

Mojave Desert and Coachella Valley

# Joshua Tree National Park Wildlife Walking Adventure



*Classic*  
JOURNEYS™



“Classic Journeys provides unbeatable access to experiences around the globe.”

— *Travel + Leisure*

## Begin the Adventure of Your Lifetime

Towering rock formations, deep canyons, sweeping vistas and surreal landscapes from another planet await you around every bend in the Joshua Tree wilderness. All along the way, your expert guide will share the history and geology of the park, along with fun stories about the plants, animals and other unique characteristics. Try your hand at new activities like joining certified rock-climbing guides who'll customize a rock-climbing adventure for you. And this multi-sport trip knows no human bounds, as you'll also soar over the most beautiful landscape the Coachella Valley has to offer, taking in views of desert oases and date palm groves. Back on the ground, admire the mid-century architecture and old Hollywood glamour of Palm Springs. If you enjoy art, adventure and the desert, you'll never want this getaway to end.

## DAY 1

### PALM SPRINGS

- Take the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway to the pristine wilderness of the Mt. San Jacinto State Park for a guided hike
- Welcome dinner at a local restaurant

Begin your explorations of the Coachella Valley and Mojave Desert in California's famed desert oasis, Palm Springs. With your Classic Journeys guide, you'll explore by foot, balloon, 4x4 above and below this incredible landscape. Now, start your discoveries on a literal high, as you ascend in the largest rotating aerial tramway in the world up 8,516 feet into Mt. San Jacinto State Park.

This is one of the only remaining areas of pristine wilderness in California, and you can wind your way along our favorite hiking trail through its pine forest and meadows. Taking the tramway down, the views over the rugged cliffs of Chino Canyon give you an unforgettable look over this legendary landscape and sets the stage for incredible moments to come.

Tonight, enjoy a celebratory dinner. With retro diners, craft coffee shops and modern gourmet restaurants, the food scene in Palm Springs is as fabulous as the history. You'll cap the day feasting on the best of it in one of our favorite eateries.

**Overnight:** La Quinta

**Meals:** D

## DAY 2

### JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK

- Explorations by foot in Joshua Tree National Park

Mother Nature has made a masterpiece of Joshua Tree National Park. This morning, embark on the Lost Horse Mine trail. Explore around the huge boulders at Skull Rock. The sharp angles of the Joshua tree forests are the foreground to a wonderland of gigantic granite boulders and rock outcroppings. It's an otherworldly landscape where you feel you might see a dinosaur step out from behind one of the jumbo rocks at any moment. If time permits, climb to the top of Ryan Mountain and enjoy the stunning 360-degree summit vista which is reminiscent of something Salvador Dali might have painted. Enjoy the loop walk at Cholla Cactus Garden. Perhaps the cutest cactus on the planet, the cholla has been nicknamed the teddy bear cactus, but this is one teddy bear you do not want to hug! Later, transfer back to Palm Springs.

**Overnight:** La Quinta

**Meals:** B, L

## DAY 3

### COACHELLA VALLEY / PALM SPRINGS

- 4x4 jeep exploration of San Andreas Fault and the Coachella Valley

The tectonic boundary between the Pacific and North American plates reveals itself in sharp cuts, smooth curves and sheer canyons over a billion years old. This morning, access an amazing section of it as you hop into a 4x4 Jeep that whisks you away for a ride through the labyrinth of cuts and canyons that form the San Andreas Fault Zone. Along the way, you'll hear some fascinating stories about the history of your surroundings from your geologist guide. Prefer your soles instead of tires on the ground? No problem. Join your Classic Journeys guide for an equally scenic walk in equally epic surroundings.

How do you want to spend the afternoon? At the spa? By the pool? Shopping? Or with your guide on a walk, hearing stories and anecdotes of how a tiny agricultural settlement grew into one of the glitziest getaways of Hollywood's Golden Age. Along the way, you'll see the city's signature mid-century modern architecture, as well as its vintage stores and galleries. As you weave through this setting, you'll learn of Palm Springs' many claims to fame, collected over years serving as a desert outpost for the rich and famous that range from Bob Hope to President Obama and family.

**Overnight:** La Quinta

**Meals:** B, D

## DAY 4

### PALM CANYON

- Watch the sunrise from a hot air balloon over the Coachella Valley (optional)
- Hike through the largest California fan palm oasis in the world

## DAILY ITINERARY

Joshua Tree National Park: Mojave Desert and Coachella Valley | Wildlife Walking Adventure

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Pull away the covers early — just once. It's for a seriously spectacular reason: to float through desert skies in a hot air balloon. We'll take you to the launching point, where you'll watch your FAA-certified pilot and ground crew inflate your balloon to seven stories high. Then, lift off — you'll float in the morning breeze over as the rising sun douses the Coachella Valley a kaleidoscope of red, purple and gold. (Note: this is an optional activity that is paid for directly to the balloon company because ballooning is so dependent on the right air temperature and thermal flows.)

After breakfast, join your guide to follow in the footsteps of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, who made their home in the stunning landscapes of Tahquitz Canyon and Indian Canyons. The tribe has been protecting these natural wonders for centuries, and with it, their legacy, as both reserves are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Taking a hike on these sacred lands not only brings you closer to nature, it also offers an inside look into the lives of the original inhabitants of the land. Our scenic footpaths lead to several waterfalls and the largest California fan palm oasis in the world. You'll also see a rock formation that represents one of the oldest Cahuilla village sites and learn from your guide how endemic plants like honey mesquite and yucca were used for medicine, food and dyes.

Prefer to sleep in and enjoy your last morning at leisure? Terrific! Take advantage of the hotel's hospitality, or peruse the Design District's boutiques, before you make your way to the airport for the journey home.

**Meals:** B



## Tour Hotels



### **La Quinta Resort & Club**

Nestled beneath the beautiful Santa Rosa Mountains, offering championship golf courses, an award-winning spa, 41 pools and five outstanding restaurants, this luxury desert retreat offers the ultimate Palm Springs getaway.

**OVERNIGHT:** La Quinta | **NIGHTS:** 3

## Tour Dates & Prices

To see the full list of dates and prices for this tour, go to our website by clicking [here](#).

Want to travel with just your group on a date of your choosing? Visit [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE](https://www.classicjourneys.com/private) to learn more about Private Journeys.

## Trip Essentials

<b>TRIP LENGTH</b>	4 Days, 3 Nights
<b>START</b>	Lobby of La Quinta Resort, La Quinta, CA, USA
<b>END</b>	Lobby of La Quinta Resort, La Quinta, CA, USA
<b>TERRAIN</b>	Easy to moderate on trails and paths. An average of 2 - 4 hours of walking per day.

## What's Included

- Well-sited boutique hotels and lodges that provide you unrivaled access to the people and places, culture and natural environment you came to experience
- All breakfasts, 1 lunch and 2 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

## Above & Beyond Benefits

- Privileged Access Events
- Invisible Check-In

**READY TO BOOK?**  
**CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION**

## Or give us a call

**1-800-200-3887**

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST  
[moreinfo@classicjourneys.com](mailto:moreinfo@classicjourneys.com)

### AMBASSADOR CLUB

As a Classic Journeys guest, you are invited to join the Ambassador Club after your first Classic Journeys tour. As a member, you'll have access to [a whole suite of Ambassador benefits](#) you can use immediately and as often as you like.

### ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

When you travel with Classic Journeys, you can expect handcrafted surprises built into every trip, but some things just can't be anticipated. Unusual weather, a once-a-year festival or an unscheduled site closing will inspire us and your local guide to improvise and modify this itinerary. Likewise, the hotels named here are used on the majority of our trips, but occasionally one of them can't accommodate us. If that happens, you can count on us to let you know before departure and make sure you're in a hotel of equal or better quality. It's our goal to make your trip exceptional!

\*\*Any discount offered cannot be combined with other offers, and only applies to published (regularly scheduled public) departure dates in our catalogs or on our website.

# THE Classic Journeys Difference

## HANDCRAFTING TRIPS OF A LIFETIME.



At the end of the day, we fundamentally believe that every guest on every departure of every trip should have a trip of a lifetime. We're fortunate to play the role of well-connected friend, linking our guests with amazing guides, artisans, winemakers, hoteliers, restaurateurs, naturalists, and too many others to list here.

That's what motivates me and our team — in our La Jolla HQ and around the world — every day. Join Us!

  
President & Founder



## You can expect the highest standards:



### Luxurious Lodgings:

Ours include coveted properties that appear in "World's Best" and "Gold List" rankings.



### Included Activities:

You'll never be surprised with add-on fees on your activities that include snorkeling to cooking lessons.



### Local Guides:

Your guides are locals who are always at your side like well-connected friends.



### Small Group Travel:

With an average of just 10-12 guests, it's a small footprint that guarantees you access that's off-limits to larger groups.



### Amazing Cuisine:

From Michelin-starred restaurants to lunch in a farmhouse kitchen, you'll have a seat for the region's signature dishes.



### Unmatched Value:

"Excellent value" and "unbeatable access" are two of the reasons that Travel + Leisure has consistently voted us a World's Best Tour Operator.

## You'll enjoy these handcrafted travel experiences in Joshua Tree National Park...

- Walking past giant boulders and cholla cactus gardens in Joshua Tree National Park
- Hot-air ballooning over the Coachella Valley
- Exploring the San Andreas fault zone by jeep
- Enjoying a scenic walk through Mt. San Jacinto State Park
- Relaxing poolside at your resort hotel

"Classic Journeys excels in providing exceptional guides familiar with the local area."

-Bert and Jo Ann E.,