

PALM SPRINGS

SPRING & SUMMER GUIDE 2008



The best places to eat, sleep and play
in Palm Springs this spring and summer

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INTRODUCTION



TripAdvisor, the most trusted source for where to eat, sleep and play in thousands of destinations around the world, has collected the best insider tips from its 25 million monthly visitors to produce a unique series of travel guides. In addition to the best hotels, restaurants and attractions for every type of traveler, you'll get great advice about what to pack, how to get around and where to find the best views. Be sure to check out the guides at www.tripadvisor.com.



You'll find reviews for more than 215,000 hotels, 75,000 attractions and 260,000 restaurants on TripAdvisor.com. Learn from other travelers what to expect before you make your plans.



PACKING TIPS

1. If going up on the **Aerial Tramway**, pack for two temperatures: "The temperature is around 30 degrees F cooler than in the valley."—TripAdvisor Member, Crewe, U.K.
2. There are over a hundred golf courses, and as many tennis clubs, in the area, so bring **clubs and racquets** to make the most of "the always-balmy weather."—TripAdvisor Member
3. "There's really no bad time to head to Palm Springs. With 350 days of sunshine each year, you're sure to need your **sunglasses** nearly every single day of your trip."—TripAdvisor Member, Sacramento, Calif.

Inside

PALM SPRINGS

One hundred and twenty miles east of Los Angeles, Palm Springs is a desert oasis of golf courses, tennis courts and spas. A refreshingly unpretentious town with wonderfully preserved mid-20th-century modern architecture, backlit palm trees, kitsch venues and kidney-shaped pools add to the ambiance.

The former haunt of Elvis and Sinatra won its place in celebrity affections by virtue of its two-hour distance from Tinseltown, an availability stipulation in many early stars' studio contracts. Names from Rudolf Valentino to Robert Downey Jr. to Ronald Reagan have made homes here.

Despite its reputation, Palm Springs is not all golf and glamorous golden oldies. The senior set, long established in this palm-adorned paradise, has been joined by baby boomers and yuppies, entranced by its retro charms. The gay and lesbian community, too, has become a significant part of both resident and tourist populations. Dozens of gay-marketed resorts welcome visitors, and every March, thousands of gay women flock for the Dinah Shore weekend.

Outside town, natural wonders abound, from the Indian Canyons, home to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, to the San Jacinto Mountains, easily accessed from the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway.

Top VIEWS



PALM SPRINGS BEST VIEWS

The most famous view in town is from **Palm Springs Aerial Tramway**. As you ascend “the views are spectacular. When you get about three quarters of the way up the mountain, you get a real sense of just how high you are, above the level of clouds, and in a completely different ecosystem from the one you left behind on the desert floor. The trails at the top of the mountain are beautiful.” Take it easy on the trails: They are steep, in places, and “at 8,000 feet above sea level, the air is a lot thinner.”—TripAdvisor Member, London, England

Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, One Tramway Road, 760 325 1391

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the 15-mile long **Palm Canyon** boasts gorgeous views of palm trees, rocky gorges and the desert beyond. An easy hiking trail leads through the canyon with perfect spots to stop along the way to picnic, meditate, explore or just admire the scenery. A Trading Post run by the Cahuilla Indians stocks maps, refreshments and Indian art and artifacts. Visitors can arrange educational hiking tours at the Palm Canyon Kiosk. “If you enjoy scenery and nature, then WOW, this is the place for you to visit. The Indian Canyons are a beautiful sight of desert, palm trees, flowing water and beautiful hiking trails.”—TripAdvisor Member, Green Bay, Wis.

Palm Canyon, 38-500 S. Palm Canyon Dr., 760 325 3400

Where to PLAY

TOP 10 Attractions

1. Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, One Tramway Road, 760 325 1391
2. Palm Springs Desert Museum, 101 Museum Dr., 760 325 7186
3. Agua Caliente Indian Canyons, 38-500 S. Palm Canyon Dr., 760 325 3400
4. Elite Land Tours, 555 S. Sunrise Way, 760 318 1200
5. Palm Springs Air Museum, 745 N. Gene Autry Trail, 760 778 6262
6. Tahquitz Canyon, 38-500 S. Palm Canyon Dr., 760 325 3400
7. Tahquitz Creek Golf Resort, 1885 Golf Club Dr., 760 328 1005
8. Moorten Botanical Garden, 1701 S. Palm Canyon Dr., 760 327 6555
9. PGA West TPC Stadium Course, 56-150 PGA Blvd., 866 465 3914
10. Desert Adventures, 67555 E. Palm Canyon Drive #106, Cathedral City, 760 324 5337



FAMILIES

A combination zoo/preserve/museum, **The Living Desert** is “full of interesting desert animals for kids and beautiful desert gardens for adults.”—TripAdvisor Member, Katonah, N.Y.

The Living Desert, 47-900 Portola Ave., Palm Desert, 760 346 5694

Moorten Botanical Garden has an “amazing selection of cacti that kids and adults will find fascinating. Several resident iguanas help give this place a fun, rather prehistoric feel.”—TripAdvisor Member, Katonah, N.Y.

Moorten Botanical Garden, 1701 S. Palm Canyon Dr., 760 327 6555

“Young kids will have a great time at the **Children’s Discovery Museum**, where they can paint a car, destroy old electric stuff and shop at a really cool kid-sized grocery store.”—TripAdvisor Member, Katonah, N.Y.

Children’s Discovery Museum of the Desert, 71-701 Gerald Ford Dr., Rancho Mirage, 760 321 0602



ROMANCE

“My husband and I celebrated our anniversary at **The Spring** and had a wonderful time. He is still thanking me for choosing such a relaxing and inviting place. The pools are just wonderful. The massages and facials are excellent. I just can’t say enough about how relaxed we were.”—TripAdvisor Member, San Diego, Calif.

The Day Spa, Spring Resort, 12699 Reposo Way, Desert Hot Springs, 760 251 6700

“The **Tahquitz Canyon** hiking trail is a gradual ascent to the canyon end where the reward is a beautiful waterfall. Along the way, there are numerous places to stop and enjoy the view and take pictures. The descent is also easy to traverse. The entire trip up and back takes a couple of hours.”—TripAdvisor Member, Lafayette, Calif.

Tahquitz Canyon, 38-500 S. Palm Canyon Dr., 760 325 3400

For picnicking, hiking or just relaxing, it’s worth the “drive up Highway 74 to **Lake Hemet**,” an hour from Palm Springs. “Beautiful.”—TripAdvisor Member, North Carolina

Lake Hemet, 56570 Highway 74, Mountain Center, 951 659 2680

Where to **PLAY**



BUDGET

“**Coachella Valley Preserve** is a 20,000-acre sanctuary for the endangered Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard. You can spend 15 minutes or hours here.”—TripAdvisor Member, Beaverton, Ore.

Coachella Valley Preserve, Thousand Palms Canyon Road, 760 343 4031

Discover the Las Palmas neighborhood on foot. Famed for its celebrity past, the **Elvis Honeymoon Hideaway** is here.

Elvis Honeymoon Hideaway, 1350 Ladera Circle, 760 322 1192

Take advantage of the weather and rent a bike to explore the area gas-free.

Tri a Bike, 44841 San Pablo Ave., Palm Desert, 760 340 2840

“**Watch for rattlesnakes!**”



ADVENTURE

Elite Land Tours' evening Hummer tours explore Joshua Tree National Park. “They provide night vision equipment to see the wildlife. Watch for rattlesnakes!”—TripAdvisor Member

Elite Land Tours, 555 S. Sunrise Way, 760 318 1200

“We went on a trail ride at **Smoke Tree Ranch** last winter and loved it! Technically, it's a strictly walking ride, but we ended up doing some trotting. Either way, it's pretty fast-paced. In my opinion, it's the best way to explore the desert!”—TripAdvisor Member, Washington, D.C.

Smoke Tree Stables, 1850 Smoke Tree Lane, 800 787 3922

Hike through **Palm Canyon's** desert oasis. “We saw spectacular views of giant palm trees along a beautiful river with towering rocks.”—TripAdvisor Member, Chicago, Ill.

Agua Caliente Indian Canyons, 38-500 S. Palm Canyon Dr., 760 325 3400

TripAdvisor members have posted more than 1,100,000 photos on the site. The good, the bad and the very candid. It's almost like being there!



EDUCATIONAL/HISTORICAL

Ruddy's is a recreation of a general store from the 1930s and early 1940s. This unique museum displays the original fixtures, hardware, medicines and products of that period.

Ruddy's General Store Museum, 221 S. Palm Canyon Dr., 760 327 2156

Works by Jonathon Borofsky, Duane Hanson and Dale Chihuly are among the “gems” at **Palm Springs Desert Museum**. “On Thursday, the museum is free from 4-8 P.M. and a block away from Villagefest,” a weekly arts festival.—TripAdvisor Member, California

Palm Springs Desert Museum, 101 Museum Dr., 760 325 7186

Palm Springs Air Museum is “really the cream of the crop. The display of airplanes is just fantastic.”—TripAdvisor Member, Antwerp, Belgium

Palm Springs Air Museum, 745 N. Gene Autry Trail, 760 778 6262



RELAXATION

“**Tahquitz Creek** is a 36-hole facility with two distinctly different courses. The Legend course is an older desert course that is fairly flat with moderate greens.”—TripAdvisor Member, Kansas City, Mo.

Tahquitz Creek Golf Resort, 1885 Golf Club Dr., 760 328 1005

“The fabulous **Palm Springs Yacht Club Spa** experience was worth the trip.”—TripAdvisor Member, San Pedro, Calif.

Palm Springs Yacht Club at Le Parker Meridien, 4200 E. Palm Canyon Dr., 760 770 5000

“Nostalgia takes center stage” at the **Follies** as singers and dancers perform vaudeville, music and comedy. “Oh, did I mention that the entire troupe is over 55 years old?”—TripAdvisor Member, Chicago, Ill.

The Fabulous Palm Springs Follies, Historic Plaza Theatre, 128 S. Palm Canyon Dr., 760 327 0225

What's the **TOUR**

How to Get Around



"The public **bus** is an inexpensive method for tourists to get around the Palm Springs area. Adult fares are only \$1.00, fares for children are only \$0.85 and fares for seniors are only \$0.50. The website provides easily accessible information about which bus lines travel to which locations."—TripAdvisor Member

SunLine Transit Agency, 760 343 3451, <http://www.sunline.org>

"No matter where you are staying, if it is downtown, it's great for **walking**."—TripAdvisor Member

Desert Valley Shuttle runs daily to and from Ontario Airport and LAX, and to and from PSP Airport to hotels in Palm Springs.

Want more information on Palm Springs? TripAdvisor.com offers free weekly e-mail updates filled with new deals, reviews and articles for Palm Springs or any other destination you choose.

WHERE to eat

TOP 10 Restaurants



1. Crosswalk Café, 370 N. Palm Canyon Dr., 760 416 0227
2. Village Pub, 266 S. Palm Canyon Dr., 760 323 3265
3. Edgardo's Café Veracruz, 494 N. Palm Canyon Dr., 760 320 3558
4. Europa Restaurant, 1620 S. Indian Trail, 760 327 2314
5. Sherman's Deli & Bakery, 401 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way, 760 325 1199
6. Johnny Costa's Ristorante, 440 S. Palm Canyon Dr., 760 325 4556
7. Aldente Pasta, 491 N. Palm Canyon Dr., 760 325 1160
8. Thai Smile, 651 N. Palm Canyon Dr., 760 320 5503
9. St. James at the Vineyard, 265 S. Palm Canyon Dr., 760 320 8041
10. Davey's Hideaway Restaurant, 292 E Palm Canyon Dr, 760 320-4480

FAMILIES

"You can't do much better than **Sherman's** for a big sandwich and wedge of cake. Not a fancy place, but a delicious place!"—TripAdvisor Member, Palm Springs

Sherman's Deli & Bakery, 401 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way, 760 325 1199

"**Tyler's** not only has the best burgers in town, but also the best coleslaw and potato salad as well. This place is casual, and the service is great."—TripAdvisor Member, Baltimore, Md.

Tyler's, 149 S. Indian Canyon Dr., 760 325 2990

"Don't be fooled by its non-flashy exterior! **Caffe Italia** is, without a doubt, the best Italian food restaurant in the desert, hands down!"—TripAdvisor Member, Palm Springs

Caffe Italia, 2500 N. Palm Canyon Dr., 760 864 1833

ROMANCE

"The food was wonderful, and the service was superb! **Johnny Costa's** is in a great location at the end of the downtown area (a little removed from the hustle and bustle)."—TripAdvisor Member, Bar Harbor, Maine

Johnny Costa's Ristorante, 440 S. Palm Canyon Dr., 760 325 4556

"This was one of my Top 10 best dining experiences. The atmosphere of **St. James** cannot be beat."—TripAdvisor Member, Philadelphia, Pa.

St. James at the Vineyard, 265 S. Palm Canyon Dr., 760 320 8041

"Yum, yum, yum, yum, yum. The food is fantastic! The service is impeccable. The courtyard was beautiful. **Le Vallauris** is a magical place!"—TripAdvisor Member, Menlo Park, Calif.

Le Vallauris, 385 W. Tahquitz Canyon Way, 760 325 5059

"Yum, yum, yum, yum, yum."



WHERE to eat

BUDGET



The **Village Pub** offers “good drinks, good music, good service and good value. A refreshing break from all those over-priced, stuffy restaurants.”—TripAdvisor Member, Seattle, Wash.

Village Pub, 266 S. Palm Canyon Dr., 760 323 3265

A small breakfast joint, **Bit of Country** has won dedicated fans for its fare, such as five-egg omelets and sirloin and eggs.

Bit of Country, 418 S. Indian Canyon Dr., 760 325 5154

“Homemade-style breakfasts,” “very attentive and pleasant” service and “old diner” décor star at **Louise’s Pantry**, a “great place for a family to eat.”—TripAdvisor Member, Carlsbad, Calif.

Louise’s Pantry, 44491 Town Center Way, Palm Desert, 760 346 9320

“Your taste buds will sing!”

HEALTH-CONSCIOUS



“**Thai Smile** was the best Thai food we have ever had. The spices were amazing. We loved every bite. And it’s cheap!”—TripAdvisor Member, San Diego, Calif.

Thai Smile, 651 N. Palm Canyon Dr., 760 320 5503

“Fresh, organic, flavorful foods” shine at **Native Foods**. “The menu is vegan, but you won’t miss a thing. Your taste buds will sing!”—TripAdvisor Member, Los Angeles, Calif.

Native Foods, 1775 E. Palm Canyon Dr., 760 416 0070

Though it’s a diner, **Ruby’s** offers fresh salads and will “readily customize your meal to suit your needs. They low-carbed my hamburger perfectly.”—TripAdvisor Member, Palm Springs

Ruby’s Diner, 155 S. Palm Canyon Dr., 760 406 7829

HIDDEN GEMS



“**Citron** has great food and a great look. The lemony yellow bar looks out onto the pool area.”—TripAdvisor Member, Baltimore, Md.

Citron, 415 S. Belrado Road, 760 320 4117

“To impress guests with a fantastic mountain view, a historically important place and a lovely meal,” try **Spencer’s**.—TripAdvisor Member, Los Angeles, Calif.

Spencer’s Restaurant, 701 W. Baristo Road, 760 327 3446

Authentic dishes from **El Mirasol** are “the best Mexican food this side of the Mississippi.”—TripAdvisor Member, California

El Mirasol, 140 E. Palm Canyon Dr., 760 323 0721

SPECIAL EVENTS



Villagefest turns Thursday nights in downtown Palm Springs festive, as vendors and entertainers take to the streets. (Thursdays year-round)

Villagefest, Palm Canyon Drive, <http://www.palmspringsvillagefest.com>

Pack the lawn chairs, pick up a picnic and head to Old Town for Sunday afternoon Concerts on the Lawn. (Through June 22)

Concerts on the Lawn, Old Town La Quinta, 78100 Main St., 760 777 1770, <http://www.palmsprings.com>

Thirty-two restaurants set three-course, fixed-price menus for \$26 or \$36 per person during **Palm Springs Restaurant Week**. (June 15 - 20)

Palm Springs Restaurant Week, Various restaurants, 760 943 2333, <http://www.palmspringsrestaurantweek.com>

Film lovers, actors and industry gather for the fun **Out on Film, Palm Springs Gay and Lesbian Film Festival** at the charming Camelot Theatres. (July 25 - 31)

Out on Film, Palm Springs Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, Camelot Theatres, 2300 E. Baristo Road, 760 770 2042

Fans of the King gather at his Palm Springs house for a gospel concert each year on Elvis Tribute Day. (August 16)

Elvis Tribute Day, 845 W. Chino Canyon, 760 322 1192, <http://www.pselvis.com>

Over 2000 shorts are shown, principally for film buyers, at **Shortfest Palm Springs International Short Film Festival**. (August 21 - 27)

Shortfest Palm Springs International Short Film Festival, <http://www.psfilmfest.org>

It’s an “anti black tie” event at the splashy **LalaPOOLooza** charity pool party at chic Hotel Zoso. (September 20)

LalaPOOLooza, Hotel Zoso, 150 S. Indian Canyon Dr., <http://www.lalapoolooza.com>

Where to STAY



FAMILIES

A short walk from downtown, **The Chase Hotel** has “ample and well-appointed” rooms. “We love everything from the classic ‘mid-century modern’ motif to the fresh-baked chocolate chip cookies.”—TripAdvisor Member, Santa Cruz, Calif.

The Chase Hotel at Palm Springs, 200 W. Arenas Road, 760 320 8866

“The **Shilo Inn** grounds are beautiful; it’s close to downtown; they provide continental breakfast.” There’s “a fitness room with sauna and steam room, a quiet adult pool and a ‘loud’ pool for kids. The rooms are clean and big. What else could you ask for?”—TripAdvisor Member, Long Beach, Calif.

Shilo Inn Palm Springs, 1875 N. Palm Canyon Dr., 760 320 7676

At pet and kid-friendly **Caliente Tropics**, décor is Polynesian and Tiki-influenced. “It’s so nice to be in a hotel that doesn’t look like all the other million hotels out there.”—TripAdvisor Member, Germany

Caliente Tropics Resort, 411 E. Palm Canyon Dr., 800 658 6035

“What else could you ask for?”

Have questions about Palm Springs? Get insider advice from local experts in our forums. The majority of questions are answered within 24 hours.

ROMANCE

With “fruit trees, flowers, and all the humming birds buzzing around, **Old Ranch Inn** is just perfect!”—TripAdvisor Member, New York

Old Ranch Inn, 220 S. Patencio Road, 760 778 8900

Desert Hills Hotel “is a great little hotel! It’s got everything: comfort, style, great pool, resident roadrunner and location, location, location. Doris & Rock would love it.”—TripAdvisor Member, Hollywood, Calif.

Desert Hills Hotel, 601 W. Arenas Road, 760 325 2777

The **Pepper Tree Inn**, a 1920s Spanish colonial-style boutique hotel, has “a beautiful hacienda feel to it. It’s quiet, and ‘kidless.’”—TripAdvisor Member, Escondido, Calif.

Pepper Tree Inn Palm Springs, 622 N. Palm Canyon Dr., 760 318 9850

“Doris & Rock would love it.”

BUDGET

In the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Western town-themed “**Palm Canyon** is definitely not a luxury resort. But if you’re mainly looking to hang by the pool, it’s a good deal.”—TripAdvisor Member, California

Palm Canyon Resort, 221 Palm Canyon Dr., 760 767 5341

The **Extended Stay** offers “wonderful service and big, beautiful rooms with kitchenettes.” It’s “close to downtown and just an absolutely fantastic bargain! Felt like we were in a four-star place and paying two-star prices.”—TripAdvisor Member, Sonora, Calif.

Extended StayAmerica Palm Springs, 1400 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way, 760 416 0084

“Overall, a pleasant stay” at the **Palm Court**. “We didn’t spend much time in the room, and it was adequate, especially for the price! Go for the pool alone—you will be glad you did!”—TripAdvisor Member, Cape Girardeau, Mo.

Palm Court Inn, 1983 N. Palm Canyon Dr., 760 416 2333

“...both relaxed and cool.”

LUXURY

“Beautiful and secluded” **La Mancha’s** “grounds are magnificent. I loved the privacy that we got with our personal villa. The views from our balcony were to die for, and the water was always warm in the pools. I can’t wait to go back.”—TripAdvisor Member, Baltimore, Md.

La Mancha Villas, 400 N. Avenida Caballeros, 760 320 0398

“**The Movie Colony** is a hip little hotel, with a very Palm Springs kind of vibe, both relaxed and cool. The decor is contemporary but with a nod to the past (Art Deco style).”—TripAdvisor Member, Paris, France

Movie Colony Hotel, 726 N. Indian Canyon Dr., 760 320 6340

Sundance Villas is “absolutely the best for luxurious privacy. Most have great views of the mountains and every convenience you would want in your own home.”—TripAdvisor Member, St. Louis, Mo.

Sundance Villas, 303 Cabrillo Road, 760 325 3888

Where to **STAY**



HIDDEN GEMS

Gay guesthouse **The Hacienda** is “far above the rest. The meticulously maintained rooms, pool and outside areas are complemented by the attentive staff.”—TripAdvisor Member, Cologne, Germany

The Hacienda at Warm Sands, 586 Warm Sands Dr., 760 327 8111

Lesbian resort **Casitas Laquita** “was a fabulous find. Wonderful rooms, great pool with a view of the mountains and first-class treatment.”—TripAdvisor Member, Chantilly, Va.

Casitas Laquita, 450 E. Palm Canyon Dr., 760 416 9999

Hotel California is the “best-kept secret in Palm Springs. It’s a great place for a quiet getaway. Rooms were very clean and nicely furnished, down to a candle for those romantic moments.”—TripAdvisor Member, Phoenix, Ariz.

Hotel California – Palm Springs, 424 E. Palm Canyon Dr., 760 322 8855

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