Jewels of the Desert

Attractions abound in the arid region of Southern California! From nineteenth century style architecture, picturesque trees, and towering mountains, Southern California is an appealing vacation spot for the history and nature lover. Are you looking for a place to rest, explore, and refresh your inner soul? Away from the hustle and bustle of Los Angeles, visiting the Mission Inn, Joshua Tree National Park, and Big Bear Mountain will reinvent how you view the cohesion of history and nature. Come and experience these jewels of the Southern California desert!

The Mission Inn is an extremely popular attraction during the Christmas Season. It is a time to wrap up in a warm coat and experience all of the sights, smells and tastes! Tinkling bells, twinkling Christmas lights, and tittering childish voices can be heard throughout the event. Haughty horses trot up and down the Main Street towing Cinderella carriages. There are vendors selling wares from mouth-watering donut holes to handmade t-shirts and jewelry. It is unquestionably an event not to miss. Additionally, every Sunday morning at the Mission Inn is a delectable, white glove brunch. Hungry customers may indulge in a deluge of croissants, Belgian waffles, Scallop Ceviche, smoked Norwegian salmon, and eggs Benedict, to name a few. For children, there are endless options featuring sweet and fruity tarts, hot Apple cobbler, mini Crème Brûlée, and Bread Pudding. Evenings are even more spectacular, highlighting the Mission Inn’s dinner on the patio. Also occupying the dining courtyard is an amiable macaw. This hilarious bird will hold an interesting conversation with anyone who meanders by to chat. Ultimately, the Mission Inn is a wedding venue. Two miniature chapels on the second floor
exhibit gothic architecture and straight backed, wooden chairs bearing physiognomy of saints. Clearly, any time of the year is a wonderful time to explore the Mission Inn.

Ascending from the arid landscape, spiny trees dare curious predators to venture near. These intricate plants are made from considerably thorny leaves that give the Joshua trees their unique texture. While Joshua trees may not be eye candy with their strange persona, they are a prominent representation of the Mojave Desert, and are unique to the Southwest region of the United States. Their delicate, white, curling tendrils are only pollinated by the female pronuba moth. Around 2.8 million visitors come to experience the incredible flora & fauna, adventurous activities and more. What excursions are available? Dozens of trails are open to horseback riding, off-roading, hiking, and rock climbing. Adventure awaits the picturesque landscape of Joshua Tree National Park.

The rugged head of Big Bear, nestled in the San Bernardino Mountain Range, rises in lofty grandeur above the ground at over 6,752 feet high. Big Bear Mountain, the tallest of them all, is located at the very heart of the range. Against the placid banks of Big Bear Lake is the renown Bear Mountain Ski Resort. Rustic architecture and wooden logs grace its exterior with exceptionally stunning views from the broad balcony. Receiving over sixty-six inches of snow per year, many visitors frequent the mountain to ski, snowboard, toboggan, and build picturesque snowmen. In the summer, sightseers proliferate the cordillera to hike and bike across the breathtaking terrain and to fish and jet-ski on the halcyon waters. Big Bear Mountain is a welcome respite from the fast-paced life of the city.

Fortunately, the Mission Inn, Joshua Tree National Park, and Big Bear Mountain are not ephemeral. They entice the history buff, nature-lover, and adventure seeker. As the last crème
brûlée striated forks are laid aside; and as the snow encrusted boots and dust streaked helmets are
placed in a suitcase, the charm and allure from the desert jewels will forever be the highlight of
the trip. What are you waiting for?