

Palm Springs

Can you image yourself up on the big silver screen or living in the same neighborhood with a star as big as Frank Sinatra? For a century Palm Springs, California has been a second-home mecca for movie stars, and now its amenities are attracting retirees in record numbers.

Palm Springs was nicknamed “playground of the stars” in the 1970’s due to the overwhelming growth in the numbers of celebrities who owned property from the 30’s to the 70’s, such as Elvis Presley, Lucille Ball and Bob Hope. The area was made famous in 1919 when Hollywood needed a place to film desert scenes for silent movies. If you look out the window, you will see the ideal setting of a desert, which is exactly what Hollywood wanted for certain movies.

Through the years as many musicians and Hollywood starlets passed through Palm Springs, one particular musician took a liking to the California desert and decided to stay for a while. Sonny Bono of the popular duo, Sonny and Cher, spent the last twenty years of his life as a politician involved in the Palm Springs local government. He originally had interest in the restaurant business, but after limited success, he decided to occupy himself with politics. Sonny was the mayor of Palm Springs from 1988 to 1992.

Sonny Bono died in 1998 in a skiing accident, and was buried in Cathedral City, just to the west of Palm Springs. Cathedral City is named after Cathedral Canyon. Just like Palm Springs, Cathedral City has golf courses and other attractions to attract visitors for the winter season.

Though the number of stars in Palm Springs has declined since the 1970’s, the visitors and inhabitants of the area are now retirees and people who have second homes. This is the ideal location for any retiree looking for sunshine and plenty of activities to occupy their time. One of the most abundant resources that Palm Springs offers is its hot springs. According to the Palm Springs Bureau of Tourism, Palm Springs accommodates over one million visitors a year. The desert lands provide awe inspiring hikes over endless mountains and landscapes. The addition of secluded spas and casinos supplies visitors with abundant tourism resources and opportunities for fun and adventure. When you have a chance, come back to enjoy the “Playground of the Stars.”

Source(s):

Hoffman, Eva J. "A Guidebook to Amtrak's Sunset Limited." Flashing Yellow Guidebooks, Golden, CO, 2009.

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