

FINDING FAULT IN PALM SPRINGS

By Amy Morton

In January, UCLA seismologist Vladimir Keilis-Borok created a stir when he predicted a Southern California earthquake of magnitude 6.4 or greater by September 5, 2004. So how are thrill-seekers responding? By getting as close to the tectonic action as possible, naturally, with a guided tour of the San Andreas Fault, the culprit in Keilis-Borok's prediction. "Doctor Doug" Thomson, an earthquake-obsessed psychologist who calls himself the "The Faultmeister of Palm Springs," leads four-hour luxury van tours and regales visitors with geologic fact and history. For example, did you know that the fault is a source of benefit as well as threat to this desert oasis? And if the earth does shake, don't worry, says Doctor Doug—Palm Springs zoning bans skyscrapers. *The San Andreas Fault Tour*, \$65 per person. (760) 322-6029. www.sanandreastour.com