



## **Now is the Moment to Take an Inspired Trip to Monterey County, California**

*Monterey County CVB invites travelers to experience not-to-miss moments this spring and summer as restrictions lessen and Highway 1 reopens*

Monterey, Calif., April 26, 2021 – As COVID-19 restrictions lessen across the United States and in the state of California, Monterey County Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) invites travelers to step away from their everyday to reconnect and recharge in Monterey County, California. Those who travel to Monterey County in the coming months will find unparalleled outdoor adventures for every skillset, a growing food and wine scene, immersive cultural experiences, renowned scenic drives, and the opportunity to explore the fascinating marine life that call the Monterey Bay home.

“With Highway 1’s reopening, there is no better time for travelers to rekindle their sense of adventure in Monterey County,” said Rob O’Keefe, president and CEO at Monterey County CVB. “Our unrivaled hospitality community has worked hard over the past year to put the highest health and safety protocols in place, and we are elated that now is the time to welcome visitors back to our breathtaking destination.”

The destination’s ‘Now is the Moment’ campaign delivers exclusive offers, new itineraries made up of must-experience moments and fresh ways to take advantage of the boundless wide-open spaces and iconic experiences along California’s central coast. The Monterey County CVB has curated a list of reasons ‘Now is the Moment’ to plan a soul-satisfying trip to Monterey County:

### **NEW/LIMITED-TIME EXPERIENCES**

- Book the new [Bikes, Bites & Bevs Tour](#), offered by Carmel Food Tours and Mad Dogs & Englishmen Bike Shop, that includes an e-bike ride to picturesque Point Lobos State Park followed by a walking food tour in Carmel-by-the-Sea.
- Seize the moment from 15,000 feet over the Monterey Bay with [Skydive Monterey Bay](#)’s new Silver Package. The package celebrates Skydive Monterey Bay’s 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and offers adventure seekers the chance to experience “California’s Highest Tandem Jump.” After jump completion, receive a framed first jump certificate, a gear store gift and mini gear bag. The special package offers visitors more than 35 percent off normal rates. Book now for \$229 per person with an advance reservation.
- [Stave Wine Cellar](#) at Pebble Beach Resort’s The Inn at Spanish Bay will offer an ‘Exclusive Moments’ tasting experience during the month of May, partnering with the best producers in California to create three unique wines exclusive to the resort.
- [The Sardine Factory](#), located within Monterey’s historic Cannery Row, is offering a new ‘Monterey Moment’ cocktail May through June. Made with limoncello, lemon juice, orange juice, blue curacao and topped with champagne, the refreshing drink has hints of blue to convey the Monterey Bay and comes complete with a personalized jingle from the award-winning restaurant’s resident entertainer, David Conley.

- The new [we. Art](#) installations in Sand City have recently transformed the coastal town into one of the most accessible outdoor public art galleries on the peninsula. Take a self-guided walking tour around the West End to see the new public art, completed by local and national artists.

#### RECENTLY REOPENED/SET TO REOPEN

- Big Sur's beloved Pine Ridge Trail recently reopened after being closed for five years. Located in the Ventana Wilderness of the Los Padres National Forest, the 19.5-mile trail leads hikers from Big Sur Station to Sykes Camp with a cover of redwoods, pine and oak along the way.
- The famed [Monterey Bay Aquarium](#) will reopen to the public on Saturday, May 15, ending a 13-month closure. Dedicated to marine research and conservation, the Aquarium features 35,000 creatures representing over 550 sea life and marine species. Be one of the first to revisit the Aquarium by reserving a general admission ticket. Advance tickets are now required, and reservations will become available online at 9 a.m. PT on May 5.
- The [National Steinbeck Center](#) in Salinas will reopen on Thursday, May 6. The center is dedicated to legendary author John Steinbeck who was born and raised in Monterey County's agricultural hub. Steinbeck drew on his experience growing up in the region for novels such as "Cannery Row" and its sequel "Sweet Thursday."
- [WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca](#) announced its 2021 line-up of events kicking off with the GEICO Motorcycle MotoAmerica Superbike Speedfest at Monterey from July 9-11. Tickets are on sale now with anticipation that spectators will be able to attend all events at the world-famous race track.

#### SEASONAL SECRETS

- Spring is one of the best times to visit Pinnacles National Park where adventurers can enjoy mild temperatures and a variety of wildflowers. Hoping to spot a magnificent [California condor](#)? Set out for a hike on the strenuous 8.4-mile [High Peaks-Balconies Loop](#) or opt for the Bench Trail's spotting scopes in the early morning or early evening.
- Kayak Connection's [Starlight Bioluminescence Tour](#) in Moss Landing starts before sunset for easy viewing of resident marine life frolicking and feeding at dusk. Once the sun goes down, visitors enjoy the glow while paddling through the bioluminescent waters.
- May is the prime month to spot Pacific Grove's majestic purple phenomenon, dubbed the "[Purple Carpet](#)." View thousands of magenta ice plants take over the coastline along Ocean View Boulevard by foot, bike, car or boat.
- A renowned whale-watching destination, Monterey County offers visitors the opportunity to see the great gray whale migration and the return of the humpback whales to the Monterey Bay this spring. The spring season also brings greater sightings of killer whales to the area as well. Book a [whale watching tour](#) from Monterey or Moss Landing.
- There is no better place to kick off the start of Rosé season than sunny [Carmel Valley](#). Located in the Santa Lucia Highlands AVA, Carmel Valley wineries offer an abundance of varieties with several specializing in Grenache Rose. Must-tries include the sparkling Rosé at [Folktale Winery and Vineyards](#).

#### LATEST LODGING OFFERS

- [Monterey Tides](#) is offering guests up to 30 percent off stays now through May 27, 2021 with its Spring Savings by The Sea promotion. The beach becomes guests' backyard during a stay at the centrally located boutique property. Head to nearby Monterey State Beach, Del Monte Beach or Sand City Beach to grab a moment in the sun.

- Book a stay at Carmel-by-the-Sea's [Horizon Inn & Ocean View Lodge](#) and enjoy the properties Mindful by the Beach program hosted in partnership with Monterey Bay Meditation Studio. Free to guests every Monday in April, the program includes a guided 45-minute Mindfulness Session at Carmel Beach followed by light refreshments and wine around a bonfire.
- Now through June 30, 2021, the [Hofsas House Hotel](#) is offering a "sweet" deal to guests. Stay for at least two nights and receive a box of locally made [Lula's Chocolates](#) and a Hofsas House tote bag. Indicate "Sweet Internet Special" when reserving online or calling to make a reservation.
- Nestled between Monterey Bay and the Marina Dunes Preserve, the ultra-romantic [Sanctuary Beach Resort](#) in Marina is offering a [Love, Stay & Namaste package](#) including overnight accommodations, a private beach yoga session, chilled sparkling wine and breakfast delivered to the property's private beachfront cottages.
- Embassy Suites by Hilton in Seaside is offering a [Stay & Play package](#) complete with 36 holes of golf at Bayonet and Black Horse. Overlooking the Monterey Bay, the course was built in the 1950s by General Bob McClure and has since been the host site of two PGA Professional Championships.

Visitors are encouraged to travel responsibly in Monterey County by following all current health and safety guidelines and respecting the area's iconic landscapes by staying on trails and leaving no trace behind. For more information on [events](#), [hotel special offers](#), [promotions](#), and to learn more ways to grab your moment now, visit [SeeMonterey.com/NOW](http://SeeMonterey.com/NOW).

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#### **ABOUT MONTEREY COUNTY CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU**

The Monterey County Convention & Visitors Bureau (Monterey County CVB) is a 501c6 non-profit 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 its guests, members and the community. Travel spending in Monterey County was \$3.24 billion in 2019, representing a 3.3 percent increase from 2018. This \$3.24 billion in visitor spending supported 27,120 jobs, contributed \$296 million in total taxes and generated \$153 million local tax dollars that directly benefited the community. For more information, visit [www.SeeMonterey.com](http://www.SeeMonterey.com) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

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