

**CIEC 2015 Companion Program
Palm Springs Hilton Resort
February 4-6, 2015**

Wednesday, February 4

7:45 – 8:45 a.m. Breakfast and Informational Meeting

All registered companions are invited to a breakfast, organization meeting in the Tapestry Room. Mary Jo Ginther, Director of Tourism, will talk about the history of Palm Springs and places to visit in the area. Information about the special tours and events for companions will be discussed. The cost of the breakfast is included in the companion's registration.

2:00 p.m. Companions Tour of the Palm Springs Art Museum

CIEC Companions and guests are invited to go on a walk to the Art Museum located a few blocks from the hotel. Museum entrance fee is \$12.50 per person and \$10.50 for seniors over 62. Meet Robert Krute in the hotel lobby if you are interesting in joining the museum group.

7:00 – 9:00 p.m. CIEC Gala Banquet

All registered companions are invited to the CIEC Gala Banquet celebrating 40 years as an organization.

Thursday, February 5

Breakfast tickets will be provided for individuals who would like to have breakfast in the hotel's Terrace Restaurant. Tickets will only be good for Thursday and will not include the tip.

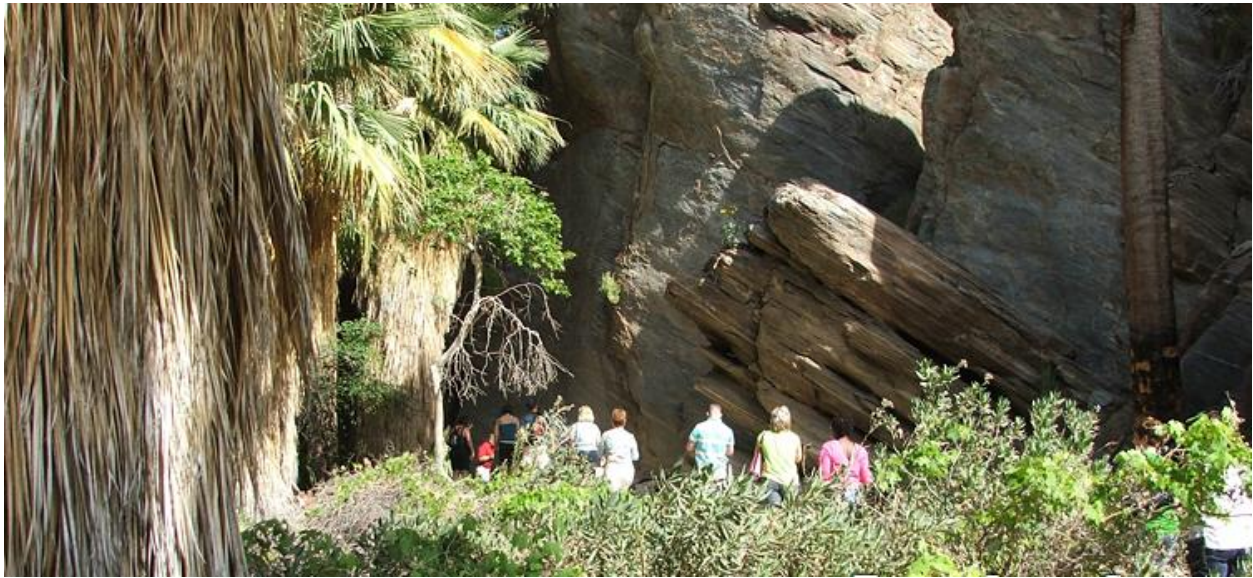


Windmill Tour 9:00-11:00 am

Palm Spring Windmill Tour

When driving into the beautiful Coachella valley, one of the most striking sites you will see is the vast array of wind turbines that sprout from the desert floor. The words "wind turbine" have evolved into what the locals call windmills. The tour guide will provide interesting background on the subject of

windmills, or wind turbines. Participants will get an introduction to the weather and geology of the area, learn why windmills were built in California, and why the wind blows the way it does in the mountain pass. Information about the windmills themselves, how big they are, how they work and unique features of the different designs and models will be discussed. The last stop of the tour will be a power plant where you will learn about the economics and politics of wind energy in California, the US, and around the world. This tour is approximately two hours long, and the bus will return to the hotel around 11 a.m. Tickets required: \$40 Meet in Hotel Lobby at 8:45 a.m.



1:30-4:00 p.m. Indian Canyon Tour

The Cahuilla Indians are natives to the Palm Spring area. This tour will take you to the Andreas Canyon, the second largest palm oasis in North America, where you will participate in a 30 minute nature walk. Information will be presented on the plants, animals, native lore, history and earthquake information of the area. The next stop will be the Palm Canyon, home to over 3,000 native palms. Souvenirs and snacks can be purchased at the trading post.

Learn how the native people thrived on the desert floor for hundreds of years. Your guide will identify some of the plants the Cahulia people used for food and medicine. Learn where the water comes from in the hottest and driest desert in North America and watch for the amazing desert animals risking discovery to steal a drink from a stream. The tour lasts approximately 2.5 hours and the bus will return to the hotel by 4:00 p.m. Tickets required: \$50 Meet in Hotel Lobby at 1:15 p.m.

Friday, February 6

Pool Side Day – enjoy the pool while you gaze at the beautiful mountains. No events are planned for this day.