

Greater Palm Springs

Hiking Trails

West Valley
Palm Springs • Cathedral City • Rancho Mirage



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GREATER PALM SPRINGS

There's always something chill happening in Greater Palm Springs. For the latest information on what's going on, use the following QR codes below, which take you to landing pages on VisitGreaterPS.com.

things to do

events

restaurants

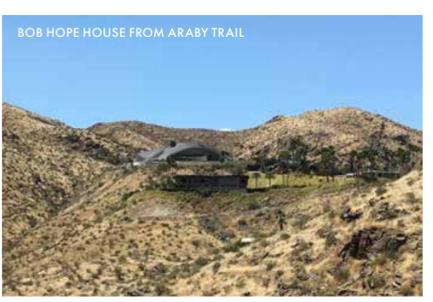
places to stay

09 ARABY TRAIL
HARD LENGTH 3.3 mi / 5.3 km | ELEV. GAIN 1,380 ft / 421 m | ROUTE TYPE Out & Back

Trailhead: Southridge Drive/Rim Road, Palm Springs

Park in the unpaved lot at Rim Road (space is limited, so arrive early). This trail gets the adrenaline pumping with steep, rocky terrain. The views alone are worth the trek — you can even spot Bob Hope's famed flying saucer-shaped house perched on the mountainside. At the intersection of the Garstin/Burgess/Berns/Henderson trails, about 1.7 miles in, turn around and return via the same route.

TIP: Experienced hikers might want to go farther on these trails inside the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument.



10 GARSTIN TRAIL
MODERATE LENGTH 3.7 mi / 6 km | ELEV. GAIN 1,108 ft / 338 m | ROUTE TYPE Loop

Trailhead: Barona Road (off Bogert Trail), Palm Springs

This trail offers many options to branch out to other hikes (though some end up in different neighborhoods, so plan your ride accordingly). After following the wash (on a section known as Shannon Trail), you'll continue onto Earl Henderson Trail, ascending higher into the foothills and passing Cahuilla Peak before returning to Garstin to finish the loop. Hikers love this trail for its incredible views of not only the Bob Hope house but also the distant windmills.

11 FRANK BOGERT TO WILDHORSE
MODERATE LENGTH 3.8 mi / 6.1 km | ELEV. GAIN 990 ft / 302 m | ROUTE TYPE Out & Back

Trailhead: Andreas Hill Drive/Bogert Trail, Palm Springs

Park on the side of the road where Andreas Hill Drive meets Bogert Trail. The path starts off a bit rocky but levels out as it curves through the hills, eventually intersecting the Garstin and Wildhorse trails, where an approximate 900-foot elevation gain rewards you with breathtaking views of the Coachella Valley. From here, you can continue onto Wildhorse Trail, which ascends steeply to the right and goes all the way to Murray Hill (see trail 12), or return to your car via the same route.



12 MURRAY HILL
MODERATE LENGTH 7+ mi / 11.3 km | ELEV. GAIN 2,000 ft / 610 m | ROUTE TYPE Out & Back

Trailhead: Andreas Hill Drive/Bogert Trail, Palm Springs

The Garstin/Frank Bogert/Wildhorse/Clara Burgess trail system leads to Murray Hill, a pyramid-shaped peak named after Scottish rancher Welwood Murray, who founded the Palm Springs Hotel in 1887. After winding through the lower hills on Frank Bogert Trail, you'll see water tanks in the distance; follow the path to the right. From here, the trail steepens, eventually intersecting Wildhorse Trail, which you'll climb to the top of a ridgeline. At the end of this stretch, turn left on Clara Burgess Trail and continue along the saddle of the mountain and up to Murray Hill, where picnic tables offer an ideal spot to rest — and take in the views — before the sharp climb down. Murray Hill can also be accessed via Garstin Trail, which connects with Clara Burgess midway.

01 PACIFIC CREST TRAIL - SNOW CREEK
HARD LENGTH 28 mi / 45 km | ELEV. GAIN 10,173 ft / 3,100 m | ROUTE TYPE One Way

Trailhead: Snow Creek/Falls Creek Roads (Whitewater)

Hike a portion of the famed Pacific Crest Trail on this challenging route set against the backdrop of Mount San Jacinto. Parking is limited and starts on Snow Creek Road; from there, follow the northbound path, which climbs into the high summits of the San Jacinto Wilderness Area. Though you can continue all the way to the Palm Springs Mountain Station (where you'll take the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway back down and will need a ride waiting), most hikers climb for 2-3 hours then turn back. *This trail is only recommended for experienced hikers who are prepared for overnight camping and steep, harsh terrain. Dogs are allowed on some portions of the Pacific Crest Trail (such as San Jacinto State Park).*

MOUNT SAN JACINTO STATE PARK

The Palm Springs Aerial Tramway climbs more than 8,500 feet along the breathtaking cliffs of Chino Canyon, depositing riders at the top of Mount San Jacinto, where 50+ miles of hiking trails through pristine alpine wilderness await. Trails 2, 3, and 4 depart from the Mountain Station and offer the perfect escape during summer, with temperatures often 30°F cooler than the valley floor; in winter, hikers can rent snowshoes from the Adventure Center and walk through a winter wonderland.

Scan the QR code to the right for additional information, hours, or trail closures.



13 CATHEDRAL CANYON TRAIL
MODERATE LENGTH 3.8 mi / 6.1 km | ELEV. GAIN 1,059 ft / 323 m | ROUTE TYPE Out & Back

Trailhead: End of Foothill Road, Cathedral City

This hiking and mountain-biking trail sets out from the southernmost tip of Cathedral Canyon Cove. Park along the paved street near the end of Foothill Road, then follow the trail for 1.9 miles until arriving at the Dunn Road intersection. Either return via the same route for a 3.8-mile trek or connect via Dunn Road to several others trails in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument.

MIRADA TRAIL SYSTEM

Trails 14, 15, 16, and 17 are part of the Mirada Trail System in Rancho Mirage. **These trailheads can be accessed behind Rancho Mirage City Hall: 69825 CA-111, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270.** The routes begin just past the grassy area in front of the Mirada Fountain at the bottom of Frank Sinatra Drive just west of Highway 111.

14 ROADRUNNER TRAIL
EASY LENGTH 0.34 mi / 0.55 km | ELEV. GAIN 300 ft / 91 m | ROUTE TYPE Loop

This trail departs just behind Rancho Mirage City Hall, passing jagged rocks and a few palm trees and desert willows until intersecting the Chuckwalla Trail. From here, you can return via the same route or follow Chuckwalla for a longer trek, descending alongside Frank Sinatra Drive.

15 CHUCKWALLA TRAIL
MODERATE LENGTH 2.1 mi / 3.4 km | ELEV. GAIN 403 ft / 123 m | ROUTE TYPE One Way

This moderate hike branches off the Roadrunner Trail, winding through the foothills of the Santa Rosa Mountains before looping toward Cathedral City and back around the Mirada Villas. The last stretch runs along the east side of Frank Sinatra Drive, between Mirada Villas and The Ritz-Carlton, Rancho Mirage.

02 ROUND VALLEY LOOP
MODERATE LENGTH 4.5 mi / 7.2 km | ELEV. GAIN 1,367 ft / 417 m | ROUTE TYPE Loop

This trail is great for hikers in search of a little exercise in the fresh alpine air. Unlike the Long Valley Discovery and Desert View loops, you'll descend the concrete ramp behind the Mountain Station and turn right. Pick up a free wilderness permit at the Long Valley Ranger Station — your last pit stop with restrooms and picnic tables — before heading out to the trailhead on the left, which begins as a Y-intersection (you can begin your loop in either direction).

03 LONG VALLEY DISCOVERY LOOP
EASY LENGTH 1 mi / 1.6 km | ELEV. GAIN 279 ft / 85 m | ROUTE TYPE Loop

Exit the Mountain Station via the winding concrete ramp and turn left, continuing on until you see signs for the trailhead. The Long Valley Discovery Loop, also known as the Discover Nature Trail, is an easy 1-mile path that introduces hikers to the flora and fauna of Mount San Jacinto State Park. This trail envelops hikers in birdsong and woodlands, with the seasonal Long Valley Creek flowing nearby and, depending on the time of year, vibrant wildflowers in full bloom.

04 DESERT VIEW LOOP
EASY LENGTH 1.7 mi / 2.7 km | ELEV. GAIN 593 ft / 181 m | ROUTE TYPE Loop

Exit the Mountain Station via the winding concrete ramp and turn left, continuing on until you see signs for the trailhead. This mostly flat 1.7-mile path meanders through the pristine pine forests of Mount San Jacinto State Park and features several scenic overlooks with breathtaking views of the valley and surrounding wilderness. Everything you need for a day hike is close at hand, including restrooms and picnic tables.

05 SKYLINE TRAIL TO MOUNTAIN STATION
HARD LENGTH 9.4 mi / 15.1 km | ELEV. GAIN 8,195 ft / 2,498 m | ROUTE TYPE One Way

Trailhead: 101 N. Museum Drive, Palm Springs

Even experienced hikers break a sweat on the Skyline Trail, part of the infamous "Cactus to Clouds" trek (which climbs more than 10,000 feet from Palm Springs to San Jacinto Peak). Set out from behind the Palm Springs Art Museum and follow signs for the Museum Trail until reaching a rest area with picnic tables. Stay right until nearly 1 mile in, where you'll turn left onto Skyline and continue climbing to the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway Mountain Station. Ride the tram back down, where your ride should be waiting.

TIP: Many people stop halfway up, around 4,000 feet, and then return via the same route, as this trail is only recommended for experienced hikers and takes an average of 7 hours to complete. The last tram departs from Mountain Station at 9:30 p.m., so plan your day hike accordingly.

06 MUSEUM TRAIL
HARD LENGTH 1.7 mi / 2.7 km | ELEV. GAIN 982 ft / 299 m | ROUTE TYPE Out & Back

Trailhead: 101 N. Museum Drive, Palm Springs

This challenging, uphill hike tests even experienced explorers with its steep incline and rocky ground. The trail begins behind the Palm Springs Art Museum parking lot and scales approximately 0.87 miles up the side of Mount San Jacinto before leveling off at a nice resting point with picnic tables and panoramic views of Greater Palm Springs. (Find free parking in the garage across the street.)



07 NORTH LYKKEN TRAIL
MODERATE LENGTH 3.6 mi / 5.8 km | ELEV. GAIN 1,142 ft / 349 m | ROUTE TYPE One Way

Trailhead: Ramon Road/S. La Miranda Road, Palm Springs

This trail begins at the end of Ramon Road (park parallel on the unpaved shoulder) and snakes approximately 1,000 feet up the canyon, where rocky outcrops, boulders, and seasonal wildflowers paint a beautiful natural backdrop. The steep switchbacks crest about 1.3 miles in; from here, turn right on Museum Trail until you reach a level area with picnic tables. You can turn left and connect with the Skyline Trail or take the Museum Trail down to the Palm Springs Art Museum parking lot, where you'll return to your car by following South Cahuilla Road to Ramon Road. For a slightly shorter hike, turn back once you've reached the picnic tables and return to your car via the same route.



08 SOUTH LYKKEN TRAIL
MODERATE LENGTH 8.8 mi / 14.1 km | ELEV. GAIN 2,217 ft / 648 m | ROUTE TYPE Out & Back

Trailheads: End of Mesquite Avenue OR South of Murray Canyon Drive on S. Palm Canyon Road, Palm Springs

Fitness fanatics and outdoor enthusiasts alike enjoy this trail for its moderate yet steep switchbacks and spectacular views. Park along South Palm Canyon Drive. The southern trailhead begins just beyond the last line of homes (look for signs to point you in the right direction) and climbs 756 feet to a flat sandy lookout known as Simonetta Kennett Viewpoint. Many hikers stop at the viewpoint and return to their cars via the same route.

Hiking Safety tips

10 Essentials to take on your hike

Our destination is home to more than 1,000 miles of breathtaking hiking trails traversing varied terrain, from wide-open sandy washes and lush palm tree groves to steep alpine wilderness. Keep in mind that from June to October, daytime temperatures here can easily reach 100°F (37.78°C) and beyond.

Hiking in extreme heat can be dangerous and even life-threatening; if there's a heat advisory in effect, DO NOT go hiking.

The following tips will help you explore safely and responsibly.

- Water** (1 liter/34 ounces minimum per person for each hour of hiking)
- Nutrition/Snacks** (think trail mix and granola bars)
- Map & Compass** (you may not always have cell service, so download map directly to your mobile device)
- Sunscreen & Hat** (you'll need both, with our 300+ days of sunshine each year)
- Extra Layers** (long sleeves and pants provide protection from the sun)
- First Aid Kit** (nature can be unpredictable)
- Comb** (to remove cactus spines and thorny stems)
- Flashlight** (for those who like to catch the sunset)
- Hand Mirror** (to signal for help if your cell won't work)
- Whistle** (in case you get separated from your group)

Scan for a list of Greater Palm Springs hikes.

visit greater palm springs

These hiking tips are brought to you by the Palm Springs Mounted Police Search and Rescue Team. Follow their Facebook page for more information.

Don't count on your cellphone. Charge up before you go, but know that service can be limited out on the trails.

To stay up-to-date on outdoor activities, hiking adventures, and more in Greater Palm Springs, sign up for our e-newsletter.



NORTH

MAP NOT TO SCALE.
Depictions of trails/locations are representative.
See reverse side for trail details.

Trailhead Marker



Palm Springs Aerial Tramway Hiking Trails

Palm Springs Aerial Tramway Mountain Station Elevation 8,516'

- 01 Pacific Crest Trail - Snow Creek
- 02 Round Valley Loop
- 03 Long Valley Discovery Loop
- 04 Desert View Loop
- 05 Skyline Trail

SEE DETAIL

TAHQUITZ CANYON

Tahquitz Canyon is part of the Agua Caliente Indian Reservation and remains one of the region's most beautiful and culturally sensitive places, with a spectacular seasonal 60-foot waterfall rewarding hikers at the top of the trail. Visitors must pay an entry fee at the Visitor Center, and hours of admission vary depending on the time of year.

Scan to learn more:




INDIAN CANYONS

From crystal-clear streams trickling through lush palm groves to fantastic granite rock walls, the Indian Canyons are like no other place on earth. As the ancestral home of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, these lands offer visitors a glimpse into the area's Indigenous past. An entry fee is required, and hours of admission vary depending on the time of year.

Scan to learn more:




COACHELLA VALLEY

Inset map showing the Coachella Valley region with cities: Desert Hot Springs, Cathedral City, Palm Springs, Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert, Indian Wells, Indio, La Quinta, and Coachella.

NORTH

MIRADA TRAIL SYSTEM, RANCHO MIRAGE

- 06 Museum Trail
- 07 North Lykken Trail
- 08 South Lykken Trail
- 09 Araby Trail
- 10 Garstin Trail
- 11 Frank Bogert Trail
- 12 Murray Hill Hike
- 13 Cathedral Canyon Trail
- 14 Roadrunner Trail
- 15 Chuckwalla Trail
- 16 Bighorn Overlook Trail
- 17 Jack Rabbit Trail
- 18 Butler-Abrams Trail

SEE DETAIL

NORTH

Don't forget to review important hiking safety tips (reverse side) before you go.

This map was created in collaboration with the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy, Friends of the Desert Mountains, and the Coachella Valley Association of Governments.