

HOUSE OF

A CURATED GUIDE

The Desert Guide

Everything you need for the perfect trip to Joshua Tree,
Palm Springs, and the High Desert.

houseof.cc

WHAT'S INSIDE

Contents

01

High Desert Essentials

The best food, bars, and experiences in Joshua Tree, Yucca Valley, and Pioneertown

02

Palm Springs

Where to eat, drink, shop, and unwind in the desert's most stylish city

03

Hikes & Trails

8 of the best hikes in Joshua Tree National Park — from easy strolls to summit scrambles

04

Practical Tips

What to pack, when to visit, and the things nobody tells you

05

Book Direct & Save

How to get the best rate on your next House Of stay

SECTION 01

High Desert Essentials

Joshua Tree, Yucca Valley, and Pioneertown — the best of the Hi-Desert food, drink, and culture scene.

Where to Eat

01

La Copine

New American with California-seasonal ingredients. The wait can be long — arrive early, bring coffee, be patient. One of the best meals you'll have in the desert.

No reservations. Weekend brunch is the move — go on a weekday if you hate lines.

The biscuit sandwich and the grain bowl are both outstanding.

1,068 locals recommend

02

Pappy & Harriet's

The legendary Pioneertown honky-tonk. Ribs, burgers, and cold beer under the stars. Live music most weekends with surprisingly big acts.

Get there early on weekends — the wait can be 90+ minutes by 7pm.

Grab a beer at the outdoor bar while you wait. The mesquite-grilled ribs are the move.

1,881 locals recommend

03

The Red Dog Saloon

Where the locals go when they don't want to deal with the Pappy's crowd. Best tacos and guacamole in the Hi-Desert, solid drink menu, and a vibe that's always right.

Tuesday taco nights are legendary.

Also a great spot to catch a sunset drink on the patio.

501 locals recommend

04

Frontier Cafe

Your morning fuel stop. Great cold brew, solid BLTs, kombucha on tap, and beer for when morning becomes afternoon.

Also has a small but curated wine and beer selection to take home.

747 locals recommend

05

Giant Rock Meeting Room

The best pizza and craft beer in the Hi-Desert. If you're lucky, you'll catch a live band playing while you eat.

The pizza is wood-fired and genuinely good — not "good for the desert," just good.

425 locals recommend

06

Algoberito's Taco Shop

Best burritos in the west, and everything is under \$10. Chicken, carne asada, carnitas — you can't go wrong.

Late-night go-to. Open later than most things out here.

32 locals recommend

07

Joshua Tree Saloon

Dive bar with character. Pool tables, jukebox, cheap beer, and the kind of crowd that makes you feel like you've been coming here for years.

Friday and Saturday nights can get rowdy in the best way.

08

Natural Sisters Cafe

Vegetarian/vegan cafe in Joshua Tree. Great smoothies, acai bowls, and healthy options for when you need a break from burrito mode.

Small space — grab a spot on the patio. The Thai iced tea is a sleeper hit.

What to Do

09

Integratron

A sound bath inside a dome that was allegedly built with help from aliens. Whether you buy the story or not, lying inside this acoustic structure while crystal bowls resonate around you is genuinely transcendent.

Book in advance — they sell out weeks ahead.

Go for the 10:30am session if you can. Fewer people, better energy.

1,006 locals recommend

10

Noah Purifoy Outdoor Desert Art Museum

Several acres of Burning Man-esque sculptures in the middle of the desert. Free, self-guided, and utterly weird in the best way.

Go in the late afternoon — the light on the sculptures is incredible.

No shade. Bring water and a hat.

793 locals recommend

11

Sky Village Outdoor Marketplace

Weekend vintage market. Step into Dakota Bob's and buy yourself a hat and a bolo tie. You're in the desert now.

Open Saturday and Sunday only. Get there before noon for the best finds.

162 locals recommend

12

Joshua Tree Health Foods (Bottle Shop)

Despite the name, this is the best-stocked wine and craft beer shop in the Hi-Desert. Perfect for picking up something to bring back to the house.

The staff actually knows their stuff — ask for recommendations.

314 locals recommend

13

Pioneertown

Built as a Hollywood Western movie set in the 1940s. Walk down Mane Street, peek into the old buildings, and soak in a place that somehow kept its soul while the rest of the desert changed around it.

Drive Pipes Canyon Road on your way back — the scenery will make you want to move out here.

890 locals recommend

14

World Famous Crochet Museum

A tiny shack in Joshua Tree filled with crocheted animals, aliens, and pop culture figures. Free, bizarre, and takes about 10 minutes. That's the charm.

Right on Twentynine Palms Highway — easy to combine with other JT stops.

15

Beauty Bubble Salon & Museum

Vintage hair dryers, retro salon chairs, and a beauty-obsessed art collection. It's a photo op, a history lesson, and a vibe all at once.

By appointment or when they're open. Check Instagram for hours.

SECTION 02

Palm Springs

The desert's most stylish city — mid-century architecture, great food, and a pace that forces you to slow down.

Where to Eat

01

Sandfish Sushi & Whiskey

Simply the best sushi money can buy in the desert. The tasting menu is worth it if you're celebrating. Whiskey selection is equally impressive.

Reservations recommended, especially weekends.

Sit at the bar if you want the full omakase experience.

225 locals recommend

02

Birba

Italian, outdoor, and vibrant. The burrata is obligatory. Aperol spritzes on the patio with string lights overhead — this is the Palm Springs postcard moment.

No reservations. Show up right at opening (5pm) or prepare to wait.

The pizza is thin-crust and very good. The pasta changes seasonally.

264 locals recommend

03

Rooster and the Pig

Vietnamese comfort food. The pork noodles are the signature for a reason. No reservations, first-come first-served.

Lunch is easier to get into than dinner.

Everything on the menu is good — don't overthink it.

432 locals recommend

04

Del Rey at Villa Royale

Chic date-night spot inside a boutique hotel. You can do drinks and appetizers by the pool or commit to a full dinner. Either way, it feels like Old Hollywood.

Perfect for a special occasion or when you want to dress up a little.

53 locals recommend

05

The Pink Cabana

The brunch spot. Instagram-famous for a reason — the pool, the pink, the food. Go for the scene and stay because the food is actually solid.

Weekend brunch gets packed. Book ahead or go on a weekday.

06

Workshop Kitchen + Bar

Farm-to-table in a converted 1920s theater. Beautiful space, serious cocktails, and a menu that changes with the seasons.

Happy hour (3-6pm) is one of the best values in town.

07

Nature's Health Food & Cafe

Specialty health food store with an in-house cafe. Amazing vegan salads, smoothies, and sandwiches for when you need something light.

Great for grabbing supplies if you're cooking at the house.

65 locals recommend

Where to Drink

08

Tailor Shop

Walk-in cocktail bar. Dark, vibey, and the bartenders can make you something based on what you're in the mood for. No menu required.

Tell the bartender what spirits you like and let them surprise you.

50 locals recommend

09

Las Palmas Brewing

Craft beer and natural wine. Locals Night on Wednesdays is the move if you want to see the real Palm Springs.

Good vibes, no pretension. A nice break from the cocktail scene.

36 locals recommend

10

Canopy

Wine-focused bar downtown near the museum. Chic interior, excellent cheese plates, and a curated wine list that skews natural.

Perfect pre-dinner stop. The cheese plate + a glass of orange wine is the play.

12 locals recommend

Shopping & Culture

11

Misty's Consignments

A treasure trove of Palm Springs home goods and vintage furnishings. The kind of place where you walk in for 10 minutes and leave an hour later with a lamp you didn't know you needed.

Great for mid-century modern finds at reasonable prices.

31 locals recommend

12

Palm Springs Art Museum

World-class collection in a striking mid-century building. Architecture, glass, Native American art, and rotating contemporary exhibitions.

Free admission on Thursdays 4-8pm. The museum store is also worth browsing.

13

Palm Springs Aerial Tramway

A rotating tramcar takes you from the desert floor to the top of Mt. San Jacinto — 8,516 feet up. It's 30 degrees cooler at the top. Hiking trails, a restaurant, and views that go on forever.

Go in the late afternoon for sunset. Bring a jacket — it's legitimately cold up top.

SECTION 03

Hikes & Trails

Joshua Tree National Park and surrounding trails — from easy nature walks to summit scrambles. Bring water. More than you think you need.

01

Ryan Mountain

3 miles round trip · Moderate to challenging · 1,000ft elevation gain

The classic Joshua Tree summit hike. A steady climb rewards you with 360-degree panoramic views of the entire park. Desert bighorn sheep sightings are common.

Best at sunrise or sunset — the light on the rocks is unreal.

Bring a headlamp if going for sunset — the descent in the dark is no joke.

205 locals recommend

02

Hidden Valley Nature Trail

1 mile loop · Easy

A former cattle rustler hideout enclosed by towering boulder walls. Easy loop through a hidden valley filled with Joshua trees and rock climbers. Great for all fitness levels.

Best in the morning before it gets crowded.

Watch for rock climbers on the boulders — it's one of the most popular climbing areas in the park.

205 locals recommend

03

Fortynine Palms Oasis Trail

3 miles round trip · Moderate · 350ft elevation gain

A desert trail that leads to a hidden palm oasis — fan palms, water pools, and canyon views. One of the more magical spots in the park.

The trailhead is outside the park (no entrance fee needed).

Desert bighorn sheep hang out near the oasis — keep your eyes open.

04

Cholla Cactus Garden

0.25 mile loop · Easy · Wheelchair accessible

A short stroll through a dense forest of teddy-bear cholla cacti. Marks the transition between the Mojave and Sonoran deserts. Beautiful and surreal.

DO NOT touch the cholla. They're called "jumping cactus" for a reason — the barbs detach and embed.

Golden hour here is magical for photos.

173 locals recommend

05

Keys View

Short walk from parking · Easy · Wheelchair accessible

Not a hike, but a must-do. A panoramic overlook where you can see the Salton Sea, the San Andreas Fault, and all the way to Signal Hill in Mexico on a clear day.

Clear mornings have the best visibility.

Combine with Ryan Mountain for a big morning in the park.

176 locals recommend

06

Skull Rock Nature Trail

1.7 miles round trip · Easy to moderate

Follow the trail to the famous skull-shaped rock formation — great for scrambling and photos. The full trail continues through interesting geological formations.

The skull is right by the road, but the full trail is worth doing.

Sunset light makes the skull glow — bring your camera.

07

Barker Dam Nature Trail

1.1 mile loop · Easy

A historic dam built by cattle ranchers, now a seasonal lake in the desert. When there's water, it attracts wildlife and reflects the surrounding boulders. Even dry, the walk is beautiful.

After rain is the best time — the dam fills up and you get reflections.

Look for Native American petroglyphs along the trail.

08

Discovery Trail

0.7 miles · Easy · Family-friendly

A short loop designed with input from local students. Slot canyons, rock formations, and Joshua trees — perfect for kids or a quick stretch.

Great first stop to get oriented in the park.

Practical Tips

The stuff nobody puts in the brochure.

When to Visit

October – April is prime season. Daytime highs in the 60s-80s, cool nights, and wildflowers from late February through March. Summer (June–September) is brutally hot — 115°F is normal. If you come in summer, plan all outdoor activities before 9am or after 5pm.

Wildflower season (late Feb – early April) is special. The desert blooms after winter rains and the park fills with color. Check the NPS wildflower reports before you go.

What to Pack

- **Water.** More than you think. 1 liter per hour of hiking is the rule.
- **Layers.** Desert temps can swing 40°F between day and night.
- **Sunscreen + hat + sunglasses.** There is no shade.
- **Headlamp.** For sunrise hikes and stargazing walks back to the car.
- **Snacks.** Options are limited once you're in the park.
- **Cash.** A few places out here are cash-only.

Getting Around

You need a car. There is no public transit in the Hi-Desert. Joshua Tree National Park has two main entrances — the West Entrance (from Joshua Tree town) and the North Entrance (from Twentynine Palms). The west entrance is closer to most of the popular hikes.

Gas up before entering the park. There are no gas stations inside JTNP. Fill up in Joshua Tree or Twentynine Palms.

Stargazing

Joshua Tree is a designated International Dark Sky Park. On a clear, moonless night, you can see the Milky Way with your naked eye. Best spots: Keys View parking lot, Skull Rock

area, or just step outside your House Of rental and look up.

Check the moon phase calendar before your trip. New moon = best stars.

Dogs

Dogs are welcome at all House Of properties (\$80 first dog, \$50 each additional, 3 max).

Note: Dogs are **not** allowed on trails inside Joshua Tree National Park. They can go on paved roads and in campgrounds, but that's it. For dog-friendly hikes, try the trails around Pioneertown or the neighborhoods outside the park.

The Unwritten Rules

- **Don't touch the Joshua trees.** They're protected. Seriously.
- **Pack it in, pack it out.** The desert is fragile.
- **Stay on trails.** Cryptobiotic soil (the dark, crusty stuff) takes decades to form and seconds to destroy.
- **Check for critters.** Shake out shoes in the morning. Scorpions like warm, dark spaces.
- **Respect the quiet.** People come here to get away from noise. Keep it down after 10pm.

SECTION 05

Book Direct & Save

Every House Of property is also listed on Airbnb and VRBO — but when you book through our website, you skip the platform service fees (typically 10–20% of the booking total). Same homes, same hosts, better price.

Our Properties

HOUSE OF FUNK

Palm Springs

1 bed, 1 bath · 850 sqft · Sleeps 2

A 1950s gem with clean lines, walls of glass, and a private pool surrounded by mountain views.

HOUSE OF ROY

Pioneertown

4 beds, 3 bath · 1,500 sqft · Sleeps 8

Desert modern retreat with panoramic views and a private hot tub. Pappy & Harriet's is down the street.

HOUSE OF KUNA

Yucca Valley

3 beds, 3 bath · 2,000 sqft · Sleeps 8

Private boulder-strewn landscape. Ideal for family getaways, yoga retreats, or unwinding after the park.

HOUSE OF LEMONS

Los Angeles

3 beds, 1.5 bath · 1,300 sqft · Sleeps 6

A citrus-shaded retreat in Woodland Hills with fire pit and lemon trees. Indoor-outdoor California living.

Browse all properties and book at houseof.cc/properties

Returning guest? Visit houseof.cc/welcome for your direct rate.

Questions? Reach Viktor and Meghan directly at houseof.cc/inquiries