

PLANNER:
MATH FALLS
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5 Low-Key
Spots for a Beer

A New Model
for Travel

Creamy Clam
Chowder

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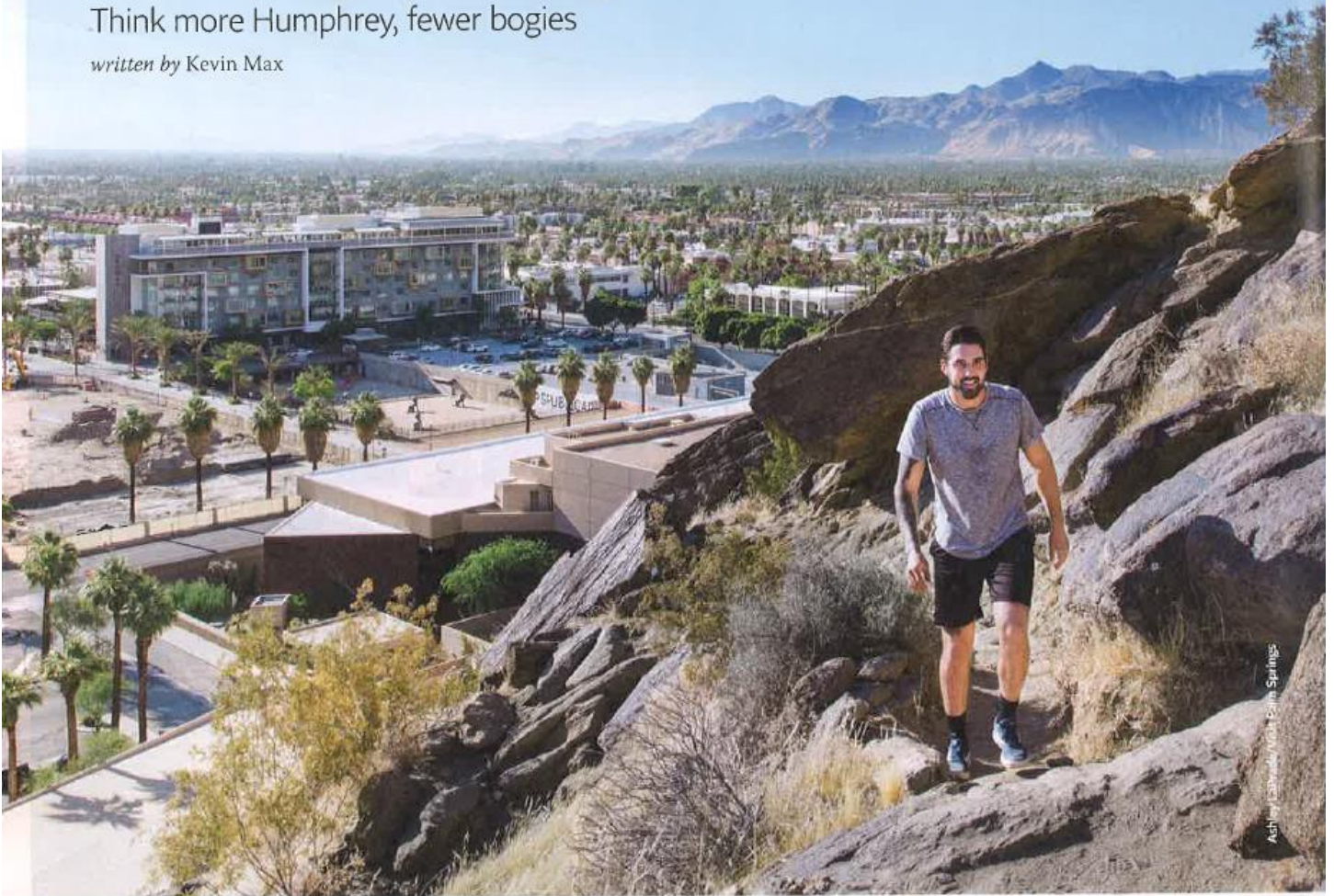
January | February volume 66

Hiking near Palm Springs connects you to the natural desert beauty of the "playground of the stars."

Palm Springs for Non-golfers

Think more Humphrey, fewer bogies

written by Kevin Max



Achilles/Getty Images/Palm Springs

LOOK ANYWHERE in Palm Springs, and you'll see them. More than 100 golf courses in the city's 95 square miles splash an impossible green across the desert. Golf is a gaudy overlay to what is otherwise a natural desert beauty.

Built around the *agua caliente* of mineral hot springs, the area was first inhabited by the Native Americans known as the Agua Caliente Band of the Cahuilla Indians. Enter the white man and the moniker Palm Springs, which began as a solitary hotel opposite the hot springs, called Palm Springs Hotel.

More grand hotels followed, such as El Mirador, and stars of the early burgeoning Hollywood, just 100 miles to the west, saw Palm Springs as a desert escape from the constant bustle of the city. The reputation of Palm Springs grew and drew such celebrities as Frank Sinatra, Clark Gable, Lucille Ball, Theda Bara, Albert Einstein, Bing Crosby, Elvis Presley, Bob Hope, Sammy Davis Jr. and, of course, Marilyn Monroe. By

the time pop duo Sonny Bono and Cher landed there, Palm Springs had well earned its nickname, the "playground of the stars."

When you visit Palm Springs next, do it as if you're a player in the playground of the stars, with no golf clubs required. Humphrey Bogart, not shooting bogies, should be the goal.

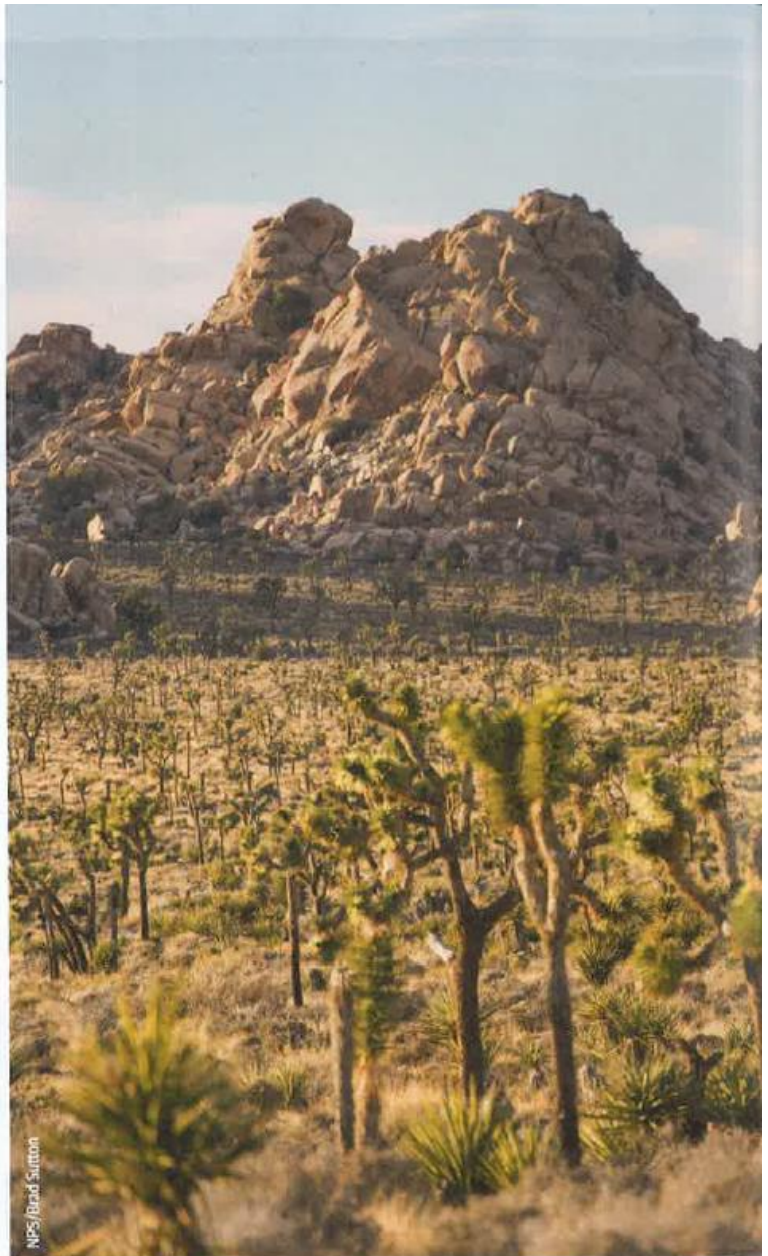




Visit Palm Springs



Visit Palm Springs



NPS/Riad Sutton

In March, April and May temperatures are perfect (81, 87, 95 degrees respectively on average, with little humidity) for hiking, biking, pooling, cocktailing and haute cuisining.

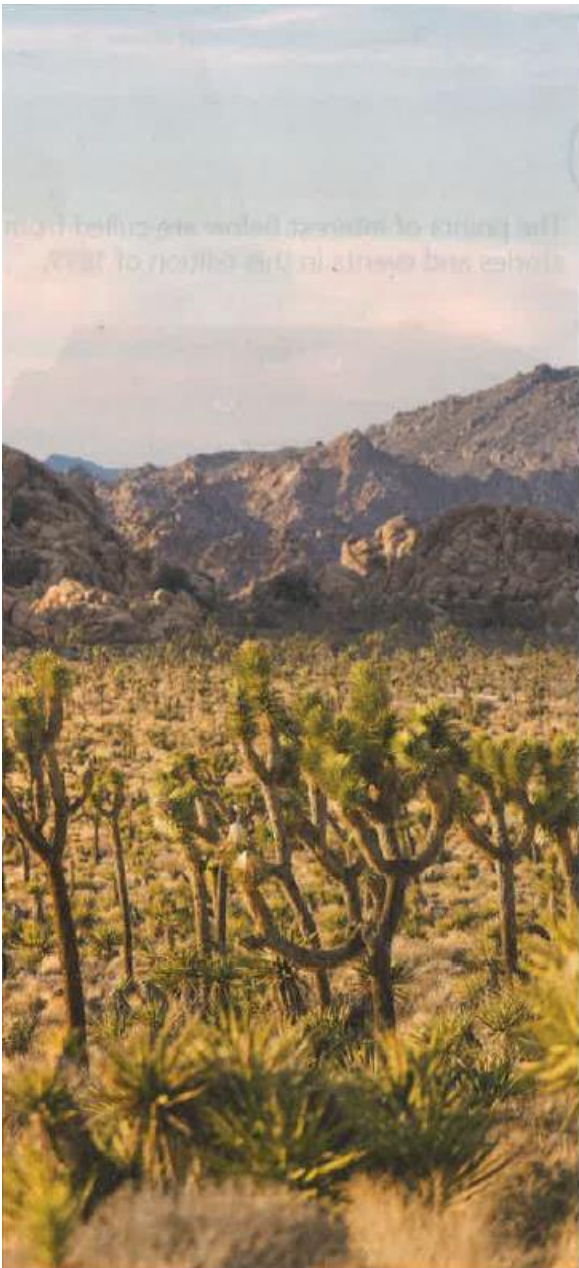
The first thing you must know is that you will be your better self if you throw caution to the sirocco and role-play the star version of yourself. It's not an easy transition for earnestly flannelled and feral bearded Pacific Northwesterners but well worth the effort, if for no other reason than expanding into lighter fabrics for summer temperatures.

Shopping in downtown Palm Springs can help connect the last mile for many visitors. Palm Springs Vintage Market, on the first Sunday of the month at Camelot Theater, is one of the "in" places to score local fashion from the resale market. Otherwise stroll the Rodeo Drive of Palm Springs, S. Palm Canyon Drive, for the greatest density of desert fashion—from Oooh

La La to Mario's of Palm Springs to Lush Couture. Continue north along S. Palm Canyon Drive to hit the Walk of the Stars and imagine yourself, with your new star-wear, as a sidewalk tile in the making.

There are many stylish hotels in Palm Springs. A few that will pleasantly transport you to another time with Golden-era Hollywood stars, poolsapes and aspirational cocktails are Sparrows Lodge, the Ace Hotel Palm Springs and Palm Mountain Resort & Spa. All different but all with a healthy dose of retro Mid-century decor that harkens back to the 1940s and '50s. For this trip, I'm loving Palm Mountain Resort & Spa, with its handsome outdoor pool and proximity to the San Jacinto trails.

The true beauty of the Coachella Valley is on display once you get above it in a hearty hike or trail run up North or South Lykken trails skirting the west edge of town. Use a hotel bike



FAR LEFT, FROM TOP Hit N. Palm Canyon Drive for craft cocktails, dinner and glamour. Tour Mid-century Modern homes owned by Hollywood stars. CENTER Joshua Tree National Park is a must for your agenda. ABOVE, FROM TOP Ace Hotel Palm Springs has a cool vibe. Palm Mountain Resort is a desert classic. Palm Springs Vintage Market is an "in" place to score local fashion from the resale market.



PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

EAT

Mr. Lyons
www.mrlyonsp.com

Rooster and the Pig
www.roosterandthepig.com

STAY

Sparrows Lodge
www.sparrowslodge.com

Ace Hotel Palm Springs
www.acehotel.com/palmsprings

Palm Mountain Resort & Spa
www.palmmountainresort.com

PLAY

Mid-century Modern
Architecture Tours
www.psarchitecturetours.com

Joshua Tree National Park
www.nps.gov/jotr/index.htm

Palm Springs Vintage Market
www.palmspringsvintagemarket.com

or walk to the trail and gain elevation and inspiration along the way. Take lots of water and many photos. Also, no annual trip here should be completed without putting Joshua Tree National Park on your agenda, too. Even just motoring through the park to see its other-worldly Joshua trees is worth the 50-minute drive.

By now, you've earned your dessert. For pre-dinner craft cocktails try Truss & Twine on N. Palm Canyon Drive for a Game Changer, an original creation of gin, lime, cucumber, sea salt, sugar onion brine and celery bitters. It's a glamorous way to come back in from the desert. Restaurants such as Mr. Lyons and Rooster and the Pig are some of our favorites. The Mr. Lyons burger, prime filet mignon or sole meunière are all excellent choices in the upscale and retro modern steakhouse. Or hop on over to S. Indian Canyon Drive to Rooster and the Pig

for delicious Vietnamese-American cuisine. Lemongrass pork noodle bowls, vegan curry and caramelized ginger chicken are just a few sumptuous options.

Likewise no visit should omit the architectural stars of the town. Palm Springs is known for having the greatest density of Mid-century Modern homes in the country.

Take a guided tour of Mid-century Modern homes and the Hollywood stars who owned them. This distinct style of architecture began in Scandinavia, with simply lines, open floor plans and a bond with nature through expansive windows. In the mid-1940s, Palm Springs became its greatest American showcase.

Palm Springs is many things to many people but, at its finest, it's an escape to fashion, the Golden Era of Hollywood, creative cocktails and the natural desert of the Coachella Valley, where night clubs are more en vogue than golf clubs.