



MONTEREY™

COUNTY CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

CONTACT:

Celeste White/Monterey County CVB
831.657.6402; Celeste@mccvb.org
Koleen Hamblin/KOLI Communications
800.487.9057; link2koli@aol.com

FASCINATING FACTS EVERY VISITOR SHOULD KNOW ABOUT MONTEREY COUNTY

- Monterey County is a world-renowned golf “mecca” with more than 25 golf courses. Three courses located in Pebble Beach—Spyglass, Poppy Hills and Pebble beach Golf Links—are consistently ranked among the top courses in the nation.
- Opened in 1897, the Del Monte Golf Course, a Pebble Beach course, is the **oldest golf course in continuous operation west of the Mississippi River**. *Golf Digest* recently ranked the course as **one of the top five courses over 100 years old**.
- With more than **40,000 acres of vineyards planted**, Monterey County ranks third in terms of value of wine grapes in North America. Monterey also leads the nation with the largest planting of Chardonnay grapes.
- Monterey County is California’s **third largest agricultural county**, boasting more than a quarter of a million acres.
- Local settings from around the county have provided the backdrop for more than 190 films, including *Play Misty for Me*, *From Here to Eternity*, *Basic Instinct*, *East of Eden*, *Lassie Come Home*, and *Treasure Island*. (A “**Scenes for your Senses**” **Monterey County Film & Literary Map**, as well as a Movie Map and narrated bus tour are now available.)
- The widely-acclaimed Monterey Jazz Festival, held each September, is the **longest continuously running jazz festival in the world**. Jazz greats who have performed to sell out audiences include Miles Davis, Stan Getz, Dizzie Gillespie, and Dave Brubeck among others.
- The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary covers 5,312 square miles, one and a half times the size of the largest national park in the continental U.S. At its center is an **underwater canyon that is twice as deep as the Grand Canyon**.

- Spanish merchant Sebastian Vizcaino was the first European to set foot on the Monterey Peninsula in 1602 and christened Monterey after the viceroy of New Spain, the Count de Monte Rey. Monterey served as the **capitol of California** under Spanish and later Mexican rule. Once claimed by Commodore Drake Sloat for the U.S., Monterey played host to the state's constitution convention.
- Monterey's Old Custom House, built during the Mexican era in 1827, is **California's oldest standing public building**. In 1846, Commodore John Drake Sloat of the U.S. Navy raised an American flag here, claiming California for the United States.
- California's First Theatre was built in Monterey in 1844. It is the state's **oldest continuously operating playhouse** and since the 1930's has played host to hundreds of 19th Century melodramas.
- Almost 250 thousand tons of sardines were processed on Cannery Row in 1945, the year John Steinbeck's novel, *Cannery Row* was published.
- The Monterey Bay Aquarium hosts more than 35,000 animals and plants representing over 550 species of fishes, invertebrates, mammals, reptiles, birds and plants. The Outer Bay Wing has a million gallon tank that depicts the open ocean and a giant kelp forest reaching three stories high.
- Neon signs, billboards and hot dog stands are prohibited in the charming village of Carmel-by-the-Sea and a permit is required to wear high-heeled shoes.
- Carmel-by-the-Sea was once a haven for the bohemian artist set and even today attracts celebrities like **Clint Eastwood**, who served as mayor from 1986-1990. Other notable celebrities, artists and writers who have called Carmel home include **Doris Day, John Denver, Ansel Adams, Jack London, Robinson Jeffers, Sinclair Lewis** and **Upton Sinclair**, among others.
- Robert Louis Stevenson's inspiration for the novel *Treasure Island* is said to be Point Lobos State Reserve near Carmel.
- The Lone Cypress Tree, a scenic landmark located on 17-Mile Drive in Pebble Beach is 250-300 years old. Cypress trees are native only to this region, and can live up to 400 years.
- In 1919, green fees at Pebble Beach Golf Links were \$2 for gentlemen and \$1.50 for the ladies. Rates now stand at \$450 per person (\$425 for guests), per 18-hole round.
- 17-Mile Drive through Pebble Beach is one of only nine private toll roads in the U.S. and the only one west of the Mississippi.

- Prisoners eager to earn "good time" off their prison sentences helped to build the Bixby Bridge near Big Sur. It is one of the world's highest single-span bridges at 714 feet long by 260 feet high.
- Salinas Valley is known as the **Salad Bowl of the World** due to the wide variety of fruits and vegetables grown here. Agriculture is Monterey County's largest industry, bringing in \$4 billion annually.
- Monterey County grows more mushrooms than any other county in California.
- Organic produce accounts to approximately two percent of all farming receipts in Monterey County, as compared with one percent in other California farming counties.
- The National Steinbeck Center, a \$12 million, 37,000 square-foot facility is believed to be the **largest facility devoted to a single American author**. Nobel Prize-winning author **John Steinbeck** was born in Salinas in 1902 and lived in Monterey County for much of his life.
- The California International Airshow is held in Salinas each fall and features stunt pilots, wing walkers and military flying precision teams like the Navy's Blue Angels and the Air Force Thunderbirds.
- The California Rodeo in Salinas, held the third week in July, is an important stop on the Pro Rodeo Cowboy Circuit.
- In 1948, a young woman by the name of Norma Jean was crowned Castroville's first "Artichoke Queen." She later gained fame as actress **Marilyn Monroe**. Castroville, located in North Monterey County, produces 95 percent of the nation's artichokes.
- The Big Sur International Marathon, held the last Sunday in April, has been named the **"Best Marathon in North America"** by the Ultimate Guide to Marathons for its challenging course and superior organization.

VISITOR INFO.

Monterey County is located 120 miles/192 km south of San Francisco and 345 miles/552 km north of Los Angeles along the classic California corridor. The region boasts 99 miles of prime Pacific Coastline, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, three historic missions, 40,000 acres of premium vineyards, 25 golf courses and over 200 lodging properties. Monterey County includes the Monterey Peninsula, Big Sur, North County and the Salinas Valley. The Monterey Peninsula Airport (MRY), just three miles from historic downtown Monterey and minutes from the area's major attractions, is served by non-stop flights to and from Denver (DEN), Las Vegas (LAS), Phoenix (PHX), Los Angeles (LAX), and San Francisco (SFO). www.seemonterey.com.

#

