



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**USA TODAY HONORS THE LIVING DESERT ZOO AND GARDENS
WITH 10BEST READERS' CHOICE TRAVEL AWARD**

PALM DESERT/INDIAN WELLS, CA -- (July 17, 2020) – For the third year in a row, The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens is proud to announce it has received USA TODAY'S 10Best Readers' Choice Travel Award as one of the top 10 zoos in North America. The Zoo and Gardens is open daily from 7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

According to the [10Best website](#), "North America is home to hundreds of zoological parks, including more than 200 facilities accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). Short of heading out into the world's wild places, nothing beats a visit to the zoo to foster an appreciation for the striking animal diversity of our planet. We asked our readers to vote for their favorite North American AZA-accredited zoos – facilities that excel in the fields of animal care and enrichment, while also facilitating meaningful interactions between animals and human visitors."

A panel of experts partnered with 10Best editors to pick the initial nominees, and the top 10 winners were determined by popular vote.

The top 10 winners in the Best Zoo in North America category include the following:

1. Fort Worth Zoo
2. Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden
3. Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium
4. Cheyenne Mountain Zoo
5. Brevard Zoo
6. Audubon Zoo
7. San Diego Zoo
8. Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum
9. Dallas Zoo
10. The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens

"We are excited to once again be named one of the nation's top 10 zoos by USA TODAY and the general public, for the third year in a row," said Allen Monroe, President/CEO of The Living Desert. "As a conservation-first organization it's an honor to be recognized for our animal care and enrichment, as well as for providing our guests a meaningful place to visit, learn, and make memories, especially during these unprecedented times."

10Best.com provides users with original, unbiased, and experiential travel content of top attractions, things to see and do, and restaurants for top destinations in the U.S. and around the world. The core of the site's uniqueness is its team of local travel experts: a well-traveled and well-educated group who are not only experts in their fields and their cities, but also discriminating in their tastes. These local experts live in the city they write about so the content is constantly updated, and 10Best.com averages 5 million visitors per month.

USA TODAY is a multi-platform news and information media company. Founded in 1982, USA TODAY's mission is to serve as a forum for better understanding and unity to help make the USA truly one nation. USA TODAY is the nation's number one newspaper in print circulation with an average of more than 1.6 million daily. USA TODAY is owned by Gannett Co., Inc. (NYSE: GCI).

The Living Desert is open daily from 7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. For more information about The Living Desert, 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 destination in the Palm Springs area for 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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