



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE LIVING DESERT TRAILS ARE OPEN FOR HIKING

Explore miles of natural Colorado Desert beauty at the Zoo's three hiking trails.

PALM DESERT/INDIAN WELLS – October 13, 2023 – While most guests are aware of the Zoo's wildlife, many visitors don't know about the meandering pathways, lush gardens, and hiking trails located within the park. The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens is home to three hiking trails, from beginner skill level to adventurous! Access to the trails is free for members or with paid park admission.

The Living Desert is home to more than 620 animals, 52 gardens, 1,200 protected acres, and miles of hiking trails. The entrance to all three trails is located near Bighorn Mountain, accessible until the trailhead gate closes at 4:00pm. Ranging from 0.5 miles to 5 miles, the different nature and hiking trails offer scenic views and give guests the chance to see native flora and fauna.

- Loop 1: Discovery Loop, 0.5 miles
- Loop 2: Adventure Loop, 1.5 miles
- Loop 3: Wilderness Loop, 5 miles

"Beyond the many animals and plants within The Living Desert's 80 acres of Zoo proper, we also offer guests the unique opportunity to experience native wildlife and the surrounding plants of the Colorado Desert," shares Allen Monroe, President/CEO. "From a gentle walking path to an adventurous 5-mile loop, these trails give visitors a chance to reconnect with nature."

Due to the recent damage from Hurricane Hilary, the usual opening date of October 1 for the trails was postponed this year. Thanks to the thorough preparations and quick response of The Living Desert team, the trails are now open for the season. Use of the trails is free with paid park admission and members have unlimited use of the trails when the trailhead is open.

It is recommended to carry and drink plenty of water, dress appropriately for the weather, and respect the nature preserve. No overnight camping is permitting, the trailhead gate closes at 4:00pm. For more information and safety tips, please visit LivingDesert.org/HikingTrails and LivingDesert.org/Visit/Maps.

About The Living Desert:

The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens is a nonprofit, accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, ensuring the highest standards of all aspects of animal care, education, conservation, public service, and operations. The Zoo is active in conservation research, habitat protection, breeding programs, and education initiatives around the world, as well as in its own community. The Zoo has been a top destination in the Palm Springs area for more than 50 years. The Living Desert is located at 47900 Portola Ave, Palm Desert, CA 92260. For more information: (760) 346-5694 or visit livingdesert.org.

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