



# COACHELLA VALLEY RELOCATION GUIDE





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# WELCOME TO THE COACHELLA VALLEY LIVE THE DREAM LIFE

Moving to the Coachella Valley can be overwhelming, no matter where you're moving from.

Here's where to start...



If you want a place where you can enjoy outdoor activities, culture, shopping, dining and a relatively affordable cost of living, the Coachella Valley may be the perfect fit for you.

# What is the Coachella Valley?

The Coachella Valley encompasses a string of 9 cities, like a necklace of pearls running along the base of the Santa Rosa Mountains.

We'll tell you everything you need to know about:

Palm Springs  
Cathedral City  
Rancho Mirage  
Palm Desert  
Indian Wells  
La Quinta  
Indio

These 7 cities are the most popular for sun seekers and those looking for urban amenities with a small town feel, natural beauty everywhere, and 350 days of sunshine.

Each city has it's own distinct personality. Together, they make up most of the Coachella Valley.

# Palm Springs

Situated at the western end of the Coachella Valley, Palm Springs is a desert oasis known for its spas, clear blue skies, pristine golf courses, and mid-century modern architecture. The city first became a haven for Hollywood celebrities in the 1920s, attracted by the area's dry climate and beautiful scenery.

## Why Live Here?

### Iconic Cultural and Historical Significance

Palm Springs has a storied history as a retreat for Hollywood stars and artists, and this legacy contributes to its unique cultural vibe. The city has a distinct “Old Hollywood” feel, thanks to its classic mid-century modern architecture, iconic neighborhoods, and preservation of historic sites. This gives Palm Springs a sense of timelessness and sophistication that other Coachella Valley cities may not have to the same degree.

Palm Springs is the historical heart of the Valley.

Additionally, the Palm Springs Art Museum, which boasts an impressive collection of contemporary art and sculpture, and the abundance of art galleries add to its status as the region’s cultural hub.



## Demographics

Palm Springs has a median age of around 55, making it a popular destination for retirees, though younger individuals and families have been increasingly attracted to the area due to its growing job opportunities and unique lifestyle.

## Vibrant Downtown Area

Palm Springs' downtown district is vibrant and pedestrian-friendly, packed with boutiques, art galleries, fine dining restaurants, and lively cafes.

In contrast to other nearby cities, which tend to have quieter, more residential atmospheres, downtown Palm Springs offers a lively social scene with a strong focus on nightlife, food, and cultural activities. The downtown area hosts weekly events like **VillageFest**, where locals gather for an evening street fair filled with artisan vendors, food stands, and live music, adding to the city's strong sense of community.



## Strong LGBTQ+ Community and Inclusivity

Palm Springs is widely recognized as one of the most LGBTQ+-friendly cities in the United States, which contributes to its open, inclusive atmosphere. For those seeking a welcoming environment, this aspect of Palm Springs culture is a huge draw. The city celebrates its diversity with events like Greater Palm Springs Pride and has a higher proportion of LGBTQ+ residents than other cities in the area, creating a community that values inclusivity and acceptance.

## Real Estate

The cost of living in Palm Springs remains much more affordable than other California coastal cities like Los Angeles or San Francisco. The median home price in Palm Springs is currently around \$700,000, though there is a wide range of prices available.



Rental costs are also competitive, with an average apartment rental rate of about \$1,800 per month. Expect to pay more for a free standing home. For a seasonal rental, the rent is approximately double the one-year lease rate.

For those looking to retire or invest, Palm Springs offers an appealing balance between affordable luxury and high-quality living standards.

And did I mention non-stop fun?

## Established Infrastructure for Seasonal and Permanent Residents

Unlike some smaller Coachella Valley cities, Palm Springs has a well-developed infrastructure to support its permanent residents and tourists. This includes a variety of housing options, from luxurious estates to more affordable condos and apartments, making it easier for part-time residents to find housing.

Its airport, **Palm Springs International Airport** (PSP), offers convenient travel options with direct flights to major cities. Palm Springs Airport continues to grow and is a great convenience to those who don't want to drive to the San Diego or Los Angeles airports, which are at least two-and-a-half hours by car.



## Quality of Life and Recreation

Palm Springs is celebrated for its laid-back lifestyle, vibrant arts scene, and outdoor recreation options. The city is dotted with world-class golf courses, tennis clubs, and renowned spas, making it an attractive location for wellness and active living enthusiasts.

Palm Springs hosts some of the region's most notable events, including the Palm Springs International Film Festival and Modernism Week. The city's event calendar keeps residents engaged year-round, and the lively social scene means there's always something to do. This robust event scene differentiates Palm Springs from other quieter cities in the valley.

## Healthcare and Community Services

With a strong healthcare infrastructure, including facilities like the Desert Regional Medical Center, residents have access to high-quality medical care. Community services cater to the city's older demographic, providing a variety of wellness and social programs tailored for retirees.

## Opinion

If you're looking for quiet, Palm Springs may not be your first choice. There are many quiet and beautiful residential areas in Palm Springs, but the downtown area is usually active and can be loud, especially during the high season which roughly spans November through April.



# Cathedral City

The next city in our necklace of cities is Cathedral City, affectionately known as “Cat City”.

Cat City has become an appealing destination for those looking for a more affordable, family-friendly, and laid-back lifestyle.

With a population of around 55,000, Cathedral City is the second-largest city in the Coachella Valley.

## Why Live Here?

### Family-Friendly Environment

Cathedral City is known for its family-oriented atmosphere and offers a variety of parks, community centers, and recreational activities.

The city invests in family-friendly events, including the annual Hot Air Balloon Festival and the Día de Los Muertos Festival, providing a strong sense of community for families.

Cathedral City has also developed a number of schools, playgrounds, and youth programs, making it a practical choice for families with children who want a supportive, community-focused environment. The city’s relatively low crime rates compared to other parts of the valley also contribute to its appeal for families.

### Affordable Living Compared to Neighboring Cities

One of Cathedral City’s primary draws is its relative affordability compared to neighboring cities like Palm Springs or Rancho Mirage. Home prices and rental rates in Cathedral City tend to be lower than in other Coachella Valley areas.



There are also numerous mobile home communities and resorts. Beautifully landscaped, most offer numerous amenities from golf to pickleball or tennis and all have active community centers. Some are open to all ages, some are 55+.

## Strong Local Art and Cultural Scene

While Palm Springs is widely regarded as the cultural hub of the Coachella Valley, Cathedral City has been steadily building its own reputation as an arts and entertainment destination. The city is home to the Mary Pickford Theatre, a beloved, historic movie theater offering a unique cinematic experience, as well as the Cathedral City Community Amphitheater, which hosts a variety of events and live performances.

Cathedral City also has several public art installations, and the revitalized downtown area includes a mix of restaurants, coffee shops, and galleries, giving the city a growing cultural vibe that appeals to new residents.

And let's not forget the newest addition to the valley's casinos, the Agua Caliente Resort & Casino.

## Convenient Location and Access to Outdoor Recreation

Located next door to Palm Springs, Cathedral City provides residents with easy access to outdoor activities and entertainment without the busier, more tourist-oriented atmosphere.

Additionally, the Big League Dreams Sports Park offers year-round recreational sports opportunities.



## Diverse Community and Growing Inclusivity

Cathedral City is one of the more diverse cities in the Coachella Valley, with a large Latino population that contributes to its vibrant cultural fabric.

This diversity is reflected in the city's events, cuisine, and community atmosphere. Additionally, Cathedral City has a welcoming and inclusive environment for LGBTQ+ residents and has made strides in promoting diversity through its community initiatives and festivals. Its increasingly inclusive nature makes it an attractive destination for individuals and families looking for a friendly and open community.

# Rancho Mirage

Rancho Mirage is next in line after it's neighbor, Cathedral City.

One of the more prestigious cities in the Coachella Valley, Rancho Mirage is known for its luxury resorts, serene neighborhoods, and high quality of life. Often called the "Playground of Presidents" for its popularity among U.S. presidents and celebrities alike.

Rancho Mirage offers an upscale, tranquil environment that appeals especially to retirees, high-income families, and those seeking a more refined lifestyle.



# Why Live Here?

## Luxury and High-Quality Living

Rancho Mirage is synonymous with luxury, offering high-end living and a polished, sophisticated atmosphere. The city is known for its gated communities, upscale homes, and expansive estates that cater to affluent buyers.

The neighborhoods in Rancho Mirage feature meticulously maintained landscaping, golf course views, and some of the most beautiful and spacious properties in the valley. This level of quality and luxury makes Rancho Mirage highly attractive for those who prioritize comfort and exclusivity.

## World-Class Golf and Country Clubs

Rancho Mirage is renowned for its golf culture, boasting several world-class golf courses and country clubs that attract golf enthusiasts from around the world. Clubs like the Mission Hills Country Club and the Thunderbird Country Club offer premier golfing experiences, with pristine courses and impressive clubhouses that offer dining, fitness, and social opportunities. The city's extensive golf and country club options are a huge draw for retirees and individuals looking for a community with abundant recreational and social amenities.



## Premier Medical Facilities and Senior Services

Rancho Mirage is known for its exceptional healthcare facilities, which make it an especially attractive city for retirees. The Eisenhower Health campus is one of the top medical centers in the region, providing advanced medical care.

Additionally, Rancho Mirage has a range of senior services and wellness programs to support older residents, from wellness classes to social events tailored for retirees. The quality of healthcare and services focused on an aging population make it an ideal location for those who prioritize medical accessibility and quality care.



## Diverse Community and Growing Inclusivity

Rancho Mirage has a large community of affluent retirees. This makes the city a good fit for individuals who want to be surrounded by like-minded people and enjoy a refined community.

The city's demographics lean towards an older population, with many residents relocating to Rancho Mirage specifically for retirement. This adds to the community's close-knit feel, and many neighborhoods organize events, clubs, and activities that encourage social connections among residents.

## Safe and Peaceful Environment

Rancho Mirage is one of the safest cities in the Coachella Valley, with low crime rates and well-maintained, quiet neighborhoods. The city prioritizes security and community safety.

Gated communities and security patrols are common, adding to the sense of safety and exclusivity. The city's calm and private atmosphere is a significant draw for residents who appreciate a slower, more relaxed pace of life.



## Central Location with Easy Access to Valley Attractions

Rancho Mirage is close to the center of the necklace of Coachella Valley cities, making it convenient for residents to enjoy nearby cities and what each has to offer.

Additionally, Rancho Mirage's central location is beneficial for those who travel frequently, with the Palm Springs International Airport only a short drive away.

# Palm Desert

Palm Desert, located in the heart of the Coachella Valley, is a thriving and diverse city known for its resort-style living, vibrant arts and culture scene, and family-friendly amenities.

With a population of around 53,000, Palm Desert offers a unique blend of suburban comforts, beautiful landscapes, and a dynamic social environment, making it an attractive destination for retirees, young professionals, and families alike.

## Why Live Here?

### Diverse Housing Options

Palm Desert is known for offering a range of housing options at varying price points, making it accessible to a broader demographic compared to some of its neighboring cities. Whether you're looking for an upscale, gated community, a golf-course residence, or more modest suburban housing, Palm Desert has choices for all types of residents.

This diversity in housing makes Palm Desert a practical choice for families, retirees, and professionals alike.



## Family-Friendly Environment and Strong Education System

Palm Desert is particularly appealing to families thanks to its quality education system, with schools that are part of the Desert Sands Unified School District, known for its commitment to academic excellence.

The city also hosts a campus of the College of the Desert, a well-respected community college that provides educational opportunities close to home.

Palm Desert Civic Center Park is one of the largest in the valley. There you'll find tennis courts, a municipal swimming pool, sports fields, picnic areas, concerts and public art. Or just sit and feed the ducks.

For families with children, Palm Desert offers playgrounds, and family-oriented events, including youth sports leagues, community festivals, and programs designed to engage all ages. The city's community-centric environment creates a safe and supportive atmosphere for raising children.



## Shopping, Dining, and Entertainment on El Paseo Drive

At the south end of town, you'll find El Paseo Drive. Palm Desert's main shopping and dining district, offers a wide range of high-end boutiques, art galleries, and restaurants.

Often compared to Beverly Hills' Rodeo Drive, El Paseo features luxury brands like Gucci, Louis Vuitton, and Tiffany & Co., along with trendy local boutiques, galleries and artisan shops.

El Paseo also boasts a variety of dining options, from fine dining establishments to more casual, family-friendly eateries. This concentration of upscale retail and dining options gives residents a lively, urban atmosphere within a relaxed, suburban setting.

The street is often closed to through traffic during special occasions such as the Golf Cart Parade and The Desert Cancer Walk. In the spring, Fashion Week brings excitement to the Gardens at El Paseo.

There's always something happening, or just sit at a coffee bar and watch the colorful display of humanity walk by.



## Central Location

Palm Desert is central to everything. This makes it easy to access all the cities of the Coachella Valley.

On the northern end of Palm Desert is Sun City, which spans from Palm Desert to Indio. Last count there were over 8,000 homes for the 55+ crowd. It's an active community with a variety of priced homes, golf courses, activities non-stop. Although in the windy part of town, it's very popular and offers a wide range of prices. Homes there are in constant demand.

## Resort-Style Living with Access to Amenities

In summary, Palm Desert combines upscale amenities with an accessible, family-friendly lifestyle, making it an appealing choice for a diverse range of residents. With its strong education system, thriving cultural scene, varied outdoor recreation, and central location within the Coachella Valley, Palm Desert provides a balanced, enriched lifestyle that makes it a standout option for those considering a move to the area.

# Indian Wells

Indian Wells is one of the most exclusive and picturesque cities in the Coachella Valley. Known for its luxury resorts, world-renowned golf courses, and low-density living, Indian Wells has become a prime destination for affluent retirees, golf enthusiasts, and those seeking a tranquil, resort-style lifestyle.

With a smaller population of around 5,500, Indian Wells offers a unique blend of privacy, high-quality amenities, and stunning landscapes.

## Why Live Here?

### Exclusive and Luxurious Lifestyle

Indian Wells is synonymous with luxury. The city is known for its beautiful estates, upscale gated communities, and five-star resorts, providing an exclusive lifestyle for those seeking privacy and high-end amenities.

Many residents live in prestigious, low-density neighborhoods with meticulously maintained landscapes and stunning desert views. For those who value a peaceful, elegant atmosphere away from the hustle and bustle of larger cities, Indian Wells is an ideal location.



## World-Class Golf and Tennis Facilities

Indian Wells is world-renowned for its golf and tennis facilities, drawing both professional athletes and amateurs alike. The Indian Wells Golf Resort offers two championship courses, the Celebrity and Players courses, which are consistently ranked among the best public golf courses in California. The city is also home to the Indian Wells Tennis Garden, a premier tennis facility that hosts the annual BNP Paribas Open, one of the most prestigious tennis tournaments in the world. For golf and tennis enthusiasts, Indian Wells offers unparalleled access to top-notch facilities that make it a dream location.

## Pristine Natural Beauty and Scenic Views

Nestled against the Santa Rosa Mountains, Indian Wells offers stunning desert landscapes and mountain views that contribute to the city's natural beauty. Residents enjoy the serene ambiance of wide-open spaces, well-maintained grounds, and lush greenery that blend seamlessly with the surrounding desert. Indian Wells has a strong commitment to preserving its natural beauty, evident in the carefully landscaped streets and public spaces. This emphasis on maintaining a scenic, aesthetically pleasing environment makes Indian Wells particularly attractive for those seeking a visually stunning place to live.



## Emphasis on Safety and Community Services

Indian Wells is one of the safest cities in the Coachella Valley, with low crime rates and a focus on community safety and services. The city invests in local infrastructure, security, and emergency services, ensuring that residents feel secure and well-supported.

Indian Wells also offers various community programs, from wellness classes to social gatherings, that encourage residents to stay active and engaged. The city's commitment to safety and resident services adds to its appeal, especially for those looking for a secure environment in which to retire or raise a family.



## Strong Focus on Community Aesthetics and Standards

Indian Wells is well-known for its meticulously maintained landscapes, strict building standards, and an overarching commitment to maintaining the city's beauty and standards of excellence.

This dedication to aesthetics is evident in the city's lush greenery, well-kept public spaces, and architectural harmony throughout neighborhoods. The city council places a high emphasis on preserving Indian Wells' upscale character and scenic beauty, which is a significant draw for residents who appreciate living in a community that values elegance and quality.



# La Quinta

La Quinta, often called the "Gem of the Desert," is a charming city in the Coachella Valley known for its breathtaking landscapes, luxury resorts, and focus on outdoor recreation.

With a population of around 41,000, La Quinta offers a unique blend of natural beauty, upscale living, and a relaxed atmosphere that appeals to families, retirees, and active adults.

## Why Live Here?

### Beautiful Desert and Mountain Scenery

Nestled at the base of the Santa Rosa Mountains, La Quinta boasts some of the most stunning natural scenery in the Coachella Valley. The city is surrounded by rugged mountain peaks, lush golf courses, and desert landscapes that offer year-round beauty. This natural setting provides residents with a peaceful and scenic environment, making La Quinta an ideal location for those who appreciate the beauty of the desert and enjoy spending time outdoors.



## Upscale Living and Diverse Housing Options

La Quinta offers a range of housing options that cater to different lifestyles and budgets. From luxurious, gated communities like The Hideaway and Andalusia to more affordable neighborhoods, La Quinta has something for everyone. Many of these communities offer stunning golf course views, resort-style amenities, and lush landscaping. Home prices vary greatly from family friendly child-focused homes to ultra luxury gated communities. This variety makes La Quinta appealing for both families looking for a comfortable suburban setting and retirees seeking a refined, relaxed lifestyle.



If you choose one of the gated communities near the mountains, don't be surprised to see Big Horn Sheep taking a stroll past your home.



## World-Class Golfing Opportunities

La Quinta is famous for its world-class golf courses, earning it a reputation as one of the premier golf destinations in the country. The city is home to the prestigious PGA West, a golf club featuring six championship courses designed by legends like Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus. Additionally, the annual American Express (formerly the CareerBuilder Challenge) golf tournament is held in La Quinta, drawing golf enthusiasts from around the world. For residents who are avid golfers or simply enjoy a golf-centric community, La Quinta offers a lifestyle that is hard to match.

## Old Town La Quinta

A quaint shopping area, and gathering spot, Old Town has Spanish architecture which houses modern boutiques, art studios and eclectic eateries. Sundays it's the home to the La Quinta Farmers Market.



## La Quinta Resort & Club

A crown jewel of La Quinta, this resort speaks of luxury, comfort, and history. Established in 1926, it has been the favorite haunt of many celebrities.

But it's not just about luxury; the resort carries with it a piece of La Quinta's history. Whether it's the architecture, the curated events, or the vintage photographs adorning the walls, you feel connected to the city's golden era. The spa, golf course and restaurants here are often considered among the best in the country.

The La Quinta Resort is where legendary director Frank Capra is said to have penned at least part of the screenplay for his Christmas classic *It's a Wonderful Life* in the 1940's.



## Lake Cahuilla Recreation Area

Nature and recreation come together at Lake Cahuilla. Situated at the base of the Santa Rosa Mountains, this park offers breathtaking views, making it a popular spot for camping and picnics. The lake, stocked with fish, is a favorite among anglers. Horseback trails, a swimming pool, and playgrounds make it a perfect family getaway.



## Water & Power District

La Quinta's power district is separate from most of the Coachella Valley. The Imperial Irrigation District provides power to La Quinta at a lower cost than Edison, which supplies most of the valley. This is not to be scoffed at - our electric bills are high in the summertime. Which is why solar is so prevalent here.

# Indio

Indio, known as the "City of Festivals," is one of the fastest-growing cities in the Coachella Valley. With a population of approximately 92,000, Indio offers a diverse lifestyle with a blend of cultural events, outdoor recreation, and affordable living.

Indio is popular among families, young professionals, and retirees looking for a friendly, active community with a lower cost of living than some neighboring valley cities.

## Why Live Here?

### Affordable Cost of Living and Housing Options

Indio is one of the more affordable cities in the Coachella Valley, making it a great option for individuals and families who want a desert lifestyle without the high costs associated with cities like Palm Springs or La Quinta.

The median home price in Indio is lower than many nearby cities, and the city offers a range of housing options, from gated communities and golf course homes to more modest family-friendly neighborhoods.



## The “City of Festivals” – A Hub of Arts, Music, and Culture

Indio is known worldwide for hosting some of the largest and most popular festivals, including the **Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival** and the **Stagecoach Country Music Festival**, which bring hundreds of thousands of visitors to the city each year. These festivals make Indio a cultural hotspot, drawing in a diverse crowd and creating a vibrant local arts scene.

For residents, these events offer a unique blend of excitement and culture right in their backyard. The city also hosts the Riverside County Fair and National Date Festival, celebrating Indio’s agricultural roots and attracting residents of all ages.

## Recreational Opportunities and Outdoor Living

Indio offers plenty of opportunities for outdoor recreation and active living. The city is home to several top-notch golf courses, including the Golf Club at Terra Lago and the Indian Palms Country Club.

Additionally, the Indio Hills and surrounding areas provide scenic hiking and biking trails. Residents enjoy access to city parks, sports fields, and facilities like the Indio Community Center, which offers activities and fitness programs. For those who love the outdoors, Indio provides a wealth of options.

## Family-Friendly Community and Education Resources

Indio is known for being a family-oriented city, with a variety of parks, recreational facilities, and community programs designed for children and families.

The city has multiple parks with playgrounds, splash pads, sports courts, and open spaces, making it easy for families to spend quality time outdoors.

The Desert Sands Unified School District and Coachella Valley Unified School District serve Indio, providing families with quality public education options. Additionally, the city has several after-school and youth programs, summer camps, and sports leagues, creating a supportive and engaging environment for children and families.

## Agricultural Heritage and Unique Local Offerings

Indio has a rich agricultural history, once known as the “Date Capital of the World” due to its extensive date farms. The city still celebrates this heritage with the annual National Date Festival, a beloved event that features date-inspired cuisine, cultural performances, and family-friendly activities. Local date farms and produce markets allow residents to enjoy fresh, locally-grown foods and support the area’s agricultural economy.

### Tip

During the “season”, check out the produce stand at the corner of Madison and Hwy 111. They grow their produce on the premises, and harvest it daily. If you love ultra fresh produce, this is the place to go. Open six days a week.



# Things to Do in the Valley

You'll never get bored living in the Coachella Valley. And when you have visitors, you'll never have to wonder how to keep them entertained. Even if they (or you) aren't golfers or tennis players, here are some additional activities the desert has to offer.

## The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens

The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens has been a beloved institution in Palm Desert for over 50 years. Here you'll find fences but no cages as the animals live in natural surroundings. The Living Desert Zoo is ranked in the top 10 in North America.

The Living Desert represents the desert environments of North America, Australia, and Africa with more than 150 species, 1,200 protected acres, and miles of hiking trails.

The Living Desert is open year-round with events big and small. They are known for their WildLights display all month long in December, but there is a Walking Club, a Zoo Camp for adults, Hoppy Hour at the Kookaburra Cafe. There is always something fun and interesting happening.



## Sunnylands

Sunnylands is the estate of the Walter and Leonore Annenberg Trust. Located in Rancho Mirage, the 200 acre estate is open to the public.

You can take a tour of the 25,000 square foot mid-century modern home, or tour the grounds on foot or by shuttle. There are self-guided audio garden walks and birding tours.

There are exhibitions and Sunday outdoor toys and games with the kids. Keep an eye on their calendar for special events. You won't be disappointed.



## Hiking

Hiking is one of the most popular activities in the Valley. There are trails everywhere, from easy to advanced, and they are well-used.

Always take more water than you think you'll need, but be sure to give hiking a try. The views are spectacular.



## Swimming and Water Sports



With the high temperatures, swimming is a popular activity, and there are water parks, resort pools, and public pools throughout the valley.

## Horseback Riding

Your paragrsernt landscapes and trails around the Coachella Valley make it a prime area for horseback riding, with several stables offering guided rides.

If you own your own horse and want an equestrian property, there are many equestrian homes throughout the valley.



## ATV and Off-Roading

The nearby sand dunes and open desert landscapes make the area great for off-roading, including ATV, dirt bike riding, and Jeep tours.

Even if you aren't a fan, it's a favorite of visitors. It may be what gets your kids to visit more often, assuming you want them to.

You might even decide to try it yourself. It's great fun!



## Music and Theater

Music, there is music everywhere.

Whether the Coachella Music & Arts Festival, the Stagecoach Festival, musicians and vocalists performing at the casinos throughout the valley or live music and dancing at many of the valley's restaurants. There are live concerts everywhere.

Live Theater is also popular. From the McCallum in Palm Desert and the Coachella Valley Repertory in Cathedral City, to the live shows at the Casinos, live theater is alive and well throughout this area.

## Museums and Art Galleries

### The Palm Springs Art Museum



Accredited by the American Association of Museums, the Palm Springs Art Museum has 28 galleries, two sculpture gardens, four classrooms, resource centers, five storage vaults, an 85-seat lecture hall, a 433-seat theater, a 1,000-square-foot store, and a popular local bistro.

We love our art and artists here in the desert. [www.psmuseum.org/](http://www.psmuseum.org/)

### Palm Springs Air Museum



View one of the world's largest collection of flyable WWII, Korea and Vietnam era aircraft. You can even take a ride in some of them.

A very popular spot with fascinating, hands-on exhibits. [palmspringsairmuseum.org/](http://palmspringsairmuseum.org/)

## The Backstreet Art District



A popular place to spend an afternoon, the Backstreet Art District in Palm Springs is made up of an assortment of galleries offering paintings, jewelry and ceramics. Most artists work on the premises.

There is a monthly art walk on the first Wednesday of each month, year round.

[backstreetairdistrict.com](http://backstreetairdistrict.com)

## Galleries and Museums Everywhere

If you are an art lover, you'll never run out of places to visit, and the art is constantly changing.

You can even try your hand at painting at the La Quinta Old Town Artisans Studios.

[oldtownartisanstudios.org](http://oldtownartisanstudios.org)

Or, keep your eyes open for pop-up evenings around town of painting and sipping wine. Art and music. It's everywhere in the valley.

# Pro Sports in the Desert

Sports of all types and levels have always been an important part of desert life.

## The Coachella Valley Firebirds

The Coachella Valley is home to the Coachella Valley Firebirds, a professional ice hockey team that began play in the 2022–23 season.

They are the American Hockey League (AHL) affiliate of the NHL's Seattle Kraken and play their home games at Acrisure Arena in Palm Desert. Having the Firebirds in the Valley has added a lot of excitement for sports lovers.

## The Coachella Valley Scorpions

The Coachella Valley Scorpions, a team in the National Pickleball League (NPL), represent the region in professional pickleball.

Pickleball has become increasingly popular and in July 2024, actor Vince Vaughn became the majority stakeholder of the Scorpions, highlighting our team's growing prominence.



While the Firebirds and the Scorpions are the primary professional sports teams in the area, the region also hosts various major sporting events, including the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament in Indian Wells and The American Express golf tournament in La Quinta, to name just a few.

# Hospitals



Located in Rancho Mirage, **Eisenhower Medical Center** is a nationally known 5-star hospital, listed in the top 100 hospitals in the U.S. by Newsweek.



## Superior Care and Top-notch Physicians and Staff

The level of care at the 463 bed, not-for-profit Eisenhower Hospital is unparalleled.

Last year Eisenhower added a maternity wing due to the demand and growing population of younger couples in the Valley.

I can say from personal experience, that the care I received during a stay at the hospital was second-to-none. It's no wonder so many snowbirds wait until they visit the Valley during high season to take care of their medical needs at this hospital.

## Renker Pavilion

If you're looking for luxury during your hospital stay, the Renker Pavilion at Eisenhower Medical Center offers 24 hotel-like suites that include two bathrooms and living areas that allows overnight guests.

Amenities include European linens and down-filled duvets, flat-screen televisions and DVD players, high-speed Internet access and fax machines, original artwork, Italian bath fixtures, and full-time concierge service.

A private chef works in a dedicated gourmet kitchen to create individually tailored meals. Patients and visitors also may reserve the pavilion's private dining room, which accommodates groups up to six. Additionally, the kitchen provides food and beverage service to a "family room" with a flat-screen television. An art-filled library houses a collection of DVDs, books, magazines, and newspapers, as well as a flat-screen television and computer stations.

Not for everyone, these suites are very popular during the high snowbird season. It's non unusual for snowbirds to save their elective surgeries for their visits to the Coachella Valley.



Located in Palm Springs, and part of the Desert CARE Network, **Desert Regional Hospital** has been around since 1948.

A level II trauma center, Desert Regional, until recently, housed the only maternity ward in the immediate vicinity.



Desert Regional Medical Center is currently managed by Tenet Healthcare.

The hospital offers all-around services, including trauma care, stroke , neurosurgery, cardiac surgery, cancer treatment and neonatal intensive care.

Located in Indio, and part of the Desert CARE Network, **John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital** is a 145 bed acute-care hospital.



Desert Regional Medical Center is managed by Tenet Healthcare. Although smaller than other hospitals in the Valley, it's busy, with trauma, maternity and pediatrics, and general surgery.

JFK Memorial is known for it's award-winning orthopedic and joint replacement program and cardiovascular services.

# Colleges & Universities

## COLLEGE OF THE DESERT



### **College of the Desert - est 1958**

The main campus of this much loved and respected public community college is located in the heart of Palm Desert.

Great news! A new campus has just opened in Palm Springs.

The COD Library is open to the public.

College of the Desert (COD) offers a diverse array of programs, with several standing out due to their popularity and robust curricula:

- Business Administration:

- Nursing:

- Computer Science:

- Administration of Justice:

- Liberal Arts:

... and many more programs available.



# UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA-RIVERSIDE PALM DESERT CAMPUS



As the Valley grows, the demand for higher education grows along with it.

The University of California has been active in the Coachella Valley for nearly 100 years, initially supporting the agriculture industry and more recently impacting modern growth issues through research in areas such as transportation, air quality and energy and water conservation.

Additionally, it serves as a base for several UCR research programs and hosts many conferences, continuing education and public service programs.

# CAL STATE-SAN BERNARDINO PALM DESERT CAMPUS



The Palm Desert campus of Cal State-San Barnardino opened in 1986 and has grown expodentially.

September 2024 CSUSB was awarded No. 3 for social mobility in Wall Street Journal's Best Colleges 2025 list.

The Palm Desert campus's newest offering is a mini MBA but they offer full 4-year academic programs in many disciplines as well as Graduate and Doctorate programs.

# What You Need to Know About the Climate

Everyone knows the desert is hot, hot, hot in the summer but let's break it down.

Summer heat generally begins late April into May and lasts until late October.

The heat in the summer is usually over 100F and there is not much rain, although we can get surprise showers and even wind.

The other weather phenomena in the desert is the summer evening heat. You won't get much of a break even at night. Temperatures over 100F after dark aren't unusual.

Rain will often be in the mountains around us but not make it down to the floor or the valley. Or, it may rain a block from you but not where you are. Those are usually just quick showers.

It can get windy in the desert. The stretch along the Interstate #10 freeway is the windiest - much less so along California #111. These routes roughly parallel one another, Interstate 10 is the northern part of the valley, Hwy 111 is the southern.

Most people shop early, but it's not unusual to see diehards on the golf course, usually before the hottest part of the day.

During the “season” it’s a different story. From November through April temps are usually in the 70's and 80's. Evenings can get quite cold, or what we consider cold. In the 50's is average but it can get colder.

Flooding: when you’re house hunting here, be sure to check if you are in a flood zone. Water flows into the valley from the surrounding mountains and some areas can flood.

Nighttime: If you want to see stars, the desert is the perfect place. Away from commercial areas it can be pitchblack and the stars put on quite a show.

# Employers

Some employment in the Valley tends to be seasonal, such as restaurants and retail. Others are strong year 'round.

Medical + Educational + Hospitality

## **Eisenhower Medical Center**

## **Desert Sands Unified School District**

There are multiple school districts in the Valley. This is the largest.

## **Agua Caliente Bank of Cahuilla Indians**

Operates casinos and resorts throughout the Valley.

## **Fantasy Springs Resort Casino**

## **General Medical**

# My Story

I hate hot weather and it was never my plan to move to the desert (from Los Angeles). I came here many times to play, but never to live.

After the economic crisis of 2008, as a mortgage broker, my business suffered greatly. I came to the desert to lick my wounds for a couple of weeks - in August - the hottest month of the year!

When it was time to return to the real world, I kept putting it off. I was learning what “easy living” was all about - something unknown in any big city.

Now, 14 years later, I’m still here and I call it “home”. The friendly people, the ease of living, the natural beauty and the amenities of a big city - what more could anyone ask for?

Welcome to my world.