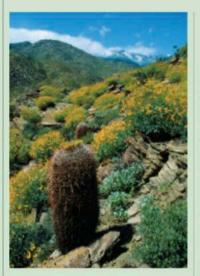


Spring

GREATER PALM SPRINGS

From over-the-top festivals to eye-popping wildflowers, the Coachella Valley blossoms in springtime



See & Do

The vernal season marks a vital moment for gathering in California's nine-city desert oasis. Signature annual events range from the massively popular Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival (taking place this year on the weekends of April 12-14 and 19-21) and its country music counterpart, Stagecoach (April 26-28), to the electrifying BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament (March 3-17) and the Palm Desert Food & Wine extravaganza (March 21-24).

Spring is also the best time to get away from the crowds and take in the area's majestic beauty-especially its spectacular wildflower blooms. A hike through Murray Canyon or Andreas Canyon (both located within Indian Canvons, the ancestral home of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians) will offer a prime opportunity to spot splashes of desert dandelions, lupine, and verbena. If you'd rather be chauffeured to the blooms, book a ride with Red Jeep Tours by Desert Adventures to have a guide point out flora near the San Andreas Fault.

Eat & Drink

Take advantage of Greater Palm Springs' flawless weather by dining alfresco. Standout options include Azúcar, a poolside eatery with killer margaritas, modern fare with Latin flourishes, and Frida Kahlo-inspired decor on the grounds of the La Serena Villas hotel. Or reserve a table on the dog-friendly patio at Boozehounds, which boasts prime mountain views, craft cocktails, and delectable, international shareables (Parmesan truffle fries, Sichuan-style chilled shrimp, Mexican-Japanese street corn). There's even a menu for your canine companion. (Milo loves meatloaf.)

Need a guicker bite between your outdoor excursions? Gabino's Creperie serves sumptuous savory crepes from a pretty pink window near Tahquitz Canyon. The no-frills Arriola's Torti-Ileria in Indio, where the Arriola family

has been making tortillas for decades, sells mouthwatering chile Colorado tamales, nachos, and burritos; be sure to grab a bag of perfectly crunchy chips to take home.

Stav

Stepping past the breezeblock facade and into the Jonathan Adler-designed

This page, clockwise from top left: wildflowers at Indian Canyons; the Gene Autry Residence at Parker Palm Springs, where the Singing Cowboy once lived; Frida Kahlo portraits at Azúcar: the fare at Boozehounds; a patio at

La Serena Villas



interior of Parker Palm Springs can feel like tumbling down a rabbit hole into a jaw-droppingly stylish wonderland. (If the hallway carpet seems familiar, there's a reason: It's the hexagonal pattern from The Shining.) This 13-acre, Mid-Century Modern hideaway

boasts a trio of pools, clay tennis courts, a croquet lawn, and a 900-pound bronze banana sculpture on the lawn. Embrace vour inner Marilyn Monroe or Frank Sinatra by dressing up to dine at the recently reopened Mister Parker's, a glamorous spot where the candles melt into butter for your bread. From \$699, parkerpalmsprings.com





