

PALM SPRINGS WINTER ESCAPE

Staying 9 nights at Palm Mountain Resort
February 3, 2020 ~ 10 Days



a world to experience



Fares Per Person:

\$3725 double/twin

\$4615 single

\$3525 triple



- > Tour is exempt from GST.
- > **Early Bookers:** \$200 discount on first 15 seats; \$100 next 10
- > **Experience Points:** Earn 87 points from this tour.
Redeem **87 points** if you book by **November 19.**

Includes

- Transportation to/from Victoria airport
- Westjet flight to Palm Springs and return
- Current air taxes and security fees
- Airline fees for one checked suitcase
- Transfers between Palm Springs airport & hotel
- 6 days of coach transportation in Palm Springs
- 9 nights of hotel accommodation & taxes
- Palm Springs Aerial Tramway
- Locally-guided tour of Palm Springs and Valley
- Locally-guided tour of Joshua Tree Park
- Joshua Tree National Park fee
- Choice of Palm Springs Air Museum OR Palm Springs Art Gallery
- Living Desert
- Camelot at Palm Canyon Theatre
- Tour of Sunnylands Garden
- Locally-guided tour to Newport Beach
- Newport Harbor cruise
- Mission San Juan Capistrano
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Gratuities for Palm Springs guides and drivers
- Luggage handling at hotel
- **14 meals:** 9 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners

Escape to California's Sun Destination

Relax in the comfort of the warm sun on this great winter get-away to California's most desirable sun destination — **Palm Springs**. Our nine-night stay is at Palm Mountain Resort, a favourite for Wells Gray travellers that always receives great reviews. Rooms surround a palm tree lined pool terrace that is the focal point of the resort. Each room has a microwave, fridge, Wi-fi, coffeemaker, and 40" flat-screen TV. Breakfast is included each day at Ruby's, an old style diner where the decor is straight out of the 1950s. The hotel is just off Palm Canyon Drive, noted for world class shopping, numerous restaurants, theatres, and art galleries. A great variety of attractions is included — the Aerial Tram, Joshua Tree Park, Village Fest, the Air Museum or Art Gallery, Living Desert, Sunnylands Garden, and Newport Beach. Two full days are yours at leisure.

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Itinerary

Monday, February 3:

Meals: D

Transportation is provided to Victoria Airport and we fly on Westjet to **Palm Springs**. Our coach meets us at the airport. We stay nine nights at Palm Mountain Resort which has an excellent location, a block off Palm Canyon Drive where many shops and restaurants are found. A welcome dinner is planned.

Tuesday, February 4:

Meals: B

Breakfast is included each morning at Ruby's Diner, a nostalgic 1950s-style café. We thrill to one of the city's highlights – the spectacular **Palm Springs Aerial Tramway** which ascends nearly 2,000 metres into the San Jacinto Mountains. Each car rotates slowly during the climb, affording an incredible 360-degree view of the desert and craggy cliffs. At the top, you can visit the interpretive centre. During the afternoon, a local expert conducts a **drive around Palm Springs** and the Palm Desert Valley past some celebrity homes and historic attractions.

Wednesday, February 5:

Meals: B,L

A local guide is with us all day as we travel north out of Palm Springs to **Joshua Tree National Park**, created in 1994. It protects 800,000 acres of Mojave Desert wilderness and features curious rock formations and a great array of desert plants such as the imposing Joshua Tree, ocotillo, yucca, and cactus.

Thursday, February 6:

Meals: B

This is a free day to do as you wish. Tonight, Palm Canyon Drive is closed to vehicles and the street is converted to a pedestrian area for **Village Fest** where you can enjoy music, entertainment, food, or people watching.

Friday, February 7:

Meals: B

The morning is free time. In the afternoon, you can choose one of two attractions — **Palm Springs Air Museum** or **Palm Springs Art Gallery**. See options box for more details.

Saturday, February 8:

Meals: B,L

We explore **Living Desert**, a 1200-acre preserve featuring exotic birds and animals, botanical gardens, nature trails and the Wildlife Wonders show. Afterwards, there is a shopping opportunity at the **Street Fair** at College of the Desert where about 300 vendors set up every weekend. The afternoon is leisure time. Tonight, we walk to Palm Canyon Theatre to see the much-loved musical, **Camelot**.

Sunday, February 9:

Meals: B

We enjoy a guided stroll through the **Sunnylands Garden** which was the winter retreat for philanthropists Walter and Leonore Annenberg. Their fortune came from a media empire of newspapers and magazines, and they donated about \$2 billion to American charities during their lifetimes. Eight US presidents, Queen Elizabeth and other royalty, and many other dignitaries were guests of the Annenbergs during the 35 winters they spent here. The afternoon is free time.

Monday, February 10:

Meals: B,L

A local guide accompanies us for a day tour to **Newport Beach**. A short cruise around the harbour is included. This afternoon, we visit **Mission San Juan Capistrano**, founded in 1776, and known for the legend of the swallows that have returned to nest from Argentina each summer for two centuries.

Tuesday, February 11:

Meals: B,D

This is another free day to enjoy activities of your own choosing. Take a walk over to Ruddy's General Store, full of old-time curiosities. A "Farewell to Palm Springs" reception and dinner is arranged tonight.

Wednesday, February 12:

Meals: B

Transportation is provided to Palm Springs Airport, then we fly on Westjet to Vancouver, connecting to Victoria. A transfer is provided to your pickup point.

Option

February 7 — Please choose one of these two attractions. Please book no later than final payment.

(1) Palm Springs Air Museum features a large collection of flying World War II airplanes and is dedicated to the restoration and operation of legendary fighter aircraft.

(2) Palm Springs Art Museum features a sophisticated collection of art, loaned or donated by the area's affluent residents. The collection rivals urban galleries and includes works from Marc Chagall, Pablo Picasso, Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, Louise Bourgeois, Alexander Calder, Henry Moore, Robert Rauschenberg, and Ansel Adams.

Tour Policies

Payments: A deposit of \$400 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due November 19, 2019. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$200 discount on first 15 seats and \$100 on next 10 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after November 19.

Cancellation Policy: Up to October 2, 2019, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$100 per person. From October 3 to November 19, the cancellation charge is \$400 per person (your deposit). From November 20 to December 2, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From December 3 to January 2, 2020, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After January 2, there is no refund.

Fare Changes: Changes to currency exchange rates and taxes, and surcharges from the airline and other tour suppliers can occur at any time and are beyond the control of Wells Gray Tours, therefore Wells Gray Tours reserves the right to increase fares due to such changes up until the time of departure.

Travel Insurance: A Comprehensive Insurance policy is available through Wells Gray Tours and coverage is provided by Travel Guard. Policies purchased at deposit include a waiver of the pre-existing condition clause for medical and cancellation claims, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Please contact us for details.

Home pickups may be offered in Greater Victoria, depending on the number of people booked and coach size. Decision is made about 2 weeks before departure and you will be contacted about your pickup point and time.

Photo Credit: Palm Mountain Resort

 **Activity Level:** Light activity including short distances to walk and some steps. There is some walking in Joshua Tree Park and while visiting Living Desert, Sunnylands, and Capistrano. It is 1 block from the hotel to Ruby's Diner for breakfast. The walk from the hotel to Palm Canyon Theatre is 4 blocks. There can be longer walks in the airports while travelling to/from Palm Springs; request a cart or wheelchair at check-in if this could be an issue for you. The coach cannot carry a scooter. If you think you may have difficulty participating in Activity Level 1, Wells Gray Tours recommends that you bring a companion to assist you. The tour director, local guides and drivers have many responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance. If you are not capable of keeping up with the group or require frequent assistance, the tour director may stop you from participating in some activities or some days of the tour.

e-points: This tour earns 87 e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn Experience Points, or e-points. One e-point equals \$1. Redeem your points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until November 19.

Consumer Protection BC Licences: Kamloops 178, Vernon 655, Kelowna 588, Penticton 924, Victoria 65842