

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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THE LIVING DESERT RETURNS TO REGULAR PARK HOURS AND REOPENS HIKING TRAILS

The Zoo To Be Open Daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Starting October 1

PALM DESERT/INDIAN WELLS, CA – (September 21, 2018) – The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens will return to regular hours and reopen its hiking trails and carousel beginning Monday, October 1. The Zoo will be open daily from 9 a.m. (7 a.m. for members) to 5 p.m. with the last admission at 4 p.m.

The Living Desert's nature preserve hiking trails also will reopen to zoo guests and members. Hikers of all levels can choose one of three trails of varying degrees to enjoy nature and the beauty of the outdoors. The Discovery Loop is a brief, quarter-mile interlude, while the Adventure Loop rambles for a mile through desert wash habitat and across a rocky bajada. The Wilderness Loop offers an adventurous three-and-a-half mile hike up or down a boulder-strewn canyon and along a rocky ridgeline with stunning and far-reaching vistas.

Hikers are asked to stay on the trails as they are a nature preserve and observe all posted signage. The trails, accessible with paid admission or with an annual membership, are open every day, except Christmas Day, through May 31, 2019.

In early November The Living Desert will celebrate the grand opening of Crossroads of Conservation that includes a new entrance with state-of-the-art features, a welcome center, gift shop and Living Legacy Endowment Garden dedicated to supporters of The Living Desert.

In addition, popular annual events return this season including La Gran Fiesta on October 13, Howl-O-Ween on October 27 & 31, WildLights on November 23, the much-anticipated Brew at the Zoo will be held February 9, and Zoobilee Gala takes place on March 2.

For more information about The Living Desert and upcoming events, visit LivingDesert.org or call (760) 346-5694.

About the Living Desert:

The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens is a nonprofit, accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, ensuring the highest standards of all aspects of animal care, education, conservation, public service, and operations. The Zoo is active in conservation research, habitat protection, breeding programs and education initiatives around the world, as well as in its own community. The Zoo has been a top attraction in the Palm Springs area for nearly 50 years. The Living Desert is located at 47900 Portola Ave, Palm Desert, CA 92260. For more information: (760) 346-5694 or visit livingdesert.org.

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