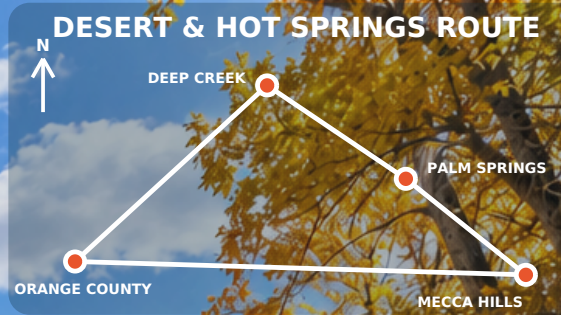




AFTER-THANKSGIVING GETAWAY
NOVEMBER 27-29, 2026

PALM SPRINGS • MECCA HILLS • DEEP CREEK

Painted Canyons • Ladders • Palm Oases
San Jacinto Peaks • Natural Hot Springs

3 DAYS / 2 NIGHTS

FROM \$310 / PERSON • OTHER PRICES IN PROGRAM

Trip Overview

A custom 3-day holiday getaway from Orange County to Mecca Hills, Palm Springs and Deep Creek: painted canyon ladders, a palm oasis or snowy mountain option, and a hot springs hike.

Highlights

- Painted Canyon & ladder hike
- Indian Canyons palm oases
- Aerial Tramway to San Jacinto
- Deep Creek natural hot springs

SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES



MECCA HILLS
Painted & Ladder Canyons



INDIAN CANYONS
Fan Palm Oases



SAN JACINTO
Aerial Tramway



DEEP CREEK
Fall Trail & Hot Springs

PRIVATE ROAD TRIP

Orange County • Mecca • Palm Springs

TRAVEL DATES

November 27-29, 2026

COMFORTABLE LODGING

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Palm Springs, Mecca Hills & Deep Creek Hot Springs

Painted Canyons • Ladders • Palm Oases • San Jacinto Peaks • Natural Hot Springs • After-Thanksgiving Getaway

Orange County • Mecca Hills • Palm Springs • Deep Creek — 3-Day / 2-Night Trip

FRI NOV 27 - SUN NOV 29, 2026 • EASY-MODERATE HIKES • OPTIONAL STRENUOUS HIKES

Trip Overview

A 3-day, 2-night getaway right after Thanksgiving; the painted canyons and metal ladders of Mecca Hills, two choices in Palm Springs (the Indian Canyons palm oases or the Aerial Tramway up to Mt. San Jacinto), and the natural hot springs of Deep Creek. This departure is within 3 months, so it is offered as a **last-minute booking** (75% / 25% payment).

What to Expect, Nov 27 - 29

Thanksgiving weekend: busy roads and lively Palm Springs hotels. Sunday is the heaviest return-traffic day, so plan an early start from Deep Creek and allow extra time on I-15 southbound.

Weather: sunny, comfortable desert days (about 65–75°F) and cool nights, ideal for Mecca Hills and the Indian Canyons; sunset is around 4:45 PM. Deep Creek is cool and shaded, and the trail can be slippery near the springs. The San Jacinto high country above the tram is much colder and can have snow and ice, so bring layers, gloves, and traction cleats.

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day 1, Friday Nov 27 — Orange County to Mecca Hills: Painted Canyon & Ladders

Driving: ~2.5-3 hrs to Mecca Hills (~125 mi via I-10), ~1 hr on to Palm Springs | Hiking/Trekking: ~3.5-5 mi RT, moderate

- Depart early AM via I-10 to Mecca Hills Wilderness (Painted Canyon trailhead)
- Painted Canyon: striped canyon walls leading to the Ladder Canyon loop (~3.5-5 mi, moderate)
- Climb the metal ladders and scramble through narrow slot sections
- Drive on to Palm Springs; evening downtown
- Overnight: Palm Springs (Night 1 of 2)

Painted Canyon Road is unpaved; a high-clearance SUV is recommended. Slot canyons can be hazardous after rain.

Meals: not included

Day 2, Saturday Nov 28 — Palm Springs: Indian Canyons or the Tram to San Jacinto

Driving: ~15-20 min locally | Hiking/Trekking: ~2-11 mi; easy to strenuous

- **Option A: Indian Canyons** — Palm Canyon and Andreas Canyon fan-palm oasis walks (~2-3 mi, easy), or the **strenuous extended routes** through Murray and Palm Canyons (longer, distance flexible)
- **Option B: Palm Springs Aerial Tramway to Mt. San Jacinto** — ride up to Mountain Station (~8,500 ft) for Desert View and Long Valley trails (~1-3 mi, easy), or the **strenuous San Jacinto Peak hike** (~11 mi RT, ~2,300 ft gain; free wilderness permit required)
- Return to Palm Springs; evening downtown
- Overnight: Palm Springs (Night 2 of 2)

Tram tickets are extra and the tram is busy on holiday weekends; we recommend booking a timed ticket early. The tram closes in high winds. Short days: San Jacinto Peak needs a very early start.

Meals: not included

Day 3, Sunday Nov 29 — Deep Creek Hot Springs & Home

Driving: ~2-2.5 hrs to the trailhead near Apple Valley / Hesperia, ~2-3 hrs home (holiday traffic) | Hiking/Trekking: ~5-6 mi RT, moderate

- Depart early AM for the Bowen Ranch trailhead near Apple Valley / Hesperia
- Hike down to Deep Creek Hot Springs (~5-6 mi RT, with a steep climb back out), then soak in the natural pools
- Drive home to Orange County via I-15, leaving by early afternoon to beat the heaviest traffic

Deep Creek is a clothing-optional area; swimsuits are welcome. Pack water, a towel, and layers. Bowen Ranch charges an access fee (included).

Meals: not included

Driving times and trail distances are approximate. No meals are included on any day of this trip.

Lodging Options

Tier	Palm Springs (Nights 1-2)
2-Star	Palm Springs budget motels (e.g. Motel 6, Days Inn)
3-Star	Hampton Inn / Holiday Inn Express Palm Springs
4-Star	Hilton Palm Springs / Margaritaville Resort

Properties are examples; confirm availability when booking. Thanksgiving weekend rates can run higher and are confirmed at booking.

What's Included

- 2 nights of accommodation at the selected hotel tier
- Rental vehicle with fuel and parking / park fees: SUV for 2-4 guests, minivan for 5-6, full-size van / minibus for 7-8
- Trip organizer drives throughout, with participants helping out (fuel stops, navigation, etc.)
- Trip planning and coordination

Not included: all meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner), Palm Springs Aerial Tramway tickets, Indian Canyons admission, hotel taxes and resort fees, alcohol, gratuities, and travel insurance.

Price — Last-Minute Booking (per person, double occupancy)

Group size	Vehicle	2-Star	3-Star	4-Star
2	SUV	\$590-\$710	\$640-\$780	\$720-\$920
3	SUV	\$450-\$550	\$500-\$620	\$580-\$760
4	SUV	\$360-\$455	\$410-\$525	\$490-\$665
5	Minivan	\$350-\$445	\$400-\$515	\$480-\$655
6	Minivan	\$325-\$415	\$375-\$485	\$455-\$625
7	Full-Size Van/Minibus	\$325-\$430	\$375-\$500	\$455-\$640
8	Full-Size Van/Minibus	\$310-\$410	\$360-\$480	\$440-\$620

Prices include a late-booking surcharge on vehicle and lodging.

Occupancy Adjustments (per person)

Occupancy	2-Star	3-Star	4-Star
Double (2/room) — standard	Included	Included	Included
Single (1/room)	+\$135	+\$195	+\$305
Triple (3/room)	-\$45	-\$65	-\$100
Quad (4/room)	-\$70	-\$100	-\$150

Organizer tip: a tip of 5-10% of trip cost is highly suggested for whoever plans, books, and coordinates the trip.

Driver / group helper discount: travelers who drive or otherwise help run the trip get 50% off their share of the gas cost.

Payment Schedule (Last-Minute Booking)

Payment	Amount	Due date
Deposit	75% of trip cost	Now, non-refundable
Final Payment	25% of trip cost	Friday, November 13, 2026 (2 weeks before departure), non-refundable

Optional Extras & Points of Interest

- **Strenuous extras:** San Jacinto Peak from the tram (~11 mi RT, ~2,300 ft gain, wilderness permit, snow and ice possible); Indian Canyons extended routes through Murray and Palm Canyons
- **Moderate extras:** Ladder Canyon extra scrambling and Hidden Palms in Mecca Hills (custom quote); Deep Creek Pacific Crest Trail toward Splinter's Cabin
- Palm Springs downtown, Indian Canyons, and the Aerial Tramway
- Salton Sea, Desert Hot Springs spas, and Palm Desert

Rate Notes

- **Deep Creek:** access is through private ranch land with a day-use fee, and the trail is steep on the way out; closures can follow storms.
- Hotel rates are market estimates; Thanksgiving weekend fills quickly, so book early.
- Rates are per person, in USD, before hotel taxes and resort fees; final pricing is confirmed once group size is set.

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