



Local Recommendations by Michael & Scott

To help you make the most of your visit to the desert, we've compiled this packet of local attractions, activities, restaurants and excursions to explore during your stay. We've experienced ourselves everything listed. For variety, we've provided several choices so that you have some options. If you have any specific interests that you don't see listed, please let us know. We'll be very glad to provide you additional recommendations.

Top Attractions



Palm Springs Aerial Tramway **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**

www.pstramway.com - One Tramway Rd., Palm Springs, CA

The world's largest rotating tram car will take you up a breathtaking 9,000-foot journey to the top of the San Jacinto mountains. Once up top, the view out over the desert is fantastic. On hot days, the cool air (sometimes 30 degrees lower than that at the desert floor) can be a refreshing treat. Up top, explore the large multi-story lodge with indoor and outdoor observation decks, restaurants, cocktail lounge and shops. Visit website for real-time outdoor temperature at the summit so that you can pack the right clothing to layer.



Day Hike at the top of the Tramway

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/sbnf/recarea/?recid=74226> | San Jacinto Peak

At the top of the tramway is a US National Forest with over 50 miles of hiking. But you can explore many of the short loop trails to customize how long you want to hike. Pack and bring durable outdoor shoes if you want to explore the California wilderness. Plan for temperatures that are cooler than in Palm Springs. If you hike, register at the Lone Valley US Ranger Station, which is a ten-minute walk down the backside from the tram station.



Palm Springs VillageFest

Villagefest.org

Downtown Palm Springs on Palm Canyon Drive most Thursday evenings

On Thursday nights, the main street in downtown Palm Springs is entirely closed to traffic and becomes a pedestrian-only promenade with food, art, music and local crafts. There is a free city parking garage downtown at 235 S Indian Canyon Dr. The garage can fill up on Thursday nights, so consider arriving early to get a parking space, and grabbing dinner at a nearby restaurant to people watch. Operating hours vary; visit website.



The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens

www.livingdesert.org | 47900 Portola Ave, Palm Desert, CA 92260

This is a large zoo and botanical garden dedicated solely to the deserts of the world. Condé Nast magazine rates it as one of the 10 best zoos in the USA, and we agree. You'll feel transported to the deserts of Africa to see and touch African animals. They have programs such as environmental education, native wildlife rehabilitation, plant propagation and habitat restoration, etc. Palm Desert is about a 20-minute drive from the house.

More Attractions & Shopping



Palm Springs Mid-Century Modern Architecture & Design Center

www.psmuseum.org/visit/psam-a-and-d-center

300 S Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92262

This is the country's first historic structure to be transformed into a free-standing architecture and design museum that is housed in a mid-century modern building. The 13,000 square foot building, designed by renowned architect E. Stewart Williams, is a classic mid-century style structure, and is a protected Class I Historic Site. It features a ground level glass pavilion space that showcases architecture and design, and curatorial offices. Check it out if you are interested in learning about mid-century modern architecture and design.



Palm Springs Air Museum

www.palmspringsairmuseum.org

745 N Gene Autry Trail, Palm Springs, CA 92262

An unexpected attraction for our small resort town is an air museum. This museum has one of the world's largest collections of World War II and later military aircraft from several nations. It boasts aircraft such as the Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress to the Grumman F7F Tigercat to the Lockheed T-33 Shooting Star. The planes are positioned throughout the museum, like the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. The museum has planes inside and outside.



Hiking

www.hiking-in-ps.com/palm-springs-hiking-trails

Hiking trails are abundant in Palm Springs. From easy walking trails to difficult terrain, the outdoor enthusiasts will experience spectacular mountain vistas, waterfalls, natural streams, rocky gorges and unusual rock formations. The pristine desert air mixed with giant palm trees and an alpine wilderness create the perfect setting of desert beauty.

Tip: During the summer, hiking in many areas is dangerous. Hiking only in the area of Idyllwild area only is recommended: www.hiking-in-ps.com/idyllwild-hiking-trails



El Paseo – High End Fashion Shopping

www.elpaseocatalogue.com

El Paseo Street, Palm Desert, CA

Visit the El Paseo boulevard, which many refer to as the “Rodeo Drive of the Desert.” Many of the world's high-end fashion brands have a presence on this long boulevard. There's also restaurants and upscale bars. About a 20-minute drive from the house.



Desert Hills Premium Outlets

www.premiumoutlets.com/outlet/desert-hills

48400 Seminole Dr, Cabazon, CA 92230

This is the largest collection of luxury outlets in California. Residents and visitors throughout Southern California make the 2 plus hour trek to shop here. For you, it's only a 25-minute drive from the house via the 10 Freeway. Be prepared for crowds on weekends—there are buses that take tourists there on weekends from the LA area for shopping. There's also an adjacent outlet mall: www.cabazonoutlets.com



Swap Meets, Public Bazaars and Flea Markets (marché aux puces)

- College of the Desert Street Fair in Palm Desert: codaastreetfair.com
- Sky Village Outdoor Market Place in Yucca Valley: skyvillageswapmeet.com
(Tip: combine Sky Village visit with your trip to Joshua Tree National Park)
- Village Fest in Palm Springs: See “Village Fest” above for this popular event)

Addresses to the Popular Photo Spots Around Town

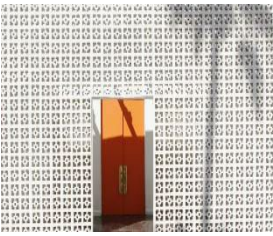
We're occasionally asked by some of our guests where to find some of the local sites made famous on social media. Check some of these top sites.



The Palm Springs welcome sign

2901 N Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs

If you drove into town from the north, you may have seen tourists who stopped by this sign to snap a photo in front. The Palm Springs sign on Highway 111 greets you on your way into town, providing a great backdrop for photos with beautiful mountain vistas and palm trees. A photo here is surely to make your friends at home envious!



The Parker Hotel - Front Entrance

4200 E. Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs

The mid-century breezblock wall and enormously tall orange doors at the Jonathan Adler- designed Parker Palm Springs hotel is another extremely popular Palm Springs photo destination – so much so that sometimes there is a queue of photo-takers. If none, you found a lucky time to go!



The Pink Door House

1100 Sierra Way, Palm Springs

A few years ago, someone took a selfie in front of this house with giant pink doors, and it went viral. Today, it's a must do picture that screams Palm Springs glam. History note: this house and the enormous door reflect the Hollywood Regency style that was popular from the 1920s through the 1950s.



The Elvis Honeymoon Hideaway (also known as the House of Tomorrow)

1350 Ladera Cir, Palm Springs

Elvis & Priscilla Presley lived here in the mid-1960s and Honeymooned here. This house was built by the developer, Robert Alexander, who also constructed our vacation home. That's why the mid-century homes that he developed and built are referred to as "Alexanders."



The Frank Sinatra Estate

1145 E Via Colusa, Palm Springs

Though the house was only accessible to Hollywood's elite, the rest of the world caught a glimpse of this house in Joan Crawford's 1950 film, "The Damned Don't Cry." If you don't want to pay \$15,000 to rent the house per week, you can snap a picture by the historic plaque of Frank Sinatra's Palm Springs home.



The Forever Marilyn Statue

Museum Way, Palm Springs (cross street is Belardo Rd)

Forever Marilyn is the 26 ft. tall sculpture of Marilyn Monroe by American artist Seward Johnson, inspired by the famous photograph taken on the set of the film, The Seven Year Itch. In 1949 Marilyn was "discovered" in Palm Springs at Charlie Farrell's Racquet Club by a talent agent.

Local Restaurants with Alfresco Dining

As you might expect in a resort town, there are many restaurants on the “strip” downtown. Therefore, we’ve tried to focus on some hidden gems that the locals like to go—including us. We’ve also strived to limit our recommendations to locally-owned restaurants. And Palm Springs is all about indoor-outdoor living, so our list showcases restaurants with alfresco (open-air) dining.

We appreciate that everyone has different palates, and budgets, and preferences for ambiance and noise level. So, we encourage you to take our recommendations as a starting point and check out the restaurants online to help you decide.

As a resort town, you may wear “smart casual” attire at all the restaurants listed. So, enjoy the California casual vibe. On warmer/hot days, many of the restaurants have misters and shade.

\$ – Budget friendly quick table service

\$\$ – Full table service, local specialty

\$\$\$ – Upscale dining, coursed meals

\$\$\$\$ – Formal, yet unpretentious, dining and special occasions



Tyler's Burgers - \$+ GREAT FOR AN IMPROMPTU LUNCH

149 S. Indian Canyon Drive & La Plaza St (located just off “the strip”) Palm Springs

This is a local gem for burger lovers. It’s located off the strip a half block in the median of a small boulevard. The restaurant is located in a charming 1930s former bus depot. Arrive early to get a table ahead of the lunch rush. Or stand in the queue line to wait for the next table. A host person will look after you. Bring Cash! No credit cards taken.



Sherman's Deli \$+ A LOCAL INSTITUTION MADE FAMOUS ON TV

401 E Tahquitz Canyon Way (cross street is S Calle Encilia) Palm Springs

No longer a local hidden gem after appearing on Guy Fieri’s Diners and Drive-ins TV show, Sherman’s is a landmark authentic New York style deli restaurant run by the same family since 1953. It’s just a block off the main strip. Indoor/outdoor tables. Portions are enormous! Go for lunch, eat what you can, and get a take-home box.



Farm - \$\$\$+ A TASTE AND FEEL OF THE CASUAL FRENCH COUNTRYSIDE

6 La Plaza, Palm Springs, CA 92262

This truly hidden downtown restaurant provides a taste of Provence France in downtown Palm Springs. This tranquil restaurant offers a traditional menu for breakfast and lunch and brunch. Try the French press coffee and house made jams. For dinner, they offer a prix fixe meal designed by the chef de cuisine. The rustic patio is surrounded by lush greenery, and fireplaces inside create a cozy atmosphere.



Lulu California Bistro- \$\$ - GREAT FOR ANYTIME FAMILY DINING

200 S Palm Canyon Dr, Palm Springs, CA 9226

This restaurant is in the heart of the downtown “strip.” The décor is a fun mid-century modern inspired theme. It boasts a very extensive menu that will have something to please everyone. However, they don’t “specialize” in any one dish, so we recommend this as a good place for breakfast, lunch, or an afternoon snack and libation. There’s a shaded outdoor patio street side to people watch and enjoy the delightful weather.

Local Restaurants With Alfresco Dining, Continued...



EL Mirasol at Los Arboles - \$\$ AUTHENTIC MEXICAN

784 N. Indian Canyon Drive (cross street is E Tamarisk Rd) Palm Springs

Try this hidden authentic family-owned Mexican restaurant as an alternative to the enormous “touristy” Mexican restaurant you'll see on the main strip. Since it's Palm Springs, ask for a table outside to enjoy al fresco dining beneath the lush tropical landscaping, umbrellas and misting fans (patio heaters for winter evenings). Enjoy *fresh* tortilla chips, guacamole, and a margarita. Local tips: If you like hot sauce, ask your server to bring a bottle of the **Diablo Sauce** to your table—it's a delicious secret family recipe! There's a free parking lot in back.



Cheeky's - \$\$ HOMEMADE BRUNCH - Recognized by the Michelin Guide

622 N. Palm Canyon Drive (cross street E Granvia Valmonte) Palm Springs

This is a local gem for a delicious breakfast and weekend brunch. The food is locally sourced. Try their craft Bloody Mary drink, the yummy eggs benedict and the “bacon flight.” The menu is diverse and creative. There is typically a waitlist that starts upon opening in the morning. Put your name and cell number down on the check-in list and they will text you. Plan to wait if you don't arrive early.



Jake's - \$\$ A HIDDEN HIDEAWAY

664 N Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs

Jake's is a smaller bistro style restaurant, which is just north of Cheeky's. This restaurant is a hidden gem that the locals and snowbirds like to keep secret. You might pass it by if walking down the sidewalk. Folks not wanting to wait for Cheeky's sometimes wander to this place, which is just as delicious. There can also be a wait for breakfast, so put your name down on the list ahead of time.



Eight4Nine - \$\$\$ PALM SPRINGS CHIC

849 N Palm Canyon Dr, Palm Springs

This restaurant serves Californian-American cuisine with an eclectic, quintessential "Palm Springs" ambiance. It has a vibrant decor, delicious food and a fun bar. The restaurant has both indoor and outdoor seating, with everything decorated in high-end modern furnishings, bright white with pops of hot pink. Outside seating is in a beautiful tree-filled garden with subtle lighting. Inside there's multiple differently themed dining areas. Stop by ahead of time to peek in.



Trio - \$\$\$ (\$\$ for prix fixe menu) A FAVORITE OF THE LOCALS

707 North Palm Canyon Drive (cross street is W Merito Pl) Palm Springs

Trio is a trendier, lively restaurant serving Californian-American cuisine. The restaurant is usually very busy at night. The food is delicious and is frequented by locals. They serve Californian-American cuisine in a “lively” modern space. They offer a budget daily 3-course prix fixe menu as well. Free parking in back.



The Tropicale \$\$\$ A PLACE TO CELEBRATE – MOST POPULAR

330 E Amado Rd, Palm Springs

The Tropicale is a very popular Palm Springs restaurant that serves upscale Californian-American cuisine. Go here if you are seeking a place that is very lively, hip and fun—*especially on a weekend night*. They have a large outdoor dining patio that creates that “quintessential” outdoor Palm Springs ambiance and dining atmosphere. It's buzzing with laughter and music, which sets the mood. We recommend requesting an outdoor table (you can generally change your mind to go inside). It typically books up on weekend nights (often with groups of friends), so reservations are usually a must for dining Friday or Saturday night between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Restaurants Recognized by Michelin



The Michelin Guide, which is probably the world's most trusted guide for notable restaurants, has recently given a "nod" to several restaurants in Palm Springs. While none have been rated with the guide's coveted 1, 2 or 3 Michelin stars (at least yet), these are restaurants that Michelin's food critics have found to serve delicious food with high quality, local ingredients. Here are the eight restaurants and the write-ups from the MICHELIN guidebook.

P.S. Don't let the Michelin recommendation lead you astray into thinking you need to dress formal to get in. This is Palm Springs, which means resort-casual attire is generally always appropriate!



4 Saints

Cuisine: Mediterranean

Phone: 760-392-2020

100 W Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, CA 92262

Set on the seventh-floor rooftop of the Rowan Hotel, this is the highest perch in all of downtown. The sweeping views of the San Jacinto Mountains will really make you swoon. Chef Ysaac Ramirez lends a Southern twang to a shareable menu replete with seasonal produce, as in grilled purple sweet potatoes with creamy Alabama white barbecue sauce and pickled red chiles.



Bar Cecil

Cuisine: American

Phone: 442-332-3800

1555 S Palm Canyon Dr, Palm Springs, CA 92264

Reservations here book weeks in advance, so if you're seeking a spur-of-the-moment meal, your best bet is to arrive before doors open and put your name down for a coveted bar seat. It would be easy to spend a bit more here on items like roasted king crab legs or Ossetra with blini, but there's less expensive hearty American fare, like a signature burger dressed up with melted Comté.



Boozehounds

Cuisine: International

Phone: 760-656-0067

2080 N Palm Canyon Dr, Palm Springs, CA 92262

What's in a name? In this case, at least, there's a tongue-in-cheek précis: a dog-friendly cocktail bar. Diners and their canine confrères can enter a spacious enclosed patio area through a separate "doggy door." The stylish indoor space remains a humans-only domain, where the focus shifts to a top shelf drinks menu as well as an eclectic bar menu that spans both snacks and more substantial fare.



Cheeky's

Cuisine: Californian

760-327-7595

622 N Palm Canyon Dr, Palm Springs, CA 92262

Bacon is in the air at this perpetually packed morning and daytime-only hotspot. This kitchen taps into the bounty of California's produce. The quirky menu, divided between breakfast and lunch options, changes weekly. Don't miss the "bacon flight," a selection of five strips of various flavors, ranging from apple cinnamon to jalapeño.

Restaurants Recognized by Michelin, Continued



Colony Club

Cuisine: American

760-969-1818

572 N Indian Canyon Dr, Palm Springs, CA 92262

This Moroccan-style oasis at the plush Colony Palms Hotel has history and charm to spare, having once been the stomping ground of stars like Clark Gable and Humphrey Bogart. In keeping with the pool-party vibe, the menu is laid-back, from snacks like edamame hummus, to heftier fare like a grilled pork chop with cheesy polenta. To finish, a frosted carrot layer cake with pineapple and toasted pecans.



Tac/Quila

Cuisine: Mexican

760-417-4471

415 N Palm Canyon Dr, Palm Springs, CA 92262

Amidst the hacienda-inspired elegance of this popular venue, you may find yourself flanked by suit-clad business types quaffing top-shelf tequila on one side, and on the other, poolside-tanned tourists with clothes thrown over their bathing suits as they sip from margarita flights. Likewise, the sizable menu offers room for both street tacos with typical fillings like carne asada or al pastor, as well as more upscale options like lobster and seared ahi tuna.



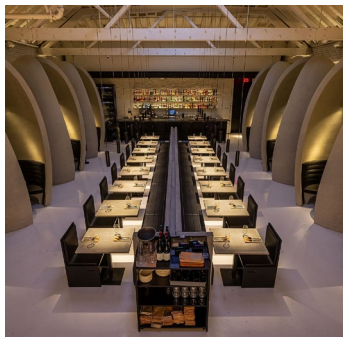
The Barn Kitchen at Sparrows Lodge

Cuisine: Californian

760-327-2300

1330 E Palm Canyon Dr, Palm Springs, CA 92264

Once an exclusive getaway for Hollywood elites, the privileged serenity of this quaint refuge no longer requires a (Screen Actor's Guild card to gain entrance, you will need a reservation. Matching with the general wellness retreat aesthetic, the ingredient-driven cooking tends towards wholesome California style simplicity—think fresh salads, grilled cauliflower steak with sauce vierge and the requisite avocado toast at lunch.



Workshop Kitchen & Bar

Cuisine: Californian

760-459-3451

800 N Palm Canyon Dr, Palm Springs, CA 92262

Farm-to-table food may seem like an impossibility in the middle of the desert, but nearby Coachella Valley is actually one of the nation's most productive regions. A dedicated garden in Rancho Mirage, along with a sizeable herb planter behind the kitchen, furnishes peak-season produce for wood-fired dishes like a flat iron au poivre, and even a simple yuzu tart is prettied up with farm-fresh raspberries and wood sorrel.

Specialty Stores, Tours & Services



Bakeries & Specialty Cakes

Specialty cakes: www.exquisitedesserts.com

Custom cakes: www.pastryswan.com/cakes

Take-away cakes: www.shermansdeli.com



Bike Rentals – Bike Palm Springs

www.bikepsrentals.com

To properly accommodate the equipment needs for people of different statures and abilities, we refer guests that would like to bike around town to the local bicycle rental agency. You can reserve a bike online ahead of your arrival date at the website listed above. Look online at the variety of bikes offered, and then note your preference in the special requests box on the reservation form. This is a great way to get a bike for just a day, or longer!



BabyQuip Equipment Rentals for Babies and Toddlers

<https://www.babyquip.com/a/2cgqif> ← Discount price link

For your convenience at the house, we provide a Graco Pack 'n Play portable playard, and an adjustable highchair for your use. If you have any additional specialty needs, such as a stroller, or other items you don't want to pack, reserve what you need online, and they will deliver it straight to the house for you!



Shields Date Fruit Garden

<https://shieldsdategarden.com>

Dates are the fruit of the date palm tree. For almost a century Shields Date Garden has been a place where people come to experience a date garden. From the moment you walk through our doors, you'll be greeted by every imaginable product incorporating dates. Sit at a quintessential 1960's original shake counter and sip on a unique refreshing date shake. Complete your Shields venture with a walk through the 17-acre date grove and botanical garden.



Jeep Tours of San Andreas Fault

<https://www.red-jeep.com/>

760-477-4217

Explore the geology around California's legendary San Andreas fault during a Jeep tour from Palm Desert. You'll see a desert oasis fed by an underground spring as your guide describes how the Native American Cahuilla tribe used the desert's plants for food, medicine, and shelter. Drive through steep-walled canyons and tall twisted rock mountains, and learn about the plant and animal life of the area.