

Armenians in LA

The Armenian people today furnish a striking example of the spectacular increase in international mobility we have witnessed in recent decades. Today, there is a population of 7.8 million Armenians worldwide, only 3.8 million of which live in their homeland. A large number of those outside Armenia live in California, concentrated heavily in Los Angeles, which has attracted both native-born Armenians from Fresno and East-coast states, as well as from Mideast countries and the Soviet Union.

The Armenian community in LA has been markedly successful in establishing themselves here and making their mark in the business and professional world, while remaining proud of their cultural identity. They have set up schools, churches and cultural centers of their own.

Chinese in LA

After Hispanic, the Chinese are the ethnic group with the longest history in California. By the 1870's, Chinese were the largest foreign group in the state. While their population varied from 1880 through the 1950's, due to political problems and racial bias, after 1965, the population began to mushroom. Today, there are approximately 400,000 people of Chinese descent in the Los Angeles Metro area alone.

The Chinese population in Los Angeles is generally well-educated. Businessmen from Taiwan and Hong Kong have made property in downtown LA's Chinatown among the most valuable in the city. Many Chinese have moved to Monterey Park in the San Gabriel Valley, which is over 50 percent Asian. The economic power of the Chinese community is seen by the success of Chinese-run banks with combined deposits of over \$400 million.

A prominent community with a long history; tens of thousands of LA residents come out each year for the Chinese New Year parade.

Filipinos in LA

Los Angeles has the largest Filipino population outside of Manila. Many Filipinos came to the United States after the Philippines were granted independence from the US in 1946. By 1980, the Filipino population in Los Angeles was 100,000; today, it is close to 370,000. First-generation immigrants succeeded as small business owners and as skilled technicians.

Because the Philippines were formerly an American Colony, Filipino immigrants are predominately fluent in English. A high percentage of Filipinos are employed in the service of the United States Navy, as Filipinos are the only foreign nationals eligible to serve in the Armed Forces. According to the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner, Filipinos are the wealthiest Asian community in Los Angeles. Many Filipinos educate their children in private Catholic schools. A cultural highlight each year is the Philippine Heritage festival, with a parade held the last Sunday in May.