


travel  
itinerary  
outdoors

# EXPERIENCE CALIFORNIA'S EPIC DESERT PLAYGROUND

A 10-day outdoor adventure from  
**Death Valley to Greater Palm Springs**  
featuring **Anza Borrego State Park** and  
**Joshua Tree National Park**

visit  
**California**

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- Day 1: **The Road to Death Valley**
  - Day 2: **Death Valley National Park**
  - Day 3: **Death Valley to Joshua Tree**
  - Day 4: **Joshua Tree**
  - Day 5: **High Desert and Pioneertown**
  - Day 6: **Joshua Tree to Borrego Springs**
  - Day 7: **Borrego Springs  
to Greater Palm Springs**
  - Day 8: **Greater Palm Springs**
  - Day 9: **Greater Palm Springs**
  - Day 10: **Greater Palm Springs**

# DESERT PLAYGROUND

## Itinerary overview

Explore California's vast desert region renowned for its otherworldly landscapes, awe-inspiring national and state parks and colorful characters. Hit the open road to explore wilderness areas, eclectic towns and quirky roadside attractions, from the dunes of Death Valley to the towering Badlands

of Anza Borrego. Get attuned to mother nature as you watch the sun rise and set over astounding vistas and gaze up at dark night skies. Wind down the adventure in Greater Palm Springs, where you can enjoy elevated amenities and relax poolside between excursions.



## ● Day 1: The Road to Death Valley

- Hit the highway from Los Angeles via 405 N to CA-14 N.
- Stop in **Ridgecrest** (162 mi/260 km) to stretch your legs, fuel up and grab a bite to eat.
- Back on the road, detour to see the **Trona Pinnacles** as you head towards **Death Valley National Park** (86 mi/260 km) via CA-178 and CA-190.
- Stop to hike through **Mosaic Canyon** and to see the **Mesquite Flat Sand Dunes** en route to Furnace Creek.
- Overnight at **The Oasis in Death Valley**.

## ● Day 2: Death Valley National Park

- Watch the sunrise from **Zabriskie Point**.
- Check out **Badwater Basin**, **Devil's Golf Course** and **Artists Drive**.
- Hike the **Golden Canyon-Gower Gulch Loop**.
- Overnight at **The Oasis in Death Valley**.



### ● Day 3: Death Valley to Joshua Tree

- Depart for Joshua Tree via CA-190 E and CA-127 S (detouring to **Kit Fox Café** in Tecopa if good coffee and a snack are needed), stopping in **Baker** (114 mi/183 km) to see **The World's Tallest Thermometer**, refuel and shop the quirky souvenirs and wares in the **Country Store**.
- From here, go via **Mojave National Preserve** (75 mi/120 km) for miles of open road through Yucca Trees (also known as Joshua Trees) or take I-15 S to see the filming location of **Bagdad Café** on the original **Route 66** in Newberry Springs.
- Either route, stop to see the **Amboy Crater** and the Route 66 landmark **Roy's Motel & Café**.
- Drive another 62 mi/100 km to reach Joshua Tree.
- Overnight at **AutoCamp Joshua Tree**.

### ● Day 4: Joshua Tree

- Spend the day exploring **Joshua Tree National Park**, stopping for photo ops and scenic strolls at sites such as **Cholla Cactus Garden**, **Skull Rock**, **Key's View** and **Hidden Valley**.
- Browse the quirky vintage and gift shops in the towns of **Joshua Tree** and **Yucca**.
- Watch the sunset, have dinner and soak up more vintage vibes at **The Copper Room** in Yucca.
- Overnight at **AutoCamp Joshua Tree**.



## ● Day 5: High Desert and Pioneertown

- Book ahead for a transportive sound bath experience at the **Integratron** (Thu-Sun only).
- Savor an expertly prepared lunch at roadside standout **La Copine** in Flamingo Heights.
- Explore the Old West style storefronts of the former live-work movie set **Pioneertown**.
- Mosey over to **The Red Dog Saloon** for refreshments.
- Catch a show at the iconic **Pappy & Harriet's** music venue and restaurant.
- Overnight at **AutoCamp Joshua Tree**.

## ● Day 6: Joshua Tree to Borrego Springs

- Hit the road for **Salvation Mountain** (115 mi/185 km via I-10 and CA-86 S).
- Stop for photo ops along the **Salton Sea**.
- After exploring Salvation Mountain, head to **Anza-Borrego Desert State Park** (75 mi/120 km via CA-111, CR-S26 and CA-78).
- Hike a trail such as **Cactus Loop** or **Wind Caves Trail** and take in the impressive views of the **Borrego Badlands** from Font's Point (if car can handle dirt roads).
- Overnight in **Borrego Springs**.



## ● Day 7: Borrego Springs to Greater Palm Springs

- Enjoy a classic American diner style breakfast at **Kendall's Café**.
- Visit the **Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Association's** gift shop and nature center and tour the education garden displays.
- Walk among the towering **Galleta Meadows Sculptures** created by artist Ricardo Breceda.
- En route to one of the resort towns in Greater Palm Springs, stop in **Coachella** to walk the revitalized downtown, see the street art and have some of the valley's best Mexican food.
- Stop in **Indio** (home of the Coachella Valley Music & Arts Festival and the Empire Polo Club) for date shake at **Shields Date Garden**.
- Take a shopping stroll in Palm Desert's **El Paseo District** and dine al fresco taking in the elevated views from **Pacifica Seafood Restaurant** or **Tommy Bahama's**.
- Overnight in **Greater Palm Springs**.

## ● Day 8: Greater Palm Springs

- Hop in a **Red Jeep Tour** and hike through the sacred Indian Canyons.
- Play a round of **golf** or hit the **tennis** or **pickle ball** courts.
- Stroll along the **Palm Springs' Uptown Design District** browsing the vintage shops.
- Overnight in **Greater Palm Springs**.



## ● Day 9: Greater Palm Springs

- Board the **Palm Springs Aerial Tramway** (the world's largest rotating tram car) to ride up 8,516 ft/2595 m to **Mt. Jacinto State Park**, where you can hike, take a **nature walk** or simply enjoy the views from the observation deck and dine in one of the restaurants.
- Take a self-drive or guided tour of **Palm Springs'** iconic, mesmerizing **windmills** and learn about their renewable energy production.
- Unwind at the hotel pool after the day's adventures.
- Overnight in **Greater Palm Springs**.

## ● Day 10: Greater Palm Springs

- Rise and shine for a guided **Mountain Sunrise Hike & Meditation** on the South Lykken Trail.
- Spend a half day at **The Spa at Séc-he**, relaxing with a healing treatment and soak in the hot mineral waters. Take advantage of the pampering amenities including a salt cave, cryotherapy, saunas and swimming pools.
- Dine in midcentury modern style at a buzzy hotel restaurant such as **Del Rey at Villa Royale** or **Norma at The Parker**.
- Overnight in **Greater Palm Springs**.