



nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



jonrawlinson

The Lap of Luxury is Palm Springs

Palm Desert, Palm Springs, 2 Days

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: Palm Springs is known as the playground of the stars, so why not help Palm Springs keep its name and be a king and queen for a weekend, or take the whole royal family. There are so many things you can do here ranging from their array of art galleries to boutiques and shops all for your pleasure. If it is going to be a family affair, these places are great for kids too, and remember there are a ton of water parks here.

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Palm Desert, Palm Springs

DAY NOTE: When you finally wake up from your comfortable bed at the Renaissance Esmeralda Resort stay on site and enjoy a great breakfast at Cava, where you can enjoy a great breakfast and a great view. After breakfast head to The Well for some pampering, for both of you. Palm Springs is know for just that palms and springs and this place has both. After your pampering head to the El Paseo Shopping Avenue and shop the mile long equivalent to Rodeo Drive, need I say more. For lunch enjoy some great food at Pacifica Seafood Restaurant where you can enjoy the freshest seafood in the desert, there will be a lot of enjoyment. Once you have had you fill either head to the Zantman Art Galleries or back to El Paseo Shopping Avenue. Zantman offers a great collection of bronze works as well as other mediums from all over the world. From here head to Coda Gallery where you will be greeted by contemporary works of paintings, sculptures, and innovative glass art to name a few. For dinner head to Chicago or Sullivan's Steakhouse where you will feel like you are in Chicago. While you are here dine on amazing steaks as well as crab and lobster, there is also a full bar so go ahead and enjoy. If you want to continue the festivities into the night head to Melvyn's where you can eat and drink New York style.



El Paseo Shopping Avenue

Fine art of shopping



Melvyn's Restaurant

Renowned Restaurant

choice, the sophisticated atmosphere and intimate lighting make this restaurant a favorite for any couple, enjoy.



Citron

Classy restaurant in the Viceroy



Reflections of...

Classy art glass



Heusso Gallery

New art and artists



Johannes Restaurant

Fine food and wine



Palapas of Araby Cove

Unique arts retreat



Ideal World

Make Your World Ideal



Kaiser Grille

Great food and classy atmosphere

Day 2 - Palm Springs

DAY NOTE: If you night went late go ahead and sleep in, or wake up early and enjoy every second you can here in Palm Springs. Breakfast will be at Citron a beautiful and sunny restaurant where you can enjoy their famous brunch. After breakfast Reflections of... will entice you with an interesting medium of art. This gallery is truly exciting and fun, and you have the ability to take a piece of it home with you. The Huesso Gallery showcases contemporary glass and ceramic arts which are very interesting and beautiful. There are also an array of other works as well so go ahead and don't be shy. For lunch Johannes is a perfect intimate dining destination. Here you will find new takes on amazing foods and it all looks like art when brought to your table. Palapas of Araby Cove is a gallery under a natural umbrella that showcases over 30 artists at any given time. There is a wide variety of art to enjoy here so be sure to keep a sharp eye out. Ideal World is mindblowing, it is a collection of all the things you want but nothing you need that is hard for any person to turn down. If you do not want to spend money here you had better leave your wallet at home. For dinner the Kaiser Grille is a great

Day 1 - Palm Desert, Palm Springs

QUICK NOTE

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contact:
tel: 877 735 7273

location:
73910 El Paseo
Palm Desert CA 92260

1 El Paseo Shopping Avenue

DESCRIPTION: This mile-long avenue in Palm Desert is often called "The Rodeo Drive of the Desert," comparing it to the renowned upscale shopping district of Beverly Hills. Art galleries, fine furnishings, couture clothing and restaurants make this tree-shaded avenue ideal for strolling and browsing. There are some bargains to be found, especially in the upscale chain stores at The Gardens on El Paseo, but most of the clientele here do not need to check the price tags. However, everyone can enjoy the free contemporary outdoor sculpture exhibits presented on the landscaped meridian. © wcities.com



wcities

contact:
tel: +1 760 325 0046 / +1 760 325 2323 (Reservations)
fax: +1 760 325 0710
<http://www.inglesideinn.com/>

location:
200 West Ramon Road
Palm Springs CA 92264

hours:
Lunch: M-F 11:30a-3p,
Dinner: daily 6p-11p, Brunch:
Sa-Su 9a-3p, Lounge: daily
10a-2a

2 Melvyn's Restaurant

DESCRIPTION: This restaurant at the Ingleside Inn is renowned as a romantic, traditional restaurant with a seductive lounge. Acclaimed as "One of the Ten Best" by Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous, it is guaranteed to be memorable. Virtually all of the appetizers could have been found on New York menus of the 1920s: shrimp cocktails, Oysters Rockefeller and Beluga Malassol caviar quoted daily at market price. The French Chicken Breast is a favorite specialty. © wcities.com



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Day 2 - Palm Springs

QUICK NOTE

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contact:
tel: 7603183005
fax: +1 760 323 3303 (Hotel)
www.viceroypalmsprings.com

location:
415 S. Belardo Rd.
Palm Springs CA 92262

hours:
Breakfast: 8am - 11am;
Lunch: 11am - 4pm; Dinner:
6pm - 10pm

1 Citron

DESCRIPTION: In keeping with its name, this restaurant, the pride of the Viceroy Palm Springs, sports sunny yellow interiors and contrasting white furniture, while retaining its Hollywood-style glamour. With dining options indoors and by the pool, it is frequented not only by the hotel's guests but also by tourists and locals looking for a fine dining experience. Modern Californian cuisine with a French twist is what you will be served here. A typical meal would consist of a sugary glass of Le Citron Bleu and a plate of tapas or spicy tacos. Try the highly recommended Maple Leaf Farm duck breast in foie gras. Dessert would involve a delectable Citron tart or a scrumptious Valrhona Chocolate Souffle. A traditional American breakfast and brunch is also available, and though the service is slow, it is well worth the wait, so dig in! © wcities.com



citysearch

contact:
tel: 760 323 3882 / +1 800
921 7787
fax: 760 323 3662
http://www.reflectionsof.com/

location:
285 South Palm Canyon Dr
Palm Springs CA 92262

hours:
Daily 10a-6p; winter hours are
extended

2 Reflections of...

DESCRIPTION: From the moment you enter this special gallery, you are surrounded by the finest in glass art. In fact, even the doorway is a glass sculpture by Ian Moyer, and the ceiling is a desert skyscape by Gene Peebles. The items available for purchase are no less splendid, from Gavin Heath's bud vases in bold primary to Bandhu S. Dunham's fantasy goblets. Everything is selected by the unerring eye of owner Dario Jones. It is a great place to find a new heirloom or dramatic focal piece for a room. © wcities.com



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contact:
tel: 760 322 8957
fax: 760 322 3361
<http://www.heussogallery.com>

location:
189 South Palm Canyon Drive
Palm Springs CA 92262

hours:
10a-6p M-Su

3 Heusso Gallery

DESCRIPTION: Specializing primarily in contemporary glass and ceramic arts, this gallery prides itself on introducing new artists to its art-collector clientele. There is always something new and different to intrigue the avid collector, and the constantly changing collection is a delight to explore. The gallery also offers paintings, lithographs, mixed-media creations, hand-blown glass and even the occasional doll or two. Many items are investment-quality, but the gallery also features reasonably priced fine gift items. © wcities.com



wcities

contact:
tel: 7607780017x
fax: +1 760 778 1447
<http://www.johannesrestaurant.com/>

location:
196 South Indian Canyon
Palm Springs CA 92262

hours:
Dinner: 7 Days, 5:00pm - 10:00pm

4 Johannes Restaurant

DESCRIPTION: The sunny golden walls of this intimate, 18-table restaurant seem to reflect the South of France rather than the Austrian origin of its owner and head chef, Johannes Bacher. No matter how unusual the combination, Johannes brings it all together in a beautifully presented meal. Yellow Beets as an appetizer? In balsamic syrup and an Austrian pumpkin seed sauce, it is sublime. Lobster in the mashed potatoes? It is a perfect accompaniment for crispy Atlantic Salmon. There is an extensive by-the-glass wine list and an exceptional variety of imported and domestic beers. © wcities.com



wcities

contact:
tel: 760 416 1818
fax: 760 416 1821
<http://www.palapas.net>

location:
3255 E Palm Canyon Dr
Palm Springs CA 92264

hours:
Daily 8a-5p

5 Palapas of Araby Cove

DESCRIPTION: This long-established gallery and plant nursery is named for the palapas: umbrella-like, palm-frond constructions offering shade. Usually at least 30 artists are represented here. At any time, one or two of the artists will be on hand giving demonstrations or talking about their work. Look for blacksmiths, glass artists, painters, illustrators, potters and multimedia artists. Visitors can also enjoy looking through the plants offered for sale, a reminder of the site's beginnings as Neel's Nursery more than 50 years ago. The 14-acre site is often booked as a venue for special events. © wcities.com



contact:

tel: 760 323 5406

fax: 760 323 7406

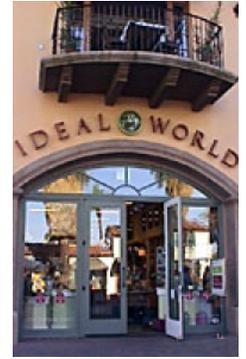
<http://www.idealworld.com>

location:

155 South Palm Canyon D
Palm Springs CA 92262

6 Ideal World

DESCRIPTION: This inviting shop filled with fascinating art and objects is dangerous to browse if you do not want to spend money. You are sure to find something that is just perfect for you or a friend. If you have become addicted to sophisticated Martini drinks, check out the selection of glasses and shakers perfect for enhancing your home bar. In a warm, well-lit atmosphere, lamps, framed prints, watches, gourmet or quirky kitchenware, and other small objects are displayed for your perusal. © wcities.com



wcities

contact:

tel: +1 760 323 1003

www.kaisergrille.com

location:

205 South Palm Canyon
Drive
Palm Springs CA 92262

7 Kaiser Grille

DESCRIPTION: With moderate prices and a sophisticated atmosphere, this restaurant is a destination in itself, but also has become a favorite for those planning a post-dinner visit to Muriel's nightclub across the street. The dark, intimate atmosphere is particularly welcoming to couples, who also enjoy the patio tables. There is a full bar and a wine list with many by-the-glass selections. The mesquite-grilled Shrimp Pancetta with Coachella Valley Citrus Sauce is a marvel. In addition, the steaks are all excellent and the desserts are decadent. © wcities.com



wcities

hours:

Lunch: Daily 11:30a-3p;

Dinner: Su-W 4:30p-10p; Th
4:30p-10:30p; F,Sa 4:30p-11p

Palm Springs Snapshot

Local Info

Palm Springs is home to just 45,000 residents but the population of visitors routinely swells to many more, and for good reason! The upscale resort city picturesquely situated at the base of the Santa Rosa Mountains is an oasis in all senses of the word. It's mild in the winter, fully air-conditioned in the summer and watered to an emerald landscape of green parks, lush lawns and rolling golf courses year-round. Its area of 83 square miles boasts many tourist attractions and a lively downtown strip.

Sights

For outdoor activities, try horseback riding at Smoke Tree Ranch and Stables in south Palm Springs. If you like hiking, a great site for desert hiking is the nearby Indian Canyons. Another interesting destination is Desert Hot Springs, set atop a natural hot mineral water aquifer where water bubbles up out of the earth.

If urban exploration is on your itinerary, take a tour through some of Palm Springs' well-established neighborhoods, like Little Tuscany, which charms visitors with grandiose homes of Italian architecture, or Las Palmas, which is prized by the affluent set. The South Ridge enclave maintains its iconic appeal, perched behind a locked gate.

No visit to Palm Springs is complete without a ride up the Aerial Tramway. This is the world's largest rotating tramway, giving you a 360 degree view of the mountains and the valley below. The trip to the top and Mountain Station takes only 10 minutes but ascends nearly 6,000 feet. When you arrive you'll find the weather a good deal cooler. You'll also find Peaks Restaurant, where you can enjoy fine food and drinks and a spectacular view, and miles of trails to explore.

Dining and Nightlife

Downtown Palm Springs is where the action is, with bars and restaurants that routinely fill to overflowing. This is a trendy strip that sizzles with nightlife starting around happy hour--and also features a wide array of shopping for those in a retail mood during the day. If you're looking for entertainment in a slightly higher age bracket, check out the venerable Plaza Theater, which plays host to the Fabulous Palm Springs Follies,"a celebration of the music, dance and comedy of the '40s, '50s, '60s and '70s with a cast old enough to have lived it!"

Golf

Golf in Palm Springs is plentiful but not cheap. Among the world-famous golf sites are Indian Wells, known for the Indian Wells Country Club, the Miramonte Resort and the Hyatt Grand Champions Resort. Within the area are exclusive residential communities as well. La Quinta is home to a number of private courses, including the PGA West Arnold Palmer Course, which is host to the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic.

© NileGuide

History

Luxury golf courses, hot springs and palm trees draw countless tourists and seasonal residents to the heavenly desert town of Palm Springs, located 100 miles southeast of Los Angeles. With 350 sunny days per year, according to Palm Springs' Chamber of Commerce, it's no surprise that both early and modern pioneers have flocked to this desert community.

Based on remains discovered in Morongo basin campsites, anthropologists estimate that native peoples resided in the Palm Springs area ten thousand years ago. These early Native American inhabitants made baskets and pottery, as well as employing a variety of plants for food and medicinal purposes. Using bows and arrows, the early tribes hunted deer, rabbits and other animals. The desert land offered survival for these early people for 1,000 years. A long period of inactivity on the land followed, but this desert haven would not stay unoccupied forever.

In the late 1700s, Spanish conquests throughout California allowed for the expansion of Spain's empire into the Colorado Desert lands. Yet, in spite of the vast growth of Spanish dominance, the Cahuilla Indians remained in Coachella Valley, embarking upon new trades of growing corn, squash and beans. However, by the mid-1800s, many Native Americans died from a small pox epidemic, leaving a dense population of Cahuilla Indians in this territory.

Meanwhile, the United States government took an interest in Coachella Valley and sent a survey party, led by William P. Blake in 1853. Creating the first wagon route through the San Geronio Pass, Blake's expedition paved the way for additional parties to travel through the Palm Springs area. In fact, Palm Springs was added to the Bradshaw Stage Coach Line in 1872, serving as the stop between Prescott, Arizona, and Los Angeles, California. Southern Pacific Railroad soon followed the stagecoach industry's lead, completing a railroad line through these desert lands in 1877. At this time, land sections around the railroad were divided, with Southern Pacific gaining ownership over some territories and the Native American tribes holding the remaining lands.

The first permanent Anglo settler, Judge John Guthrie McCallum, bought land from Southern Pacific and built his home in the Palm Springs area in 1884. The McCallum Adobe still stands, now serving as the oldest remaining building in Palm Springs. Other settlers were not far behind and by the early 1900s, Palm Springs boasted a post office, hotel and several buildings. Numerous important institutions followed, including the first schoolhouse in 1914, and the first newspaper, named Desert Sun, in 1927. In 1928, the El Mirador Hotel opened as a gigantic facility, able to host 300 guests. Ruddy's General Store emerged in the 1930s, another building standing today as a museum. The town also developed its first golf course, as well as tennis courts and a racquet club. Meanwhile, the adjacent town of Cathedral City became home to numerous gambling establishments.

The growth of Palm Springs led settlers to consider incorporation, forming a 30-man committee to lead the effort. This endeavor

Palm Springs Snapshot continued

reached success in 1938. Just one year later, the town census indicated a total population of 5,300 year-round settlers, with 8,000 seasonal visitors.

World War II brought significant changes to Palm Springs, as the notable General Patton traveled to the desert with his troops for training sessions. Patton administered training drills in the Palm Springs area to prepare his troops for the North African desert invasions. During this time, the El Mirador Hotel was transformed into a hospital, serving wounded soldiers. An airfield was constructed as well, which would become the Palm Springs Airport.

The once-modest city of Palm Springs skyrocketed after World War II. Several Hollywood stars began to build houses in the area, including Kirk Douglas and Frank Sinatra. The beloved Bob Hope was appointed Honorary Mayor. In addition, Presidents Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson and Ford all visited this flourishing town.

Palm Springs continued to prosper, booming from one golf course in 1945 to over 85 golf courses in the present time. Some of these courses are internationally famous, such as the Tahquitz Creek Resort Course (designed by Ted Robinson) and the Legend Course (managed by Arnold Palmer). In addition to golfing establishments, Palm Springs now boasts sophisticated city life, with upscale boutiques and extravagant restaurants.

From a little western town along the stagecoach line to a modern, cosmopolitan city, Palm Springs has achieved worldwide notoriety, with scores of travelers trekking long distances for seasonal visits to this desert sanctuary. Combining sunshine and style, the city of Palm Springs has emerged as one of California's top spots to visit. But don't take our word for it. Pack your golf clubs, tennis racquet and summer shorts, and get ready to bask in the Palm Springs sun.

©

Hotel Insights

Palm Springs has always catered to those wanting a taste of luxury, a chance to swim or soak, and a view of the dramatic bare mountains. This city's hotel owners are aware that most visitors want deluxe accommodations, thus an establishment

called a 'motel' here is mysteriously designated a 'hotel', even if it is just an eight-room courtyard wrapped around a streetside swimming pool. Meanwhile, small motels, which have not been renovated since they were built in the 1950s, are now proudly celebrating their kitschy decor and advertising their 'authentic retro' furnishings. True hotels are then inevitably called 'resorts', so this term can mean anything from a self-contained, 300-room, multi-pool paradise with a private golf course to a twenty-room, two-story hotel with a single Jacuzzi. Finally, numerous resorts, not to be outdone, advertise themselves as "spas," with the most luxurious ones offering state-of-the-art gyms, therapeutic specialists, aromatherapy, personal exercise coaching and much more.

The high season in Palm Springs begins in December and runs through March. Exact dates of high season prices vary among accommodations. Room rates drop to half or less off these high season prices during the months of June, July and August, when the city's temperature soars into the low hundreds Fahrenheit. Hotels at the southern end of town enjoy the greatest protection from strong winds, which buffet the north side—an area known as "Nature's Greatest Wind Tunnel."

Downtown Palm Springs

Palm Springs is laid out in a patchwork of golf courses and resort complexes, with less-expensive lodgings sprinkled throughout. Many small, inexpensive accommodations are near Palm Canyon Drive, which at its southern end becomes the prime shopping and dining district of the city known as 'The Loop'. Early garden court retreats, such as the Orchid Tree Inn, give a glimpse of the shady solitude Palm Springs offered its first visitors.

Many early establishments can legitimately claim various legendary stars were clients. The classic Ingleside Inn states 'Garbo Slept Here', as well as John Travolta, Goldie Hawn and many other contemporary stars.

Right on Palm Canyon Drive, the Hyatt Regency boasts an ideal location in the heart of the downtown area, close to dozens of restaurants, nightclubs and shops. Meanwhile, the Riviera Resort offers an 18-hole putting course and nine tennis courts on twenty-four acres of palm-shaded grounds.

Good value resort choices in Palm Springs include the 255-room Ramada Resort Inn & Conference Center and the Holiday Inn Palm Mountain Resort. Slightly more expensive choices include the Wyndham Palm Springs Hotel and the Hilton Palm Springs Resort. All of these hotels offer some spa facilities, meeting space, pools and spacious rooms along with full hotel services.

At the intersection of Tahquitz Canyon and Indian trails, the Agua Caliente band of the Cahuilla Indians hosts a glitzy, Las Vegas-style hotel casino called the Spa Hotel Casino. Just a block away from the Palm Canyon dining and shopping district, this centrally-located, 230-room hotel offers something for everyone, from excellent spa amenities to entertainment, dining and high-energy gambling at both tables and slot banks.

In recent years, Palm Springs has become a top destination for the local and international gay and lesbian traveler, and dozens of small hotels cater to either an all-male or all-female clientele. Camp Palm Springs is a legendary destination for gay men, and the Bee Charmer Inn and Casitas Laquita are both women-only retreats.

The warm, dry climate also favors clothing-optional resorts, both gay and straight. Several of these are located in the heart of Palm Springs. One of the largest is the Desert Shadows Inn Resort and Villas, which operates year-round as a naturist hotel.

South Palm Springs

Past the shopping area on South Palm Canyon Drive, there is a cluster of low-range to moderate lodgings including the Vagabond Inn, the Travelodge, Royal Sun and Best Western. All of these establishments offer reasonable prices, pools and good views of the mountains from many rooms.

Also, in South Palm Springs, talk host celebrity Merv Griffin has put his name to the Grecian-style Merv Griffin Resort and Givenchy Spa, where guests receive a European spa experience under the Givenchy brand name. In a town filled with spas, this one is considered to be one of the most worthwhile.

Cathedral City

Palm Springs Snapshot continued

If staying in Palm Springs itself does not appeal to you, lodging prices drop by about twenty percent in nearby Cathedral City, where much of the everyday business of Palm Springs is accomplished. The thrifty traveler will find budget chains such as Super 8 and a small Travelodge.

Rancho Mirage

Farther along Highway 111, Rancho Mirage is one of the fastest-growing communities in the desert. The deluxe Ritz Carlton is an upscale traveler's paradise, providing European-style guest care in a beautiful environment, with all the comforts and special attention that have become synonymous with the Ritz-Carlton name.

Wherever you choose to stay in the Palm Springs area, you will enjoy some of the Northern hemisphere's finest autumn and winter weather, with warm days, slightly cooler nights, and clear, sparkling skies.

©

Restaurants Insights

Palm Springs began by appealing to the high-living Hollywood crowd, which made this town Los Angeles' desert retreat. For many years, the cuisine was predominately meat and potatoes or Italian, and while both of these cuisines still flourish, there is considerably more variety available today.

The Loop

Many of Palm Springs' best restaurants are found on 'The Loop', formed by North Palm Canyon Drive and Indian Canyon Drive. Everything from decades-old landmark dining essentials to opened-last-week hot spots can be found within easy walking distance. Many places urge reservations, but it's also tempting to simply wander between them until one strikes your fancy, fits your budget and has a table available without an extensive wait. The Loop also offers many casual eateries, diners, ice cream shops and coffeehouses, perfect for quick snacks or a reviving espresso.

The Kaiser Grille offers finely prepared dishes, some with an Italian flair. As with almost all restaurants, outside dining is available and provides a great perch for people watching.

Mexican food is a favorite, with a number of places thriving for years. One of the most fun spots is Las Casuelas Terraza, offering

excellent food and live music most of the day. The festivities begin in the morning with table-strolling mariachis and carry on until late at night in the bar, which features a heated dance floor. Another Palm Springs institution is Del Rio's Taqueria, offering outdoor dining in a beautiful courtyard atmosphere at the corner of Tahquitz Canyon and Indian Trails. The pavilion bar is a quirky black-light marvel, specializing in agave-based tequila margaritas, very easy to drink and very hard to survive unscathed. Each table also sports a wine-bottle size container of the restaurant's proprietary hot sauce, made mainly of scalding-hot Habanero peppers. Like the margaritas, the hot stuff is easy to taste, but much harder to survive as the heat develops on the tongue.

An excellent choice for casual American dining is Hamburger Hamlet at the corner of Palm Canyon and Tahquitz Canyon Way. Prices are low and the quality is outstanding. The house Lobster Bisque can hold its own against much more illustrious competition. According to the host, the Hamlet meets all requirements for a three-star restaurant rating, yet it's still a place you can take your kids. Another cheerful family dining choice is Ruby's, a 1950s-style diner featuring hamburgers, sandwiches, Mom-style main dishes, ice cream drinks and desserts.

Meanwhile, the five-star Le Vallauris offers 'French-California' cuisine in a French country patio atmosphere or a lush, chateau interior dining room, all just moments away from the Palm Canyon district. The prestigious Zagat Guide named Le Vallauris the "Best Restaurant" in Coachella Valley.

Off The Loop

Searching for the spirit of famed Palm Springs resident Frank Sinatra? His old haunts include Riccio's and Melvyn's at the Ingleside Inn. If you hope to catch a glimpse of additional Hollywood stars, Melvyn's has also been named the 'Best Place to See Celebrities', offering an extensive photo collection of famous diners.

Cathedral City

Heading out of Palm Springs along Highway 111, Cathedral City offers The Wide Goose, which features continental cuisine and wild game dishes including venison, quail and the occasional elk or wild boar.

Rancho Mirage

Restaurants are clustered along this stretch of highway coined "Restaurant Row" by the Rancho Mirage Chamber of Commerce. Favorite spots along the row include Kobe Japanese Steak House, housed in a dramatic building re-creating a Japanese-style inn, and Stuart Anderson's Black Angus.

Whether you choose to dine in downtown Palm Springs or at one of the surrounding desert cities, you are likely to find a delightful atmosphere and delicious cuisine. Enjoy your dining adventures in Palm Springs, where vigorous competition helps assure excellent quality and value throughout the city.

©

Nightlife Insights

While Palm Springs is still relatively young in history, this desert community offers a vast array of entertainment options. Most notably, Palm Springs is world-famous for its luxurious golf courses. Yet, this city also features cultural museums, dynamic theater presentations, upscale shopping districts and a happening nightlife. Whether your preference is to visit a reserved museum or hip nightclub, you will not be disappointed with the entertainment found in the desert haven of Palm Springs.

Music & Theater

Since Palm Springs is located just a few hours away from the action of Hollywood, this desert community is often privy to top-name attractions. In fact, numerous Hollywood stars hold a second residence or retire in the Palm Springs area. First-class musicians often perform at the McCallum Theater, a top-notch Palm Desert facility that hosts cultural and entertainment events. Meanwhile, music and dance are combined in an energetic annual show known as the Palm Springs Follies, held at the Plaza Theater. All Follies performers are at least 50 years old and many boast Hollywood fame.

Another popular music venue is Palm Desert's Summer of Fun Concert Series. Each summer, guests relax in a luscious green park while listening to live performances of jazz, big band and blues music.

Palm Springs Snapshot continued

Contemporary theater fanatics will enjoy Joey and Maria's Italian Wedding, a humorous dinner theater show. This annual presentation explores hysterical family dynamics as the headline characters plan their over-the-top nuptials.

If you prefer ultra-modern theater, namely movies, visit the new Desert IMAX Theater. Boasting a giant screen that spans six stories in height, this popular establishment shows cutting edge 3-D movies.

Museums

Palm Springs also abounds with countless museums, each offering a captivating piece of Coachella Valley history. Visit the sculpture gardens at Palm Springs Desert Museum. In addition, the Agua Caliente Cultural Museum features basketry and photographs of early settlers in Coachella Valley, while the Palm Springs Air Museum boasts an expansive collection of historic aircraft, often featuring air shows and other special events. If you have little ones, visit the Children's Discovery Museum, which offers fun, interactive exhibits of science and archaeology.

Shopping

Another favorite pastime for many tourists is shopping and Palm Springs does not disappoint with an abundance of upscale shopping venues. The Gardens on El Paseo is an exquisite complex of shops, hosting everything from pottery to sportswear. Meanwhile, El Paseo Shopping Avenue has been dubbed 'the Rodeo Drive of the desert'. This shopping district offers an enticing combination of high-fashion clothing with delightful eateries.

Outdoor Activities

In addition to theaters, museums and shopping, Palm Springs also hosts a vast selection of outdoor attractions. This city's warm climate invites tourists to engage in activities of the great outdoors. The Palm Springs Aerial Tramway takes visitors from lowland desert terrain to the top of Mount Jacinto. Some guests simply ride the cable car for the incredible view of Coachella Valley, while others use the tramway as a route to outdoor activities at the mountaintop, including hiking trails and mule rides.

Beyond the tramway, Coachella Valley offers scores of additional outdoor activities.

The Living Desert highlights over 400 wildlife species in a desert environment of flora and fauna, while Oasis Waterpark offers a break from the desert heat, with water slides and inner tube activities.

Although the tramway and waterpark are favorite attractions, there is no argument about the most frequented outdoor establishments throughout Coachella Valley. Golf reigns supreme in Palm Springs and its surrounding desert cities. Visit the exclusive PGA West Arnold Palmer private golf course in La Quinta, a course that has hosted the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic. Indio also sports a top-notch course, The Landmark Golf Club, which hosts the world-famous annual Skins Game. In addition, do not forget the Tahquitz Creek Resort Course, designed by Ted Robinson.

Featuring theater, museums, golf, shopping and a happening nightlife, Palm Springs is a memorable town for any tourist. From tame, cultural experiences to upbeat, trendy spots, this town specializes in variety. So, bring your camera and your sunscreen, and get ready to enjoy the best sites of beautiful Palm Springs.

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Things to Do Insights

Palm Springs draws numerous tourists from around the globe year after year. What keeps these visitors coming back to this desert haven? Most guests praise the world-championship golf courses, although others rave about the shopping, restaurants and shows offered in Palm Springs. Whatever your preference, you will find a variety of pleasurable attractions along these tours of Coachella Valley.

Tour One: Downtown Palm Springs

Begin your tour on Highway 111, after exiting from Interstate-10. Continue along Highway 111 until you reach North Palm Canyon Drive. Charming eateries are found along North Palm Canyon Drive. Consider stopping at Crosswalk Café, a casual venue with fresh baked breads and goodies. Meanwhile, Hamburger Hamlet is an ideal lunchtime spot for families.

Once you reach the intersection of North Palm Canyon Drive and Tahquitz Canyon Way, take a brief detour westward to find Museum Drive. Along this strip, visit Palm Springs Desert Museum with its exquisite

sculpture gardens, and Annenberg Theater where traditional opera and ballet concerts are performed.

Back along Palm Canyon Drive (which becomes South Palm Canyon Drive after the Tahquitz Canyon Way intersection), visit the Plaza Theater, a 1930s movie house that has been transformed into a modern-day theater facility. The theater hosts scores of popular attractions including the Palm Springs Follies, a wildly popular show starring only folks over 50 years of age. Near the theater, The Blue Guitar draws large nighttime crowds with blues music and a hardwood dance floor.

Slightly further south, visitors will enjoy a stretch of historical landmarks. The Agua Caliente Cultural Museum showcases artifacts from early Native American tribes. In addition, the McCallum Adobe and Ruddy's General Store, two of Palm Springs' earliest establishments, both now serve as museums.

Palm Canyon Drive eventually turns eastbound, newly dubbed East Palm Canyon Drive. Merv Griffin's Givenchy Spa & Resort is located along this stretch of land. One of the most exclusive and luxurious resorts in Coachella Valley, this establishment hosts Fashions at Merv's Place, a monthly show featuring the latest trends of upscale Palm Springs boutiques.

When East Palm Canyon Drive meets Gene Autry Trail, turn north to find Palm Springs Air Museum, an incredible display of historic planes, highlighting an extensive collection of World War II aircraft.

Tour Two: Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert

While Palm Springs offers countless attractions, its surrounding desert cities also feature notable tourist spots. After visiting the sites along the Downtown Palm Springs tour, simply drive eastbound along East Palm Canyon Drive into Cathedral City where you will find popular attractions for families. The Desert IMAX Theater shows 3-D movies on a screen that spans six stories in height. Cathedral City also features top-notch public golf courses including the Cimarron Golf Resort and Cathedral Canyon Country Club.

Once you enter Rancho Mirage, visit this community's popular museum for youngsters. The Children's Discovery Museum of the Desert offers dozens of

Palm Springs Snapshot continued

interactive exhibits for kids including an archaeological dig.

Nearby Palm Desert features the most popular attractions on this tour, found along the famed El Paseo Avenue, also called "the Rodeo Drive of the desert." The Gardens on El Paseo is an elaborate shopping center offering everything from clothing and luggage to pottery. Meanwhile, Coda Gallery features contemporary works of art including paintings, sculptures and glass masterpieces.

While El Paseo reigns supreme among the Palm Desert venues, the city hosts a few other notable attractions. The Living Desert is a delightful display of flora and fauna accompanied by a vast range of wild animal species. In addition, McCallum Theater is located in Palm Desert, showcasing cultural and musical events.

Tour Three: Eastern Desert Cities

While Palm Springs and its surrounding desert cities boast a variety of attractions, many tourists come simply to play golf. An abundance of golf courses dominate Coachella Valley. Some of the finest courses are found along PGA Boulevard in La Quinta where the PGA West Resort Courses are located. Tee off on a course designed by Jack Nicklaus or other top-name golfers. In addition, view world-famous golf tournaments such as the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic, which is hosted by the Arnold Palmer Course.

Golfing action continues in the community of Indio. While this town is significantly less upscale than La Quinta, the community has earned a favorable reputation for quality public courses. In fact, Indio's Landmark Golf Club hosted the prestigious 1999 Skins Game, an annual professional tournament broadcast on network television. In addition to public golf courses, Indio also hosts the annual Riverside County Fair and National Date Festival.

Whether you are looking to tee off on a world championship golf course or simply browse through upscale shopping boutiques, select a tour through Palm Springs and its surrounding cities. Each tour offers different highlights, but you will always find variety and sunshine along these tours of the Coachella Valley.

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Travel Tips

Getting There

By Air

Palm Springs International Airport(+1 760 318 3800;<http://www.palmspringsairport.com>) offers transportation to destinations throughout the world. Its terminals house the following airlines:

Alaska(+1 800 426 0333/<http://www.alaskaair.com>) American Airlines(+1 800 433 7300/<http://www.aa.com>) Continental(+1 800 525 0280/<http://www.continental.com>) Delta(+1 800 221 1212/<http://www.delta.com>) Harmony(+1 866 868 6789/<http://www.harmonyairways.com>) Horizon Air(+1 800 547 9308/<http://www.horizonair.com>) Northwest(Seasonal)(+1 800 225 2525/<http://www.nwa.com>) Sun Country(+1 800 359 6786/<http://www.suncountry.com>) United(+1 800 241 6522/<http://www.ual.com>) US Airways(+1 800 428 4322/<http://www.usairways.com>) WestJet(+1 800 538 5696/<http://www.westjet.com>)

Palm Spring's airport navigators assists the traveling public with safe and reliable transportation(+1 760 318 3830) for getting to and from the airport. Hours are from 6a-6p.

By Taxi

Taxis can be easily located outside each terminal. You can also call+1 760 345 8398.

Rental Car Companies

Avis(+1 800 831 2847/<http://www.avis.com>) Budget(+1 800 527 0700/<http://www.budget.com>) Dollar(+1 800 800 4000/<http://www.dollar.com>) Eaglerider(+1 888 900 9901/<http://www.eaglerider.com>) Enterprise(+1 800 325 8007/<http://www.enterprise.com>) Hertz(+1 800 654 3131/<http://www.hertz.com>) Luxury Rent a Car(+1 877 589 8799/<http://www.luxuryrentacar.com>) National(+1 800 227 7368/<http://www.nationalcar.com>)

By Train

Amtrak Palm Springs platform is located at N. Indian Canyon Drive just south of 1-10. There is a telephone for passengers' convenience. Call for schedule and

reservations(+1 800 872 7245/<http://www.amtrak.com>)

By Bus Greyhound Palm Springs Bus Depot(+1 760 325 9557) provides daily service with stops in Palm Springs, N. Indian Canyon and Amado and Palm Desert Town Center, Monterey and San Geronio. SunLine Transit Agency is the desert's only public transit bus:(+1 760 343 3456)

By Car Palm Springs Airport can be easily accessed by interstate 10, 105, 5, 605, 55 and 111.

Getting Around

Palm Springs is serviced by Greyhound buses, taxis, rental cars and the Amtrak.

If traveling overseas, take the safety precaution of registering your trip at <https://travelregistration.state.gov> and for helpful, practical advice about traveling technicalities and safety standards check out <http://travel.state.gov/>

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Fun Facts

Palm Springs State: California **Country:** United States

Palm Springs by the Numbers:

Population: 45,000 Elevation: 474 feet
Average Winter Temperature: 57 degrees F
Average Summer Temperature: 115 degrees F

Quick Facts: Major Industries: hot springs, desert, tourism, agriculture, natural resources Ethnic Mix: White 78.3%; Asian 8.86%; black 3.93%; other 8.91%
Electricity: 120 volts, 60 cycles, AC **Time Zone:** PST Country Dialing Code: 1 Area Code: 760

Did You Know? More than 2000 years ago, Palm Springs' first residents were the ancestors of today's Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians.

Orientation: Palm Springs is in the Southern California desert, about 107 miles east/southeast of Los Angeles and 135 miles north east of San Diego. Protected by mountains on three sides, the scenic village of Palm Springs is in the Coachella Valley, 487 feet above sea level.

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