



# Movies and Shows Filmed in Long Beach

By Meghan O'Dell

With its plentiful palm trees, colorful murals, and ocean-front properties, Long Beach often plays the role of Miami in movies and television shows. But it's been a stand-in for a lot of other cities, too — read on to learn more!

## MOVIES

**La La Land:** Emma Stone's character Mia's apartment is supposed to be in Hollywood, but it's actually the pink Spanish-style condo complex called Rose Towers on 3rd Street between Cherry and Walnut. While watching this film in the theatre, I gasped and whispered "That must be Long Beach!" when I saw the purple recycling cans in a scene where Ryan Gosling's Sebastian drives down the alley to pick up Mia. The jazz bar at the end was filmed at downtown Long Beach's underground bar, the Blind Donkey.



Mia's apartment in La La Land is located at 1728 East 3rd Street in Long Beach.



The Bueller home is located at 4160 Country Club Drive in the Bixby Knolls area of Long Beach. Photo courtesy of HookedonHouses.net



Two news teams square off in the park near Shoreline Village in Anchorman.



Whitney Houston (as famous actress and singer Rachel Marron) dances with Kevin Costner as Frank, her bodyguard-turned-love interest, at Joe Jost's in Long Beach.

**Ferris Bueller's Day Off:** Matthew Broderick plays charming ne'er-do-well Ferris, a high-school student living in a suburb of Chicago with his parents and perpetually annoyed sister. But he's actually running through the streets of the Virginia Country Club in Bixby Knolls while trying to beat his family home after a day of playing hooky.

**Anchorman:** Posing as San Diego, Long Beach can be seen throughout this hilarious movie starring Will Ferrell, Paul Rudd, Steve Carell, and Christina Applegate. You can clearly make out Shoreline Village in the scene where the dueling news teams first confront each other. Other scenes were filmed at the International Tower building on Ocean and on the Queensway Bridge.

**The Bodyguard:** This classic 1992 film starring Whitney Houston and Kevin Costner was mostly filmed in downtown LA, but the bar they secretly share a dance at is the world-famous Joe Jost's on Anaheim (you'd be surprised by how many Joe Jost's shirts I've seen around the country and in different parts of the world!). Established in 1924, the oldest bar in Long Beach has also appeared in License to Wed, Win a Date with Tad Hamilton, Gone in 60 Seconds, True Confessions, and The Vanishing.



Dexter and Rita shared this house on 3319 E. 1st Street in the Bluff Heights neighborhood of Long Beach. Photo courtesy of Seeing-Stars.com



Alex's Bar on Anaheim played the vampire bar Fangtasia on True Blood. Photo courtesy of HBO.



Long Beach plays itself in AMC's Lodge 49. Photo courtesy of AMC.



This wedding scene in Jane the Virgin was filmed at Trinity Lutheran Church near downtown Long Beach. Photo courtesy of Seeing-Stars.com

## SHOWS

**Dexter:** The Miami-set series that made us sympathize with a serial killer, Dexter used many Long Beach locations for filming. Dexter's childhood home was located on Chatwin Avenue and his then-girlfriend Rita's home was on San Anseline Avenue, both in the Los Altos neighborhood. The house the couple later shared together is on 1st street in Bluff Heights between Coronado and Redondo. Detective Quinn's home is one block over at 3515 E. 1st Street. You can also glimpse Shoreline Aquatic Park and Alamitos Bay in several scenes.

**True Blood:** Alex's Bar in the Zaferia neighborhood of Long Beach stands in for the infamous vampire bar Fangtasia in this long-running HBO series. Sharp-eyed Alex's regulars noticed that at some point in the series, the show built a replica of the bar's interior so they didn't have to keep coming to Long Beach to film. (Note: Alex's doesn't really have a basement as depicted in the show.)

**Lodge 49:** This short-lived but critically acclaimed series actually let Long Beach play itself; it's about a former surfer who was injured by a snake bite and then joins a mysterious fraternal lodge in Long Beach. Filming locations included a residence off 46th street, Bluff Park, and Bixby Village Golf Course.

**Jane the Virgin:** Long Beach plays Miami yet again in this charming CW series starring Gina Rodriguez as a young woman who is accidentally inseminated at a doctor's office. I spotted some Long Beach street signs near Redondo and 2nd in a driving scene, and a wedding scene was filmed at Trinity Lutheran Church on Linden and 8th Street. You can also spot the Shoreline Marina and Alamitos Beach in several scenes.

Meghan O'Dell, a freelance writer and editor, has been a Long Beach resident for 16 years. She loves reading, seeing live music, and watching too many shows, and she lives with her husband and their Calico cat in the Bluff Heights neighborhood.