

Indian Wells offers a well full of activities

As a family vacation spot or a golfers' paradise, Indian Wells, located about a two hours' drive from Los Angeles, offers luxurious spas, year-round recreation and shopping. It and seven other cities in Riverside County (Cathedral City, Desert Hot Springs, Indio, La Quinta, Palm Desert, Palm Springs and Rancho Mirage) make up the Palm Springs Desert Resorts area.

SPAS

Indian Wells is home to three resorts that feature spas offering a full range of treatments and amenities that nurture the mind and body.

The Renaissance Esmeralda Resort and Spa recently introduced the 13,000-square-foot Spa Esmeralda and expanded its fitness center. For more information, call (866) 423-1202 or visit the Web site at www.renaissanceesmeralda.com.

Hyatt Grand Champions Resort and Spa has re-opened its newly expanded, 30,000-square-foot spa that includes 18 treatment rooms. For details, call (760) 341-1000 or visit www.grandchampions.hyatt.com on the Web.

The Miramonte Resort has a fitness center and European-style day spa. For more information, call (800) 237-2926 or visit the Web site at www.miramonte-resort.com.

TENNIS ANYONE?

The Indian Wells Tennis Garden

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takes center stage for the Pacific Life Open, a Masters Series event, March 3 through 16. It is ranked along with Wimbledon, the Australian Open, the French Open, the U.S. Open and the Lipton as the only other event in the world where top male and female players compete at the same time.

For details, call (760) 345-8499 or visit the Web site at www.pacificlifep.com.

In 2000, the event moved to the Indian Wells Tennis Garden, which features a sunken main stadium shaped like an octagon.

TEE TIME

For golf lovers, there's the Golf Resort at Indian Wells, which offers two 18-hole championship courses designed by Ted Robinson.

Also on the premises is the Callaway Golf Fitting Center, which features skill-testing systems aimed at improving golfers' games.

For tee times, call (760) 346-4653. For more information, visit www.indianwells.org/golf.cfm on the Web.

TRIBUTE TO EISENHOWER

Funded by the city of Indian Wells, the Eisenhower Walk of Honor and Veterans Memorial is lo-



Exhibits about art, natural science and performing arts are on display at the Palm Springs Desert Museum, above. The Living Desert, right, is home to nearly 400 desert animals.

cated at Indian Wells City Hall.

The centerpiece of the 5,000-square-foot memorial is an eternal wellspring fountain to symbolize the sacrifice that the men and women of the U.S. armed forces have made for America's freedom. And, recognizing former president and Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's five-star status, a larger-than-life bronze bust of Eisenhower faces the fountain. He was one of Indian Wells most famous residents.

In addition, a 7-foot-high granite wall contains the names of the 380 veterans who are or were residents of Indian Wells.

MUSEUMS

Art, natural science and performing arts exhibits are featured at the Palm Springs Desert Museum. Open through March 9 is "Woven Worlds: Basketry from the Clark Field Collection," which explores the cultural and geographic diversity among Native Americans with 125 baskets from the Philbrook Museum of Art.

mation, call (760) 321-0602 or visit the Web site at www.cdmod.org.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The desert community features a calendar of cultural events, including the Indian Wells Desert Symphony series, which will run through April. Among the line-up are "From Russia With Love II," "An Evening With Gershwin," "Gloria Loring Sings Broadway's Greatest Hits" and "Mozartfest and Friends."

Tickets range from \$25 to \$70. For information, call the Indian Wells Desert Symphony office at (760) 773-5988.

Returning this year is the city's Town Hall Speaker Series, which will be held at the Renaissance Esmeralda Resort. Scheduled speakers are former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani on Feb. 14; Garrison Kellor, author and host of the radio show "A Prairie Home Companion," on Feb. 25; Bill O'Reilly, author and anchor of "The O'Reilly Factor" on Fox Television,

on March 8; and David Gergen, who served as an advisor to presidents Nixon, Ford, Reagan and Clinton,

on April 10. For more information, call (800) 224-1991 or (760) 416-3400.

NATURE AND WILDLIFE

To answer the call of the wild, there's the Living Desert Zoo and Gardens. It is home to nearly 400 desert animals, including kit foxes, coyotes, bighorn sheep, mountain lions, Mexican wolves and African

