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ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP

Ed Bierman

A Wine-Geek's Adventure in Salinas Valley

Monterey, 2 Days

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Guide Description

AUTHOR NOTE: The Santa Lucia Highlands, on the west side of the Salinas Valley, have produced exceptional Chardonnays and Pinot Noirs. For the wine adventurer in California, the River Road along the Arroyo Seco, paralleling 101, is the route to explore. The area doesn't boast any fabulous hotels or restaurants, however, so if you don't want to drive too far at the start and end of the day, you'll lodge and dine in Salinas more modestly than in Monterey or Carmel. Of course, then you can invest more in your liquid finds on this River Road tour. Before you decide on a low-fat vanilla lodging, however, check out VisionQuest Ranch B&B in Salinas (www.visionquestranch.com).

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Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1

DAY NOTE: Start early in Oldtown Salinas, so you can shop the weekly Saturday organic Farmers Market. Then tour the National Steinbeck Center, taste some Monterey Bay wines at the new A Taste of Monterey center next to the Steinbeck Center, then stuff yourself with further Steinbeckiana over lunch at The Steinbeck House. After all this culture, it's time for viticulture, so get on River Road and visit Marilyn Remark Winery (www.remarkwines.com) and Pessagno Winery before heading back to Salinas. Hotel/motel selections are somewhat limited, but for a different adventure, stay at VisionQuest Ranch B&B (www.visionquestranch.com) in one of their canvas-walled African-style bungalows. All the better to hear the lions, tigers, and elephants in the nearby sanctuary and zoo. Dinner at the Salinas Valley Fish House is normally a good value.

Day 2 - Monterey

DAY NOTE: Breakfast is included at VisionQuest, and you won't want to miss it, especially if it's delivered by pachyderm. Then down River Road to the furthest winery, Scheid and its demonstration vineyard. Afterwards, work your way back through Hahn Estates, Paraiso, and San Saba. Grab lunch as you see fit, preferably a picnic at Paraiso. On your way back to Monterey, if you're not too late or tired, stop at Ventana Vineyards, one of the original, and most influential, Monterey County vineyards. Pick up a bottle of your favorite Meador Estate wine as a collector's item: Doug Meador, a founder of Ventana Vineyards, is retiring this year.

San Saba Vineyards
Small production, but big taste.

Paraiso Vineyards
Makes for a great picnic spot on your wine tasting tour.

Hahn Estates/Smith & Hook Winery
Picturesque winery with friendly staff

Ventana Wines
Award-winning winery

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Day 1

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Day 2 - Monterey

QUICK NOTE

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contact:
tel: 831.678.2992
www.sansaba.com

location:
35801 Foothill Road
Soledad CA 93960

hours:
11a - 5p, Tues. - Sun.

1 San Saba Vineyards

DESCRIPTION: San Saba only plants 70 acres of wine, but they are making quite the name for themselves in the Salinas Valley. They focus on Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Noir, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon. Their Bocage label features estate-grown wines only.

Photo courtesy of San Saba Vineyards

contact:
tel: 831.678.0300
www.paraisovineyards.com

location:
Soledad CA 93960

hours:
12n - 4p Mon. - Fri.; 11a - 5p Sat. & Sun.

2 Paraiso Vineyards

DESCRIPTION: Located in the beautiful Santa Lucia Highlands, Paraiso Springs has one of the most beautiful Monterey County vineyards as well as some of its best wines. They focus on Chardonnay, Riesling, Pinot Noir and Syrah, but also produce a nice Souzao Port and Pinot Noir Rose. The winery has picnic tables right outside the tasting room with breath-taking views across the Salinas Valley and the Gavilan Mountains. Pack a lunch!

Paraiso Vineyards

contact:
tel: 831.678.2132
www.hahnestates.com

location:
37700 Foothill Road
Soledad CA 93960

hours:
11a - 4p Monday - Friday, 11a - 5p Sat & Sun.

3 Hahn Estates/Smith & Hook Winery

DESCRIPTION: A little off the beaten path (about 45 minutes from Monterey), you'll be transported to another world at Hahn Estates. The grounds are gorgeous, the staff is fun and informative, and the wine is wonderful. Pack a picnic and relax on their deck, sipping wine, basking in the sun, and soaking up the dazzling view. Especially good are their Pinot Noir, Meritage, and Syrah. On a hot summer day, the rosé is crisp and refreshing. The owners frequently host small events or parties on the deck. Joining their reasonably priced wine club will secure you an invitation to the members-appreciation barbeque bash, which is not to be missed. If you can only visit one vineyard, Hahn is the place – go and toast to the good life.
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contact:
tel: (831) 372-7415
fax: (831) 655-1855
http://www.ventanawines.com

location:
2999 Monterey-Salinas Hwy
Monterey CA 93940

hours:
11a-5p daily

4 Ventana Wines

DESCRIPTION: This winery has won more awards than any other winery in the country, the Dry Chenin Blanc and the Reisling being the biggest winners. The same team of winemakers has been here for over two decades and the aesthetic is European with a California flavor. The winery carries a wide stock of whites, reds and varietals. The property also has a retail store and a tasting room where you can sample the many award-winning wines. The winery grows their own grapes and in the last decade has planted over half a million new vines. © wcities.com

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Monterey Snapshot

Local Info

Monterey embodies the soul of coastal California. It is a city of firsts: California's first capital, home of the state's first theater and printing press, and the place where the country's flag was first hoisted in California, claiming the Sunshine State for the United States. In fact, it was the capital of Spanish California, Mexican California and American California. It is a place of many faces, from the adobe homes that harken to the Spanish conquistadors and missionaries to Cannery Row and the area's rich fishing history to the internationally beloved Monterey Bay Aquarium. History can be lived here, but the present is very much alive and thriving. Home to six universities, abundant sea life, impressive art galleries, award winning restaurants, countless clam chowder stands and shops with one-of-a-kind finds, Monterey Bay remains one of California's most popular travel destinations.

Cannery Row

"Cannery Row in Monterey in California," author and Salinas, California native John Steinbeck wrote,"is a poem, a stink, a grating noise, a quality of light, a tone, a habit, a nostalgia, a dream." This is the opening line of his novel named after the place, a literary testament to the microcosm of life that is Monterey's Cannery Row. It was once the hub of the area's commercial fishing industry, full of characters that inspired Steinbeck's novels. Today, the skeleton of this bustling community of seamen, scholars and adventurers is still visible, notably in the gangways suspended several stories above the street that connect the old sardine-packing factories to one another. Those buildings now house a seemingly endless array of restaurants, like Schooners Bistro on the Bay and The Sardine Factory, that serve up the day's freshest catches. Another distinct transformation on the Row are the mini-malls created inside some of the factories. In a single building, a pub(like the Mucky Duck) will be below candy stores such as the tasty Ghirardelli's Chocolate& Ice Cream Shop, which is next to souvenir stores overflowing with crafts and keepsakes, like the Cannery Row General Store.

The highlight of Cannery Row is the Monterey Bay Aquarium, widely considered the best aquarium in the world. About 1.8 million visitors come through the aquarium's doors every year to learn about and experience the underwater world. Exhibits recreate the ocean habitats found just outside the aquarium's walls, from shallow tide pools to deep water canyons. First timers should check in with the information desk or ask any volunteer about the day's special tours, presentations and feeding schedules. The ocean has never been presented in a more interactive, hands-on and enlightening manner than at the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

Downtown

Alvarado Street is Monterey's main drag and has a delightful bohemian vibe. Coffee shops, organic restaurants and Mom and Pop shops litter the road, most encased in buildings that have stood for over a century. The relaxed atmosphere is contagious. Alvarado links to Fisherman's Wharf, another bustling center of activity. The Wharf juts up against the steel blue waters and, with all it's food stands and gift stores, you'll be glad you're on land rather than in the chilly sea. From Fisherman's Wharf, you can jump off on a whale watching tour, a fishing trip or a sail on the Bay.

The Bay

It's easy to forget that the ocean is a destination all its own. Sailors can launch on an epic day on the open ocean from Monterey. Fishermen cast off from the piers and rock faces into an ecosystem abundant with fish. Whale watchers rarely don't see a humpback or gray whale breaching the surface. And divers of all swaths-- from snorklers to SCUBA to free-- descend on Monterey to go below the surface and witness up close, and in the wild, sea life off the most amazing variety.

Monterey Bay sits on a canyon, the Monterey Submarine Canyon. The bottom of this underwater canyon is two miles below the surface. It extends 95 miles from Moss Landing into the Pacific. The canyon itself is a mile deep, making it comparable to the Grand Canyon. Its depth and high nutrient availability make it a veritable Eden for marine life. Scientific research is a huge element of the central coast because of the canyon's existence and a huge draw for divers to check out what's going on below the surface.

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History

Supported by education(California State University Monterey Bay is making deft use of the former Fort Ord), tourism and agriculture, and supplemented by the inevitable Internet startups, today's Monterey is secure in its place away from the frenzied New Economy culture to the north. A look into the past will surely shed some light on this pleasant present, and perhaps offer some clues about the future.

Human habitation of the Monterey Peninsula dates back some 3500 years. The Ohlones to the north and the Chumash to the south led a peaceful, subsistence-based existence, enjoying the area's temperate climate and abundant resources. Spain laid claim to the entire California coast in 1542, but it was explorer Sebastian Vizcaino who discovered Monterey Bay sixty years later. Having had the area named after him, the Viceroy of Mexico, Gaspar de Zuniga y Acevedo, was enthusiastic about its further exploration. He was replaced, however, in 1603. Vizcaino was subsequently fired, and the King's orders for him to return to Monterey with colonists, were quietly shelved. It wasn't for another 168 years that Gaspar de Portola, the Spanish governor of Baja California, established the first mission(under the direction of Father Junipero Serra) and presidio in Monterey. (So rosily inaccurate were Vizcaino's descriptions of the Bay's features, that it took Portola two expeditions to finally locate it.) Portola established the mission(under the direction of Father Junipero Serra)

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and presidio(still standing) in Monterey. In 1775, Monterey was made the Capital of Alta California, and remained so through Spanish, Mexican, and independent California until American statehood took effect in 1850. Spanish settlement and mission life doomed Ohlone and Chumas culture.

Huge land grants, or ranchos, were sold to Spanish settlers, or Californios. When Mexico gained independence from Spain in 1821, the vast holdings of the Catholic Church were broken up and sold off at generous rates as further ranchos. Many of the ranchos, particularly those along the Central Coast, survive today as ranches, farms, state and federal parkland, and the occasional golf course. The period of Mexican rule of California was short-lived, however. The steady stream of American immigration from the east became an unruly torrent once the Mexican Revolution broke the Spanish monopoly on California trade. John C. Fremont's Bear Flag Revolt of 1846 ushered in the 21-day history of the Bear Republic. During the ensuing period, in which California was a territory of neither Mexico nor the United States, the California Constitutional Convention met in the office of Monterey alcalde(mayor) Walter Colton.

With the discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill in 1848(and statehood two years later), the torrent of immigration to California turned into a flood. While Spanish visions of gold in the Monterey area never materialized, the demands of the'Forty-Niners' to the north sparked a robust timber and fishing industry, which continued to thrive long after the gold rush petered out. The lawlessness which characterized life in early San Francisco was prevalent, albeit to a lesser degree, in Monterey. In one three-year period during the 1850s, there were 60 murders without anything approaching a conviction, in large part because most of the murders were committed at the behest of the county sheriff, William Roach.

When Nevada's Comstock silver boom fuelled ever-greater expansion in the San Francisco economy, Monterey's seemingly inexhaustible resources stood ready. Crops, grain transport, fishing, and whaling made Monterey a bustling port. The area's attractions remained largely agricultural, however, but for coastal resorts and retreats that sprung up here and there along the Central Coast.(And which continue to be one of the area's great attractions, from St. Clare's Retreat House to the Tassajara Zen Mountain Center. The most extreme example of Central Coast resort-building is, of course, Fred Swanton's Brighton-style casino up the road in Santa Cruz, where the famous roller coaster now does its thing.)

It was the Depression and the Dust Bowl of the 1930s that brought a new wave of immigration to the Monterey Peninsula.'Okies' from the drought-stricken South and Midwest came by the tens of thousands to pick lettuce and other crops and to work in the sardine canneries. Their travails are part of the picture of pre-war Monterey glimpsed inCannery Row,The Grapes of Wrath,East of Eden,Tortilla Flat, and other John Steinbeck classics. The industrial boom of World War II brought military bases like Monterey's Fort Ord to California, and the aeronautics industry cranked out bombers and fighters by the hangarful from area factories.

Steinbeck was hardly the only cultural figure attracted by the beauty, silence, and seclusion of the Central Coast. A century before, Richard Henry Dana and Robert Lewis Stevenson(who patterned the coastline of Treasure Island after those of Carmel Bay and Point Lobos) had settled there. Jack London, Isadora Duncan, Henry Miller, Ansel Adams, Edward Weston and Jack Kerouac all lived in the area at various times. Something in the fog air of the coast has had an attraction for spiritualists and self-development movements, as well: Theosophical Society founder Madame Blavatsky was followed, in later years, by the Esalen Institute, the Tassajara Zen Center, hippies, New Ageists, and many others.

Tourism grew to play an increasingly important role in the area's economy. The Monterey Jazz Festival, Concourse Classic Car Weekend, and the Bing Crosby Pro-Amateur golf tournament at Pebble Beach(now the AT& T National Golf Tournament) helped put Monterey on the map as a travel destination.

Wary of coastal development and the threat posed by offshore drilling, Monterey put itself at the vanguard of environmental activism. Much of Monterey's coastline has been put in the care of the state to keep it protected. Its beaches remain famously pristine. Monterey Bay Aquarium, with its iconic sea otters, has done much to heighten awareness of the fragility of the marine environment off the Central Coast: the most recent additional to the federal wildlife sanctuary system is the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.
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Hotel Insights

The Monterey Bay area has a centuries-old history of hosting guests. Indeed, it is possible to stay in adobe colonial inns almost that old. Today, Monterey and the other communities of the Central Coast host visitors from around the world, drawn to the area by its beauty, seclusion, or the conferences that are an increasing stock in trade of Monterey hotels. Choices range from well-appointed chain hotels on the Monterey waterfront to cozy Victorian bed-and-breakfasts in Pacific Grove.

Downtown

Stay near the water or not? A quaint period hotel or something modern? Those are the two questions to ask when looking for lodging in Monterey proper. For those who can afford it, the increasing number of large, new, waterfront-area hotels is the obvious choice. Of these, the large-and-in-charge Monterey Plaza Hotel and Spa, flaunts what is arguably the best location in town, right on Cannery Row. The Spindrift Inn, a renovated hotel from the 1920s, features a more modest 42 rooms, but offers a romantic Cannery Row alternative. The Portola Hotel& Spa, near Fisherman's Wharf, is another popular hostelry of more recent vintage. The Merritt House Inn, an historic adobe building from the 1830s, sits back a bit from Cannery Row. It is an

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elegant reminder of the area's Spanish history.

Pacific Grove

Bed and Breakfasts are Pacific Grove's specialty. The historic Inn at 213 Seventeen Mile Drive, the prim Centrella Inn, and the elegant Martine are among the stateliest. In each, you will feel as if you've slipped back into some fanciful version of historic Monterey County. Which is, of course, exactly what their proprietors want. The Sunset Inn and the Deer Haven are both set within inspiring pine groves, as is the sprawling Asilomar Conference Grounds. Though designed for meetings and retreats, the facility also welcomes individuals and families, and while there are no phones or televisions in its rooms, there are plenty of nature hikes and other family-oriented fun, such as billiards, table tennis, and running along the boardwalks, to be enjoyed.
©

Restaurants Insights

San Francisco may dominate California's culinary spotlight, but local Monterey area food partisans are quick to point out that the fires of the California Cuisine revolution were stoked on the shores of the Central Coast. Certainly, Monterey is blessed with a year-round cornucopia of fresh local ingredients, Pacific Rim flavors carried in by the ocean breeze, and a host of creative chefs who know what to do with both.

Downtown

In downtown Monterey, with its Spanish Colonial coziness, one of the most traditional spots you will find is Stokes Restaurant& Bar. An archetypal Monterey adobe home, Stokes was built in 1833 and has been functioning as a restaurant under various managements since 1890. Popular with locals and visitors alike, Stokes' California-Mediterranean creations are bold and adroitly executed. Not far away, on Calle Principal, sleek Montrio does well enough with its eclectic menu to win awards and earn rave reviews. Montrio is a good bet for the vegetarian and for the wine lover, too, with a list featuring'alternative' and rare wines as well as the esoteric Back Room List, if you know what you are doing. Nearby Jugem is a sushi spot sophisticated enough to please the most jaded sashimi snob. El Palomar serves exquisite Mexican seafood and a whole menu of tequilas in a comfortable and spacious ambience. For an antidote to all this new world fare, duck into the Crown and Anchor English pub, not far away on Franklin Street.

Fisherman's Wharf

On Fisherman's Wharf, Cafe Fina fulfills the most serious pizza cravings with imaginative creations from their wood-burning oven, as well as mesquite-grilled seafood, chicken, and beef. The atmosphere is friendly and the view can't be beat, providing you don't mind looking at water. Abalonetti Seafood Trattoria treads much of the same culinary territory, but it is particularly famous for the variety of calamari preparations it offers. If the lines are prohibitively long, try Domenico's or Rappa's, two more Fisherman's Wharf seafood-dining favorites that have delighted diverse clientele for years.

Cannery Row

Among the former sardine-packing plants of Cannery Row and within sight of the Monterey Bay Aquarium are some of Monterey's most popular restaurants. The Whaling Station has for years been one of Monterey's most popular destinations with its winning steak-and-seafood menu. A few doors down on Wave Street, The Sardine Factory, another nod to Monterey's aqua-cultural heritage, features filling seafood dishes like Lobster and Prawns on Crescent Pasta in brandy-lobster sauce, all served in astoundingly large portions. The signature dish is an abalone bisque; the only sardine on the menu is in the house salad. For a drink on Cannery Row, stop into Sly McFly's, also a good bet for an inexpensive lunch, or A Taste of Monterey, which lets you sample many of the wines that have made Monterey County so revered among oenophiles. Also renowned for its wine selection is Shnarley's Pizzeria, a great place for a raucous group dinner or a soul-warming late-night slice.

Pacific Grove

Though PG is so cozy and quiet, it has no shortage of destination restaurants, with mouth-watering menus and dynamite ocean views. Across the street from the historic Asilomar Conference Grounds is the Fishwife, a slightly upscale seafood shack serving fresh-caught delights with a dash of Latin spice. Passionfish will help you cut through both the fog and any residual Victorian torpor with its seafood cuisine served up with a contemporary panache. Locals seem to think so, at least; lines to get into the cheery, pepper-accented restaurant can be long. Fandango(located in an old house) will also dispel a gray mood with its sunny yet sophisticated Mediterranean menu, reflecting the Basque, Spanish, and Algerian backgrounds of its owner-chefs. Joe Rombi's, for its part, offers a sophisticated, contemporary take on Italian(note its many vegetarian options and generally light and sleek cuisine). Not in the mood for light and sleek? Opt for Vito's, a classic neighborhood Italian eatery, serving pastas, pizzas and veal entrees, all loaded with cheese, sauce and zest. Cuisine at Fifi's is similarly loaded, this time with the cheeses and sauces of France. When your arteries need a rest, count on the friendly staff at Tillie Gort's Cafe to serve you up some fresh and healthy vegetarian specialties, though meat eaters have plenty to choose from as well.
©

Nightlife Insights

The Monterey Bay Area has long been a magnet for artists, writers and actors, so it's no surprise that its arts scene is robust. Artists, writers and actors are notorious for their vices, so it's fitting that the area's beer-drinking and wine making communities are robust as well.

Music

Festival time! The Monterey Jazz Festival, that hoary but vibrant, three-day celebration of jazz, is held every September on multiple stages at the Monterey County Fairgrounds. The Monterey Blues Festival,

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in June, brings in heavyweights like B. B. King and Etta James at the same location. When those weekend-long musical extravaganzas close up shop for the year, the Monterey County Symphony's October-May series of concerts keeps toes a-tappin'. The organization welcomes internationally renowned guest artists for a classics-based program, seasoned with choice works from the modern repertoire. They perform at the Sunset Cultural Center in Carmel. The very same venue also plays host to performances sponsored by Chamber Music Monterey Bay, which pulls in top small-group performers for its six-concert, winter-and-spring series.

Theater

Several fine repertory groups make Monterey's theater scene one of the better regional locales in the country. The Pacific Repertory Theatre puts on several plays each year from modern and classic playwrights at Carmel's Golden Bough Playhouse. Carmel's Carl Cherry Center for the Arts is a good place to catch a rotating program of dance and drama including productions by Monterey's own Unicorn Theatre.

Wine

Though dwarfed by the wine making powerhouse that is the Napa Valley, Monterey County has its share of respected vineyards and vintners. Accordingly, wine is quite the cultural force throughout the region. Here are some highlights: A Taste of Monterey's Cannery Row Bay View Tasting Room invites wine enthusiasts to sample a wide range of regional vintages, all in a comfortable setting with an unforgettable view. Soif Wine Bar offers an impressive selection of wines as well, this time alongside a delectable menu of contemporary Spanish cuisine. True die hards will want to invest in the Santa Cruz Mountain Winegrowers Passport Program, a great way to see a variety of operations in action—and sample the product! Another surefire way to get your fill is to attend the annual Monterey Wine Festival, a four-day bash involving lectures, tours, auctions, demonstrations, food, music—and, of course, more tasting! If so much activity sounds a bit too hectic for you, stop by Terra Nova Fine Wines, a retail store every connoisseur will appreciate. Grab a bottle or three for a picnic on a bluff.

Nightlife

Sometimes, Monterey can feel a bit like old London. Maybe it's the fog, maybe it's the quaint little streets—ormaybe it's the plethora of bona fide British-style pubs lining the streets. Saunter into any one of them and you'll be sure to stumble out after some pints, some shots, some darts and a hearty dinner of bangers and mash. Of all of them, the Crown& Anchor has been voted"Most Authentic," and its heated outdoor patio keeps locals and travelers coming back for more. The Mucky Duck, in a Spanish-style adobe building built in 1924, also has a cozy outdoor patio, as well as 60 single-malt scotch options. The Monterey branch of the beloved regional chain Britannia Arms keeps patrons busy with raucous trivia contests and karaoke nights. Down near Fisherman's Wharf, find your way into the London Bridge Pub, right on the waterfront. Choose from more than 60 beers from all over the world. At Bulldog British Pub, when you tire of ales and lagers, be sure to get yourself a'Red Silk Knickers'—if only because it's fun to order.

Steinbeck

What would a trip to this region be without a fitting remembrance of John Steinbeck, author of such bestsellers asEast of Eden andThe Winter of Our Discontent? The National Steinbeck Center in Salinas, and its annual Steinbeck Festival do a great job. The Center has comprehensively cataloged every pertinent piece of information from every nook and cranny of the esteemed writer's life. The Festival draws revelers from all over the world, offering a celebratory look into the history of the Salinas Valley and its favorite son. If Salinas is a little too out of the way, simply take a stroll down Cannery Row, being mindful to read between the lines and imagine the place as it once was(before the candy shops and theme bars). Who knows: perhaps you'll stumble into some forgotten little alleyway where days gone by are still faintly palpable. If not, try Steinbeck's Spirit of Monterey Wax Museum. Wax museums may be a hokey concept, but this one is filled with nothing but waxy depictions of the life and times(and imaginings) of one Mr. J.E. Steinbeck III.
©

Things to Do Insights

The Monterey Bay area is filled with attractions for visitors to explore, from the picturesque Monterey State Historic Park to the quaint Cannery Row.

Monterey Museum of Art Downtown is home to the Monterey Museum of Art, the Monterey State Historic Park and the Pat Hathaway Historical Photos exhibit. A fine meal can be had nearby at Montrio Bistro or Indian Summer.

Old Fisherman's Wharf At the Old Fisherman's Wharf, visit the Colton Hall Museum and the 18th Century San Carlos Cathedral. Don't miss the chance to go whale watching. The Rappa's Seafood Restaurant has some of the best dining in the area.

Cannery Row A trip to Cannery Row is well worth it. Located just a mile from Fisherman's Wharf, here you'll find the Monterey Bay Aquarium, Steinbeck's Spirit of Monterey Wax Museum and the famed Baywood Cellars Tasting Room. Stop into the Sardine Factory and enjoy their fresh seafood creations.

Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History Pacific Grove is home to the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History, the Pacific Grove Art Center and the Point Pinos Lighthouse. Dine at Vito's or the Fishwife at Asilomar Beach.

17-Mile Drive Enjoy breakfast at Tillie Gort's Cafe in Pacific Grove, then take the scenic 17-Mile Drive down to Carmel. Here you can visit Château Julien Wine, the New Masters Gallery and the Exotic Fine Art gallery. Have a hearty meal at Tutto Mondo Trattoria.

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Touring Monterey is easy when you make arrangements with a professional company. Go whale watching, take a fishing trip or soak up the sun on the deck of a sailboat.

Bus Tours Monterey Bay Scenic Tours(+1 831 372 6278/http://www.mbstours.com/) Del Monte Express Tours(+1 831 647 1234) Diana's Charters and Tours(+1 831 394 6541/http://www.dianascharters.com/)

Fishing Tours Chris' Fishing Trips& Whale Watching(+1 831 375 5951/ http://www.chrissfishing.com) Randy's Fishing Trips(+1 831 372 7440/http:// www.randysfishingtrips.com/)

Whale Watching Tours Chris' Fishing Trips& Whale Watching(+1 831 375 5951/http:// www.chrissfishing.com) Monterey Bay Whale Watching Cruises(+1 800 979 3370/ http://www.baywatchcruises.com/)

Boat Tours Sea Life Tours(+1 831 372 2203/http://www.montereybaywatch.com) Carrera Sailing(+1 831 375 0648/ http://www.sailmontereybay.com/) Princess Tours(+1 831 372 3501/http:// www.princess.com/)
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Travel Tips

Getting There

By Air

Monterey Peninsula Airport(MRY)(200 Fred Kane Dr.#200 Monterey, CA 93940, off Olmsted Rd.;+1 831 648-7000;http:// www.montereyairport.com/;info@montereyairport.com) provides regional service and houses the following airlines:

American Eagle Airlines/American Airlines(+1 800 433-7300;http:// www.aa.com/) provides daily non-stop service to Los Angeles United Airlines/ United Express(+1 800 241-6522;http:// www.skywest.com/) provides daily non-stop service to San Francisco and Los Angeles US Airways(+1 800 428 4322/ http://www.usairways.com) provides daily non-stop service to Phoenix

Monterey Salinas transit:(+1 831 899 2555;http://www.mst.org/) Route 21 services the airport.

By Bus

Monterey Salinas Airbus:(+1 831 373 7777;http://www.montereyairbus.com/) provides transportation to and from the San Francisco and San Jose International Airports. The airbus offers hotel and home pick-up service and 2 Airbus pick-up points. In Monterey: Monterey Transit Plaza. Look for Airbus sign by the Ordway Drug Store on Pearl at Alvarado. Limited parking available, suggest curb drop. In Salinas: Salinas Amtrak Station, 11 Station Place, off of West Market Street. Sign Posted; Free parking available. Rate: One way to SJC USD30.00 per person, one way to SFO USD35.00 per person(all major credit cards accepted; driver gratuity appreciated). Their normal service runs to downtown Monterey, where you could jump on a taxi or bus. Reservations highly recommended.

Taxi Companies

Carmel Taxi(+1 831 624-3885) Joe's Taxi(+1 831 626-3333) Marina Taxi(+1 831 384-3894) Monterey Airport Taxi(+1 831 626-3385) Yellow Cab Carmel(+1 831 626-3333) Airport Yellow Cab Company(+1 831 646-1234) Yellow Cab Salinas(+1 831 443-1234)

Rental Car Companies

Avis(+1 800 831 2847;http://www.avis.com) Budget(+1 800 527 0700;http:// www.budget.com) Hertz(+1 800 654 3131;http://www.hertz.com) National(+1 800 227 7368;http://www.nationalcar.com) Enterprise(+1 800 736 8227;http:// www.enterprise.com)

Limousine Companies

Arrow Limousine(+1 831 646 3175) Main Event Limousine(+1 831 646 5466) Carmel Luxury Sedan Service(+1 831 626 8119)

By Train

Amtrak California(1-800-USA-RAIL;http:// www.amtrakcalifornia.com/)

Amtrak's Coast Starlight train passes through Salinas each day on its route between Seattle, Washington, and Los Angeles, California. The Monterey Transit Plaza is the central transfer point for all Monterey —Salinas Transit Services in the Monterey area. Motor Coaches to and from the Coast Starlight and Amtrak California's Capitol Corridor trains stop several times each day at the Monterey Transit Plaza. Free bus service is provided from Salinas to downtown Monterey, a 30-minute ride.

By Bus

Greyhound(+1 800 231 2222/http:// www.greyhound.com) accesses Monterey through Salinas and connects with a limited service to the Monterey Transit Center. See the website for schedules and details.

By Car

There are two main highways into Monterey County: Highway 1 and 101. Highway 1 runs from San Francisco to Los Angeles. The views of the Pacific coastline are magnificent on this route. Highway 101 runs down the valley corridor and throughout California.

Getting Around

Monterey-Salinas Transit(+1 831 899 2555;http://www.mst.org/)

There are 5 Monterey stations:

Transit Plaza(Tyler and Pearl; Route 21) Monterey Bay Aquarium(866 Cannery Row; Route 21, 68) Hyatt Regency Monterey(1 Old Golf Course Rd; Route 68) Monterey Marriott Hotel(350 Calle Principal; Route 21) Monterey Travel Lodge(675 Munras; Route 21)

The Waterfront Area Visitors Express(WAVE)(+1 831-899-2555) operates during the summer months(Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day) offering complimentary transportation between 9a and 6:30p in a circular route between downtown Monterey and the Monterey Bay Aquarium. It makes stops at major hotels, points of interest, tourist attractions, and shopping areas.

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If traveling overseas, take the safety precaution of registering your trip athttps://travelregistration.state.gov and for helpful, practical advice about traveling technicalities and safety standards check outhttp://travel.state.gov/
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Fun Facts

Monterey

State: California

Country: United States

Monterey by the Numbers:

Population: 414,449

Elevation: 50 feet

Average Annual Rainfall: 18.33 inches

Average Summer Temperature: 59.5 degrees F

Quick Facts:

Mild, temperate weather year round; cool summer months and warm'Indian Summer' weather in the fall.

Home of the world-famous 17-Mile Drive along the Pacific coast.

Major Tourist Destinations: The Monterey Bay Aquarium, Big Sur, Pebble Beach golf course

Ethnic Mix: 55.9% Caucasian, 3.7% African American, 44.8% Hispanic, 6.0% Asian

Time Zone: PST

Country Dialing Code: 1

Area Code: 831

Did You Know?

First settled in 1770 around a Franciscan mission, Monterey was a Spanish colonial capital between 1774 and 1846, when U.S. naval forces captured it. Since the 1880s, visitors have marveled at the pristine beauty of the Monterey Bay Peninsula; no other county in California offers 99 miles of breathtaking Pacific coastline.

Orientation:

Located between San Francisco(90 miles north) and Los Angeles(260 miles south), on the Pacific Ocean.
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