

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTON

As the center of the entertainment industry, Burbank has much for fans to explore, from world-famous studios to niche neighborhood attractions

TEXT: Tom Whalen, Board Chair Burbank Hospitality Association | PHOTOGRAPHY: Courtesy Visit Burbank

nown for its movie and television studios and entertainment connections, Burbank is the perfect place for anyone seeking to discover Hollywood glamour while taking in the relaxed, quintessential Southern California lifestyle.

This dynamic city, located just 12 miles north of Downtown Los Angeles and adjacent to the Hollywood Hills, boasts the largest concentration of movie studios in the world. Burbank is on the pulse of today's entertainment industry, home to The Walt Disney Company, Warner Bros. Studios, and 1,000 media companies. With easy access in and out of Burbank Bob Hope Airport, it's your best bet away from the hustle and bustle, but close



The world headquarters of The Walt Disney Company is located inside this building designed by iconic architect Michael Graves.



Photography: Courtesy Warner Bros. Studio Tour Hollywood



Above: Warner Bros. Studio Tour Hollywood is introducing a major expansion to the studio's tour this summer, offering visitors an even closer look behind the scenes of some of their favorite movies and television shows. Below: The AMC walkway in Downtown Burbank offers entertainment for all ages.

to many of Los Angeles' most famous landmarks—the Hollywood Bowl, Dodgers Stadium, the Rose Bowl, Universal Studios Hollywood, Griffith Observatory and Staples Center.

If you want to go behind the scenes of Hollywood's latest blockbuster or see your favorite television stars in action, this is the place to be. You can stroll through star-filled neighborhoods, dine at legendary restaurants, discover unique shops, take in a live TV taping, and create your own vacation hideaway.

SHOPPING & DINING

Burbank's major entertainment districts are unique destinations in themselves. From Downtown's vibrant restaurant scene and Magnolia Park's retro boutiques, to the Airport District's high-tech/big-retail convergence, and the Media District's exciting dining options filled with studio executives, the Media Capital of the World appeals to every kind of traveler.

DOWNTOWN BURBANK

With a bustling street scene and 400 shops and restaurants, Downtown Burbank is a top entertainment destination with regional mall Burbank Town Center, IKEA, Flappers Comedy Club and AMC Theaters, ranking in the top three movie circuits nationwide.

Right, top to bottom: Moore's Deli is famous for their walls adorned with graffiti by the cartoonists working in Burbank's entertainment industry. In Magnolia Park, don't miss Porto's Bakery if you've got a serious sweet tooth. At Pin Up Girl, retro style gets a thoroughly modern celebration.

Freshness abounds in area restaurants. Organic and farm-sourced ingredients are on the menu at Wild Carvery. Tender Greens delivers farm-tofork, organic classics and chef-driven daily specials. Moore's Deli, serving the best nosh in Burbank, also features a back room with walls graffitied by animators from area studios. Story Tavern, with an all-weather pet-friendly patio, offers 20 craft beers on tap, along with a large selection of wine and cider. For comfort food, Market City Caffe serves generous portions of southern Italian cuisine along with a terrific antipasto bar, and a patio with the best people watching in Downtown Burbank.

www.DTNBUR.com **MAGNOLIA PARK**

If you were to create a perfect shopping neighborhood filled with one-of-a-kind boutiques and eateries, Magnolia Park would be that place. Lined with locally owned shops offering unique fashions and gifts, this hotbed of retail innovation is home to Pin Up Girl, a retro women's fashion emporium, Mindfulnest, with handmade art and gifts, and Playclothes Vintage Fashions, a quirky shop that dressed the hit show Mad Men.

Other notable attractions include Autobooks-Aerobooks, where Jay Leno drops in on Saturdays to browse the latest in automotive literature, Tony's Darts Away, at the epicenter of the craft beer movement, and Dark Delicacies, America's home of horror and gothic books, art, and celebrity events.

Anchored by the wildly popular Porto's Bakery, Magnolia Park is the kind of neighborhood where you'll rediscover the joys of shopping in unique boutiques filled with dazzling treasures.

www.visitmagnoliapark.com









Above: Warner Bros. Studio anchors the media district. Below: The oldest remaining Bob's Big Boy in the country is a landmark of mid-century design.

MEDIA DISTRICT

Burbank's legendary Media District is where a majority of movie and television studios are located, along with the stars who frequent them. Dining options abound. Here you can mingle with writers, set designers, producers and directors at one of their favorite hangouts, Priscilla's Coffee, or at Coffee Commissary, serving homemade treats and coffee sourced from top roasters. King's Deli brings together the world of New York delis with an LA twist, and Olive & Thyme is known as one of the hottest brunch spots in Los Angeles.

If you're looking for retro style, head to Bob's Big Boy. This Burbank landmark is the oldest remaining Bob's Big Boy in the country, and masterpiece of mid-century modernism. Every Friday night, vintage car buffs congregate to parade their classic cars. Or, enjoy the cozy atmosphere of The Smoke House Restaurant, a favorite watering hole of the studio set. George Clooney is a big fan, and he named his production company after this legendary prime rib restaurant, also famous for their amazing garlic bread. VisitBurbank.com.





AIRPORT DISTRICT

As savvy travellers know, Burbank Bob Hope Airport is the most hassle-free way to fly into and out of the Los Angeles area. But the area surrounding the airport is also worth a visit. Anchored by the 488-room Los Angeles Marriott Burbank Airport Hotel with a 50,000 square foot convention center, the district is a leading destination for expositions and conferences. Convenient access to Silicon Valley has attracted internet giant Yahoo!, along with Insomniac Games, eSolar, Technicolor Digital Cinema and Evolution Media.

Recent arrival The World Famous West Coast Customs is the world's premiere vehicle modification shop, as well as the star of its own hit television show. WFWCC added luster to this neighborhood, which also features the Empire Center, one of L.A.'s highest grossing shopping centers and home to giants like Target, Lowe's, and Costco.

For itineraries with the best of what Burbank has to offer, please visit www.visitburbank.com/trip-ideas.

A new addition to the Media District, The World Famous West Coast Customs recently opened a state-of-the-art vehicle modification shop, perfect for this car-centric city.

INSIDER INFORMATION >

STUDIO TOURS>

Warner Bros. Studio Tour Hollywood provides unparalleled access to the world's busiest film and television studio. www.wbstudiotour.com.

TV TAPINGS>

Numerous sitcoms and talk shows are filmed in Burbank, with many taped before a live studio audience. A sampling includes The Big Bang Theory, The Ellen DeGeneres Show, Conan, Mike & Molly and 2 Broke Girls. Find more at www.VisitBurbank.com/what-to-do.