

LEISURE / TRAVEL / BUDGET TRAVEL

## An active weekend fling in Palm Springs

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Splash House Event in Palm Springs  
*Palm Springs Visitors and Convention Bureau*

No longer just a haven for Hollywood stars and retirees, [Palm Springs](#) has expanded its desert playground for adults 21-plus and the young at heart. With newly renovated hotels (many with morning yoga classes), trendy downtown restaurants, over 100 miles of hiking trails, and contemporary art museums, Palm Springs satiates the appetite of a myriad of personalities and ages—but definitely resonates with a colorful and youthful feel amid its influx of visitors and 45,000 residents.

Located approximately 110 miles southeast of Los Angeles and 140 miles northeast of San Diego, Palm Springs touts 354 days of sunshine and less than 5.2 inches of rain. Though temperatures can rise into the 100s early in the day, this social desert oasis is sheltered by the

Little San Bernardino Mountains to the north, the Santa Rosa Mountains to the south, and the San Jacinto Mountains to the west, which is the site of the **Palm Springs Aerial Tramway**.

The world's largest rotating tram car, the **Aerial Tramway** offers a memorable 10-minute journey with sweeping views at 8,500 feet of the dramatic Chino Canyon cliffs and valley floor below. Atop sits the 14,000-acre Mount San Jacinto State Park with 54 hiking trails and picnic areas. Tram cars depart every half hour from 10 a.m., Monday through Friday, and weekends and holidays from 8 a.m. The last car up is at 8 p.m. Restaurants are open for lunch and dinner.

At a lower altitude, you can pack a lunch and explore the compelling California fan palms and indigenous Washingtonian palm trees of **Indian Canyons**. Hike in the footsteps of the ancient Agua Caliente Cahuilla Indians, as you meander through babbling creeks, giant sculptured rock formations. Andreas Canyon alone has over 150 species of plants.

If you are lucky enough to hook up with tribal ranger guide Raven Longbow, you will learn a wealth of information about the Cahuilla Indian ancestry and the surrounding terrain.

For a switch from the experience of nature's outdoor tapestry to indoor works of art, visit the **Palm Springs Art Museum**, founded in 1938 and housing modern and contemporary works. Walk up an open spiral staircase eyeing creations from Chagall to Calder to Native American art, spectacular glass sculptures, and some unexpected life-like, sculptured human figures. The gift store is not to be missed.

Every Thursday evening visitors can further immerse in the visual and performing arts and handmade crafts, along with some tasty food at the outdoor Villagefest, a street fair buzzing with families, couples, and singles. Arrive early and pop into the slew of art galleries combing the downtown area.

A great way to get to the street extravaganza is via the Buzz, a free bus service which runs every Thursday through Sunday from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 a.m. The bus runs every 15-minute intervals making hotel stops along the way to the Villagefest. Make sure to glance at the sleek mid-century architecture, which Palm Springs has one of the largest concentrations of in the country.

Perhaps the biggest attraction these past few years for those in their 20s or 30s is the upcoming **Splash House** weekend, which is in its third year.

The popular poolside party or summer camp for adults attracts thousands to Palm Springs. Three hotels will be participating: the Saguaro Hotel, Hacienda Cantina & Beach Club, and the Hilton Palm Springs on **August 8 to 9**.

It is a chance to let your hair down, dance non-stop barefoot to such headliners popular with the youth as Chromeo and Cut Copy, among some 70 live acts. The cost for a two-night stay bundles at \$180 per person, which includes tickets to the event.

Though one has the choice to be active in Palm Springs, remember there is always room to relax at one of the many boutique and larger hotels, or at one of the many luxurious vacation rentals.

## Where to Stay

**Vacation Rentals:** [www.palmspringsresorthomes.com](http://www.palmspringsresorthomes.com),

[www.VacationPalmSprings.com](http://www.VacationPalmSprings.com), and [www.ps4rent.com](http://www.ps4rent.com)

**Popular Hotels:** [Saguaro Hotel](#) and [Hilton Palm Springs](#)

**Popular Restaurants:** [The Rooster and the Pig](#), [Lulu](#), and [Mr. Lyons](#)

**Contact:** [www.VisitPalmSprings.com](http://www.VisitPalmSprings.com), 1-800-347-7746

## SUGGESTED LINKS

- [California's captivating Central Coast](#)
- [A soulful stroll through San Pedro Valley County Park](#)
- [Grace Cathedral's yoga on the labyrinth: Workout of the mind and heart](#)
- [Discovering what's new in Paso Robles](#)



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