

Gay or bi, out or private, it can be tough navigating the LGBTQ+ dating scene in Los Angeles. LA boasts some of the most dynamic communities in the world. If you're not the most social animal, however (or you're out of practice from years of dating apps) here are some tips to meeting locals near you:

- Your personality is your tour guide.

Definitely scope LGBTQ events, but also find venues you like as an individual. The club scene is fun, although it can burn you out pretty quickly. If you're over hookup culture, look for events that fit your personal interests. For the introverted, small concerts and readings at Skylight Books are great. If you enjoy the outdoors, tournaments like the WeHo Sports Festival, or even a political rally may literally run you into someone worth grabbing a drink with afterwards.

- Break the ice, don't shatter it.

Once you get to that drink? It can be maddening anxiety on a first date. Remember, keep it about them. What's one or two things that made you curious when you met? Most importantly, don't feel the need to jam in your entire life story. Stay confident that there will be more dates to reveal yourself, and there will be.

- Avoid the tourists.

Aside from the famed WeHo scene, LA has a number of LGBTQ-friendly neighborhoods that are low-key and surprisingly walkable. Silver Lake, NoHo, and Burbank all boast quality restaurants, as well as intimate stages for live music and theatre. Natural scenery like Griffith Park is also perfect for a peaceful stroll- or if you've built up enough confidence to try that first kiss.