

Yucca Valley: Sunny Days & Starry Nights



Yucca Valley and surroundings offer a variety of entertaining options for visitors whether your interests include nature and outdoor adventures, arts and culture, or history and heritage. There are so many enjoyable ways to experience the desert's stunning natural beauty, colorful history and lively art community! Enjoying a week vacation in the area? Following is a sample five-day itinerary of local attractions.

DAY 1

Begin the day at (1) **Black Rock Canyon**, located in the northwest corner of Joshua Tree National Park. This quiet campground is the starting point for multiple hiking trails surrounded by fascinating desert plant life, and wildlife sightings are frequent. The Visitor Center offers maps, books and nature guides. The Hi-View Nature Trail is a 1.3 mile interpreted walk identifying the desert flora and fauna.

Just minutes from Black Rock Canyon is downtown Yucca Valley and the (2) **Hi-Desert Nature Museum**. Enjoy their displays of gems and minerals, natural history dioramas, and Native American artifacts. This family-oriented educational center also boasts a mini-zoo and a Kids' Corner where children can play, read and color. An active schedule of temporary exhibits and programs makes your museum experience truly memorable.

Ready to enjoy lunch? Stop by the (3) **California Welcome Center** on your way to (4) **C&S Coffee Shop**, a popular diner known for their generous portions, or if you prefer sushi, the (5) **Kimi Grill** is a favorite with many locals.

Next is antiquing in (6) **Yucca Valley's Old Town District**.

Take home a souvenir of your desert vacation from one of the charming local antique shops such as Pioneer Crossing Antiques, Past Times Antiques, Route 62 Arts & Antiques, Mother Lode Antiques, and Tamma's Magic Mercantile.

Visit (7) **Desert Christ Park**, an iconic feature of Yucca Valley. Dedicated in 1951, the park is home to more than 40 large-scale concrete statues portraying scenes of Christ's life and teachings by artist Frank Antoine Martin.

Continue on to (8) **Pioneertown**, built in 1946 as a set for western movies starring Gene Autry and Roy Rogers. Take a walk along scenic Mane Street and on the weekends you may even see an old-time shootout!

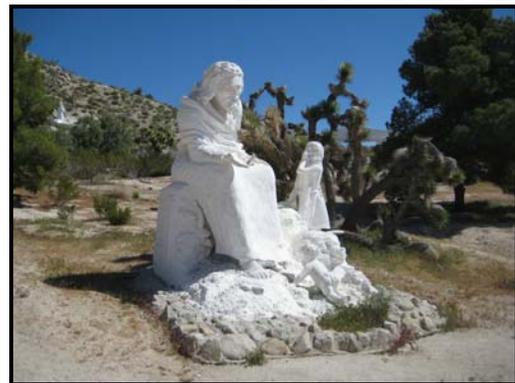
End the day at legendary (9) **Pappy & Harriet's Pioneertown Palace** for a dinner of mesquite BBQ while enjoying live music in this historic wild west watering hole. Musical entertainment includes diverse styles from bluegrass to country to rock 'n roll.



Joshua Tree National Park



Hi-Desert Nature Museum



Desert Christ Park



Pioneertown



Barker Dam, Joshua Tree National Park



Noah Purifoy Outdoor Desert Art Museum

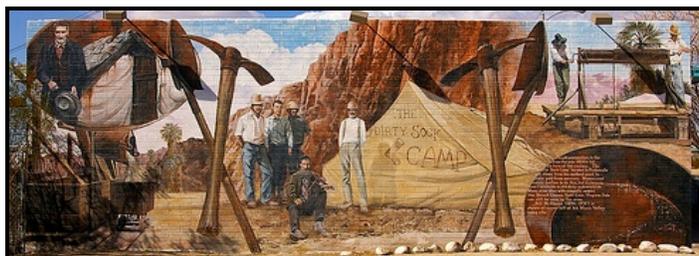


Old Schoolhouse Museum



29 Palms Inn

The Dirty Sock Camp Mural, 29 Palms



DAY 2

Start your day with breakfast at popular local eatery (10) **Paradise Café**, before setting off for an outdoor adventure in Joshua Tree National Park. Start your JTNP experience with a stop at the (11) **Joshua Tree Visitor Center** where you can find maps and useful information on hiking and driving tours of the park's fascinating landscapes and where to go for the best wildlife viewing. Barker Dam, Hidden Valley, and the Cholla Gardens are some recommended highlights. A ranger-led tour of historic Keys Ranch is popular with visitors.

For those less interested in desert ecology and more focused on cultural foraging, the Morongo Basin maintains an active community of artists. Local art galleries and the Morongo Basin Cultural Arts Council enhance the regional art scene with a variety of shows, programs and events. The yearly Hwy 62 Art Tours, held the last two weekends in October, provide tourists the opportunity to visit working studios throughout Morongo Basin. Downtown Joshua Tree is home to a variety of eclectic venues including the Joshua Tree Art Gallery, Red Arrow Gallery, Wind Walkers, Coyote Corner, and the quirky World Famous Crochet Museum. On Saturday mornings downtown Joshua Tree hosts a fun and friendly Farmer's Market. Joshua Tree is also home to (12) **Noah Purifoy's Outdoor Desert Art Museum**.

This 7.5 acre property displays Purifoy's assemblage sculptures, all created on-site between 1989 and 2004. Purifoy came into prominence during the 1960's as an installation artist and co-founder of the Watts Towers Art Center.

Continue down Highway 62 towards 29 Palms. On the way you can stop at (13) **A Roadside Attraction**, which displays rotating art shows hosted by the local Chaparral Artists organization. Once in 29 Palms be sure to keep on the lookout for the more than 20 world-class murals that make up the (14) **"Oasis of Murals"** painted on their city walls. 29 Palms offers another excellent opportunity to enjoy art at the (15) **29 Palms Art Gallery** and (16) **29 Palms Creative Center**. While in town don't miss the (17) **Old Schoolhouse Museum**, operated by the local historical society. The museum includes local history exhibits, gift shop and library.

Joshua Tree National Park's (18) **Oasis of Mara Visitor Center** is located in 29 Palms and displays exhibits with information on the park's history, plants, wildlife, and fascinating granite geology. A gift shop offers desert-themed books and souvenirs.

End your day with a delicious dinner at historic (19) **29 Palms Inn**. Enjoy a cocktail while lounging by the pool and view the rotating art shows on the dining room's walls. Rest and relax for your next day of fun and adventure.

DAY 3

Heading north of Yucca Valley on Old Woman Springs Road (SR247) stop to view the (20) **“Rhythms of Life” geoglyph** by Australian artist Andrew Rogers. This amazing artwork is part of the largest contemporary land art undertaking in the world, forming a chain of 48 massive stone sculptures around the globe. Yucca Valley’s sculpture is the only one located in North America.

Continue north to (21) **Gubler Orchids** in Landers where you can find a jungle paradise in the desert. They offer personal tours of the greenhouse with its colorful display of exotic plants, and you can purchase the perfect plant for your home. Gubler’s is host to the yearly Orchid Festival, held the first weekend of October, which includes food, music, orchid classes, and fun activities for the whole family.

Landers is home to the world-famous (22) **Integratron**. This domed structure was built by George Van Tassel based on the research of Nikola Tesla and descriptions he received from extraterrestrials. Originally designed as a rejuvenation machine, it was never completed and today the all-wood, acoustically perfect sound chamber is used for soothing sound baths, by appointment.



Simi Dabah Sculpture, California Welcome Center, Yucca Valley

Continue heading north and you will see (23) **Giant Rock**, considered the world’s largest free-standing boulder. Weighing approximately 25,000 tons and standing 7 stories tall, Giant Rock was revered by Native Americans from the Morongo Basin who held sacred ceremonies at the site. Van Tassel held UFO Conventions at Giant Rock from the 1950’s through the 1970’s.

The desert offers a number of off-highway vehicle areas, and (24) **Johnson Valley**, north of Landers, provides a varied landscape for every skill level. The Means Dry Lake area of Johnson Valley is the location of the yearly “King of the Hammers” off-road race in February, which combines desert racing and rock crawling.

For those interested in history, the (25) **Morongo Basin Historical Society Research Center** in Landers is open Tuesdays or by appointment.

After arriving back in Yucca Valley enjoy a tasty meal at one of the various local restaurants, such as (26) **Roadhouse Cafe**, known for their great steaks. While driving through Yucca Valley keep watch for pieces from their public art collection, on display throughout the town. Ready for a cool, dark break from the desert sun? (27) **Cinema 6** showcases recently released movies or you

can take in live theater at some of the local venues such as Joshua Tree’s (28) **Hi-Desert Playhouse**, (29) **Theatre 29** or the tiny and quaint (30) **Groves Cabin Theatre** in Morongo Valley.



“Rhythms of Life” Geoglyph



Gubler Orchids



Integratron



Giant Rock



Vermillion Flycatcher at Big Morongo Canyon



A Meerkat Relaxing at Fellow Earthlings



Cactus Mart



Willie Boy's Saloon and Dance Hall

DAY 4

Start your day with breakfast at (31) **Morongo Valley Café and Museum**. Enjoy the local history displays before diving into a delicious meal. The Morongo Basin's stunning desert landscapes provide many opportunities for outdoor activities. In Morongo Valley visit (32) **Big Morongo Canyon Preserve and Covington Park**, well known for their excellent bird watching, with 254 recorded species. Big Morongo Canyon Preserve is one of the largest riparian (stream) habitats in California and protects rare and endangered wildlife. There are numerous trails to hike, including a wheelchair-accessible boardwalk. An information kiosk at the entrance of the preserve provides trail maps and identification handouts on local wildlife and plants.

If you are looking for a really unique vacation experience (33) **Fellow Earthlings** in Morongo Valley is a non-profit organization specializing in the care of meerkats, and they have worked with Animal Planet on the "Meerkat Manor" television show. You and up to three guests can arrange for a private, two-hour interactive tour with the meerkats through their Adopt a Meerkat Program. For a special donation you can feed, photograph and play with the meerkats at the center. But watch out because they like to untie shoelaces!

While still visiting Morongo Valley make a stop at (34) **Cactus Mart**, offering a wide variety of fascinating cacti and succulents in addition to art and pottery.

Wind down your day at (35) **Willie Boy's Saloon and Dance Hall**. This atmospheric restaurant offers smoked BBQ in an authentic wild west saloon setting filled with period antiques. Four pool tables, a mechanical bull, live music, and staff in period costumes make your meal a memorable event.

DAY 5

Depending on your vacation preferences and special interests, the Morongo Basin offers a wide variety of entertaining options appealing to diverse tastes including natural science, history, art, culture, and music.

Horses are a popular leisure activity in the high desert and the (36) **Yucca Valley Equestrian Center** provides a full service facility with scenic locations for trail riding. (37) **Coyote Ridge Stable** in Morongo Valley offers guided trail rides through the canyons with mountain views.

For those interested in a more challenging vacation experience, (38) **Joshua Tree's Rock Climbing School** and (39) **Uprising** in Joshua Tree provide a safe and fun environment to learn rock climbing, a very popular activity for those visiting Joshua Tree National Park.



Big Morongo Canyon Preserve

The (40) **Desert Institute** is an adult education program offering one and two-day classes in a variety of naturalist subjects.

If you are seeking rest and relaxation, the (41) **Joshua Tree Retreat Center** (also known as the Institute of Mentalphysics) maintains a full calendar of programs including meditation, tai chi, yoga classes, and drum circles. The center is home to the yearly Shakti Fest in May and Bhakti Fest in September. This unique architectural landmark boasts buildings designed by world-renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright and his son.

The high desert is famous for dark skies and astronomy is a popular pursuit in the area. The (42) **Southern California Desert Video Astronomers** host regular star parties at the Joshua Tree Astronomy Arts Theater. Using high tech video cameras to observe the night sky, the images are projected onto large screens, allowing the observer to sit and relax while enjoying the Hubble-like show.

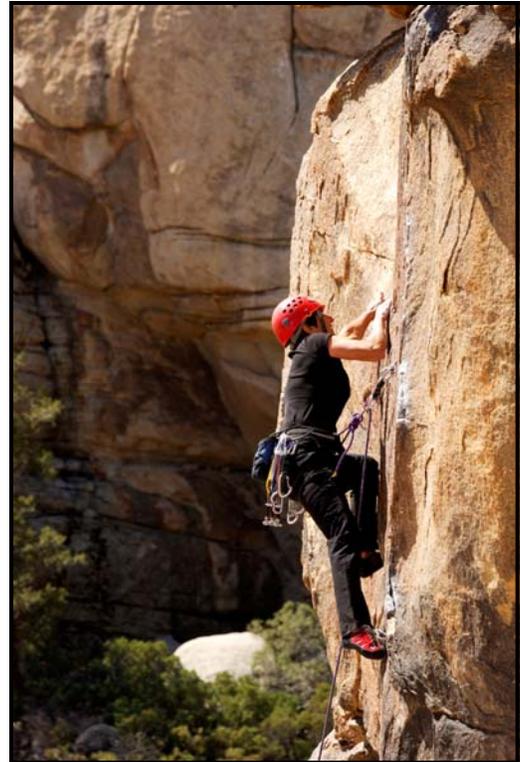
The Morongo Basin enjoys a colorful wild west history including mining, cattlemen, and homesteading. The (43) **Jackrabbit Homestead** project is a book and downloadable car audio tour telling the historical legacy of

the Small Tract Act in the region. The self-guided tour explores the homesteads in Wonder Valley, east of 29 Palms. While in Wonder Valley don't miss the (44) **Glass Out-house Art Gallery** and the (45) **Beauty Bubble Museum**, a collection of more than 2,000 hair and beauty antiques.

If mining history and seeking gold are more to your tastes then head out to the (46) **Dale Mining District** to try your luck at digging up some California gold. You will find many abandoned mines on BLM property in the Dale area and several clubs, such as the First Class Miners, have placer claims. Be sure to do your research, carry the right equipment and follow safety precautions!

Music is a thriving pastime in the region and many venues offer live music, such as Ma Rouge Coffee House in Yucca Valley. The Joshua Tree Music Festival in May and the Joshua Tree Roots Music Festival in October present exciting performances in eclectic styles. Yucca Valley's Summer Music Festival offers free performances Saturday evenings throughout summer in a relaxed outdoor setting.

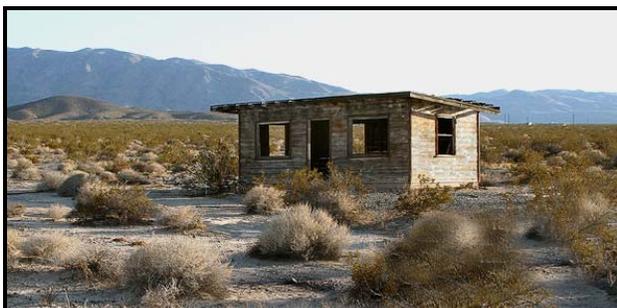
Whatever your vacation interests Yucca Valley and the Morongo Basin has something for you!



Rock Climber in Joshua Tree National Park



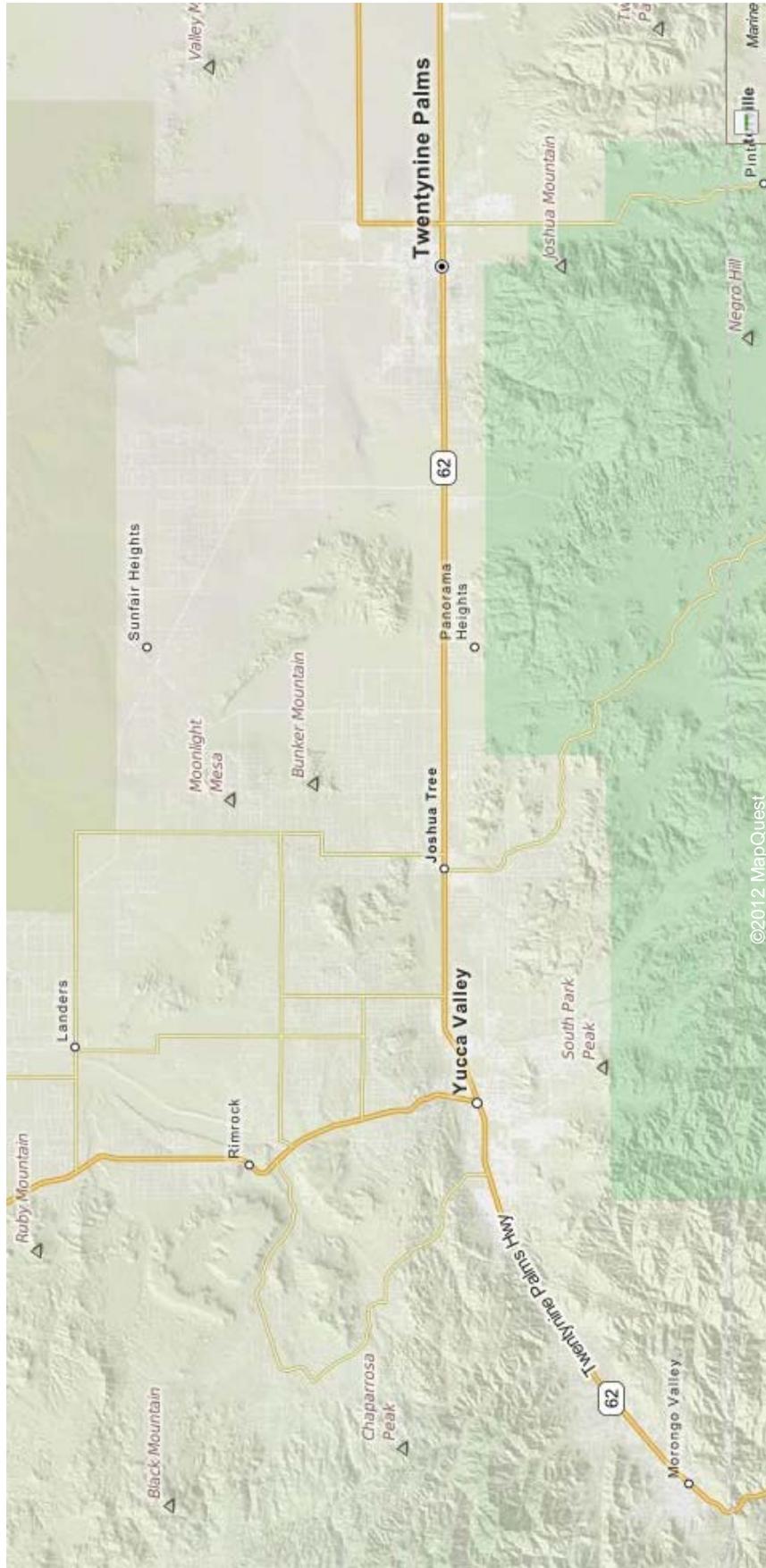
Joshua Tree Music Festival



Homestead Cabin in Wonder Valley



Trail Riding in the High Desert



List of Locations

1. **Black Rock Canyon**, Black Rock Canyon Road dead ends at the campground, www.nps.gov/jotr/
2. **Hi-Desert Nature Museum**, Yucca Valley Community Center, (760) 369-7212, www.hideserternaturemuseum.org
3. **California Welcome Center**, 56711 Twentynine Palms Highway, Yucca Valley, (760) 365-5464
4. **C&S Coffee Shop**, 55795 29 Palms Highway, Yucca Valley, (760) 365-9946
5. **Kimi Grill**, 7500 Camino del Cielo, Yucca Valley, (760) 369-1122
6. **Old Town Merchants**, along the west end of Twentynine Palms Highway, Yucca Valley
7. **Desert Christ Park**, 56218 Sunnyslope Drive, Yucca Valley, (760) 365-3984, www.desertchristpark.org
8. **Pioneertown**, 4 miles north of Yucca Valley on Pioneertown Road
9. **Pappy & Harriet's**, 53688 Pioneertown Road, Pioneertown, (760) 365-5956, www.pappyandharriets.com
10. **Paradise Café**, 58890 29 Palms Highway, Yucca Valley, (760) 365-0015
11. **Joshua Tree Visitor Center**, 6554 Park Boulevard, Joshua Tree, (760) 366-1855
12. **Noah Purifoy's Museum**, 6303 Blaire Lane, Joshua Tree, (213) 382-7516, www.noahpurifoy.com
13. **A Roadside Attraction**, 69197 29 Palms Highway., (Indian Cove area) 29 Palms, (760)362-4100
14. **Oasis of Murals**, 29 Palms, www.oasisofmurals.com
15. **29 Palms Art Gallery**, 74055 Cottonwood Drive, 29 Palms, (760) 367-7819, www.29palmsartgallery.com
16. **29 Palms Creative Center**, 6847 Adobe Road, 29 Palms, (760) 361-1805, www.29palmscreativecenter.com
17. **Old Schoolhouse Museum**, 6760 National Park Drive, 29 Palms, (760) 367-2366, www.29palmshistorical.com
18. **Oasis of Mara Visitor Center**, 74485 National Park Drive, 29 Palms, (760) 367-5500
19. **29 Palms Inn**, 73950 Inn Avenue, 29 Palms, (760) 367-3505, www.29palmsinn.com
20. **Rhythms of Life Geoglyph**, Old Woman Springs Road (SR247) and Aberdeen, www.andrewrogers.org
21. **Gubler Orchids**, 2200 Belfield Boulevard, Landers, (760) 364-2282, www.gublers.com
22. **Integratron**, 2477 Belfield Boulevard, Landers, (760) 364-3126, www.integratron.com
23. **Giant Rock**, north of Integratron about 2 miles, follow signs on unpaved roads, www.giantrockproject.com
24. **Johnson Valley**, enter from Old Woman Springs or Camp Rock Road, www.blm.gov/ca/barstow/johnson.html
25. **Morongo Basin Historical Society**, 632 N. Landers Lane, Landers, (760) 364-2000, www.mbhs.net
26. **Roadhouse Café**, 57173 Sunnyslope Drive, Yucca Valley, (760) 365-5581
27. **Cinema 6**, 56401 Twentynine Palms Highway, Yucca Valley, (760) 365-9633, www.fandango.com
28. **Hi-Desert Playhouse**, 61231 29 Palms Hwy, Joshua Tree, (760) 366-3777, www.hidesertculturalcenter.com
29. **Theatre 29**, 73637 Sullivan Road, 29 Palms, (760) 361-4151, www.theatre29.org
30. **Groves Cabin Theatre**, 8758 Desert Willow Trail, Morongo Valley, (760) 365-4523, www.grovescabintheatre.org
31. **Morongo Valley Café and Museum**, 49780 29 Palms Highway, Morongo Valley, (760) 363-6939
32. **Big Morongo Canyon Preserve**, East Drive, Morongo Valley, (760) 363-7190, www.bigmorongo.org
33. **Fellow Earthlings Wildlife Center**, 11427 West Drive, Morongo Valley, (760) 363-1344, www.fellowearthlings.org
34. **Cactus Mart**, 49889 Twentynine Palms Highway, Morongo Valley, (760) 363-6076, www.cactusmart.com
35. **Willie Boy's Saloon**, 50048 Twentynine Palms Highway, Morongo Valley, (760) 363-3343, www.willieboys.com
36. **Yucca Valley Equestrian Center**, (760) 365-4433, www.yuccavalleyequestriancenter.com
37. **Coyote Ridge Stable**, (760) 363-3380, www.coyoteridgestable.com
38. **Joshua Tree Rock Climbing School**, (800) 890-4745, www.joshuatreerockclimbing.com
39. **Uprising**, (888) CLIMB-ON, (888-254-6266) www.uprising.com
40. **Desert Institute**, 74485 National Park Drive, 29 Palms, (760) 367-5535, www.joshuatree.org
41. **Joshua Tree Retreat Center**, 59700 Twentynine Palms Highway, (760) 365-8371, www.jtrcc.org
42. **Southern California Desert Video Astronomers**, www.scdva.org
43. **Jackrabbit Homestead**, Wonder Valley, www.jackrabbithomestead.com
44. **Glass Outhouse Gallery**, 77575 Twentynine Palms Hwy & Thunder Road, Wonder Valley, (760) 367-3807
45. **Beauty Bubble Salon and Museum**, 5444 Moon Way, Wonder Valley, (760) 361-5617
46. **Dale Mining District**, www.visit29.org/Historic_Dale_Mining_Dist.28.0.html

Yucca Valley Hotels

- Best Western**, 56525 Twentynine Palms Highway, Yucca Valley, (760) 365-3555, www.bestwestern.com
Oasis of Eden, 56377 Twentynine Palms Highway, Yucca Valley, (760) 365-6321, www.oasisofeden.com
Sands Motel, 55446 Twentynine Palms Highway, Yucca Valley, (760) 365-4615, www.sandsyv.com
Super 8, 57096 Twentynine Palms Highway, Yucca Valley, (760) 228-1773, www.super8.com
Travelodge, 54850 Twentynine Palms Highway, Yucca Valley, (760) 365-3311, www.travelodge.com



For more information contact the Yucca Valley Chamber of Commerce,
56711 Twentynine Palms Highway, Yucca Valley, www.yuccavalley.org, (760) 365-6323

Yucca Valley is a high desert town located in the Morongo Basin of the Mojave Desert, within a 30 minute drive from downtown Palm Springs. Discover Yucca Valley's scenic desert landscapes, clean air and small town appeal, which make it a great vacation getaway.



Yucca Valley plays host to many exciting special events throughout the year including the Earth Day Conservation Fair in April, Grubstake Days Celebration in May, Summer Music Concerts, Starry Nights Festival in the Fall, and the Old Town Light Parade in December.

For a full schedule of upcoming special events visit the Town of Yucca Valley website at:

www.yucca-valley.org

