

Palm Canyon Information



A VIEW OF
PALM
CANYON



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PALM CANYON INFORMATION

Palm Canyon is situated at the foot of the San Jacinto Range, on the western edge of the Colorado desert, known as the Coachella Valley; lying six miles south of Palm Springs.

End of the road is reached at this point, called the Hermit's Bench, where a hermit resided seven years; leaving for Mexico in 1922.

Elevation at end of road to Palm Canyon, 950 ft.

Elevation at Palm Springs, 450 ft.

Salton Sea, 268 ft. below sea level.

The first written record of canyons was in 1846.

Palms are native. No knowledge of the same variety growing native anywhere in the world except in this western edge of the Colorado Desert.

My explanation of these palms is: Remnants of the tropical age.

All known palms of same variety (*Washingtonia Filifera*) are traced to seed from this locality.

Some seven miles of palms.

Twenty odd miles of canyon.

Estimated 3000 palms.

Age unknown. Estimated between 150 and 2000 years old.

Palms blossom in June; fruit in November. A small date-like edible fruit. They fruit and propagate themselves and grow wherever sufficient water and warmth permit.

Palms have been burned purposely by Indians, as a religious ceremony, to free incarnated souls — and accidentally, by lightning and careless persons.

Tallest Palms estimated to be about 90 ft. high.

Palm Canyon is situated on Agua Caliente Indian Reservation. (Not yet a national monument.) Some 35,000 acres in reservation. About 45 Indians belonging to Cahuilla (Koweah) Nation live near Palm Springs.

Several hot springs in canyon. Water charged with sulphuric, nitric carbonic acids and some minerals; iron, magnesium and sodium bichloride. Springs' flow does not vary winter or summer, stormy or dry weather. Water known as virgin water from bowels of the earth, and has never been on surface before.

Water from Palm Canyon disappears in the desert. Streams dry in years of light rainfall.

Waterfalls about 80 ft—1 mile west of end of road—can be seen from edge of bench.

Horse trail up Palm Canyon about 20 miles to Vanderventer Flats.

Cemetery on Palm Canyon road is an old Indian cemetery.

San Jacinto Peak, 10,850 ft. elevation.

Mountains formed by upheaval or buckling of earth's crust, known as the Andreas Fault.

Andreas Canyon lies 2½ miles north of Palm Canyon. Named after Captain Andreas, chieftain of the tribe which inhab-

ited the canyons in the earliest days. Evidences of their abode still exists, such as matates (or grinding holes) and cave-like kitchen near the end of the road. The huge rock containing matates is known as "The Gossip Rock."

Tahquitz Canyon is one mile south of Palm Springs. It is a rugged, beautiful spot, with 80 ft. waterfall, at the foot of which a desert play is given each year.

Some desert vegetation found in this locality: Smoke Tree, Palo Verde, Indigo Bush, Desert Willow, Cottonwood, Sycamore, Lavender Bush, Heeal, Burrow Weed, Rosin Bush, Mesquite, Creosote and Catclaw. Various Cactus growth: Cholla, Hat Rack, Deerhorn, Barrell, Hedge-Hog, Prickly Pear and Fish Hook.

Some Flowers: Verbena, Primrose, Heliotrope, Canterbury Bell, Popcorn, Golden Girl, Morning Bride, Purple Lupin, Holly-hock, Larkspur, Desert Sunflower, Bladder-pod, Encelias, Mohavea, Five Spot and Desert Poppy.

Some Wild Life: Deer, Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Lion, Wild Cat, Coyote, Fox, Coon, Skunk, Ring-tail Cat, Squirrel, Desert Mouse and Rat.

Snakes: Rattler, Side-winder, Diamond-back, Gopher and King Snake.

A dozen varieties of lizards and the Chuckwalla.

Birds: Rock Wren, Canyon Wren, Cactus Wren, Linnet, Brown Bird, Song Sparrow, Mexican Canary, Phoebe, Phainopepla, and many others.