

COACHELLA VALLEY

ALL THE THINGS THAT YOU CAN DO IN THE DESERT

Pick your passion - arts, music, festivals, tennis, golf, equestrian sports, hiking, biking, or good food – and come play in the California desert! Known as “Greater Palm Springs,” “Desert Cities,” or “Coachella Valley,” this area is a fantastic area to visit.



Source: <https://themunsellegroup.com/desert-cities-map>

THINGS TO DO

EQUESTRIAN SPORTS

- [Desert International Horse Park](#) in Thermal hosts numerous hunter/jumper and dressage horse shows for competitors of all levels. From January to March and in November and December, there are numerous special events each week.

Below are pictures of DIHS taken during competitions.







- Polo Grounds

- [El Dorado Polo Club](#) offers a good place to watch Polo matches. During competition season (January – March), most of the matches are held on Sundays.

- [Empire Polo Ground](#) in Indio hosts numerous Polo competitions.

During one of our trips, we saw a portion of a Polo match (picture above). Later that evening, the Polo grounds management hosted an “Asado,” a traditional Argentinian barbecue. I regret that we didn’t stay for the barbecue, and I have regretted that decision. The Coachella Music Festival is also held on this property.



FESTIVALS

- [National Date Festival](#) – Typically held in mid-February at Riverside County Fairgrounds in Indio, this festival is a must. There are lot of different recipes to sample; our favorite is the bacon-wrapped blue cheese dates. (Of course, everything goes well with bacon.)
- [Coachella Music and Arts Festival](#) – Held in mid-April over two weeks at Polo Fair Grounds in Indio, this festival features the top musical acts. For 2025, the dates are April 11-13 and April 18-20.

GOLF

Coachella Valley has many golf courses to play. If you prefer to see the golf professionals compete, there are events throughout the year that are typically held in La Quinta. For instance, [American Express PGA](#) tournament will be held January 13 -19, 2025 at La Quinta's PGA West.



PGA Course

HIKING/BIKING

The valley has numerous hiking trails with difficulty ranging from easy to strenuous. Whether you prefer mountain biking or road cycling, there are lot of opportunities for cyclists to enjoy. Road cycling is safe around La Quinta since the roads have a very broad shoulders and most major roads have bike lanes.



TENNIS

Almost all area resorts have tennis courts. Indian Wells Tennis Garden, located in Indian Wells, has many tennis tournaments. [BPN Paribas Open](#) for ATP and WTA is held in this facility in March every year.

Instead of doing any of the activities above, you could just hang around the pool. All the resorts and houses have pools.



HOW TO GET TO COACHELLA VALLEY

Airport - Palm Springs Airport serves the Coachella Valley. The airport is one of our favorites because you still must walk out to the planes and go up a ladder to enter the plane. The airport has two terminals, of which one is named for Sonny Bono, the former singer and Congressman. There is an outdoor courtyard (shown below) connecting the two terminals and main buildings after TSA check with a couple of restaurants and a bar. The outdoor courtyard is a great spot to watch planes take off and land and to relax before your flight.





Coachella Valley is also easily accessible from Los Angeles, which is 120 miles to the west.

RESTAURANTS

This area has many outstanding restaurants. Here are some of the ones we frequent when we are in the area and have had a marvelous experience.

HWY 111/Washington Intersection

- [LG Steakhouse](#) – We have been to the Palm Springs and La Quinta locations, and the steak is very good.
- [The Beer Hunter](#) – This is a low-key place and a good place to catch any of televised sport events.

Lake La Quinta

- [Mélange](#) – This restaurant is in The Chateau at Lake La Quinta. As advertised the view of the lake are spectacular. We dined here in the evening, and the atmosphere was incredible.



Lake La Quinta view from Mélange

Old Town La Quinta – Old Town has many shops and restaurants that are walkable. Some of the restaurants that we have enjoyed include

- [RD RNNR](#) – we like the laid-back vibe, good food and cocktails.
- [The Grill on Main](#) – another good restaurant for American fare.
- [La Quinta Brewery](#) – La Quinta brewery has good beer and is a friendly place to stop in from the heat.



Downtown Old Town La Quinta

- [Arnold Palmer's Restaurant](#) – This restaurant is located South of Main Street. As the name suggests, golf great Arnold Palmer once owned this restaurant. The restaurant's claim to fame is

its meatloaf. While the meat loaf is very good, it was not as good as my mom's.



Raising a glass to Arnold Palmer, the best golfer and a Demon Deacon, in the Arnold Palmer Restaurant

Indio

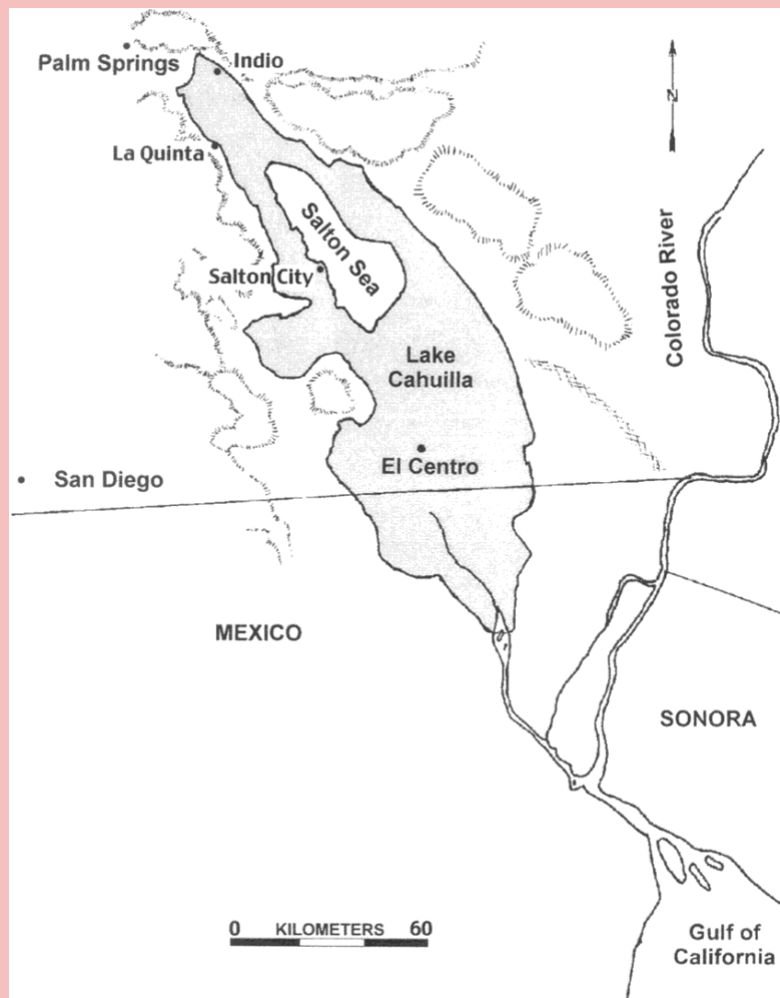
[Tack Room](#) – Located at the Empire Polo grounds.



Bar seats at Tack Room.

DID YOU KNOW? LAKE CAHUILLA AND THE LOST SHIP OF THE DESERT

Local legend has that there is shipwreck from the Spanish colonial period located in the desert. Many explorers have tried to find the missing ship. Legend has it could be a Portuguese, Spanish, British or a Viking ship that came up from the Gulf of California into the current desert. (No legend is complete without throwing the Vikings in it.) Legend has it that an inland lake would form during the rainy season (October to April) and drain in the summer months to the Gulf of California. This lake has not formed for the last 300 years. One of the stories claimed that a British ship ransacked a Spanish galleon of its gold and silver and fled into the lake under the belief that the lake will take them to the Pacific Ocean. In the 1500's the belief was that California was an island. They got stuck on the dry bed and in this area, there is a buried ship under the sand. I have watched enough documentaries about it that I am intrigued about the possibilities. If you visit and find the Lost Ship, please send me a note about it. 😊. The map below shows the extend of this ancient Lake.



Source:

<https://www.researchgate.net/profile/ThomasWake/publication/249644533/figure/fig1/AS:668981140672530@1536508941625/Maximum-extent-of-Lake-Cahuilla-approximately-500-years-ago-in-the-Salton-Basin-of.ppm>

Here is a link to an article about the lost ship of the Desert.

<https://www.desertsun.com/story/desert-magazine/2019/12/02/5-facts-lost-ship-california-desert-what-we-know/3981175002/>