

PALM SPRINGS

WINTER ESCAPE

February 1, 2022 – 10 Days

Relax for 8 days and 9 nights at Palm Mountain Resort with many activities!

Relax in the comfort of the warm sun on this great winter get-away to California's most desirable sunny destination — **Palm Springs**. We stay for nine nights 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 Sam's Place. The hotel is just off Palm Canyon Drive, noted for classy shopping, numerous restaurants, theatres, and art galleries. A great variety of attractions is included — the Aerial Tram, Joshua Tree National Park, Village Fest, the Air Museum or Art Gallery, Living Desert, Sunnylands Garden, a jeep tour in the desert, and Newport Beach. Two full days and two mornings are yours at leisure to do as you wish.

ITINERARY

Activity Level: 1



15 Meals Included:

9 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 2 dinners

Fares per person:

\$3,655 double/twin; \$4,585 single; \$3,435 triple
Tour is exempt from GST.

Early Bookers:

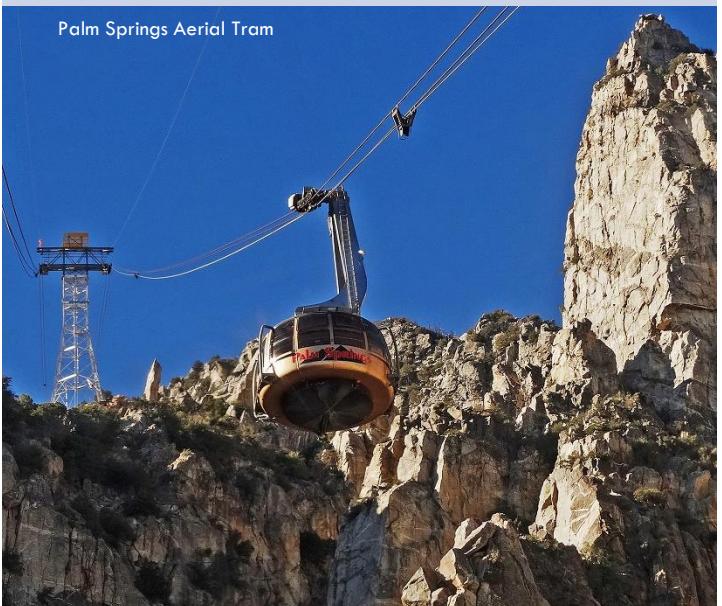
\$200 discount on first 15 seats; \$100 on next 10

Experience Points:

Earn 85 points on this tour.

Redeem 85 points if you book by October 28, 2021.

Departure from: Lower Mainland



Day 1: Tuesday, February 1

Meet other tour members at YVR and 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.

Accommodation: Palm Mountain Resort

Day 2: Wednesday, February 2

Breakfast is included each day at nearby Sam's Place. This morning, 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 an entertaining **drive around Palm Springs** and the Palm Desert Valley past some celebrity homes and historic attractions. A welcome dinner is planned at Lulu's Bistro.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Palm Mountain Resort

Day 3: Thursday, February 3

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.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Palm Mountain Resort

Day 4: Friday, February 4

A local guide is with us all day as we explore **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.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Palm Mountain Resort

Day 5: Saturday, February 5

We enjoy a 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. During the afternoon, 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. Tonight, we go to Palm Canyon Theatre for a locally-produced show. Theatre schedules are expected to be announced in fall 2021.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Palm Mountain Resort

Day 6: Sunday, February 6

The morning is free time. In the afternoon, you can choose one of two attractions (please notify Wells Gray Tours no later than at 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.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Palm Mountain Resort

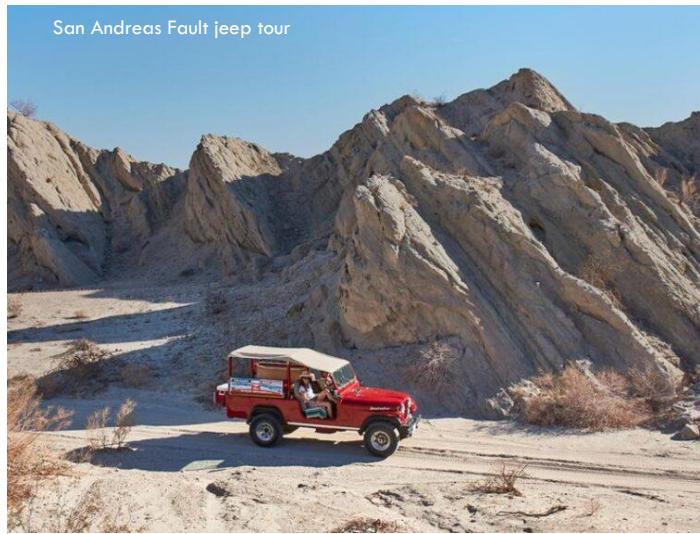
Day 7: Monday, February 7

The morning is free time. We board jeeps at Matate Ranch for a three-hour exploration of the twisted and tortured landscape of the famous **San Andreas Fault**. The guide describes the fascinating geology of the area while we walk between the steep walls of deep canyons created by the powerful forces of plate tectonics, water, wind, and time. We admire panoramic

views of the Coachella Valley and visit a natural palm oasis where crystal clear water bubbles up from the underground aquifer.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Palm Mountain Resort



WHAT'S INCLUDED

- WestJet flight from Vancouver 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
- Sunnylands Garden

Day 8: Tuesday, February 8

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.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Palm Mountain Resort

Day 9: Wednesday, February 9

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 at Kaiser Grill is arranged tonight.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Palm Mountain Resort

Day 10: Thursday, February 10

Transportation is provided to Palm Springs Airport, then we fly on WestJet to Vancouver.

Meals included: Breakfast

- Living Desert
- Show at Palm Canyon Theatre (TBA)
- Choice of Palm Springs Air Museum OR Palm Springs Art Gallery
- Jeep tour exploring San Andreas Fault
- 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
- **15 meals:** 9 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 2 dinners

 **Activity Level 1:** 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 Sam's Place 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 in advance or at check-in if this could be an issue for you. The coach cannot carry a scooter or motorized wheelchair. 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. In extreme situations, you may be required to leave the tour and travel home at your own expense; travel insurance will probably not cover you.

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$400 per person is requested at the time of booking and balance is due October 28, 2021. 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 October 28, 2021.

Cancellation Policy: Up to September 28, 2021, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From September 29 to October 28, the cancellation charge is \$200 per person. From October 29 to November 26, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From November 27 to December 28, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After December 28, 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 until 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, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Please contact us for details.

Home pickups are available within Greater Vancouver for an additional charge of \$40 per person round trip. Transfer is to and from YVR. Please request no later than at final payment.

Photo Credits: Palm Mountain Resort, Wikimedia (Joshua Tree, Palm Springs Tram), Greater Palm Springs CVB (Sunnylands), Palm Springs Tourism (jeep tour)

Experience Points: This tour earns 85 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 October 28, 2021.

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

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