

# Desert Springs



Death Valley National Park, California

**13 Days / 12 Nights**

from / to Los Angeles

## Highlights:

Drive and hike through flowering deserts:

- \* Visit Anza Borrego Desert State Park
- \* See the homes of the rich and famous in Palm Springs
- \* Hike, explore in Joshua Tree National Park
- \* View rare desert flora and fauna in the Mojave National Preserve
- \* Mitchell Caverns
- \* Death Valley's unique geology
- \* Sierra Nevada, Mt. Whitney, Alabama Hills
- \* Kernville River Valley surrounded by mountains
- \* The lights of Las Vegas, the culture of Los Angeles



Joshua Tree National Park

## A paradise for photographers and nature lovers!

Experience the beauty of springtime in the desert as you hike and explore various regions of Southern California. After heavy winter rains, flowers will dot the desert landscape; in drier years, hardy shrubs and individual flowers can be seen. Stand dwarfed by the endless deserts, hike in the broad expanses of Death Valley and Mojave, and watch for elusive wildlife. These areas are fascinating any time of year, but springtime adds a subtle beauty. Spot cacti and Joshua Trees and wait for that perfect light to give you a superb and memorable photograph. Our experienced guides are happy to accompany you to a perfect sunrise or sunset.

## Cities, History, Art and Culture.

Our tour begins in Los Angeles where you will see some of the most important sights of this movie capitol. From Hollywood to Universal Studios this city is built on fame and fortune. Stroll the streets of Palm Springs where the rich and famous live. Next, enjoy the colorful atmosphere of Las Vegas as you wander along the famous strip and see and hear the sights and sounds of this renowned city. Dine at a buffet, try your hand at the slot machines, or choose one of many optional activities, from concerts to shows and amusement rides. Then, contrast these cities with time spent in small towns and open natural surroundings.

## Relax and enjoy.

When you've seen enough deserts and have had your fill of sand dunes, canyons, and Joshua trees, you can rejuvenate in the lovely Kern Valley, where winter is just beginning to slip away and it is still early spring. This higher elevation offers you a serene setting. Stand surrounded by mountains, stroll along the river, or shop in the small and friendly downtown area. Every spring is unique and activities will be adjusted according to the weather and wildflower bloom.



Walt Disney Concert Hall, L. A.



Hotel Excalibur, Las Vegas



California Wildflower



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This tour of California and Nevada deserts is offered in the spring when, depending on the winter rainfall, the desert comes to life with flowers. Temperatures are pleasant and Travel Dream West has designed a route with a perfect combination of city and nature.

Cholla cactus garden at sunrise. Joshua Tree National Park, California, USA

### **Day 1: Welcome to Los Angeles**

Meet and greet at the hotel in Los Angeles; refreshments provided.

Night in Los Angeles, CA.

### **Day 2: Beverly Hills – Universal Studios**

Take a tour of the Walt Disney Concert Hall; explore the attractions of Hollywood and Beverly Hills; choose between individual exploration and a trip to Universal Studios.

### **Day 3: Anza Borrego – Desert Springs**

Explore Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. 2 Nights at resort in Desert Hot Springs

**Day 4: Palm Springs – Jacinto Mountain,** Visit Palm Springs, a tourist legend. Gondola ride up San Jacinto Mountain; visit to Indian Canyons.

**Day 5: Joshua Tree – Twenty-nine Palms** Hike, explore and photograph the unique landscape of Joshua Tree National Park, a tour highlight.

Night in Twenty-nine Palms.

### **Day 6: Mojave Desert – Mitchell Caverns – Las Vegas**

Experience the Mojave Desert; tour Mitchell Caverns. Then, drive on to Las Vegas for an evening on the strip. Night in Las Vegas.

### **Day 7: Las Vegas - Red Rock Canyon**

In the morning, we will visit Red Rock Canyon State Park, a geological wonder full of desert life. Then, spend the rest of the day independently exploring Las Vegas. Second night in Las Vegas.

### **Day 8: Death Valley – Beatty**

Drive, walk, and photograph unique sights of Death Valley in springtime; stop at Furnace Creek Visitor Center. Night in Beatty, NV.

### **Day 9: Rhyolite Ghost Town - Devil's Corn Field – Lone Pine**

Visit Rhyolite Ghost Town; then, explore Death Valley sights, including the Devil's Corn Field.

Night in Lone Pine.

### **Day 10: Alabama Hills – Fossil Falls – Kernville**

Visit the base of Mt. Whitney and the strange rock formations of the Alabama Hills, where many Western movies have been filmed.

Night in Kernville, CA.

### **Day 11: Relax in Kernville,**

with many optional activities, including hiking, horse back rides and whitewater rafting.

### **Day 12: Antelope Valley – Getty Museum - Los Angeles**

California Poppy Reserve.

Then, visit the J. Paul Getty Museum or Venice Beach, depending on group interest. Farewell dinner in Los Angeles

### **Day 13: Tour ends here**

Our tour schedules are adjusted when necessary to provide you with the best itinerary possible.

Remember that this tour can be customized for your own small-group departures throughout the year. We are happy to accommodate families, friends, singles and clubs.

