



MEDIA GUIDE

2021



 **GREATER** palm springs
find your oasis.





The **Greater Palm Springs Convention & Visitors Bureau** (CVB) created this resource guide for media members covering Greater Palm Springs. Inside, you'll find inspiration for telling stories of escape, adventure, romance and relaxation.

Whether you're covering the destination for the first time or returning for another angle, there's always something new to discover in the nine resort cities of Palm Springs, Desert Hot Springs, Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert, Indian Wells, La Quinta, Indio and Coachella.

Greater Palm Springs is exhilaration and chill. Adventure and art. Historic and modern. Scenic and sunny. There are culinary and cultural experiences around every corner.

With the largest collection of midcentury modern architecture, a thriving music scene elevated by the Coachella Valley Music & Arts Festival, and a vibrant cocktail culture, Greater Palm Springs is Southern California's most storied resort oasis.

A scenic drive from Los Angeles, San Diego, Phoenix and Las Vegas, Palm Springs International Airport welcomes guests from 28 nonstop and more than 500 connecting cities, making the destination an easy getaway.

Greater Palm Springs has been known as a Hollywood hot spot since the early 1920s, when the earliest tourist hotels were established. Today the destination features an array of accommodations, from luxury resorts and chic hotels to historic inns and midcentury modern home rentals.

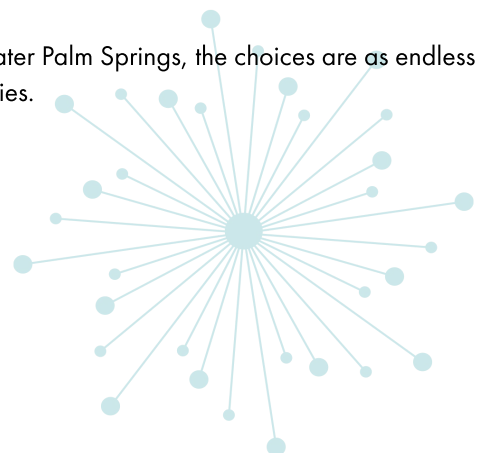
Filled with natural wonders—like mountains you can almost reach out and touch—the area is home to natural hot mineral springs, lush palm groves, over 100 golf courses and more than 300 days of sunshine annually.

Offering a celebrated art and culture scene, Greater Palm Springs draws visitors internationally with year-round happenings, such as the Palm Springs International Film Festival, Desert X, Modernism Week, Coachella Valley Music & Arts Festival, Stagecoach Festival and Pride Week.

The destination's agricultural bounty and world-class resorts draw the most innovative chefs from around the globe. Throughout the year, a variety of culinary festivals draw food and libation aficionados for days of dining and tastings.

Long regarded as a mecca for wellness, beginning with the sacred hot spring used by the Cahuilla Indians for thousands of years, Greater Palm Springs continues to be a place of healing and natural beauty.

In Greater Palm Springs, the choices are as endless as our blue skies.



LOCATION + MILES

Greater Palm Springs (Coachella Valley) is located in the Colorado Desert in Southern California's Riverside County. The valley extends approximately 45 mi (72 km) southeast from the San Geronio Pass to the northern shore of the Salton Sea and is approximately 15 mi (24 km) wide along most of its length. It is bounded on the northeast by the San Bernardino and Little San Bernardino mountains and on the southwest by the San Jacinto and Santa Rosa mountains.

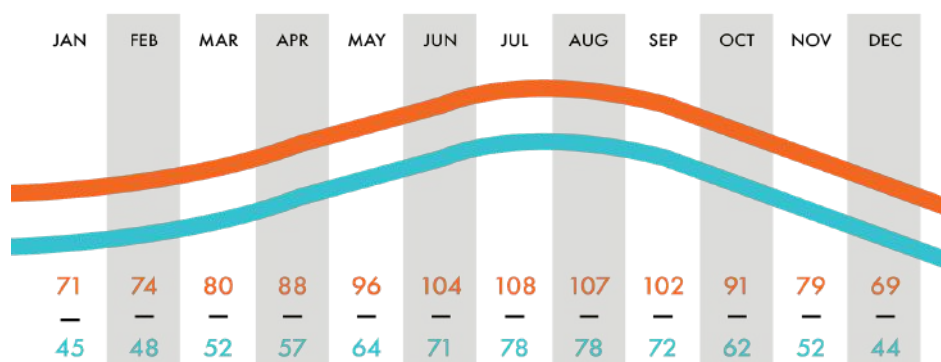
CLIMATE



Sunshine: 300 days annual average



Rain: 5.5 inches annual average



Winter: December – February

Average temperatures: 40-75°F / 4.5-24°C

In the coolest of the winter months, Greater Palm Springs is warm and mild during the day with pleasingly cool evenings. What you can count on is plenty of sun and blue skies, giving the Coachella Valley one of the most beautiful winter climates you will find anywhere—but be prepared to pack layers in case of an evening chill.

Spring: March – May

Average temperatures: 51-94°F / 10.5-34.5°C

Springtime brings slightly warmer weather, with daytime temperatures that provide the perfect reason to take a dip in the pool. Temperatures generally range from the high 70s (24-26°C) to mid-80s (29-30°C), ideal for spending time outdoors. You'll also see wildflowers bursting onto the scene at this time, with lilies, dandelions and the famed California poppy all making a colorful appearance.

Summer: June – September

Average temperatures: 70-101°F / 21-38°C

July, August and September are usually the warmest months in Greater Palm Springs, with daily temperatures that can hit the low triple digits. Early morning and evening temperatures might dip into the 70-degree range, making for great morning hiking and biking and idyllic patio dinners under a mister. It is the perfect time to take advantage of luxury savings on everything, from resorts to golf.

Fall: October – November

Average temperatures: 48-91°F / 9-33°C

Some might say that our fall resembles other destinations' summers. Bright blue skies with temperatures that range from the 70s to around 90 degrees are common, although nights in later fall can require a sweater. It is our "secret" season to visit, but we're sharing it with you.



VISITOR + TOURISM STATISTICS



Overall Economic Impact

\$7.5 BILLION



Annual Visitor Spend

\$5.9 BILLION



Annual Day & Overnight Visitors

14.1 MILLION



Annual Overnight Visitors

6.1 MILLION



Hotels

200+



Hotel Rooms

16,500+



Tourism-Generated State Local Taxes

\$687 MILLION



Tourism-Generated Federal Taxes

\$518 MILLION



53,572

Area Jobs Supported by Tourism
(22% of total jobs)



1 IN 5

local jobs are
tourism-related

*Economic Impact Statistics are based on 2019 research study by Tourism Economics—An Oxford Company.



ROOTED IN NATURE

- The Cahuilla (pronounced ka-WEE-ya) Indians were the area's first settlers, dating back an estimated 2,000 years.
- The area of Greater Palm Springs is surrounded by four picturesque mountain ranges: the Santa Rosa Mountains to the southwest, the San Jacinto Mountains to the west, the Little San Bernardino Mountains to the east, and San Geronimo Mountain to the north.
- Part of the 800-mile San Andreas Fault runs through Greater Palm Springs, visible between two massive tectonic plates: the North American plate and the Pacific plate.
- Super-heated, sulfur-free water emerges from an underground aquifer at temps of up to 180 degrees Fahrenheit, producing natural, healing hot springs for soaking.
- Because of its hot, dry climate, the Coachella Valley leads the nation in growing and harvesting dates, tracing its roots back to the 1890s when date palms were brought over from the Middle East.
- Greater Palm Springs is home to approximately 10,000 palm trees.
- Native birds include the burrowing owl, roadrunner, Costa's hummingbird and cactus wren, and native mammals include the kit fox, bighorn sheep and badgers.
- Creosote, jumping cholla, mesquite, ocotillo, palo verde, barrel cactus and smoke trees are common among the natural vegetation you'll see throughout Greater Palm Springs.



9 RESORT CITIES. ONE BEAUTIFUL OASIS.

palm springs | desert hot springs | cathedral city | rancho mirage | palm desert | indian wells | la quinta | indio | coachella

Greater Palm Springs encompasses nine cities—Palm Springs, Desert Hot Springs, Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert, Indian Wells, La Quinta, Indio and Coachella—each offering its own blend of experiences. Located in Riverside County, Greater Palm Springs has a year-round population of 387,305 that expands to more than 600,000 during the peak season months of January through May.



POPULATION BY CITY*

	2020	2024 (ESTIMATED)	PERCENT INCREASE
PALM SPRINGS	47,800	61,600	28.9%
DESERT HOT SPRINGS	29,400	61,000	107.5%
CATHEDRAL CITY	54,200	76,300	40.8%
RANCHO MIRAGE	18,400	25,200	37%
PALM DESERT	52,800	64,100	21.4%
INDIAN WELLS	5,600	6,400	14.3%
LA QUINTA	40,800	47,700	16.9%
INDIO	90,400	129,300	43.0%
COACHELLA	45,200	129,300	186.1%

*Source: Southern California Association of Governments (March 2020)

PALM SPRINGS

Palm Springs, the location of the destination's airport and convention center, has a laid-back vibe with a walkable downtown corridor with beckoning restaurants and shops. Toward the north end of town is the Uptown Design District filled with vintage clothing and retail stores that cater to the many tourists who visit the city to view the abundance of midcentury modern architecture.

DESERT HOT SPRINGS

Desert Hot Springs is home to some of the purest hot and cold mineral springs in the world, thanks to an underground aquifer beneath the city. Resorts and boutique hotels, from luxury to budget, welcome both overnight and day guests to soak in the waters and let the cares of daily life float away.

CATHEDRAL CITY

Though home to country clubs and exceptional hotels, Cathedral City shines as a haven for the arts. Thanks to a recent Public Arts Initiative, visitors can discover several works on display throughout the city, including the mosaic-tiled Fountain of Life statue in the center of downtown. Art and design galleries on Perez Road, the city's art and design district, feature one-of-a-kind treasures and vintage furniture finds in eclectic warehouse-style shops.

RANCHO MIRAGE

A luxurious lifestyle meets a playful landscape in Rancho Mirage. Several past U.S. Presidents, including Barack Obama, have hosted foreign heads of state and unplugged here, finding peace amid the palm trees and greens of Sunnylands, the former estate of Walter and Leonore Annenberg. For kids, there are more than 80 hands-on exhibits at the Children's Museum of the Desert, and kids of all ages can reach for the stars at the city's new state-of-the-art observatory.

PALM DESERT

Palm Desert, centrally located in Greater Palm Springs, is a center for shopping, entertainment, and recreation. Visitors can catch a show at the McCallum Theatre, visit the Living Desert Zoo & Gardens, shop on El Paseo, visit the Palm Desert branch of the Palm Springs Art Museum, tour several international art galleries, or head outdoors on one of the hiking trails.

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INDIAN WELLS

From its earliest days as a Cahuilla Indian village to its Golden Age of Hollywood era in the 1950s and '60s to today, Indian Wells is an oasis of luxury. World-class cultural events and attractions, including the Indian Wells Arts Festival, Ironman 70.3 and Taste of Tennis, bring tens of thousands of art lovers, athletes and epicureans to the city each year, while 36 holes of championship golf invite visitors to tee off where the likes of Arnold Palmer and President Dwight D. Eisenhower once played.

LA QUINTA

This "Gem in the Desert" embraces the outdoors and the arts. Spend the day romanticizing and wandering through Old Town, La Quinta's main street with cobblestone sidewalks, whitewashed adobe walls, and bougainvillea galore. The quaint thoroughfare provides the perfect storybook-like setting for a chill afternoon of shopping and al fresco dining. Browse local artists' wares during Art on Main Street, shop for fresh fare and flowers at the Old Town Farmers Market, or head through cottage-filled neighborhoods to trails that traverse beautiful desert mountains and canyons. The city, named after the historic La Quinta Resort, was the last of the nine desert cities making up Greater Palm Springs to be established, which was on May 1, 1982.

INDIO

Indio became the first incorporated city in Greater Palm Springs—on May 30, 1930. Dubbed the City of Festivals, it has become a favorite destination for foodies and music lovers, attracting more than 1 million people each year for its multiple mainstream events, including the Coachella Valley Music & Arts Festival and Stagecoach Country Music Festival, both held at the Empire Polo Grounds. Or, check out the local music scene on weekends at The Date Shed, a date repository-turned-hip, live music venue.

COACHELLA

Culture comes alive in the "City of Eternal Sunshine," where the city's rich Mexican heritage shines through in community events like Día de los Muertos, the acclaimed Coachella Walls mural project, and authentic Mexican cuisine you won't find anywhere else in Greater Palm Springs. In the 1960s and '70s, the city became a hub for the Cesar Chavez-led civil rights movement for farmworkers, and today the surrounding area is used for farming fruits and vegetables, including dates.





BY AIR

Palm Springs International Airport (PSP) is the Coachella Valley's only commercial airport. PSP handles more than 2.5 million total passengers each year with direct flights from 12 airlines flying nonstop to PSP from 28 destinations and connections from over 500 destinations worldwide.

PSP offers safe and efficient service with a level of class, style, and comfort not found at other airports. The unique architecture of the terminal building delivers an unprecedented passenger experience offering outdoor dining and seating.

Scoring high marks with travelers for a stress-free trip, the airport is only minutes from plane to baggage to resorts and hotels.

Carriers include Air Canada, Alaska Airlines, Allegiant Air, American Airlines, Boutique Air, Delta Air Lines, Frontier, JetBlue, Southwest, Sun Country, United Airlines and WestJet.



BY CAR

Driving to Greater Palm Springs is accessible from major metropolitan areas in Southern California and the Southwest.

MILES FROM MAJOR CITIES

Los Angeles	110 miles
San Diego	125 miles
Newport Beach	115 miles
Anaheim	100 miles
San Bernardino	65 miles
Riverside	65 miles
Phoenix	265 miles
Las Vegas	280 miles



BY BUS

Flixbus is an affordable and comfortable way to travel with daily routes from major metropolitan areas.

FLIXBUS



GETTING AROUND GPS

Once you arrive in Greater Palm Springs, you can drive through the entire Coachella Valley in just under 45 minutes. There's also an abundance of shuttles, car services and ride-share options for your convenience available 24/7. SunLine Transit System provides bus service across Greater Palm Springs with stops at popular destinations including museums, casinos and theaters, and come equipped with bike racks.



WHERE TO STAY

A wide array of accommodations ranging from brand-name luxury resorts, trendy hotels, and intimate inns to historic hideaways, midcentury boutiques, and vacation rentals of celebrity estates offers endless choices to play by day and rest at night. Greater Palm Springs offers more than 16,500 hotel rooms.

From the natural healing waters of Desert Hot Springs and tennis gardens in Indian Wells to lush fairways in La Quinta, many Greater Palm Springs hotels have much to offer on-site—just steps outside your door. Many resorts and hotels offer extensive amenities like world-class spas, poolside dining, cool aquatic features, pet-friendly packages, golf and tennis, on-site holiday events and more.



WHERE TO EAT + DRINK

From al fresco cafes in downtown Palm Springs and tiny taco joints and panaderías in Coachella to fine dining restaurants along El Paseo in Palm Desert, the tastes and flavors of Greater Palm Springs are as varied as the nine cities that make up this Southern California oasis.

The destination's rich agricultural bounty and world-class resorts draw the most innovative chefs from around the globe, who specialize in fresh, farm-to-table fare and serve creative twists on American classics. Even the coffee shops brew organic, specialty drinks that elevate coffee-pouring to an art.

Every hour is a happy hour in Greater Palm Springs, where a thriving craft cocktail culture, dating back to the 1950s, and a growing number of local breweries, distilleries and wine bars offer countless libations to savor. Top mixologists pour the destination's best sips using local ingredients and innovative techniques to create something new, like a surprising twist on an Old Fashioned or a colorful Tiki-inspired concoction.

Several food festivals, including Indio International Tamale Festival, Palm Desert Food & Wine and Props & Hops Craft Beer Festival, draw epicureans for days of dining and tastings. Each June, Greater Palm Springs Restaurant Week encourages diners to explore new dishes and share great meal deals and moments at more than 100 participating restaurants.





GREATER TOGETHER, SAFER TOGETHER

More than 450 local businesses to ensure visitors can truly relax and feel safe throughout their stay. As part of the **Greater Palm Springs Convention & Visitors Bureau's** "Greater Together, Safer Together" pledge that launched in Summer 2020, they are committed to uphold the highest health standards and safety protocols.

From hotels and resorts to restaurants and retail shops, these tourism attractions pledge to keep Greater Palm Springs safer by following guidelines from the State of California and the CDC. Businesses committed to these safety practices are stamped with the pledge logo on their websites and social media channels so guests can feel confident at every step of the experience.

Disinfecting protocols, physical distancing markers, and employee hygiene training are core safety practices of the pledge, in addition to businesses implementing a site-specific protection plan.

[VIEW THE PLEDGE ▶](#)



STORYTELLING



HEALING VIBES

This magical, sun-kissed oasis is a place for visitors to be their healthiest selves. Since the days of the earliest Native American settlers and later when Old Hollywood came to relax in our healing waters, Greater Palm Springs has created an environment for wellness.

Spa resorts and retreats offer a spectrum of rejuvenating treatments and healing rituals set against a backdrop of ancient waterfalls and minerals baths surrounded by whispering palms. In this natural escape, it's easy to exercise, practice yoga, meditate in a sound bath, and eat healthy. A variety of fitness and recreation activities await, as well as restaurants and farmers markets filled with the region's bounty of fresh fruits and vegetables.



OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

Get outside! The dramatic beauty of Greater Palm Springs is sure to get you moving. Explore the natural wonders at a leisurely pace or kick it up to a whole new level in challenging landscapes. Ride the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway up more than 8,500 feet to the top of Mount San Jacinto, where you'll find more than 50 miles of hiking trails, or shake things up aboard a rugged desert Jeep tour to the legendary San Andreas Fault.

You can also see the sights on horseback, hiking trails, rock climbing, mountain bikes and ATVs, or get behind the wheel of a BMW M-series at the BMW Performance Driving School at Thermal Club. Discover more of the desert on a hot air balloon, biplane or helicopter ride.



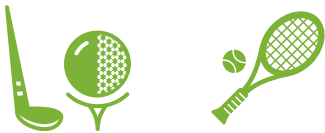
STORYTELLING



dineGPS

Visitors to Greater Palm Springs will find a variety of delicious experiences. The region's agricultural bounty and easy desert lifestyle lure talented chefs to create lavish brunch buffets, farm-to-table dishes, ethnic fusion and familiar comfort foods with a contemporary twist. You can also find ice cream, smoothies, juices and coffee shops for that afternoon or after-dinner treat.

Everything from gourmet roadhouses and white-linen fine dining to sports bars, breweries and casual al fresco cafes elevate the ambiance. Discover great spots to gather for coffee, celebrate a special occasion or relax with creative craft cocktails in a cool desert setting. Dogs live the good life in Greater Palm Springs, as many restaurants offer pet-friendly patios so you can eat with your furry friend. A number of food and wine festivals are held throughout the year, anchored by the annual Greater Palm Springs Restaurant Week in June, featuring more than 100 restaurants with special prix fixe menus.



GOLF & TENNIS

Greater Palm Springs is a top destination for golf and PGA and LPGA tournaments. Hit the links on 100 golf courses designed by some of the world's most famous golf architects and pros, like Arnold Palmer, Pete Dye, Gary Player and Jack Nicklaus. FootGolf, a challenging hybrid of golf and soccer, is also a popular sport, with the American FootGolf League (AFGL) headquartered here.

The area's first racquet clubs opened in the 1930s, drawing a Hollywood crowd who loved the idea of playing a little tennis before mingling over martinis by the pool. Today, tennis players find top-notch instruction programs and courts, including the Indian Wells Tennis Garden, home of the annual BNP Paribas Open and the second-largest tennis stadium in the world. Pickleball—a close cousin of tennis that's a fun blend of badminton, ping-pong, and tennis—is becoming a Greater Palm Springs favorite. In 2019, the USA Pickleball National Championships were held at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden, and they're scheduled to be there again in 2021.



STORYTELLING



EQUESTRIAN

From horseback riding in Palm Springs to matches at Indio's famed polo clubs, there are plenty of ways to enjoy equestrian sports. In fact, the first mayor of Palm Springs, Frank Bogert, arrived in Greater Palm Springs in 1927 on horseback. The Eldorado Polo Club and the Empire Polo Club host weekly polo matches on select weekends January to April. Pack a picnic lunch and watch the ponies and the players race up and down the fields from the sidelines. Matches are open to the public at no charge. Those who wish to gallop can take guided horseback tours through the canyons at the historic Smoke Tree Stables.



HIKING

Hiking in Greater Palm Springs hits all the high notes — serenity, scenery, and fitness — and there's no better way to explore the destination's natural beauty and wonder than on foot. Along the way, you'll encounter everything from cacti, succulents, and twisted canyons encircled by fantastic rock formations to lush palm tree oases sheltering trickling streams. Venture to the upper elevations of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto mountains and walk through woodlands and wildflower-filled meadows during the super-bloom season.

With hundreds of miles of trails that crisscross all types of terrain and cover such a diverse landscape, there's truly an expedition for everyone. Breathe in the fresh air among cottontail rabbits, bobcats, and more than 200 species of bird in their natural wetland habitat. Whatever direction you go, embrace the outdoors where wildlife, wellness and wonder collide.



STORYTELLING



FESTIVALS

Film, art and music are celebrated all year long with multi-day festivals. The Palm Springs International Film Festival kicks off the year in January with a star-studded gala event that is considered the unofficial prelude to the Academy Awards, filled with 12 days of nearly 180 screenings in theaters around the region.

Art lovers in pursuit of fine art and collectables look forward to events like the Southwest Arts Festival, Art Palm Springs, and Indian Wells Arts Festival. Every Thursday evening in downtown Palm Springs, streets are blocked off for VillageFest, a night-time pedestrian street fair that attracts hundreds of artisans, entertainers and vendors.

Meanwhile, the Empire Polo Club transitions from horses to stages, playing host to two internationally renowned mega live concert series in April. More than 250,000 people attend each weekend of the two-weekend Coachella Valley Music & Arts Festival followed by an additional 85,000 country music fans for Stagecoach.



ARTS & CULTURE

Known for its celebrated arts and culture scene, Greater Palm Springs offers visitors a chance to explore new, creative dimensions and visual inspiration at its many museums. The Palm Springs Art Museum features three floors of painting, photography, sculpture and other media, as well as an on-site theater and bistro. The museum's Architecture and Design Center, Edwards Harris Pavilion, a few blocks away, is equally inspiring. Other standouts, such as the Palm Springs Air Museum, Sunnylands Center & Gardens, Coachella Valley History Museum and Cabot's Pueblo Museum, showcase everything from vintage World War II aircraft and historical archives to Native American artifacts.



STORYTELLING



CASINOS & ENTERTAINMENT

You can bet on an unforgettable time at any of the casinos in Greater Palm Springs. From slot machines and table games like poker, blackjack and craps to live entertainment and dancing, each property promises excitement beyond the gaming floor.

Musicians, comedians and other headlining acts perform regularly at Agua Caliente Resort Casino Spa Rancho Mirage's state-of-the-art entertainment venue. Rock Yard at Fantasy Springs Resort Casino also draws crowds to its free summer outdoor concerts and tribute bands, as well as live music on Fridays and Saturdays, while local performers take the stage at Spotlight 29's Showroom. Augustine Casino in Coachella is known for its weekend all-you-can-eat seafood buffet. Opening in late 2020, the area's newest gem, Agua Caliente Casino Cathedral City, will open its doors, consisting of over 30,000 sq. feet of gaming, including 530 slot machines and eight table games.



MODERNISM

Greater Palm Springs is home to the largest concentration of midcentury modern architecture in the nation. Visionary modern masters Albert Frey, Donald Wexler and E. Stewart Williams designed sleek modern homes and businesses that are fixtures of the desert style.

Modernism Week in February celebrates this unrivalled design legacy with more than 350 events including parties, films, architectural bus tours, home and neighborhood walking tours and lectures. In February 2019, the 11-day event drew more than 152,000 architecture aficionados from around the world. A four-day fall preview is held in October. Private, group and self-guided sightseeing tours are available throughout the year.



STORYTELLING



FAMILY FUN

From wild animals to waterslides, there are countless attractions for kids. Pool days are a perfect way to chill with the family. The new HyTides Plunge Waterpark and Desert Twist Lazy River at the Hyatt Regency Indian Wells Resort & Spa features a set of 30-foot dueling waterslides, which are the tallest in Greater Palm Springs. The Omni Rancho Las Palmas Resort & Spa features its own 2-acre water playground with a lazy river and sandy beach, while the Westin Mission Hills Golf Resort & Spa invites the young, and young at heart, to zip down the main pool's 60-foot waterslide. Or find your wild side and feed the giraffes at the 1,200-acre Living Desert Zoo & Gardens—and be sure to visit the zoo's new Australian Adventures exhibit featuring wallabies, kookaburras and other animals from down under.

Catch a ride on the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, the world's largest rotating tram car that travels over 2.5 miles along the breathtaking cliffs of Chino Canyon to the pristine wilderness of Mt. San Jacinto State Park. Depending on the season, you can either hike or snowshoe 8,500 feet in elevation.

Sport enthusiasts enjoy open-air jeep tours, horseback rides, bike tours, family golf clinics, pickleball and FootGolf.



ROMANCE

With sun-kissed skies and starry nights, Greater Palm Springs is a lovely retreat. Taking a cue from Elvis, who swept Priscilla away to a honeymoon hideaway here, other couples have followed suit, soaking up that stardust magic for marriage proposals, engagement parties, weddings, honeymoons and anniversaries. Whether it's an intimate dinner for two, a quiet hilltop hike, or a couples massage, you'll fall in love with all the area has to offer to set the mood.



STORYTELLING



RETAIL THERAPY

Whether you love unique chic boutiques, designer shops, vintage finds or your favorite retailers, Greater Palm Springs has plenty of shopping options. From outlet malls to street fairs, boutiques to independently owned galleries, you're sure to find just what you're shopping for, and a perhaps a few surprises. Discover locally crafted souvenirs, retro-fabulous vintage clothing, high-fashion resort wear and just about everything in-between.

Explore the downtowns of Old Town La Quinta and Palm Springs before swinging to the trendy Uptown Design District for one-of-a-kind boutiques. Premier luxury retailers line Palm Desert's El Paseo avenue, also known as the Rodeo Drive of the desert. The outdoor mall at The River at Rancho Mirage and other shopping centers with big retailers can satisfy shoppers on any budget.



LGBTQ+

With a vibrant lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community, Greater Palm Springs is a welcoming LGBTQ travel destination. Visitors find plenty to enjoy around town, including hotels, drag events, bars and nightclubs that proudly wave rainbow flags.

Celebrating strength, equality and self-determination of the LGBTQ community, Greater Palm Springs Pride in November features a large parade, block party, and more, bringing a diverse community of more than 140,000 people together. Two other large-scale events are held in the spring: The Dinah, presented by Club Skirts, which is billed as the largest girl party music festival, and the White Party Palm Springs a fun gathering of pool and dance parties for guys.



STORYTELLING



WEDDINGS

Greater Palm Springs is a preferred location for couples looking to mark the big day with a destination wedding—one that friends and family are excited to attend. Nearly every resort hosts beautiful ceremonies, from the most elegant ballrooms to intimate outdoor patios overlooking the dreamy desert landscape. Wedding parties often rent out an entire boutique hotel for the ceremony and accommodations. From lush green golf courses to sparkling pools, any backdrop makes for picture-perfect wedding photos.



SIGNATURE EVENTS

More than 300 days of sunshine and outstanding venues attract many notable annual events.

(Note: all events are subject to change. Please verify before publishing)

PALM SPRINGS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

psfilmfest.org

Dates: January

BNP PARIBAS OPEN

bnpparibasopen.com

Dates: March

DESERT CLASSIC BY WORKDAY GOLF TOURNAMENT

desert-classic.com

Dates: January

FASHION WEEK EL PASEO

fashionweekelpaseo.com

Dates: March

HITS DESERT CIRCUIT HORSE SHOW

hitsshows.com

Dates: January - March

INDIAN WELLS ARTS FESTIVAL

indianwellsartfestival.com

Dates: March

SOUTHWEST ARTS FESTIVAL EMPIRE POLO CLUB

southwestartsfest.com

Dates: January

PALM DESERT FOOD + WINE FESTIVAL

palmdesertfoodandwine.com

Dates: March

DESERT X

desertx.org

Dates: February - April (Biennial)

LPGA ANA INSPIRATION

anainspiration.com

Dates: April

TOUR DE PALM SPRINGS

tourdepalmsprings.com

Dates: February

CLUBSKIRTS PRESENTS: THE DINAH

thedinah.com

Dates: April

MODERNISM WEEK

modernismweek.com

Dates: February

COACHELLA VALLEY MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL

coachella.com

Dates: April (two weekends)

LA QUINTA ARTS FESTIVAL

lqaf.com

Dates: March

STAGECOACH COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL

stagecoachfestival.com

Dates: April



SIGNATURE EVENTS (CONTINUED)

More than 300 days of sunshine and outstanding venues attract many notable annual events.

(Note: all events are subject to change. Please verify before publishing)

WHITE PARTY

jeffreysanker.com

Dates: April

GREATER PALM SPRINGS PRIDE WEEKEND

pspride.org

Dates: November

GREATER PALM SPRINGS RESTAURANT WEEK

dinegps.com

Dates: May - June

MARGARITAVILLE USA PICKLEBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

usapickleballnationalchampionships.com

Dates: November

PALM SPRINGS INTERNATIONAL SHORTFEST

psfilmfest.org

Dates: June

CATHEDRAL CITY HOT AIR BALLOON FESTIVAL

discovercathedralcity.com/events

Dates: November

SPLASH HOUSE WEEKEND 1

splashhouse.com

Dates: June

PROPS & HOPS CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL

palmspringspropsandhopsfestival.com

Dates: November

SPLASH HOUSE WEEKEND 2

splashhouse.com

Dates: August

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS PARADE, PALM SPRINGS

psfestivaloflights.com

Dates: December

JOSHUA TREE MUSIC FESTIVAL

joshuatreemusicfestival.com

Dates: October

WALK OF THE INNS

walkingtouroftheinns.com

Dates: December

HWY 62 OPEN STUDIO ART TOURS

hwy62arttours.org

Dates: October, 2 weekends

INDIO INTERNATIONAL TAMALE FESTIVAL

tamalefestival.net

Dates: December

MODERNISM WEEK: FALL PREVIEW

modernismweek.com

Dates: October

IRONMAN INDIAN WELLS/LA QUINTA

ironman.com

Dates: December

PALM DESERT GOLF CART PARADE

golfcartparade.com

Dates: October



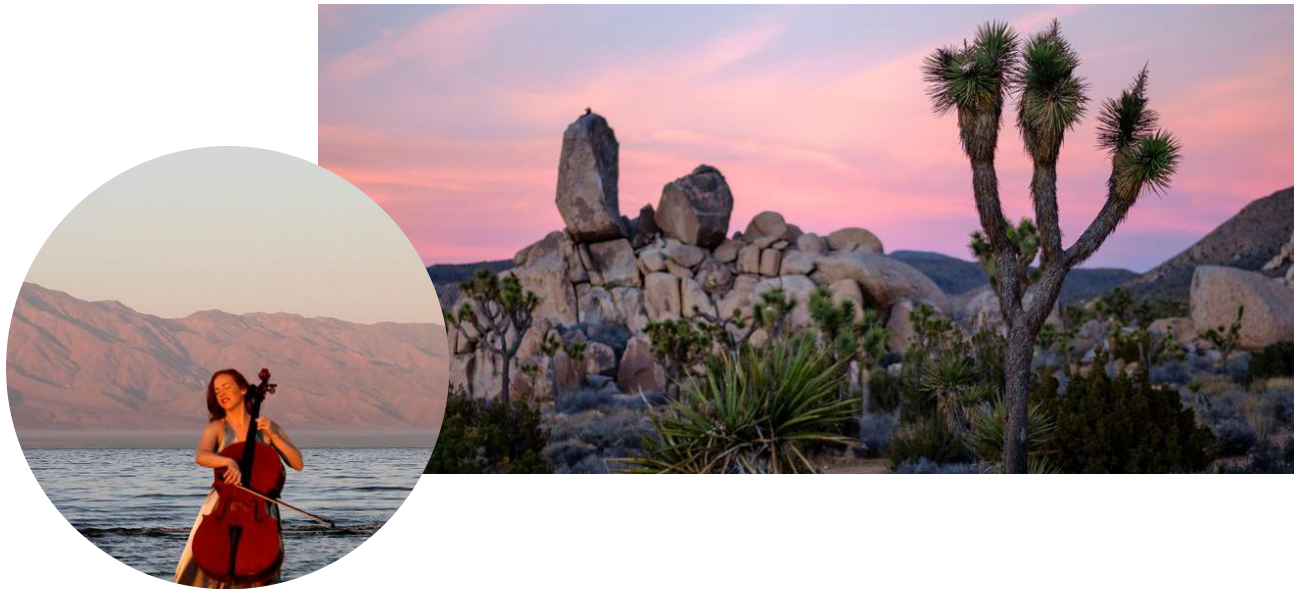
DESERT REGIONS

visitcaliforniadeserts.com



Joshua Tree National Park

With nearly 800,000 acres of mystical beauty, Joshua Tree National Park is undoubtedly one of the world's most incredible natural desert treasures. Sweeping, grand in scale and populated by granite monoliths and voluptuous rock and boulder formations, the park offers wonder to eco-travelers, outdoor adventurers and naturalists. Two large ecosystems come together to form this quiet land, conducive to meditation and roaming, that have been carved by extremes in climate from wind to rain to an ever-present, relentless sun. Evidence of many diverse forms of plant life from creosote to ocotillo are found everywhere, but none are as unique or prevalent as the park's namesake: the Joshua tree, standing majestically across the vast topography. During the day, life may seem scarce since the park is largely nocturnal – featuring reptiles and animals that adapt to the lack of water and high temperatures by going underground. After the sun sets, the park becomes a prime place for stargazing; as an International Dark Sky Park, it offers some of the brightest starry nights in the country.



Salton Sea

One of the world's largest inland seas and lowest spots on earth, the Salton Sea has a fascinating history. What a wild water-ride the Salton Sea has taken. from the lake's creation in 1905 by a flood to today's recreational area. In the 1920s, construction of resorts, restaurants and homes began, and by the 1950s, celebrity visits were numerous with the likes of Frank Sinatra and Jerry Lewis attending festive boat regattas. The nautically themed North Shore Beach & Yacht Club opened in 1959, with celebrities from the Marx Brothers to the Beach Boys keeping boats in the marina. A flood destroyed the jetty in 1981, closing the facility. However, the Albert Frey-designed building was restored and reopened in 2010 to serve as the current Salton Sea History Museum and Visitor Center.



DESERT REGIONS

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Bombay Beach

At first glance Bombay Beach looks completely abandoned: a modern-day ghost town and the perfect set for a zombie movie. The former waterfront resort has always had a certain allure to those who enjoy urban decay, but in more recent years the town has been the home of the Bombay Beach Biennale, which despite the name, occurs yearly. Among the dilapidated homes and abandoned trailers, you will find true artistic treasures. Wander around and take some photos while soaking in the local creative energy. One of the highlights is the Bombay Beach Drive-In on Avenue E. Look for the turquoise sign with the yellow arrow. Next, head over to The Bombay Beach Institute of Particle Physics, Metaphysics & International Relations — part museum/gallery, part performance space and home to a new Community Garden — located at 9535 Avenue H. Chickens share this space with various murals, statues and other installations, so take some time to explore all the vignettes. Just down the street on Avenue H and Fourth Street is Angler Grove, created by artist Randy Pulombo. It's like a trippy, modernistic tribute to the trance-inducing effects of intergalactic disco balls. Bonus points if you can find the Banksy wall!



Salvation Mountain & Slab City

Salvation Mountain is a hillside visionary environment created by local resident Leonard Knight (1931–2014) and located about 90 minutes from Palm Springs and several miles east of the Salton Sea. Fifty feet high and 150 feet wide, the folk-art site includes flowers, trees, waterfalls, suns, bluebirds, and many other fascinating and colorful objects made of adobe clay and paint.

Adjacent to Salvation Mountain is a community known as Slab City, often referred to as one of the last free cities in America. The abandoned Marine facility that hosts remnant slabs from the original base is home to winter inhabitants who are mostly retirees as well as some full-time residents who relish life “off the grid.”



