



# Palm Springs, CA



At 487 feet above sea level, Palm Springs, California, lies on the western edge of the Coachella Valley in an area known as the Colorado Desert. Palm Springs also sits at the foot of Mount San Jacinto, which has an elevation of 10,834 feet, and on a portion of the reservation belonging to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians who have called the Coachella Valley their home for thousands of years. Moving from San Francisco in 1884, Judge John Guthrie McCallum and his family became the first non-Indians to settle here. In 1853, the United States Topographical Engineers mentioned the oasis of palm trees and springs that they called “Palm Springs,” which became the official name in 1890.

In 1909, Dr. Harry and Nellie Coffman started a tuberculosis sanitarium, The Desert Inn, which later became a world-renowned resort hotel catering to the very wealthy. Hollywood discovered Palm Springs in 1919 as the desert was considered an ideal filming spot for many silent movies. By the time of its incorporation in 1938, Palm Springs had become famous as a winter playground for Hollywood stars, European royalty, and business tycoons.

Several museums are located in Palm Springs. Two 19th-century pioneer homes—the Judge John Guthrie McCallum Adobe, and Miss Cornelia White’s “Little House,” which was built from railroad tracks—comprise the Palm Springs Historical Society. The Palm Springs Air Museum houses a large collection of flyable WWII airplanes and related artifacts. The Agua Caliente Cultural Museum presents the history and culture of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians. The Palm Springs Art Museum’s permanent collection includes significant works by western, contemporary, and glass artists. The Desert Art Center provides gallery space for emerging and established artists.

Local and nationally known entertainers and touring companies perform at Palm Springs venues that include the Palm Springs Art Museum’s Annenberg Theater, the McCallum Theatre, and Palm Canyon Theatre.

## NEIGHBORHOODS

Palm Springs’ oldest neighborhoods date from the 1920s and include Old Las Palmas, which features eclectic architecture from Spanish Colonial to modern, and the historic Tennis Club, which is located adjacent to the downtown and contains several condominiums in addition to single-family residences. Dating from the 1920s and 1930s, the Movie Colony contains large estates that belonged to former Hollywood moguls and movie stars, who also inhabited many of the other Palm Springs neighborhoods. The historic Tahquitz River Estates contains 1930s Spanish revival houses situated on large lots. Other two- and three-bedroom homes built in the late 1940s feature a lanai, breezeway, and wall of glass. Warm Sands neighborhood features historic homes built in the late 1920s and 1930s, three-unit apartments, and condominiums. Dunes Court is a gated enclave of single-family homes that dates from the 1990s located in Warm Sands.

Palm Springs is known for its mid-century modern style of architecture now called Desert Modernism, which features expansive glass walls and windows, dramatic rooflines, and wide overhangs; Vista Las Palmas offers homes built in the 1950s and 1960s in this style. The eclectic Palm Canyon Mesa subdivision, which is the site of the Moorten Botanical Garden, contains Desert Modernism, Spanish, and adobe styles, and the famous 1930s “Ship of the Desert” home named for its resemblance to a ship. Few of the mid-century style homes built in 1959 and 1960 in El Rancho Vista Estates have been altered beyond recognition. The neighborhood also has some standard-style ranch homes and others built in the late 1970s. Originally built in the 1960s, most of the real estate in Indian Canyons has been refurbished to reflect its modernistic roots and contains authentic mid-century modern homes and tile-roofed Southwestern ranches surrounding a golf course. It is also the site of the historic Walt Disney Fountain. Architectural styles in the Deepwell neighborhood include mid-century modern, new environmentally “green” houses, and Biltmore Colony condominiums and single-family detached residences, which were constructed on the site of the former Biltmore Hotel in 2005.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

Nine parks are located in Palm Springs. Sunrise Park contains the Palm Springs Swim Center, an outdoor Olympic-size pool public pool, the leisure center, a skate park, an off-leash dog park, and the Palm Springs Baseball Stadium. In the winter, the stadium hosts the professional California Winter League, which is a professional baseball showcase league for free agents, and in the summer, the Palm Springs POWER!, a collegiate summer franchise. Tahquitz Creek Golf Resort offers two championship 18-hole golf courses. DeMuth Park has lighted tennis courts, baseball diamonds, and batting cages. Public tennis and basketball courts, and a children’s play area are available at Ruth Hardy Park, which is located near the downtown.

Moorten Botanical Garden is a private arboretum that contains an extraordinary variety of desert plants from around the world and features desert trees and cacti, from miniatures to giants.

Most of Mount San Jacinto State Park and Wilderness is part of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument. The Palm Springs Aerial Tramway begins in Chino Canyon near Palm Springs and carries passengers from Valley Station at 2,643 feet elevation to Mountain Station on the edge of the wilderness, at an elevation of 8,516 feet.

Wet ‘n’ Wild Palm Springs is a water park that offers additional recreational activities in the city.

## EDUCATION

Palm Springs Unified School District educates approximately 22,500 students in 16 elementary, 5 middle, and 4 high schools. Palm Springs Unified School District is an open enrollment district with students from Palm Springs as well as Cathedral City, Desert Hot Springs, Palm Desert, Rancho Mirage, and Thousand Palms.

Higher education is available at Kaplan College, Palm Springs Campus, which grants diplomas in several fields. Elsewhere in the region, California State University, San Bernardino–Palm Desert Campus is home to upper division and graduate students. College of the Desert is a community college located in Palm Desert. Mayfield College (Cathedral City Campus) awards certificates and diplomas in technology, business, and health care fields. Copper Mountain College is located in Joshua Tree and offers associate degrees and certificate programs in selected fields.

## HEALTH CARE

Desert Regional Medical Centers is a 387-bed tertiary acute care hospital located in Palm Springs. Hospitals in nearby cities include La Quinta Medical Center in La Quinta and Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage. The Betty Ford Center for addiction treatment is also located in Rancho Mirage.

## CITY STATS

2012

City Population	45,763
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	4,350,096
Per capita personal income, Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, MSA:	\$31,900