery** this facility offers over 21,500 square feet of space, two large visitation rooms (that can be subdivided into smaller ones), six arrangement rooms, after service reception area (with kitchen amenities to accommodate 88 people), large chapel that can hold up to 288, flower shop, mortuary, cemetery and a lush green courtyard.

Pierce Brothers Westwood Village Memorial Park and Mortuary

1218 Glendon Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90024
(310) 474-1579
www.pbwvmemorialpark.com

This SCI funeral home is located in the very middle of an urban section of Los Angeles. Our GPS got us lost -- the funeral home and cemetery are almost hidden inside a bunch of buildings. The cemetery is quite small, well maintained and home to many notable people. Carol, an extremely kind staff member, greeted us. Although we were bothered by the fact that there was nobody available to help us, the location was very nice, clean and a pleasant place to be. It was much smaller than other locations but there was an ample size chapel, a nice arrangement office and a sitting area with not only tea and coffee but also snacks and sweets.

Cannot Recommend Yet

Chevra Kadisha Mortuary

7832 Santa Monica Boulevard
West Hollywood, CA 90046
(323) 654-8415
www.chevrakadisha.com

Sholom Chapels Mortuaries

8629 West Pico Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90035
(310) 659-3055
www.sholomchapels.com

Direct Cremation Companies

All California Cremations

(800) 575-0551
www.allcaliforniacremation.com

It's rare to see reviews of cremation companies online; it's even rarer to see multiple people say that they wish they could give it more than five stars! It seems that although they are one of the most reasonably priced cremation companies we have come across, they are very professional. We spoke to a few staff members and all were kind and knowledgeable, especially Pauline. Although their facility is in Palm

Desert, you can pick up the ashes after the cremation at one of their two locations in Los Angeles at no additional charge.

Cremation Society of LA

(800) 615-5501

www.cremationlosangeles.to

This is a reputable company that seems professional. We appreciated that they weren't pushy and were pleased to hear that they cremains could be returned in only 5-7 working days. Again, this is one of the most inexpensive services that we found.

Hotels

Tens of millions of tourists visit Los Angeles each year; needless to say, there are plenty of hotels to accommodate all. Here you can find a hotel to suit a variety of tastes and budgets. Here are just a few in the area:

\$	up to 150
\$\$	151 to 250
\$\$\$	251 to 350
\$\$\$\$	351 and up

Elan Hotel

8435 Beverly Blvd

Los Angeles, CA 90048

(323) 658-666

www.elanhotel.com

This modern luxury boutique hotel is extremely well located. They offer not only complimentary breakfast, but they also offer wine and cheese receptions each weekday afternoon. Guests can also take advantage of their free Wi-Fi. \$\$

The Peninsula Beverly Hills

9882 S. Santa Monica Blvd

Beverly Hills, CA 90212

(310) 551-2888

www.peninsula.com

This is one of the most sophisticated luxury Beverly Hills hotels. If you are looking for the exclusive pampering, this is the hotel for you. As a guest you can enjoy their fabulous location exceedingly comfortable rooms, renowned restaurants, gorgeous pool area and a myriad of other perks. \$\$\$\$

Ramada Plaza West Hollywood Hotel and Suites

8585 Santa Monica Blvd

West Hollywood, CA 90069

(310) 652-6400

www.ramadaweho.com

This very reasonably priced hotel is great for those looking for a deal but not wanting a stuffy worn-out hotel. All the rooms have been done in a funky art-deco style that blends in with WeHo. Guest can enjoy complimentary Wi-Fi and take advantage of the fun restaurants and fitness options that are onsite. \$-\$\$

SLS Beverly Hills

465 S. La Cienega Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90048
(310) 247-0400
www.slshotels.com/beverlyhills/

For those looking for a trendy modern hotel, this is an ideal option. This Phillippe Starck designed hotel is conveniently located right near the Beverly Center. If you have some free time, you can enjoy one of their excellent restaurants, bars or pool areas. \$\$\$\$

Restaurants

Needless to say there are numerous restaurants in Los Angeles. Here are just a few recommended options for venues close to the funeral homes that can accommodate a group. If you opt for another restaurant, just be sure to call ahead and ask if they can hold crowd your size; the restaurant might have a special event private room and/or menu. Also, you might want to consider a favorite local restaurant or a deli such as Redemption Foods or Grub to cater a Shiva or lunch at your home.

Fig and Olive

8490 Melrose Place
Los Angeles, CA 90069
(310) 360-9100
www.figandolive.com

Here you can enjoy simple and delicious French-inspired food in a beautiful modern setting. They have catering and multiple different size rooms for private gatherings.

Osteria Mamma

5732 Melrose Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90038
(323) 284-7060
www.osteriamamma.com

This tiny cozy restaurant can provide the necessary (delicious) Italian comfort food that those in mourning might need. The staff is very family-oriented, warm and happy to accommodate their clients' needs. There are two rooms and they are happy to create private areas for your group.

Providence

5955 Melrose Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90038
(323) 460-4170
www.providencela.com

This two Michelin star restaurant would be a lovely spot for those looking for a very upscale venue. They have a private room and also offer catering.

The Hungry Cat

1535 North Vine Street
Hollywood, CA 90028

(323) 462-2155

www.thehungrycat.com

This venue is more casual, relaxed and upbeat than our other recommendations. If fish is your comfort food, you can enjoy plenty of shellfish in this New England-feeling restaurant right on Vine Street. They have private rooms and an outdoor seating area.

Other Helpful Local Resources

Ampersand

658 N. Larchmont Blvd.

Los Angeles 90004

(323) 466-3300

www.ampersandboutique.com

This is an upscale women's consignment shop that focuses on selling by season. You don't need to make an appointment to come in, but note that some clothing may not be sold right away.

Crossroads Trading Co.

7409 Melrose Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90046

(323) 782-8152

www.crossroadstrading.com

This chain of vintage shops allows you to buy, sell and trade. It's a favorite among Californians.

Goodwill

1200 Vine Street

Los Angeles, CA 90038

(323) 469-2357

www.goodwillsocal.org

Jet Rag

825 N La Brea Ave

Los Angeles, CA 90038

(323) 939-0528

This large vintage store is known for its very popular dollar sales on Sundays.

Out of the Closet

6210 West Sunset Blvd.

Los Angeles, CA 90028

(323) 467-6811

www.outofthecloset.com

This non-profit chain of thrift stores donates its proceeds directly to providing medical care for those living with AIDS. It's operated by the AIDS Healthcare foundation and they also provide free rapid STD

and HIV testing and counseling another location.