



Explore Monterey County

DESTINATION GUIDE AND MAP

Paddle boarding on Monterey Bay



White-sand beach at Carmel-by-the-Sea

Carmel-by-the-Sea

UNFORGETTABLE CHARM

The perfect itinerary of California's Central Coast isn't complete without a visit to picturesque Carmel-by-the-Sea. This quaint town is a delightful fusion of art galleries, boutiques, charming hotels, a white-sand beach, diverse restaurants, and whimsically styled architecture. Make time to stroll through its historic streets and tucked-away courtyards for a storybook ambiance that can be appreciated by romantics of all ages.

DON'T MISS

- Book a room at one of Carmel's cozy inns. Breakfast is included at each, and many are pet-friendly too!
- Find the perfect memento while you mosey around the charming boutiques and world-renowned art galleries along Ocean Avenue and its cobblestone side streets.
- Sip your way around more than a dozen wine tasting rooms, and bring your appetite as you decide between one of many delectable restaurants—all within one walkable square mile.
- Cruise along Scenic Road, a coast-hugging route that more than lives up to its name. Revel in distinct architectural styles, from storybook-esque cottages to über-contemporary designs, including Frank Lloyd Wright's Walker Residence and poet Robinson Jeffers' Tor House.
- Go back in time at the historic Carmel Mission, built in 1771 as the second in a chain of 21 missions constructed prior to California's statehood.
- Stay for the annual festivals: Taste of Carmel, the Carmel Bach Festival, the Carmel Art Festival, and GourmetFest, to name just a few.



Wine tasting in Carmel Valley

Carmel Valley

REVEL, RECREATE, RELAX

Sun-kissed days make Carmel Valley one of Monterey County's prized wine appellations, and the perfect rustic wine country getaway. Whether you set off on a self-directed tasting adventure or sign up for a guided tour, you can sip your way down Carmel Valley Road, the main artery of the lush countryside. Dine at award-winning restaurants with menus crafted to showcase local vintages, or get active at one of Carmel Valley's championship golf courses, tennis courts, or fitness clubs that offer day use.

DON'T MISS

- Pay a visit to Carmel Valley Village for a walkable stretch of tasting rooms, art galleries, and eateries.
- 4,462-acre Garland Ranch Regional Park is wonderful for outdoor enthusiasts and trailblazers on foot or horseback. Hike up roughly 2,000 feet to be rewarded with amazing views of the ocean or enjoy an easier trail along the valley floor.
- Take the plunge at Refuge with its soothing thermal therapy cycle for one-of-a-kind relaxation and a variety of optional massage treatments.
- Escape for the day, or overnight, to Bernardus Lodge and Spa, one of Carmel Valley's most acclaimed luxury resorts. Don't forget to stop by their tasting room in the village for a flight of award-winning wine.
- Retreat to family-friendly Carmel Valley Ranch with its 500-acre golf course, horseback riding, and yoga classes, as well as a popular Ranch Hands camp for the little ones.
- Stay and play at Quail Lodge & Golf Club. Play bocce ball on the lawn, golf on the par-71 course, or take the wheel at the Land Rover Experience Driving School.



The Farm

Salinas

SALAD BOWL OF THE WORLD

The Salinas City Center is the hub of the Salinas shopping scene, featuring unique boutiques and several art galleries. Nosh on locally grown delicacies such as artichokes at The Steinbeck House—boyhood home of Nobel Prize laureate John Steinbeck and now a local-favorite eatery. Traveling by train? Salinas is home to Monterey County's only Amtrak station.

DON'T MISS

- Salinas Valley is home to a number of vineyards and wineries, many offering sweeping views of both the valley and the hills beyond. Sample some of Monterey County's best wines at the tasting rooms of Hahn Estates, Rustique, Odonata or Chalone, or one of the many other tasting rooms along River Road.
- The National Steinbeck Center occupies a place of honor at the head of Main Street in the Salinas City Center. Steinbeck's world comes alive through multi-sensory exhibits, rare artifacts, film clips, and special exhibitions.
- Stop and visit with retired TV and movie animal celebrities that would otherwise be homeless at the loving sanctuary of the Monterey Zoo, Wild Things, Inc. Spend the night at Vision Quest Ranch, an on-site B&B.
- Plan ahead to attend one of the many Salinas festivals or events such as California Rodeo Salinas or the California International Airshow.



Old Fisherman's Wharf

Monterey

BOUNTY ON THE BAY

Monterey's never-ending activities and various attractions will keep you busy from the moment you wake until you rest your head at night. Its robust and remarkable history has attracted visitors since the 1700s. Today, the abundance of restaurants, boutiques, and endless entertainment keeps travelers coming back time and time again to this premier vacation destination.

DON'T MISS

- Meander down Old Fisherman's Wharf to indulge in a delicious free sample of clam chowder while picking up coastal souvenirs and gifts such as salt water taffy and jewelry.
- The acclaimed Monterey Bay Aquarium is a must-see. Get an up-close look at Monterey Bay's mascot, the spirited sea otter. Catch daily feedings in the Kelp Forest and Open Sea exhibits to witness fish, jellyfish, and skilled predators such as tuna and sharks speed toward lunch.
- Discover transformed sardine canneries that now house shops, restaurants, tasting rooms, and live entertainment on historic and world-famous Cannery Row.
- Book a boat tour, whale-watching cruise or fishing trip on the Monterey Bay.
- Go back in time with a visit to nearby Custom House Plaza, the Museum of Monterey, historic adobes, and downtown Monterey.
- Gear up at the Coast Guard pier next to San Carlos Beach, a mecca for scuba divers.
- Light up the night on lively Alvarado Street and Cannery Row where the area plays host to an array of restaurants and bars.



Bayonet and Black Horse Golf Course

Seaside

A SCENIC HISTORIC COMMUNITY

The former site of Fort Ord is now an up-and-coming destination complete with a revitalized downtown, an easy entrance to Fort Ord National Monument, and some of the best beach access on California's Central Coast. Seaside's pristine stretches of coastal bliss is great for hiking, biking, and is a popular spot for kite-flying.

DON'T MISS

- Foodies rejoice at the 60+ family-owned dining spots and ethnic eateries for a taste of an incredible number of cultures and cuisines.
- Breathe in the fresh ocean air at one of Seaside's golf courses on top of a ridge with panoramic views of the entire Monterey Bay. Not only will your golf skills be challenged, it's a beautiful scene for a 19th hole cocktail.
- Fort Ord National Monument can be accessed via Seaside, with hiking and biking trails that wind through oak woodlands as well as wildlife habitats. Bring your binoculars.
- Seaside has easy beach access for an evening sunset stroll or just to spend a sunshine-filled day.
- Bayonet and Black Horse golf courses, previously open only to service members, is now open to the public and with sweeping views of Monterey Bay, these links should be added to your to-do list.



Post Ranch Inn, Big Sur

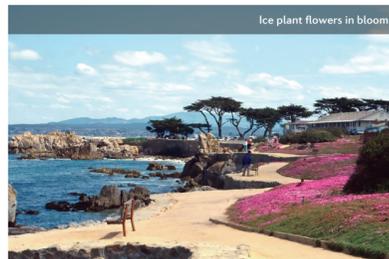
Big Sur

SCENERY BEYOND COMPARE

With its breathtaking beauty and unparalleled scenery, Big Sur beckons for you to explore. Rocky cliffs, lush mountains, coastal redwood forests, and hidden beaches combine to create an epic backdrop for recreation, romance, and relaxed exploration. This bucket-list worthy destination with its charming, eclectic populace and cosmic vibe makes for unforgettable moments.

DON'T MISS

- Catch a glimpse of historic Bixby Bridge, a 714-foot-long and 260-foot-high wonder of engineering built in 1932 -- an integral passage along Highway 1.
- Pull up a chair, kick off your shoes and dip your toes into the Big Sur River while sipping on your favorite beverage at the ever-popular Big Sur River Inn.
- Make a pit stop or stay for dinner at Nepenthe, with its delicious menu and views perfect for whale watching.
- Vacation as celebrities do at Post Ranch Inn, where nature walks, stargazing, and an edible tour of the onsite chef's garden are the norm.
- Soak in a Japanese hot bath and partake in an afternoon wine-and-cheese reception at Ventana Big Sur.
- For a truly unique experience, Alila Ventana Big Sur beckons you to become one with nature and relax at the lodge or hot springs—guaranteed to refresh the spirit, body, and mind.
- Hike the Overlook Trail at Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park and bask in the majesty of McWay Falls as it plunges into the Pacific Ocean below.



Ice plant flowers in bloom

Pacific Grove

AUTHENTIC CHARM MEETS THE BAY

With a historic downtown, beautifully curving coastline, and even a romantic spot affectionately named Lovers Point, Pacific Grove is the place to be in any season. With sweeping panoramic ocean views boasting one of the oldest continually operating lighthouses in the United States and a classic 1932 Neville municipal golf course, Pacific Grove holds many sought after and bygone charms.

DON'T MISS

- Dine at one of Pacific Grove's award-winning restaurants, including Passionfish, Fandango, and Jeninni Kitchen + Wine Bar.
- Cozy up for a night (or three) at one of the many historic and delightful bed and breakfasts sprinkled throughout downtown and along the scenic coastline.
- Put your toes in the sand at Lovers Point Beach and discover marine life at the nearby tide pools of Asilomar State Beach.
- Play golf at the Pacific Grove Golf Links with gorgeous views of the bay—the green fees are extremely reasonable.
- Launch your canoe or kayak and glide through the quiet waters of the bay or take a stroll along the scenic Monterey Bay Coastal Recreation Trail.
- Soak in the views and see why many artists and authors, including John Steinbeck, have found inspiration here.
- Explore the historically elegant downtown shops, restaurants, galleries, and classic Main Street buildings.
- Meander through the narrow side streets of authentic Victorian storefronts and historic homes, and keep an eye open for designated plaques signifying their construction before 1926.



Paragliding at Marina State Beach

Marina

ADVENTURE ON LAND, SEA & AIR

Marina is wonderfully diverse, teeming with options for food, culture, and adventure. It's scenic trails and seascapes afford endless possibilities for fun and exploration, attracting bicyclists, hang gliders, paragliders, kite enthusiasts, and admirers of Mother Nature. Vast stretches of dunes and rolling hills, ethnic cultures and cuisines, and historic and renowned attractions make Marina a destination to see, stay, and play.

DON'T MISS

- Marina State Beach is a favored spot for paragliding, hang-gliding, kite flying and surfing. Grab your bait and cast away from the beach, or kick back, relax and watch for dolphins and whales.
- Try skydiving from the Marina Airport for above-and-beyond views of the Monterey Bay.
- Comfortably explore Fort Ord Dunes State Park on the site of the historic military base. Experience the beach and trails by foot or bicycle with access to the north end of the Monterey Bay Coastal Recreation Trail.
- Hike, bike, or ride a horse through Marina's rolling hills, oak woodlands, and pockets of chaparral. Discover Fort Ord National Monument, which extends into Marina and offers more than 86 miles of serene trails and panoramic vistas.
- Check out the newest addition to Monterey County's wine scene: Marina's Urban Wine Row. Various wineries in Marina's business district open tasting rooms on select Saturdays to showcase their bounty in a fun, friendly setting.
- When it's time to refuel, there are more than 50 family-owned dining spots representing Marina's diverse ethnic make-up, with choices like Vietnamese, Mexican, Japanese, Hawaiian, and more.

Monterey County boasts 99 miles of coastline and 3,771 square miles of magnificence that begs for exploration. From submarine depths to elevations of over 5,500 feet, Monterey County invites you to grab life by the moments and discover an unlimited array of things to see and do. Plan your next trip and explore more with our interactive map at SeeMonterey.com.



Funded in cooperation with the Monterey County Board of Supervisors and the communities of Pebble Beach Company, Carmel-by-the-Sea, Marina, Monterey, Pacific Grove, Salinas, Sand City, Seaside, Moss Landing, Carmel Valley, Big Sur, and Salinas Valley.

Wrath Wines, Soledad, River Road Wine Trail



Pebble Beach Golf Links®

Pebble Beach

IN A WORD: ICONIC

Experience the awe-inspiring, harmonious marriage of golf course topography and coastal majesty at Pebble Beach. From the famed 18th hole of Pebble Beach Golf Links® to 17-Mile Drive® and The Lone Cypress™, a visit here will leave you spellbound. Even before the first commercial automobiles came along, historic 17-Mile Drive® was one of Monterey County's top scenic drives. It began as a carriage road in the early 1880s, and since then has been lauded for its magnificent scenery.

DON'T MISS

- A main stop on the famed 17-Mile Drive® is The Lone Cypress™, a 250-year-old Monterey Cypress that has survived against all odds to become one of the planet's most photographed trees.
- Mingle among celebrities, heads of state, pro athletes, and golfers from around the globe at legendary The Lodge at Pebble Beach™.
- Best bets for celebrity sightings are during flagship events: The Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance, the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, or the U.S. Open Championship
- Watch the triumph and tribulations of the 18th hole from The Bench, a restaurant with international influences using wood roasting and open-flame cooking.
- Grab a bite at Roy's at Pebble Beach, offering a unique Hawaiian-fusion experience. Or, for authentic Tuscan dishes with antipasti and magnifico desserts, try Peppoli at The Inn at Spanish Bay.
- Relax by a cozy fire pit on the patio of The Inn at Spanish Bay. Order your favorite beverage as the sun dips beyond the horizon and a lone bagpiper beckons the evening from across the golf course.



Pinnacles National Park

More To Explore

Monterey County's 3,771 square miles is home to a population of over 435,000 living in 12 incorporated cities and 16 unincorporated areas, all with unique personalities and distinct characteristics. Explore these lesser-known Monterey County gems:

MOSS LANDING, in the north, started out as a wharf in 1866 but is now a bona fide destination. Located at the mouth of Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, it is a quaint, walkable fishing village known for antiques, art studios, fresh seafood markets, and excellent marine wildlife and bird watching. Go on a one-of-a-kind, electric-powered catamaran ride through the slough with Monterey Bay Eco Tours. You are guaranteed to spot a sea otter!

Nestled in the dunes between Seaside and Monterey is **SAND CITY**, a close-knit community and artsy warehouse district. Discover hip craft brews, coffee shops, cafes and thriving businesses. Its West End Celebration in August shuts down the streets for a three-day block party and open-air artisans fair.

Cruise down Highway 101 south for beautiful South County scenery through rolling hills and hundreds of acres of vineyards. While here, don't miss the unforgettable River Road Wine Trail. **SOLEDAD** is called the Gateway to the Pinnacles (National Park) with its seismically charged landscape. While there, keep a lookout for endangered California condors. **KING CITY** showcases the region's rich agricultural history at the Monterey County Agricultural and Rural Life Museum. For more local history, stop at Mission Soledad (California's 13th mission) and Mission San Antonio de Padua (California's 3rd mission), also located in the region.

DON'T MISS

-  FORT ORD NATIONAL MONUMENT
-  THE NATIONAL STEINBECK CENTER
-  BAYONET & BLACK HORSE
-  MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM
-  LOVERS POINT
-  17-MILE DRIVE
-  WORLD-RENOWNED CARMEL VILLAGE
-  WINE TASTING ROOMS
-  NEPENTHE

MARQUEE EVENTS

- Whalefest Monterey, January, Monterey
- AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, February, Pebble Beach
- Relais & Châteaux GourmetFest, March, Carmel-by-the-Sea
- Whalefest, March, Monterey
- Pacific Grove Good Old Days, April, Pacific Grove
- Pebble Beach Food & Wine, April, Pebble Beach
- Big Sur International Marathon, April, Big Sur
- Carmel Art Festival, May, Carmel-by-the-Sea
- Artichoke Festival, June, Monterey
- California Rodeo Salinas, July, Salinas
- Feast of Lanterns, July, Pacific Grove
- Moss Landing Antique Fair, July, Moss Landing
- Monterey Car Week, August, Monterey County
- Concours d'Elegance, August, Pebble Beach
- Sand City West End Celebration, August, Sand City
- IndyCar Series Championship, September, WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca
- Monterey Jazz Festival, September, Monterey
- First Night Monterey, December, Monterey

For more info visit SeeMonterey.com/Events



DRIVE TIMES from MRY to:

Pacific Grove	10 MIN.
Sand City	10 MIN.
Seaside	10 MIN.
Carmel-by-the-Sea	12 MIN.
Marina	15 MIN.
Pebble Beach	20 MIN.
Moss Landing	20 MIN.
Salinas/Salinas Valley	25 MIN.
Carmel Valley	25 MIN.
Big Sur	45 MIN.
Soledad	1 HR.
San Jose International Airport (SJC)/San Jose	1 HR. 10 MIN.
San Francisco International Airport (SFO)/San Francisco	2 HRS.
Sacramento	3 HRS. 15 MIN.
Los Angeles	6 HRS.

VISITOR SERVICES

You may reach our team to assist with your trip planning needs through Live Chat, email or phone.

LIVE CHAT www.seemonterey.com

EMAIL info@seemonterey.com

PHONE (888) 221-1010

A Destination Specialist is available Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. PST. If we have missed you during these hours, we will get back to you the following business day.

No one knows Monterey County like we do!

DIRECT FLIGHTS from 10 cities

Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport	DFW
Denver International Airport	DEN
McCarran International Airport, Las Vegas	LAS
Los Angeles International Airport	LAX
Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport	PHX
San Francisco International Airport	SFO
San Diego International Airport	SAN
Seattle-Tacoma International Airport	SEA
Burbank, JSX Private Hanger	
Orange County/Santa Ana, JSX Private Hanger	



SUSTAINABLE MOMENTS™
Visit Responsibly.

Monterey County takes personal responsibility to protect our destination's incredible natural assets and pristine landscape, recognizing the importance of sustainability and giving back to the community. Learn tips on how you can travel responsibly and avoid a #TravelFail at SeeMonterey.com/Sustainable.

