



TRAVEL  
CATRIONA  
ROWNTREE

GARDENS  
LINDA  
ROSS

MONEY  
ADRIAN  
RAFTERY

## Rockin' in West...

# HOLLYWOOD

Music reigns supreme in this tiny LA enclave, writes DANIELLE SHERRING

**T**erracotta shades punctuate the Californian sky as guitar legend Slash tears through his *Paradise City* solo to roars from the 14,000-strong crowd. Welcome to the Sunset Strip Music Festival.

For three days, iconic venues such as the House Of Blues, the Viper Room

and The Roxy host a bounty of big-name acts, with the likes of the Smashing Pumpkins, Common, Kid Cudi, Slash – last year's honouree – and Fergie taking to centre stage to celebrate this LA rock 'n' roll haven.

West Hollywood – or WeHo to locals – centred around the ever-famous Sunset Strip, is home to myriad megastars and one of the most happening party scenes in the US. This place is a breathing library of rock history, and once you're here you can't help but be swept up in the sheer enormity of events that have gone down in this town.

The Doors got their first recurring gig at Whisky A Go Go. The Troubadour hosted stars like Janis Joplin, Led Zeppelin and John Lennon. Born-and-bred WeHo bands Mötley Crüe and Guns N' Roses terrorised the streets during the late 80s... and that's not even half of it!

This year's Sunset Strip Music Festival ([sunsetstripmusicfestival.com](http://sunsetstripmusicfestival.com)) runs from August 18-20 and salutes rock legends Mötley Crüe. The festival is an event not to be missed, not only for admirers of the band's bad-boy founders Tommy Lee and Nikki Sixx, but for music lovers everywhere.

But this young booming city, founded in 1984, is more than just home to a wealth of music mayhem. It also offers fabulous shopping, food and family fun. Wander around The Avenues – an art, fashion and design district boasting more than 300 eclectic businesses, including over 30 art galleries. Stroll down Roberston Boulevard for boutique shopping at its best and check out The Grove (where you're likely to spot a celeb or two – Heidi Klum and Kim Kardashian are regulars).

After a day hitting the stores, have lunch at organic eatery the Urth Caffe, where the boys from *Entourage* are often spotted dining in the show. A meal at both Cecconi's on Melrose Avenue and the famous Sunset Marquis should also be on your itinerary. And a visit to the Rainbow Bar & Grill, a retreat for touring and local musicians – and the place comedian John Belushi ate his last meal – is also a must. The walls, littered with music and movie memorabilia, autographed photos and insignia, capture the beautiful contradiction of this place – glamorous and gritty all at once.

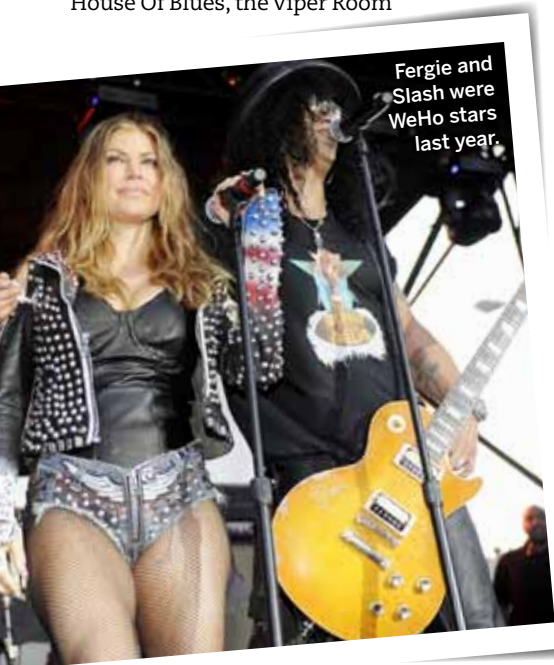
For more info, visit [visitwesthollywood.com](http://visitwesthollywood.com).

### WHERE TO STAY

**Le Parc Suites Hotel** – Luxurious living and a short stroll from the Sunset Strip and The Avenues. Visit [leparcsuites.com](http://leparcsuites.com).

### GETTING THERE

V Australia offers direct flights from Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne to LA. Go to [australia.com.au](http://australia.com.au) for all your travel needs.



Pictures: Getty Images, Corbis, iStockphoto.com. The writer was a guest of the West Hollywood Marketing and Visitors Bureau.