



Palm Springs & the Deserts

Includes →

Palm Springs & the Coachella Valley.....	497
Joshua Tree National Park.....	508
Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.....	517
Route 66.....	522
Mojave National Preserve.....	526
Death Valley National Park.....	529
Upper Mojave Desert.....	537
Las Vegas.....	538

Best Places to Eat

- La Copine (p514)
- Workshop Kitchen + Bar (p506)
- Cheeky's (p505)
- Red Ocotillo (p521)
- Inn Dining Room (p533)

Best Places to Sleep

- El Morocco Inn & Spa (p503)
- La Casa del Zorro (p520)
- Rimrock Ranch Cabins (p515)
- L'Horizon (p502)
- Sacred Sands (p514)

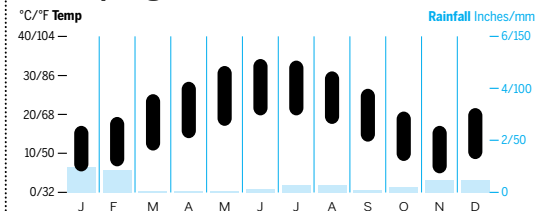
Why Go?

There's something undeniably artistic in the way the landscape unfolds in the California desert. Weathered volcanic peaks stand sentinel over singing sand dunes and mountains shimmering in hues from mustard yellow to vibrant pink. Hot mineral water spurts from the earth's belly to feed palm oases and soothe aching muscles in stylish spas. Tiny wildflowers push up from the hard-baked soil to celebrate springtime.

The riches of the desert soil have lured prospectors and miners, while its beauty and spirituality have tugged at the hearts of artists, visionaries and wanderers. Eccentrics, misfits and the military are drawn by its vastness and solitude. Hipsters and celebs come for the climate and retro flair, especially in unofficial desert capital, Palm Springs. Through it all threads iconic Route 66, lined with moodily rusting roadside relics. No matter what your trail, the desert will creep into your consciousness and never fully leave.

When to Go

Palm Springs



Dec–Apr Moderate temperatures lure in 'snowbirds' and LA week-end-trippers.

May–mid-Jun, mid-Sep–Nov Crowds thin out as temperatures arc during shoulder season.

Jun–Sep Some inns and restaurants close in summer's heat; many of the rest offer great deals.



Palm Springs & the Deserts Highlights

1 Palm Springs (p497)

Feeling fabulous in this revitalized mid-Century Modern Rat Pack hangout.

2 Death Valley National Park (p529)

Traversing ethereal landscapes to the lowest point in the western hemisphere.

3 Wonderland of Rocks (p509)

Marveling

at whimsically eroded rock formations on a hike.

4 Pappy & Harriet's Pioneertown Palace (p515)

Spending a rollickin' evening in a quintessential honky-tonk.

5 Mojave National Preserve (p526)

Camping out under the stars in this starkly beautiful desert.

6 Anza-Borrego Desert State Park (p517)

Hunting rare elephant trees and scrambling around wind caves.

7 Palm Springs Aerial Tramway (p499)

Ascending through five zones in 10 minutes.

8 Big Bear Mountain Resort (p425)

Schussing down the mountain in SoCal's premier ski resort.