

SUMMER 2022

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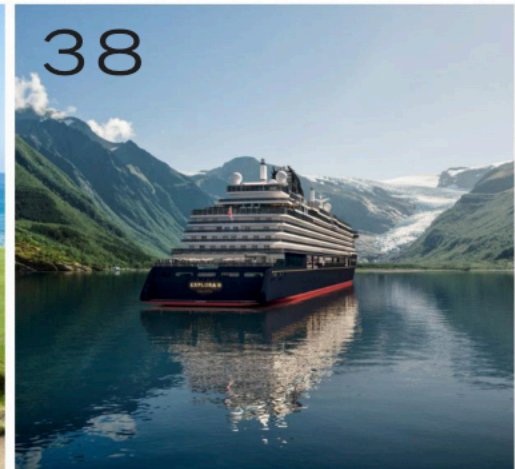
THE JOY OF DISCOVERY

OUT THERE:
TROPICAL TIDINGS
POSTCARD FROM
PALM SPRINGS
MARITIME MARVELS
MEXICO UNEXPECTED

PLUS:
LUXE LIMO
OBJECTS OF DESIRE
TIME TRAVEL
PLAYED AND PERFECTED

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THE JOY OF DISCOVERY



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California cool

*Ten reasons why Greater Palm Springs should be on every
Ultraveller's wish list. By Nigel Tisdall*

1 ETERNAL SUNSHINE

Some 100 miles east of Los Angeles, the Coachella Valley is a stark desert edged with lofty mountains that has blossomed into a paradise of palms, pools and partying. Four of the nine cities that make up Greater Palm Springs (visitgreaterpalmsprings.com) are less than 50 years old. Blue skies, year-round sunshine, midcentury glamour and liberal attitudes make good times almost guaranteed.

2 MOVIE STARS

The city of Palm Springs became famous due to a Hollywood rule that required actors to stay within two hours of its studios – and this was as far as they could get away. Elvis honeymooned here, Sinatra built a pool shaped like a grand piano, Walt Disney played polo, and everyone dined at old-school Melvyn's (inglesideinn.com), which still serves a superlative steak Diane. Expect a wave of nostalgia when the 1950s-era thriller *Don't Worry Darling* (dontworrydarling.movie), which was filmed here and stars Florence Pugh and Harry Styles, is released on 23 September.

3 MIDCENTURY MAGIC

In the 1950s and 1960s Palm Springs became a focus for desert-inspired modernist architecture that today sees fans swooning over a sun-kissed world of yuccas, canasta, vintage automobiles and orange lipstick. The adulation peaks during Modernism Week (modernismweek.com), held in October and February, but there are also guided and

VINTAGE CHARM

Above: Palm Springs is mecca for midcentury modern fans

MOVIE NIGHT

Right: follow Hollywood royalty and dine at the legendary Melvyn's restaurant

MAKING WAVES

Below: Palm Springs Surf Club, opening early next year, will cater to beginners and pro surfers alike



PHOTO: CHRIS MILLER, DTINDIO



HIS KIND OF TOWN

This picture: Sinatra House, with its piano-shaped pool

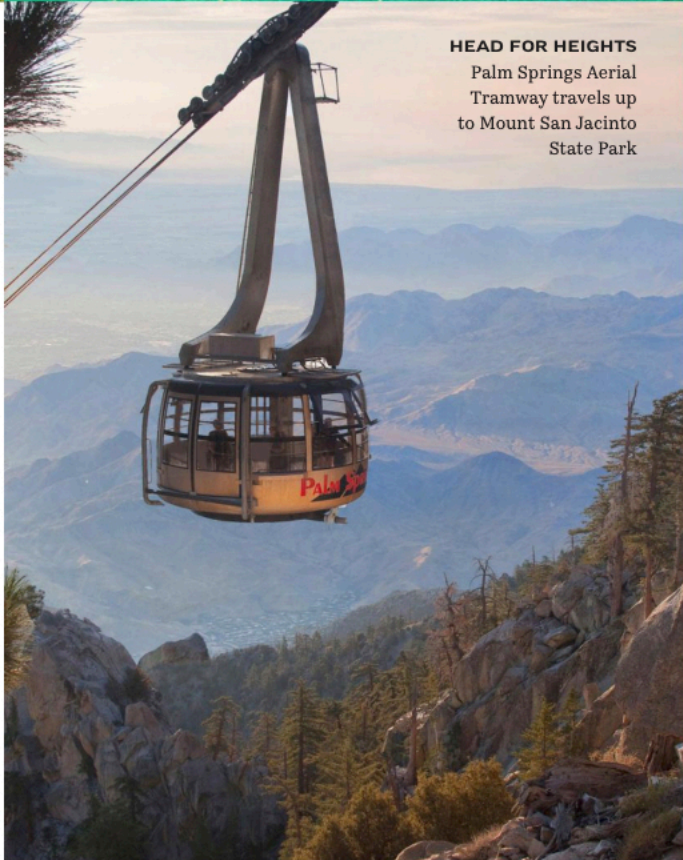
AESTHETIC APPEAL

Far right: The E Stewart Williams-designed Palm Springs Art Museum



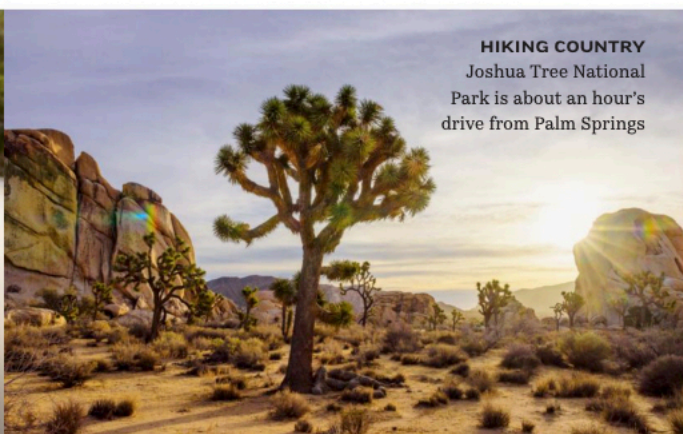
HEAD FOR HEIGHTS

Palm Springs Aerial Tramway travels up to Mount San Jacinto State Park



HIKING COUNTRY

Joshua Tree National Park is about an hour's drive from Palm Springs



drive-yourself tours. Plan your fun at the triangular-roofed 1965 Tramway Gas Station, now the Palm Springs Visitor Center (visitpalmsprings.com).

4 SPORTY TIMES

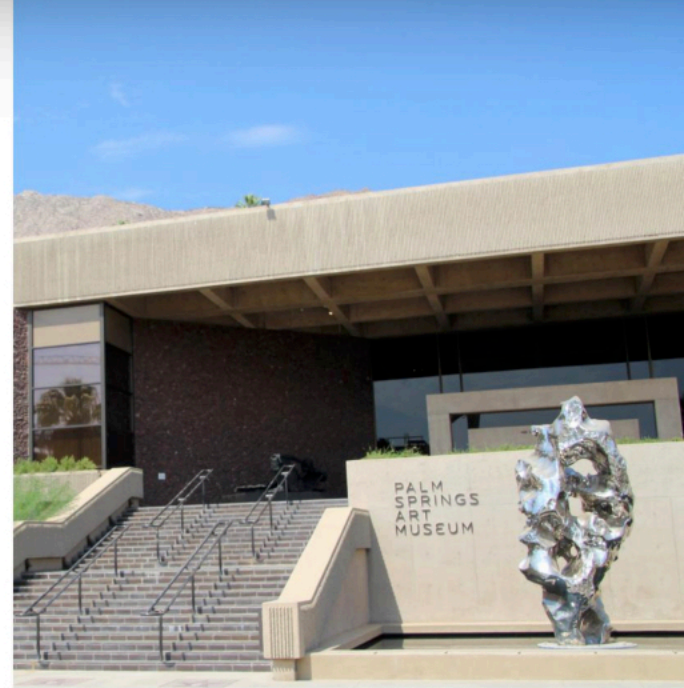
Tennis led the way with stars such as Lucille Ball and Kirk Douglas hanging out at the Racquet Club in Palm Springs where a 22-year-old Marilyn Monroe was discovered in 1948. Now some 400,000 fans flock to the BNP Paribas Open (bnpparibasopen.com) held in Indian Wells every March. Golf took off in the 1950s, centred on the Thunderbird Country Club. Today there are more than 100 courses along with – well, this is California – the National Museum of Golf Cars in La Quinta (cartmart.com).

5 WORLD-CLASS ART

The 48,000 residents of Palm Springs are super-proud their hometown boasts a top-notch art museum worthy of any major city. Opened in 1976 in a masterpiece building by E Stewart Williams, Palm Springs Art Museum (psmuseum.org) features works by Henry Moore, Andy Warhol and Anish Kapoor, with a companion outpost devoted to design and architecture. And, of course, the people-watching is fab...

6 COCKTAILS GALORE

You won't go thirsty in this desert thanks to an undying devotion to happy hours, fine Californian wine and dimly lit, speakeasy-style bars. Cocktail connoisseurs should seek out Truss & Twine (trussandtwine.com) to savour its formidable sugar-rimmed Brandy Crusta (cognac, curaçao, maraschino), while Bar Cecil (barcecil.com), which



pays homage to fashion photographer Cecil Beaton, serves a celebrated Fifty Dollar Martini that features hand-crafted Jean-Charles Boisset vodka and a caviar-topped devilled egg.

7 PARTY BY THE POOL

Pack your best swimwear – there are more than 50,000 pools in the Coachella Valley and, for many, they're the stars of the show. Weekenders driving up from LA and San Diego spend hours in them drinking and chatting while the big resorts roll out the DJs and fire pits. There's even an app, Swimplly (swimplly.com), via which you can rent a private pool by the hour. Surf resorts will be the next big thing, with three wave pools in the planning, including Coral Mountain in La Quinta, backed by champion pro Kelly Slater.

8 TAKE A HIKE

Built in 1963, Palm Springs Aerial Tramway (pstramway.com) whisks passengers to 8,516 feet (almost 2,600 metres) in an exhilarating 10-minute, 2.5 mile (4km) ascent. Up in Mount San Jacinto State Park the air is cooler, the views over the valley spectacular and winding trails lead into enchanting pine forests. There's more rewarding walking amid the magnificent fan palms of Indian Canyons (indian-canyons.com) and in Joshua Tree National Park (nps.gov/jotr), an hour's drive northeast.

9 FLY IN A VINTAGE PLANE

The star surprise in the Coachella Valley is undoubtedly the vast Palm Springs Air Museum (palmspringsairmuseum.org) where more than 50 historic planes and helicopters are displayed, including a mighty B-17 Flying Fortress bomber and a sinister Nighthawk stealth fighter. For a sky-high adventure book a private flight in one of its six classic aircraft, ranging from a 1941 Stearman biplane once owned by hotelier Barron Hilton to a 1950s T-33 Thunderbird jet that's so treasured it costs \$4,995 to take out for a spin.

10 AND RELAX...

Blessed with abundant hot mineral-water springs, it's no surprise wellness resorts are to the fore in the area. The greatest concentration is in aptly named Desert Hot Springs, a city that's won multiple 'Best Tasting' medals for its tap water. At the new Azure Palm Hot Springs Day Spa Oasis (azurepalmsprings.com) the beneficial liquid emerges from the rocks at 167-174°F (75-79°C), and therapies include a detoxifying Desert Sage clay wrap and a facial using sun-charged citrine gemstones. ■