

2016 TRUE NORTH CLUB SO CAL TOUR ITINERARY

Join us for a special, invitation-only tour in southern California during the late fall of 2016. True North members of Sojourn's Compass Club are invited to join this exclusive trip in Palm Springs, Joshua Tree National Park, and Borrego Springs. As you might expect, this trip features fabulous cycling routes, extraordinary hiking, and distinctive accommodations. Spend the first three evenings in a lovely and quiet residential neighborhood tucked against the mountains on the west side of Palm Springs and the final two at a lovely small resort in Borrego Springs. Your Palm Springs accommodations are just a short walk from shops and restaurants in town, yet feel miles apart. Small and discreet, this beautiful and low key property features two swimming pools and exudes Mediterranean charm. If you have enjoyed Hacienda del Sol in Tucson while on our Arizona tour, you're going to love your stay in Palm Springs. The property is a perfect fit for Sojourn: sophisticated yet unpretentious, service oriented, and unique. Highlight days include a ride through Joshua Tree National Park and its unworldly boulder formations, a ride to Old Town La Quinta, and a hike through an unusual palm canyon where bighorn sheep are frequently sighted. This trip is available to the first 18 True North members of Sojourn's Compass Club to place their reservations for this limited edition new tour.

Sunday – Day 1: Palm Springs – Meet at Korakia Pensione in Palm Springs. This unusual, Mediterranean-style pensione serves as the perfect location for secluded relaxation and experiencing all that the Palm Springs region has to offer. Originally built in 1924 as a retreat for a Spanish artist, the property has been lovingly restored and now includes one and a half acres of bungalows, guest houses, gardens and pools in the upscale and historic Tennis Club neighborhood. The *New York Times* calls Korakia “one of the sexiest hotels in America.” Your first ride of the week will circle the town, passing through several of the city's famous neighborhoods such as Las Palmas, Little Beverly Hills, and Indian Canyon. Mid-Century Modern homes – including those of famous movie stars, entertainers, and politicians – that date to Palm Springs' heyday from the 1930s through the 1950s have been meticulously updated. Since the 1990s, the city has seen a dramatic resurgence in popularity as a lifestyle destination and attractive place to live for those seeking sunshine and warm weather. This evening, enjoy a wine and cheese welcome reception on the magical grounds of Korakia prior to dinner at one of our favorite restaurants.

Lodging: Korakia Pensione Palm Springs, CA

760-864-6411

www.korakia.com

Cycling Option: 20 miles (level terrain)

Monday – Day 2: Joshua Tree & Box Canyon – While you may have heard of Joshua Tree National Park, we are betting that you may not have visited this striking and beautiful landscape, or have ever even considered riding a bicycle through it. By the end of this trip you're likely to look back on this day as one of your favorites of the week and, perhaps, one of your top favorite rides ever. We'll rise a bit early this morning to ensure we arrive (by shuttle) at Joshua Tree well before most visitors. Following a stop at the

Park's Visitor Center, the group will continue to the drop-off point where you'll be briefed on the park's guidelines, wildlife, and geology. Parking areas at some of the most unusual rock formations enable you to get off your bike for some fabulous photo opportunities. After regrouping at the visitor center on the far side of the park, the ride will continue – gradually downhill for a total elevation loss of 3323' – through a winding canyon. Spin your legs out and enjoy this scenic and fun ride all the way to the little town of Mecca where we'll shuttle back across the valley to Palm Springs. This evening, join your tour companions for dinner just a short walk from Korakia.

Lodging: Korakia Pensione Palm Springs, CA 760-864-6411 www.korakia.com

Cycling Options: 16, 43, or 70 miles (771' gradual climb for 16-mile ride and 2110' for 43-mile ride)

Tuesday – Day 3: Whitewater Preserve – Whitewater Preserve is part of California's Wildlands Conservancy and is one of the few places in the region where water flows throughout the year. It serves as an important wildlife corridor for rare birds as well as bighorn sheep, bear, and mountain lions. Wildlands Conservancy is the largest nonprofit nature preserve system in California and during the past 20 years has successfully protected over 147,000 acres of some of the state's most important and beautiful lands, including sections of the Sonoma Coast which are included in our long-standing tour in the Wine Country of Sonoma County and along the coast. The hike we will guide you along in Whitewater Preserve winds to the top of a ridge that opens to expansive views before gradually circling back to the starting point along a footpath through massive boulders in the riverbed. Those interested in extending their hike to the Pacific Crest Trail – the famed trail running from the border with Mexico to the border with Canada – are welcome to do so. There are also options to continue farther up the river bed. Today is planned as a hiking day however you may choose to ride to, or to and from, the start and end point of the planned hike/s. Your leaders will serve a picnic lunch at the visitor center which is nestled among trees and overlooks several small ponds. The afternoon and evening are yours to enjoy the grounds and pools at Korakia, indulge in a massage, or explore the downtown area of Palm Springs which offers numerous shops and restaurants within a short walk of the pensione.

Lodging: Korakia Pensione Palm Springs, CA 760-864-6411 www.korakia.com

Hiking Options: 3 ½ to 8 miles of hiking

Cycling Options: 17 or 34 miles (out and back ride with 2200' of climbing on the "out" leg)

Wednesday – Day 4: La Quinta & Borrego Springs – This morning following breakfast the group will bid farewell to Korakia and shuttle a short distance to Old Town La Quinta. The quiet streets of La Quinta and the surrounding famed golf courses (TPC and PGA West are here) offer great options for cycling. Choose the shorter route and enjoy time exploring the charming streets of Old Town and a leisurely lunch, or crank out a second loop along the route. Old Town exudes Spanish influenced traditional architecture and the tasteful downtown invites walkers to explore shops and bistros. There are olive oil and wine tasting bars as well as a fabulous coffee shop, craft brewery, and organic ice cream shop. Golfers might even plan to skip the ride and play a round on the nearby TPC, PGA West, or La Quinta Resort courses. In mid-afternoon the group will shuttle to Borrego Springs and home for the next two evenings at peaceful La Casa del Zorro, a small resort oasis less than an hour south of La Quinta. The resort's history dates to 1933 when the property's original ranch first welcomed guests. Over the years, it has transformed into an exclusive full-service resort featuring 44 deluxe rooms, swimming pools, tennis courts, golf, spa, dining room, and bar. Stargazing is at its finest in "Dark Sky Community."

Lodging: La Casa del Zorro Borrego Springs, CA 760-767-0100 www.lacasadelzorro.com

Cycling Options: 25 or 50 miles (460' of gradual climbing for 25-mile ride, 900+ for the 50-mile ride)

Thursday – Day 5: Anza Borrego State Park – The draw for the region is California’s expansive and diverse Anza Borrego State Park, the largest state park in California. Named for Spanish explorer Juan Bautista de Anza and the Spanish word for bighorn sheep, *borrego*, the park features unusual rock formations, palm canyons, cacti, and plentiful wildlife, including bighorn sheep. The park’s location between the Peninsular Range and the Salton Sea exhibits geologic peculiarities and a variety of microclimates that support abundant desert plant life. In addition to bighorn sheep, desert iguanas, roadrunner, coyote, mule deer, and over 300 species of birds can be observed in the park. Additionally, the region is quietly becoming a training area for professional cyclists who recognize it for its quiet roads and access to challenging climbs, and today’s rides offer options that reflect both. A morning ride through the valley floor features open views, palm trees, and the vast array of larger-than-life metal sculptures created by artist Ricardo Breceda. Many of these towering creations depict ancient mammals whose fossils have been discovered here including saber-toothed tigers, mammoths, and camels. In all, there are more than 100 sculptures spread for miles across the landscape. Those who are up one of the prized local climbs can extend their ride and tackle Montezuma Grade. This winding road features amazing views as it climbs more than 3000’ over 11 miles. Return to La Casa del Zorro to relax by the pool or enjoy a spa treatment before our final dinner together in the resort’s wonderful dining room.

Lodging: La Casa del Zorro Borrego Springs, CA 760-767-0100 www.lacasadelzorro.com

Cycling Options: 24 or 68 miles (24-mile ride has 637’ of elevation gain - and loss, the 68-mile ride includes 5800’ of climbing)

Friday – Day 6: In Search of Borrego – Begin the day with one of our favorite hikes. After a brief stop at the park’s visitor center, follow a trail through a seasonal riverbed to a rare, native palm canyon. As you walk, huge rock formations, sculpted thousands of years of water and wind, grow larger. Canyons rise steeply to either side of the trail which culminates in an oasis of native palm trees that are fed by an ancient spring. The same waters that sustain these trees are also vital to the existence of a sizeable herd of bighorn sheep that frequent the area. As we make our way gradually into the canyon, our chance of viewing these nimble ovine as they navigate the steep and rocky slopes increases. In addition to the chance to get a glimpse of these magnificent creatures, during the fall rutting season we might also hear the males clashing horns as they square off to determine dominance. Following our hike, we will return to La Casa del Zorro for showers and lunch prior to traveling back to Palm Springs. Those who prefer to add to their miles on a bike can choose to do so rather than joining the hike. Our anticipated return time to Palm Springs is 4:00pm.

Hiking Option: 3 miles

Cycling Options: 18-45 miles

TRAVEL & TOUR QUICK FACTS

Tour Start	12:30pm – Meet your tour leaders at Korakia. 257 S Patencio Road, Palm Springs.
Tour Conclusion	4:00pm – Group return to Palm Springs (PSP). Departing flights should not be scheduled prior to 5:30pm.
Travel To/From Tour	Fly into Palm Springs (PSP). Taxi to Korakia, 257 S Patencio Road, Palm Springs. Korakia is 2.5 miles from PSP – roughly 8 minutes.
Pre-Tour Lodging	There are numerous hotels, B&Bs, and inns in Palm Springs. We suggest you consult TripAdvisor for reviews and preferred location.
Days/Nights	6 days/5 nights
Included Meals	All meals included except for two lunches and two dinners.
Rating	Intermediate. 35 – 70 miles/day with some gradual climbs. More challenging epic options (i.e., climbing) available on certain days.
Activities	Cycling, hiking, options for golf, tennis, and spa treatments.

STANDARD INCLUDED ASPECTS

Equipment	Computer-equipped road or hybrid bike, helmet, rear bag, map case, water bottle, t-shirt. Bring clipless pedals, seat, or helmet for custom fit.
Van Support	Rides supported by a Sojourn van as well as a tour leader on a bicycle.
Tour Leaders	Two experienced tour leaders guide each trip from start to finish.
Ride Nourishment	A selection of snacks and refreshments are supplied throughout all rides.
Ride Information	Detailed route directions, maps, and a daily briefing are provided.
Office Support	At your service 9:00am – 6:00pm EST, Monday – Friday. 800-730-4771
Detailed Information	A full complement of detailed trip and travel information will be provided upon confirmation of reservation.

DATES & PRICING

Palm Springs & Joshua Tree Compass Club True North 2016 Tour Dates	Per Person DBL Occupancy	Single Room Supplement
November 13 –18	\$2,995.00	\$795.00

WEATHER

Palm Springs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Avg. High	71°	74°	80°	88°	96°	104°	108°	107°	102°	91°	78°	69°
Avg. Low	45°	48°	52°	57°	64°	71°	78°	78°	72°	62°	52°	44°
Avg. Precip.	1.14 in	1.14 in	0.47 in	0.04 in	0.04 in	0.04 in	0.16 in	0.28 in	0.24 in	0.2 in	0.39 in	0.71 in

Degrees in Fahrenheit

Joshua Tree	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Avg. High	60°	64°	70°	77°	86°	95°	100°	99°	93°	82°	69°	60°
Avg. Low	37°	39°	42°	45°	54°	60°	69°	68°	64°	52°	43°	35°
Avg. Precip.	0.79 in	0.83 in	0.59 in	0.12 in	0.31 in	0.04 in	0.24 in	0.55 in	0.35 in	0.39 in	0.63 in	0.28 in

Degrees in Fahrenheit

Borrego Springs	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Avg. High	70°	73°	80°	87°	95°	103°	108°	107°	101°	91°	77°	68°
Avg. Low	48°	50°	55°	60°	68°	74°	82°	81°	77°	67°	54°	47°
Avg. Precip.	0.59 in	0.94 in	0.67 in	0.2 in	0.12 in	0.08 in	0.24 in	1.14 in	0.35 in	0.24 in	0.24 in	0.51 in

Degrees in Fahrenheit