

# OUR DESERT

What makes the  
Coachella Valley  
Special?

## EXTREME CONDITIONS

The Coachella Valley region ranges from **below sea level** to the **highest peaks** in Southern California - an 11,000 foot difference! Temperatures go from below freezing in the mountains, to blazing hot summer highs.

## IN THE SHADOW OF THE MOUNTAINS

These conditions are the result of geography - mountains to the west create a "rain shadow" over the valley. The average annual rainfall is about 6 inches in Palm Springs, and only about **3 inches** in Coachella.

## UNIQUE LANDSCAPE

Deserts, mountains, rivers, and seas all **come together** in the Coachella Valley. Our combination of high and low elevations, hot and cold temperatures, droughts and flash floods, **is unique!**

## UNIQUE WILDLIFE

Within these landscapes, plants and animals have adapted to survive. **Living on the edge** leads to new strategies, and many plants and animals in the desert are found **nowhere else on Earth!**

## UNIQUE COMMUNITY

**Diverse communities** have made the Coachella Valley their home - indigenous Cahuilla, farmworkers, retirees, celebrities, and more. Our **unique experiences** with the desert combine to create a special place!

## A RESILIENT FUTURE

Today **inequality, urban sprawl, and climate change** threaten the unique and diverse communities found here. Working together, we can adapt to change and build a more **resilient future.**

## PROTECT OUR HOME

Caring for our home is up to **all of us**, and involves decisions big and small. Understand and contribute to **relationships** between people, plants, animals, and climate.

## ACT NOW!

Start by going outside, on the trail or in your neighborhood. Practice Leave No Trace principles, and use water wisely in the desert. You can make a difference in our community!



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Institute**

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