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**VOTE FOR THE LIVING DESERT IN USA TODAY'S READERS' CHOICE TRAVEL  
AWARD FOR BEST ZOO AND BEST BOTANICAL GARDEN**

**PALM DESERT/INDIAN WELLS, CA --** (April 26, 2021) – The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens has been nominated for USA TODAY'S 10Best Readers' Choice Travel Award in two categories: Best Zoo and Best Botanical Garden. The public is encouraged to cast their vote and help The Living Desert take the top spots.

The contest allows for the public to vote once a day starting today, through Monday, May 24 at [www.10best.com/awards/travel/best-botanical-garden-2021/](http://www.10best.com/awards/travel/best-botanical-garden-2021/) and [www.10best.com/awards/travel/zoo/](http://www.10best.com/awards/travel/zoo/)

According to the [10Best website](http://www.10best.com), "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."

"Being nominated for best zoo in the Readers' Choice Travel Awards has become an annual honor for which we are so proud. And this year, being recognized as a favorite botanical garden in North America speaks to our growing recognition," said Erin Scott, Senior Marketing and Public Relations Manager at The Living Desert. "Once again we are asking for the community's help in voting for us in both categories, every day during the contest, to help us take a top spot on the list."

The 10Best website also notes, "The best gardens and arboretums on the continent help to promote and conserve the plant diversity of our planet, all while showcasing their vast collections in stunning, visitor friendly ways."

USA Today's 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.

The top 10 of the 20 nominated will be announced on Friday, June 4.

The Living Desert is open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Some attractions require additional fees. Face coverings are required for guests over three years old. Advanced purchase is required. Purchase online at [livingdesert.org](http://livingdesert.org) or by calling (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 over 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](http://livingdesert.org).

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