

# Explore Monterey County

Destination Guide and Map



**MONTEREY**  
Grab life by the moments.

[SeeMonterey.com](http://SeeMonterey.com)

Paddle boarding on Monterey Bay



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

# CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA

## UNFORGETTABLE CHARM & NATURAL BEAUTY

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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, the Carmel International Film Festival, and GourmetFest, to name just a few.



# SEASIDE

## A SCENIC HISTORIC COMMUNITY

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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 easy ocean access makes it a favorite haven for people fond of outdoor pursuits, including surfing, kayaking, scuba diving, and hang gliding.

### 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.
- Seaside is cannabis friendly, welcoming travelers to visit their local cannabis dispensaries for both medical and adult recreational use.



# MONTEREY

## BOUNTY ON THE BAY

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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.



## BIG SUR

### SCENERY BEYOND COMPARE

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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

- Snap photos 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 on-site chef's garden are the norm.
- Soak in a Japanese hot bath and partake in an after-noon wine-and-cheese reception at Ventana Big Sur.
- For a truly unique experience, Esalen Institute 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 soak in the majesty of McWay Falls as it plunges into the Pacific Ocean below.



Paragliding at Marina State Beach

# MARINA

## ADVENTURE ON LAND, SEA & AIR

Marina is wonderfully diverse, teeming with options for food, culture, and adventure. On top of the bay, its 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 tackle and cast away from the beach or kick back, relax, and watch for dolphins and whales just beyond the breakers.
- 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 former 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, German, Japanese, Hawaiian, and more.



# 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's 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.



# 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 wine tasting rooms, many offering sweeping views of both the valley and the hills beyond. Sample some of Monterey County's best wines at Paraiso Vineyards, Hahn Estates, Wrath Wines, 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, and have breakfast delivered via elephant.
- Plan ahead to attend one of the many Salinas festivals or events such as California Rodeo Salinas (July 19-22, 2018), or the California International Airshow (September 29-30, 2018).



# 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 Recreational Trail.
- Soak in the views and see why many artists and authors, including John Steinbeck, have found inspiration here.
- Explore the historically elegant downtown full of locally owned 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.



# 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, the U.S. Open Championship, or Pebble Beach Food & Wine.
- 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 Pepoli 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

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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:

Right next to Monterey Regional Airport, **Del Rey Oaks** is tucked between the coastal sublimity of Monterey and the lush bounty of Salinas. Just to the north is **Moss Landing**, which 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 antiquing, art studios, fresh seafood markets, and excellent marine wildlife and bird watching. Horseback riding on Salinas River State Beach and kayaking or pontoon cruising in the slough are favorite activities here.

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. 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.

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](http://SeeMonterey.com).



**MONTEREY**

Grab life by the moments:

[SeeMonterey.com](http://SeeMonterey.com)



Visit Responsibly.

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

**DON'T MISS**

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

**MARQUEE EVENTS**

- AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am:** February 4-10, 2019, Pebble Beach
- Relais & Châteaux GourmetFest:** March 14-17, 2019, Carmel-by-the-Sea
- Pacific Grove Good Old Days:** April 6-7, 2019, Pacific Grove
- Pebble Beach Food & Wine:** April 11-14, 2019, Pebble Beach
- Big Sur International Marathon:** April 28, 2019, Big Sur
- Carmel Art Festival:** May 17-19, 2019, Carmel-by-the-Sea
- Artichoke Festival:** June 1-2, 2019, Monterey
- U.S. Open Championship:** June 10-16, 2019, Pebble Beach
- California Rodeo Salinas:** July 18-21, 2019, Salinas
- Feast of Lanterns:** July 19-28, 2019, Pacific Grove
- Moss Landing Antique Fair:** July 28, 2019, Moss Landing
- Monterey Car Week:** August 9-18, 2019, Monterey County
- Concours d'Elegance:** August 18, 2019, Pebble Beach
- Sand City West End Celebration:** August 23-25, 2019, Sand City
- IndyCar Series Championship:** September 20-22, 2019, WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca
- Monterey Jazz Festival:** September 20-22, 2019, Monterey
- First Night Monterey:** December 31, 2019, Monterey

For more info visit [SeeMonterey.com/Events](http://SeeMonterey.com/Events)

**Pacific Ocean**



**DRIVE TIMES**  
from MRY to:

Del Rey Oaks	4 min.
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.

**START AT THE MONTEREY VISITORS CENTER**

401 Camino El Estero, Monterey  
SeeMonterey.com, Info@SeeMonterey.com  
831-657-6400

**OPEN DAILY** excluding New Year's Day, Easter, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

**LOCAL EXPERTS**

Our Visitor Information Specialists are destination experts with lots of "Must See and Do" information to share. Our team has nearly 100 collective years of passion for Monterey and is available 361 days a year to share their love and knowledge with every visitor. No one knows Monterey County like we do!

**PLAN & PRINT**

Our center offers free Wi-Fi and a kiosk so that you can build an itinerary, print your boarding passes, or map out your trip. We have coupons, maps, brochures, and ideas for all types of travelers.

**GET A ROOM**

Our visitors center has a state-of-the-art lodging room where you can direct-dial one of more than 60 lodging properties to book or extend your stay. With more than 250 hotels/motels in the county, our team will assist you in finding the right accommodations that fit both your taste and budget.

**DIRECT FLIGHTS**  
from 7 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



**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](http://SeeMonterey.com/Sustainable).

