



5 Ways to Experience Monterey County, California from Home

Streaming web cameras, virtual tours, local flavors and more offer unlimited inspiration

Monterey, Calif., March 31, 2020 – Travelers from around the world flock to California’s central coast to experience the world-class sites and activities available in Monterey County. Though travel has come to a near halt in an effort to help minimize the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the iconic destination invites those stuck at home to virtually take a moment to be inspired by the destination’s 99-miles of pristine coastline, majestic marine life and more. When the time is right, Monterey County will be waiting for travelers to experience its splendor firsthand. In the meantime, here’s how to wander from home.

1. Take in scenic views of the Monterey Peninsula

Take in views of the [Monterey Bay](#) from a live webcam located on the [Monterey Bay Aquarium](#)’s ocean-view deck. Watch the ocean’s surface for harbor seals poking their heads out of the water or sea otters wrapped in kelp. For a complete tour of the Aquarium from home, click over to Google Street View’s full [walking tour](#).

Golfers preparing for a bucket-list trip to [Pebble Beach](#) can play the legendary Pebble Beach Golf Links via an [online simulation](#). Or, simply soak up the scenery at the 18th hole – the most renowned finishing hole in golf – by watching a [live webcam](#) that captures the crashing surf and rugged backdrop.

Find even more inspiring views of Carmel Valley, Big Sur and even California Condors by watching additional [webcams](#) located throughout the County.

2. Join the #MuseumFromHome movement

The [Monterey Museum of Art](#) (MMA) team is bringing its museum experience to people at home on [Facebook](#). On Mondays and Thursdays, MMA is sharing family-friendly Remote Art Day projects to keep artists of all ages engaged. MMA projects are designed by professional art educators to teach motor skills, creative thinking, problem solving and more! On Tuesdays, MMA will showcase its special exhibitions via virtual tours and Q&A sessions with artists. Wednesdays are devoted to highlighting pieces from the museum’s permanent collection complete with historical context and curator’s notes.

The [National Steinbeck Center](#) has increased its online presence to continue its mission of “*building community and celebrating creativity, inspired by the words of John Steinbeck.*” People from around the world can #SteinbeckFromHome by taking a [virtual museum tour](#) and heading over to the museum’s new [YouTube channel](#) featuring videos by archivist Lisa Josephs. After learning about the legendary author, who was born and raised in Monterey County, find a cozy nook at home to read “Cannery Row” and its sequel, “Sweet Thursday,” which are both set in the place Steinbeck called home.

3. Unwind with Monterey-inspired meditation and cocktails

Take 10 minutes to decompress with the Monterey Bay Aquarium’s daily “[MeditOcean](#)” – a peaceful, guided meditation with relaxing music and video of exhibits. The sessions are perfect for a quiet break during the day. Find the latest mindful meditation sessions on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

[Monterey Bay Meditation Studio](#)'s new [online community](#) also encourages meditation and reflection from home. Offering everything from single sessions to multi-week courses, the platform is designed to continue the studio's mission of making mindfulness and meditation accessible for the community.

Grab lavender and find some Zen with [Carmel Valley Ranch](#)'s signature Lavender Bliss martini. Mix vodka, lime juice, lavender simple syrup and add fresh lavender sprigs for garnish. The cocktail is just one of the many ways the property uses the bounty of ingredients grown on its sprawling 500 acres. Find the Lavender Bliss martini recipe and more in Monterey County Convention & Visitors Bureau's [digital cookbook](#).

4. Take a culinary tour of the County

The region offers restaurateurs, chefs and winemakers fertile ground to create an unparalleled food and wine scene. Savor a few of the destination's delicacies while supporting local businesses by ordering them online to tide you over until visiting. Try Monterey-style clam chowder from [Old Fisherman's Grotto](#). Established in 1950, the [Old Fisherman's Wharf](#) restaurant ships its thick and creamy chowder for at-home enjoyment. For dessert, have a scoop (or pint!) of locally sourced, handcrafted [Revival Ice Cream](#). Their award-winning Bee's Knees ice cream combines burnt honey, beeswax and bee pollen with creamy organic custard and a crunchy honeycomb candy.

With 32 varietals from 45,000 acres of planted vineyards throughout the County, there is no shortage of great wines to try and many are available for online purchase. Start with a [Wrath Pinot Noir](#) from the Saint Lucia Highlands or a sparkling rosé from Carmel Valley. [Folktale Winery and Vineyards](#) is offering \$1 shipping for any online purchase of four bottles or more.

5. Be inspired by a Big Sur artist

Big Sur has a long history of attracting artists, writers and musicians. Famed cliff-topping restaurant [Nepenthe](#) artist-in-residence Erin Lee Gafill is offering [free online art classes](#) featuring new art techniques and step-by-step instructions. The [Awaken the Artist Within](#) series' first lesson invites participants to explore the world and find inspiration by hunting and gathering things found in nature. All lessons are posted to YouTube and budding artists are encouraged to share their work with a [Facebook group](#). Looking to bring the beauty of Big Sur home? Browse a selection of Erin's paintings in Nepenthe's [online gallery](#), including [Big Sur, Glorious Day](#) and [McWay Falls](#).

For more information on Monterey County and to find inspiration for a future trip, visit www.SeeMonterey.com.

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ABOUT MONTEREY COUNTY CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

The Monterey County Convention & Visitors Bureau (Monterey County CVB) is a 501c6 organization that drives tourism for Monterey County. Tourism is the largest industry on the Monterey Peninsula and the



second largest in the County. The MCCVB is a partnership of the hospitality community and local governments that aims to drive business growth through compelling marketing and targeted sales initiatives that maximize the benefits of tourism to our guests, members and the community. Travel spending in Monterey County was \$2.98 billion in 2018, representing a 5.8 percent increase from 2017. This \$2.98 billion in visitor spending supported 25,190 jobs, contributed \$271 million in total taxes and generated \$135 million local tax dollars that directly benefited the community. For more information, visit www.SeeMonterey.com and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

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