

# Hiking the Bear Creek Trail in the La Quinta Cove near Palm Springs

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Now that the weather is finally starting to cool off a little here in the desert, I can start hiking on Sunday mornings before watching the NFL games. To kick off the NFL season right, my wife and I had a great hike on the **Bear Creek Trail** in the La Quina Cove.

Today we only hiked about a mile and a half from the parking area to where the trail actually begins the climb up the mountain, and then we turned around and went back to the car.

When you hike the Bear Creek trail all the way to the hidden oasis, the trail offers panoramic views in every direction after you begin the climb out of the wash. After about 2 miles on the trail, and on a clear day you can see the Salton Sea, and most of the Coachella Valley. The views of La Quinta and the hills and rocks of the area are beautiful, even if you don't hike all that way to the oasis.

To reach the Bear Creek trailhead from Palm Springs, take Highway 111 to La Quinta. At Washington Street, turn right. When you get to Eisenhower Drive, make a right turn and follow it until it ends at the top of the cove. Make a right onto Bermudas, and note that Bermudas becomes Calle Tecate. At the intersection of Calle Tecate and Avenida Ramirez there is a parking area in the dirt on the left.

From the parking area follow the wide well marked trail to the "oasis" you will see up the trail

to the right. The City of La Quinta has built a real nice hiking park in the area called "Oasis Cove", and the wide trail leads to that.

Keep walking past the oasis about 100 yards and you will see a wash to the right, enter the wash, and turn south (left) and keep to the left for about 20 minutes (give or take a few minutes, depending on how fast you walk). As you walk up the wash the canyon will narrow. Look for a small canyon to the right that has black charred rock from camper's use, not far past this canyon, at the Palo Verde tree, is the trailhead that marks the uphill section of Bear Creek Ridge Trail.

When you reach the oasis at the end of the trail it is a good place to take a rest and maybe eat lunch or some snacks before beginning the trek back to your car.

For more on this and other hikes in the Palm Springs area check out the **Hiking In Palm Springs** website.

Please remember to bring plenty of **water** and follow these **hiking tips**.

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