Folks from nearby metropolises like Los Angeles and Las Vegas flock to the desert oasis of Rancho Mirage in Riverside County, California.

Loaded with spas, world-class dining, antique shopping and hiking opportunities, visitors split their time between sipping cool drinks poolside and getting out into the outdoors or cultural scene the area has to offer.

Located in the legendary Coachella Valley, Rancho Mirage is a city of over 17,000 people, which sees its numbers swell to over 20,000 during the peak tourist season. There’s plenty to explore between the numerous golf courses, casinos and surrounding mountains nearby. Be sure to check out the local communities including Palm Springs, Palm Desert, Cathedral City, Indio, and Indian Wells. The area is also host to the famous annual music festival which bears the Coachella Valley name. Popular parks in the vicinity include Joshua Tree National Park, the San Bernardino National Forest and Big Morongo Canyon Preserve.
Let’s start with a brief history of the Greater Palm Springs valley.

The first inhabitants of what is now called the Coachella Valley were the Cahuilla Indians (pronounced Ka-wee-ah) who found an abundant bounty and natural hot springs in the area.

They named the area Sec-He (Boiling Water) but the area has been known by various names since the Cahuilla times: Agua Caliente, Palm Valley, Seven Palms. The same hot springs also brought the first visitors to our desert oasis. These visitors were here for the medicinal properties of the dry air and hot mineral springs, hoping to find relief from their ailments. They came via horse and wagon until 1877, when the Southern Pacific Railroad completed track from Los Angeles, California to Yuma, Arizona. Hollywood soon followed and found the desert was a great place to film movies. The stars found the desert a great place to relax, rejuvenate and play. They came to "get away from it all" and they "got away with a lot." This was the era of the studio system, when studios controlled a star's publicity in the days before the paparazzi. Stars like Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis, Jr., Marilyn Monroe and more soon built second homes in "the playground of the stars." That same appeal continues to this day with Leonardo DiCaprio’s purchase of the former Dinah Shore estate in Palm Springs.

After the breakdown of the studio system, Palm Springs transitioned into a retirement haven where golf soon overtook the once more popular tennis as the game of choice. In the 1950s and 1960s, new architectural visionaries and developers built winter homes for the burgeoning middle-class in Los Angeles. California Desert Architecture became all the rage with its use of simple, clean lines and floor-to-ceiling windows. The use of simple materials such as stone, steel and glass, and the concept of bringing the outside inside, became all the rage. Names such as Albert Frey, William Krisel, the Alexander Construction Company, E. Steward Williams, Donald Wexler and many more added to the mystique of what is now called "Mid-Century Modern" architecture.

Once best known for golf, tennis and shopping, the Palm Springs Valley of today offers so much more. There truly is something for everyone. With less than 7” of annual rainfall, outdoor activities still reign supreme. Besides golf and tennis, there is hiking, rock climbing, outdoor yoga and even foot golf.

Festivals such as "The Coachella Valley Music & Arts Festival" and "Stagecoach" have led a younger generation to rediscover Greater Palm Springs. "Foodies" abound in our many new (and well established) restaurants. Joshua Tree National Park beckons millions of visitors a year with its almost spiritual quality and accessibility. From the unique rock formations to the majestic Joshua Trees, the National Park also offers romantic sunsets and spectacular stargazing opportunities.

The Concierge Team here at The Ritz-Carlton, Rancho Mirage welcomes you and is here to assist in any way possible. Please stop by and introduce yourself. We would love to meet you and help you create a most memorable stay in our desert oasis.
1. VISIT SUNNYLANDS AND TOUR THE MID-CENTURY MODERN HOME OF THE ANNENBERG’S.

Visits to the Historic Estate are by guided tour only. The Historic House Tour is the only tour that takes people into the historic house. The Bird Tour takes visitors through the estate grounds with a local birder. The Open-Air Experience takes visitors through the estate’s grounds.

2. EXPLORE JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK.

A vast protected area in southern California, the Joshua Tree National Park is characterized by rugged rock formations and stark desert landscapes. Named for the region’s twisted, bristled Joshua trees, the park straddles the cactus-dotted Colorado Desert and the Mojave Desert, which is higher and cooler. Keys View looks out over the Coachella Valley. Hiking trails weave through the boulders of Hidden Valley.

3. SHOP THE UPTOWN DESIGN DISTRICT, THE NORTH END OF DOWNTOWN PALM SPRINGS.

Offering a vast collection of mid-century modern retailers, fashion boutiques, consignment dealers, art galleries and antiques shops. Stroll through a dozen artist-owned galleries and working studios the first Wednesday of each month at the Backstreet Art District.

4. TAKE A GUIDED ARCHITECTURE TOUR OF THE PALM SPRINGS AREA. IF YOU ARE ON A BUDGET THEN DOWNLOAD THE APP AND DO THE SELF-GUIDED TOUR.

Palm Springs is an extremely beautiful city, hosting the numerous examples of stylish modern-style buildings. Most of them were built between 1940 and 1960. It’s an architecture lover’s dream. There are many beautiful and important homes that are amazing structurally, plus there’s plenty of houses owned by Hollywood celebrities scattered throughout the city too.

5. SHOP DURING THE DAY ON EL PASEO AND DINE IN THE EVENING. THE “RODEO DRIVE” OF THE DESERT IS FILLED WITH PLENTY OF GREAT SHOPS AND RESTAURANTS.

Located in Palm Desert, the world famous El Paseo Shopping District features over 300 world-class shops, clothing boutiques, art galleries, jewelers, restaurants and much more... all lined along a beautifully maintained picture-postcard floral and statue-filled mile! Known as the Rodeo Drive of the Desert, El Paseo boasts a wide spectrum of stores from Sak’s 5th Avenue to individually owned boutiques and restaurants.

6. TAKE A JEEP OR BIKE TOUR AND EXPERIENCE THIS DESERT OASIS.

Off road or round and about town, there are countless places to see from the comfort of an open air jeep or if feeling a bit more energetic why not see the sights by bike.

7. ENJOY A SPA DAY

Relax and unwind in our Spa which offers a range of treatments using indigenous ingredients, or soak up the desert atmosphere on one of our 16 treatment room terraces.
8. WALK ACROSS THE SAN ANDREAS FAULT LINE AND HIKE THE TRAILS IN THE COACHELLA VALLEY PRESERVE, A HIDDEN OASIS.

Built around the Thousand Palms Oasis, this preserve features 880 acres of hiking and natural desert areas. The oasis exists in part on the San Andreas Fault, with palm tree forests, manicured walking paths through the desert and a visitor’s center.

9. TAKE THE GONDOLA TO MT. SAN JACINTO AND ENJOY THE VIEW OF THE DESERT FLOOR AT AN ALTITUDE OF 8500 FEET AND EXPLORE SOME OF THE 54 MILES OF HIKING TRAILS.

The Palm Springs Aerial Tramway Hike to Mt San Jacinto is a great way to bag Southern California’s second highest peak without a huge effort. It’s still a tough 11 mile hike, but there is nothing like climbing to Mt San Jacinto from Palm Springs to check out the spectacular views.

10. TAKE A WALKING TOUR IN DOWNTOWN PALM SPRING OFFERED BY THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND LEARN ABOUT THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THIS BEAUTIFUL AREA WHICH INCLUDES SOME INTERESTING “HOLLYWOOD HISTORY.”

The Palm Springs Historical Society offers historical walking tours focusing on Palm Springs’ historic neighborhoods, distinguished by a combination of the celebrities and local pioneers who called them home and the architects and builders who shaped their development.

Maureen is the recipient of many coveted awards and is a highly accomplished professional representing discerning clients with real estate acquisitions, dispositions, trades or exchanges.
There’s nothing quite like experiencing a little rest and relaxation in California’s Coachella Valley.

RANCHO MIRAGE:

DINING GUIDE

CUISOT RESTAURANT
Address: 72-595 El Paseo, Palm Desert, CA 92260
Tel: +1 760-340-1000
www.cuistotrestaurant.com

LAS CASUELAS NUEVAS
Address: 70-050 Highway 111, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270
Tel: +1 760-328-8844
www.lascasuelasnuevas.com

WALLY’S DESERT TURTLE
Address: 71775 Highway 111, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270
Tel: +1 760-568-9321
www.wallysdeserutturtle.com
STATE FARE
BAR & KITCHEN

**Hours**

**Breakfast:** 6:30a.m. to 11a.m.  
A la carte off the menu

**Lunch:** 11:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.  
Monday through Sunday

**Supper:** 5:00p.m. to 9:00p.m.  
Sunday through Thursday

**Supper:** 5:00p.m. to 10:00p.m.  
Friday and Saturday

*The Best of California*

Presenting classic American cocktails and prized California wines, State Fare Bar is the ideal spot for a relaxed gathering, beverage or light bite. A creative and refined cocktail selection leads the experience, where fresh juice and agave-based syrups enhance boutique spirits from small-batch distilleries, along with cask-conditioned and bottled carbonated cocktails hand-prepared in individual batches. The State Fare wine list focuses on California’s most interesting bottles, and its comprehensive wine collection is presented in climate-controlled, walk-in red and white wine rooms. Further highlights include an adjoining interactive market table featuring fresh charcuterie, cheeses and artisanal breads, comfortable seating, and spectacular panoramic views from the adjoining terrace.
COPLEY’S
Address: 621 N Palm Canyon Dr., Palm Springs, CA 92262
Tel: +1 760-327-9555
www.copleyspalmsprings.com

JAKE’S
Address: 664 N. Palm Canyon Dr., Palm Springs, CA 92262
Tel: +1 760-327-4400
www.jakespalmsprings.com

CASTELLI’S RISTORANTE
Address: 73-098 Highway 111, Palm Desert, CA 92260
Tel: +1 760-773-3365
www.castellis.net

MITCH’S ON EL PASO
Address: 73951 El Paseo, Palm Desert, CA 92260
Tel: +1 760-779-9200
www.mitchsonelpaseo.com

SPENCER’S RESTAURANT
Address: 701 W Baristo Road, Palm Springs, CA 92262
Tel: +1 760-327-3446
www.spencersrestaurant.com

BACKSTREET BISTRO
Address: 72-820 El Paseo, Palm Desert, CA 92260
Tel: +1 760-346-6393
www.backstreet-bistro.com

JILLIAN’S
Address: 74155 El Paseo, Palm Desert, CA 92260
Tel: +1 760-776-8242
www.jilliansfinedining.com

PAPA DAN’S
Address: 73131 Country Club Dr., C-9 Palm Desert, CA 92260
Tel: +1 760-568-3267
www.papadanspalmdesert.com
Experience an enchanting Palm Springs steakhouse, where California’s rich bounty creates delicious and memorable moments. The Edge Steakhouse at The Ritz-Carlton, Rancho Mirage, offers spectacular views from its dramatic cliff-side setting, a natural complement to the Palm Springs’ restaurant’s remarkable prime steak, seafood, classic side dishes, craft cocktails and an expertly curated selection of the finest wines available.

**Hours**

Wednesday through Sunday, 5:30p.m. to 9:30p.m. Closed Monday and Tuesday
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Tel: +1 760-537-1022
www.sandfishps.com

THE VENUE SUSHI
Address: 73111 El Paseo, #103, Palm Desert, CA 92260
Tel: +1 760-346-1500
www.thevenuepalmdesert.com

SHABU SHABU ZEN
Address: 71680 Highway 111 F, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270
Tel: +1 760-779-5000
www.shabu-shabu-zen.com

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www.laspigapalmdesert.com

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Tel: +1 760-327-7595
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IL CORSO
Address: 73520 El Paseo, Palm Desert, CA 92260
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www.mammagina.com

BIRBA

Address: 622 N Palm Canyon Dr, Palm Springs, CA 92262
Tel: +1 760-327-5678
www.birbaps.com

PURPLE PALM

Address: 572 N Indian Canyon Dr Palm Springs, CA 92262
Tel: +1 760-969-1818
www.purplepalmrestaurant.com

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Address: 330 E Amado Rd, Palm Springs, CA 92262
Tel: +1 760-866-1952
www.appsthetropicale.com

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Address: 40101 Monterey Ave., Rancho Mirage, CA
Tel: +1 760-837-0011
www.sibon-so-good.com

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www.eight4nine.com

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**MIRO’S RESTAURANT**

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Tel: +1 760-323-5199  
www.mirospalmsprings.com

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Tel: +1 760-322-2724  
www.farmpalmsprings.com

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**JOHANNES**

Address: 196 S Indian Canyon Dr, Palm Springs, CA 92262  
Tel: +1 760-778-0017  
www.johannespalmsprings.com

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**GUILLERMO’S**

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Tel: +1 760-341-0980  
www.guillermosrestaurante.com

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**LE VALLAURIS**

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www.levallauris.com

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**ELMER’S RESTAURANT**

Address: 1030 E Palm Canyon Dr, Palm Springs, CA 92264  
Tel: +1 760-327-8419  
www.eatatelmers.com

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Address: 233 E Palm Canyon Dr, Palm Springs, CA 92264  
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www.mrlyonsps.com

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We have put together one of the best culinary teams in the California desert, led by Executive Chef Bruno Lopez.
BRUNO LOPEZ

Executive Chef

After graduating from high school, Lopez trained at the Ferrandi School in Paris and apprenticed at L’Espadon, a Michelin one-star restaurant at Hotel Ritz in Paris. Honing his culinary skills in France in such places as Versailles for 3 years and South America during his military time, he decided to take his talent to San Francisco where he joined Le Meridien Hotel as Chef de Cuisine at Pierre Restaurant. Following his tenure at Le Meridien, Lopez joined The Ritz-Carlton, San Francisco as Executive Sous Chef. He remained with Ritz-Carlton for 10 years as executive chef in Marina del Rey, Dubai, and Half Moon Bay. Prior to joining the Bel-Air, Lopez’s culinary experience included positions as the Executive Chef at Raffles L’Ermitage Hotel in Beverly Hills and the Regent Beverly Wilshire.

Lopez is a member of Confrerie de la Chaine des Rotisseurs, Club Culinaire of Los Angeles, Les Toques Blanches International, the James Beard Foundation, L’Academie Culinaire de France since 2005 and the Prestigious Association des Maîtres Cuisiniers de France (French Master Chef) since 2008, with only 350 members worldwide.

JORGE MARTINEZ

Chef de Cuisine

Fueled by his mother’s traditional Peruvian cooking, Jorge Martinez discovered a love for cooking in high school. Prior to graduating, he enrolled at Le Cordon Blue Culinary School in Miami. While in culinary school, he furthered his career goals by working at TATU Asian Bar & Grill, a high volume restaurant in Ft. Lauderdale’s Hard Rock Casino.

Jorge then obtained a position as Cook 1 of Garde Manger and Club Level at The Ritz-Carlton, Sarasota. Within three months, his banquet Chef realized Jorge was showing great potential and gave him the opportunity to manage both departments.

When he discovered a new Ritz-Carlton property was going to open in Rancho Mirage, California, he seized the opportunity to expand his career with diverse types of cuisine. Jorge was the Chef de Partie of Banquets, employee dining room and the pool for a year and a half. He is now the Chef de Cuisine of the State Fare restaurant and has been since December 2015.

GIHEN ZITOUNI

Executive Sous Chef

Gihen has extensive experience as a Ritz-Carlton chef, having worked for the company for more than 10 years. Her career path has spanned all over the world, working at Ritz-Carlton locations in Spain, Portugal, Toronto, Miami, St. Thomas, and finally The Ritz-Carlton, Rancho Mirage. Gihen earned her degree in Cuisine Supérieure and Contemporary Cooking from Institut de tourisme et d’hôtellerie du Québec.
Alfresco dining is available at Air Pool Bar, presenting poolside lunch from late morning to afternoon and all-day beverage service year-round. The approachable menu features outdoor favorites. Exclusive VIP-style cabana service is also available.
MUST-SEE MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

IN AND AROUND RANCHO MIRAGE

Palm Springs Air Museum

Address: 45 N Gene Autry Trail, Palm Springs, CA 92262
Tel: +1 760-778-6262
www.palmspringsairmuseum.org

The Palm Springs Air Museum, is a non-profit educational institution in Palm Springs, Riverside County, California. The Museum’s mission is to exhibit, educate and eternalize the role of the World War II combat aircraft and the role the pilots and American citizens had in winning the war.

Sunnylands Center & Gardens

Address: 37977 Bob Hope Dr, Rancho Mirage, Greater Palm Springs, CA 92270-2008
Tel: +1 760-202-2222
www.sunnylands.org

Sunnylands Center & Gardens offers visitors a beautiful, tranquil, and environmentally sustainable space to learn about Ambassadors Walter and Leonore Annenberg, their history at Sunnylands, the famous people who visited, and the contemporary retreat program. Guests can watch a film, enjoy art exhibitions, explore over a mile of walking trails through the 9-acre gardens, purchase items in the gift shop, or enjoy light lunch items in the cafe.
**RUDDY’S GENERAL STORE MUSEUM**

**Address:** 221 S Palm Canyon Dr, Palm Springs, CA 92262  
**Tel:** +1 760-327-2156  
ruddy1930generalstoremuseum.com

Jim Ruddy’s General Store Museum, featuring pristine products of America’s 1930s, was a labor of love extending over many decades. It is now America’s best preserved collection of American material cultural from nearly a century ago. Everything is displayed in original boxes and tins, and presented in period display cases.

**COACHELLA VALLEY HISTORY MUSEUM**

**Address:** 82616 Miles Ave, Indio, CA 92201  
**Tel:** +1 760-342-6651  
www.cvhm.org

A historical campus which contains the 1926 adobe Smiley-Tyler House - housing our main exhibits - the historic 1909 Indio Schoolhouse and the world’s only Date Museum.

**CABOT’S PUEBLO MUSEUM**

**Address:** 67616 Desert View Ave, Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240  
**Tel:** +1 760-329-7610  
www.cabotsmuseum.org

Cabot’s Pueblo Museum is a historic house museum located in Desert Hot Springs, California, United States. A large, Hopi-style pueblo, built in the Pueblo Revival Style, it contains artworks, artifacts of American Indian and Alaska Native cultures, and memorabilia of early desert homesteader life.

**PALM SPRINGS HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Address:** 221 S Palm Canyon Dr, Palm Springs, CA 92262  
**Tel:** +1 760-327-2156  
ruddy1930generalstoremuseum.com

The Palm Springs Historical Society offers historical walking tours focusing on Palm Springs' historic neighborhoods, distinguished by a combination of the celebrities and local pioneers who called them home and the architects and builders who shaped their development.

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**PALM SPRINGS ART MUSEUM**

**Address:** 101 N Museum Dr, Palm Springs, CA 92262  
**Tel:** +1 760-322-4800  
www.psmuseum.org

Located in the heart of downtown Palm Springs, the Palm Springs Art Museum features a sophisticated collection of art, much of which has been loaned or donated by the area’s affluent supporters. The museum has an art collection that rivals urban metropolitan museums, and includes works from Marc Chagall, Pablo Picasso, Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, Donald Judd, Louise Bourgeois, Alexander Calder, Henry Moore, Robert Rauschenberg, Antony Gormley, Ansel Adams and more.

**CHILDREN’S DISCOVERY MUSEUM**

**Address:** 71701 Gerald Ford Dr, Rancho Mirage, Greater Palm Springs, CA 92270-1934  
**Tel:** +1 760-321-0602  
www.cdmod.org

The Children’s Discovery Museum of the Desert is a special place where children and families can experience the joy of learning about themselves and the world around them. The Museum inspires personal growth through exhibits and programs that that inspire the curiosity and creativity of visitors through hands-on exploration.

Galleries
SHOPPING
IN RANCHO MIRAGE
WESTFIELD PALM DESERT

Address: 72-840 CA-111, Palm Desert, CA 92260
Tel: +1 760-346-2121
www.westfield.com/palmdesert

Home to over 150 stores and restaurants, Westfield Palm Desert features an art-house cinema, al fresco dining, family amenities, and signature event series highlighting Coachella Valley art and music.

THE SHOPS AT THIRTEEN FORTY FIVE

Address: 1345 N Palm Canyon, Palm Springs, CA 92262
Tel: +1 760-464-0480
www.theshopsat1345.com

A collection of 13 stores under one roof in a historic, midcentury building designed by E. Stewart Williams. The shops contain a vast array of post modern furniture and accessories, as well as new and vintage art, vintage jewelry, towels and robes.

DESERT HILLS PREMIUM OUTLETS

Address: 515 N Palm Canyon Dr, Palm Springs, CA 92262
Tel: +1 951-849-6641
www.premiumoutlets.com

Desert Hills Premium Outlets® is home to the largest collection of luxury outlets in California. Just over an hour drive from Los Angeles and 20 minutes west of Palm Springs. Conveniently located right off the intersection of I-10. The outdoor shopping center features 180 designer stores including Alexander McQueen, Burberry, Coach and more.

EL PASEO SHOPPING DISTRICT

Address: 73-470 El Paseo St, Palm Desert, CA 92260
Tel: +1 877-735-7273
www.elpaseocatalogue.com

El Paseo buzzes with activity year-round and remains a haven for shopping and dining. The popular avenue features luxury retailers, fine eateries, art galleries, and personal and professional services.

THE RIVER

Address: 71-800 Hwy 111, Ste A218, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270
Tel: +1 760-341-2711
www.theriveratranchomirage.com

The River is Rancho Mirage's premier outdoor shopping, dining, and entertainment destination offering an extraordinary lineup of boutiques, award-winning restaurants and Century Theaters at the corner of Highway 111 and Bob Hope Drive.

THE GARDENS ON EL PASEO

Address: 73-545 El Paseo, Palm Desert, CA 92260
Tel: +1 760-862-1990
www.thegardensonelpaseo.com

The Gardens on El Paseo and El Paseo Village feature trendy upscale, luxury tenants, keeping with the retail and restaurant mix at The Gardens.
In the heart of the Rancho Mirage shopping corridor, we provide a convenient experience for all your daily needs. Whether a part of our community or just visiting, there’s something for everyone at the Rancho Las Palmas Shopping Center.

A popular Palm Springs shopping and dining destination, The Corridor has specialty shops and an outdoor courtyard. Stop for coffee and start a day full of premier shopping.

VICTORIA’S ATTIC ANTIQUE MALL  
**Address:** 798 N Palm Canyon Dr, Palm Springs, CA 92262  
**Tel:** +1 760-323-4440  
[www.victoriasatticantiquemall.com](http://www.victoriasatticantiquemall.com)

PHYLLIS WASHINGTON ANTIQUES  
**Address:** 73960 El Paseo, Palm Desert, CA 92260  
**Tel:** +1 760-862-0021  
[www.maisonfelice.com](http://www.maisonfelice.com)
**B B ONE**

Address: 73515 El Paseo Suite G - 1724, Palm Desert, CA 92260
Tel: +1 760-836-3250
www.bbene apparel.com

**AT HOM**

Address: Perez Art & Design, 68929 Perez Rd, Cathedral City, CA 92234
Tel: +1 760-770-4447
at-homps.com

**SPACES**

Address: 68929 Perez Rd #K, Cathedral City, CA 92234
Tel: +1 760-770-5333
www.modern-spaces.net

**SUNGLASSES OF PALM SPRINGS**

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www.facebook.com/SunglassesofPS

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Palm Springs, CA 92262
Tel: 1-760-323-4440

**Rancho Mirage Gallery**
69930 Highway 111, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270
Tel: 1-760-202-4500

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For store details please contact your concierge
www.victoriasatticantiquemall.com
Over 3.5 million people visit the Coachella Valley each year to drink in its sunshine and unique, austere, and luxurious desert beauty.

One of the best ways to see, taste, and touch the wonders of this region is to get out and walk – or hike – through it. Rancho Mirage – one of nine cities in the valley – offers great hiking trails for both the novice and advanced hiker.

Here are some of the best options for hiking in and around Rancho Mirage.
**Bighorn Overlook Trail**

Smooth dirt trails and great scenery make this a popular hike. But it’s not an easy stroll; there are steep areas on the trail and a sharp drop-off on one side. The trail is less than a quarter of a mile, and at the top is a picnic shelter and spectacular panoramic view. The trailhead can be found right at the foot of the Rancho Mirage City Hall.

**Butler Abrams Trail**

This quiet, three-mile trail parallels the Whitewater Wash – dipping down and then out of it – and offers great views of lush, green golf courses and the spectacular mountains in the area. It is an easy asphalt trail, and it actually splits into two trails – one for walking, running, and biking, and another for horseback riding. There is no shade along the trail. It is accessible from Michael S. Wolfson Park.

**Chuckwalla Trail**

At about two miles with a moderate up-and-down incline – about 400 feet of elevation gain – this is a relatively easy hike. It’s mainly a dirt-and-rock trail, with about a half-mile section on the road, and you’ll see mountains and wildlife along with nice views of Cathedral City and the high-priced real estate of Rancho Mirage. The entrance is near the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, and parking is permitted in the upper lot of City Hall.

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**Jack Rabbit Trail**

This lightly traveled 1.4-mile trail starts at the east end of Cancer Survivor Park and has an elevation gain of 190 feet. It goes through several switchbacks, passes Bighorn Overlook, and continues on toward Frank Sinatra Drive, eventually merging with the Roadrunner Trail.

**Roadrunner Trail**

This easy trail begins just past the grassy area in front of the Villas of Mirada fountain. The views from the trail itself aren’t spectacular, but it’s a great trail for a morning or evening workout. It joins both the Bighorn Overlook Trail and Roadrunner Trail for a longer hike/workout.

**Magnesia Springs Canyon**

Start at Mirage Road in the southeast part of town and take an out-and-back hike (five miles one way) into the desert. This is definitely a more challenging hike than the ones within the city limits, as it includes a 1100+ foot elevation gain, but you’ll really feel like you’re in the wilderness.

You’ll start off on dirt roads, but then you’ll find yourself within the narrow, twisting canyon. You will have to climb up or around a few dry stone waterfalls, but the palm groves and colorful canyon walls are well worth the effort. Thanks to the steep canyon walls, there is plenty of shade along the hike. Wear good hiking shoes and travel lightly so you can keep your hands free to grab onto rocks. Give yourself a few hours for this hike. It’s officially open from October 1-December 31.

“Wear proper clothing – it’s best to dress in layers – and be sure you have comfortable and durable hiking boots with good traction.”
Be a Smart Hiker

Remember that the Coachella Valley is very much a desert environment, and daytime temperatures can sizzle past 100 degrees. So it is absolutely essential to bring enough water with you when hiking trails in and around Rancho Mirage. Wear proper clothing – it’s best to dress in layers – and be sure you have comfortable and durable hiking boots with good traction. Hike early in the morning or in the evening, especially during summer months, and bring food, sunglasses, sunscreen, a hat, a flashlight, Chapstick, and toilet paper.

And be sure to check the weather forecast before setting out. This may seem like overkill, but if you venture outside of the city, the desert can quickly become a harsh and inhospitable place if you aren’t prepared for it.

Bump and Grind Trail

The last trail on our list isn’t in Rancho Mirage, but it’s a very popular trail for both locals and tourists. In the Santa Rosa foothills above Palm Desert, this trail is intermediate in difficulty and offers beautiful views of the wildflowers and desert scenery. The trailhead for the three-mile loop is behind the Target shopping center on Painter’s Path. You might see a bighorn sheep or two as you hike this trail, and at one point you can look down into Porcupine Creek, Oracle founder and CEO Larry Ellison’s 240-acre ultra-luxury estate. There is no shade on this trail, and the “grind” section – the most challenging part of the trail – takes about ten minutes to get through.
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