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MONTEREY COUNTY FACT SHEET

www.SeeMonterey.com

Location:

- Monterey County is located 120 mi./192 km south of San Francisco and 345 mi./552 km north of Los Angeles
- The Monterey Bay and Santa Cruz County border the county to the north, the Pacific Ocean is to the west, the Gavilan Mountain Range and San Benito County to the east, and San Luis Obispo County to the south
- Monterey County is divided into the following regions: Monterey Peninsula (Monterey, Carmel-by-the-Sea, Carmel Valley, Seaside, Marina, Sand City, Del Rey Oaks, Pacific Grove, Big Sur, and Pebble Beach); North County (Castroville, Moss Landing and others); and the Salinas Valley (Salinas, Soledad, Gonzales, Greenfield, King City and Soledad)

Population/Facilities:

- County population: approximately 421,400
- Peninsula population: approximately 150,000
- Monterey County visitation: approximately 8.1 million leisure and business travelers each year
- lodging facilities: 253 (11,992 rooms)

Climate:

- Average summer temperatures range from 51° F to 68° F
- Average winter temperatures range from 44° F to 61° F
- Warmest months are July through October
- Average yearly rainfall totals 18 inches and falls primarily between November and April
- Spring and fall months are known for the most pleasant weather conditions

Transportation:

- Monterey Peninsula Airport (831-648-7000, www.montereyairport.com) – three miles east of Monterey off Hwy 68: United Express, America West, American Eagle and Delta Connection offer direct flights into Monterey via San Francisco, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Denver and Las Vegas
- Marina Municipal Airport (831-582-0102, www.ci.marina.ca.us) – two miles east of Marina

- Salinas Municipal Airport (831-758-7214, www.ci.salinas.ca.us/services/airport/airport.cfm) – three miles southeast of downtown Salinas
- Monterey-Salinas Transit (888-MST-BUS1, www.mst.org) offers bus service from Salinas to the Monterey Peninsula and between cities on the Peninsula
- Greyhound Bus Lines (831-424-4418, www.greyhound.com) – 19 West Gabilan, Salinas; local bus feeder lines offer service to the Monterey Peninsula
- Monterey Salinas Airbus (831-373-7777, www.montereyairbus.com) – Airport transport to San Jose and San Francisco from hotels and locations throughout the Monterey Peninsula
- Amtrak (800-872-7245, www.amtrak.com) – 30 Railroad Avenue, Salinas; bus feeder lines to the Peninsula

Major Attractions

- Monterey Bay Aquarium (www.montereybayaquarium.org) – Nation's top-ranked aquarium (Zagat Survey U.S. Family Travel Guide); Nearly 200 galleries & exhibits showcasing the Monterey Bay's marine life and habitats.
- National Steinbeck Center – (www.steinbeck.org) – Museum devoted to the life and works of John Steinbeck.
- 17-Mile Drive (www.pebblebeach.com) – Scenic driving tour of Pebble Beach, scenic lookouts and famous golf courses. Entrance fee.
- Cannery Row (www.canneryrow.com) – One of America's most well-known streets, named for Steinbeck's novel, Cannery Row now houses a variety of shops, restaurants, hotels and the Monterey Bay Aquarium.
- Big Sur (www.bigsurcalifornia.org) – Scenic area of Monterey County encompassing a 90-mile stretch of dramatic coastline from Carmel to Hearst Castle. A collection of restaurants, inns and camping spots can be found about 25 miles south of Carmel.
- Fisherman's Wharf (www.montereywharf.com) – Popular attraction with seafood vendors, shops, restaurants.
- Carmel-by-the-Sea (www.carmelcalifornia.com) – Charming village with boutique shops and 100+ art galleries. Quirky laws (no street addresses, live music, neon lights or high heels without a permit, and more) still exist.
- Monterey Wine Country (www.montereywines.org) – Home to some 40,000 acres of vineyards, 40 wineries, and 85 labels produced, Monterey County offers wine tasting opportunities at vineyards and tasting rooms throughout the Salinas and Carmel Valleys. Tasting rooms also open on the Monterey Peninsula and in Salinas.

Recreational Activities

- Golf – 24 public and private courses in Monterey County playable year-round, in a variety of scenic settings.
- Beaches – Many public areas for walking, picnicking, kite flying and tide pool and sand dune exploration.
- SCUBA Diving – The variety of sea life and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary designation makes the ocean and bay popular for all levels of diving – top stops include San Carlos Beach and Point Lobos State Reserve..
- Sailing – Tours and charters leave from Monterey Harbor, taking in local wildlife and coastal views.
- Kayaking/Stand Up Paddle – Guided tours, lessons and rental kayaks leave from Monterey and Moss Landing.

- Whale watching – Can be enjoyed year-round – grey whales in the winter and early spring, blue whales in the summer, humpbacks in the summer and fall. Orcas and other dolphins year-round. Many chartered whale watching tours are available from Fisherman’s Wharf and Moss Landing.
- Fishing – Deep sea, rock and surf fishing are popular activities. Fishing regulations and license information can be obtained from the state Fish & Game Department.
- Camping – The Los Padres National Forest and many state beaches and parks offer campsites at beaches, meadows and forests in Monterey, Big Sur, Salinas Valley and beyond. RV camping available at select sites.
- Horseback Riding – Guided tours; beach ride and trail ride packages are available near Moss Landing, in Carmel Valley, Pebble Beach, and Big Sur.
- Skydiving – Available in Marina at the Monterey Municipal Airport.
- Hiking & Biking – Monterey County’s parks and recreation areas feature various trails for the day-tripper and the seasoned backcountry traveler. The Monterey Recreation Trail covers 18 miles of paved coastal trail for bikers, roller-bladers and runners. Mountain biking is also popular on BLM lands on the former Ft. Ord Military Base, which includes nearly 90 miles of trails.
- Flight-seeing Tours – Explore scenic Monterey County by helicopter, fixed wing plane or the zeppelin-style AirVenture.

Culture and Entertainment:

- Art galleries and exhibits (www.culturalmonterey.org) – More than 125 galleries and studios located throughout Monterey County. Exhibits and events held throughout the year.
- Music and theatre (www.culturalmonterey.org and www.SeeMonterey.com) – Several live theaters offer a variety of productions year-round. Resident musical groups include the Monterey Symphony Orchestra and several chorales, and the Carmel Bach Festival and Monterey Bay Blues Festival are among music events. The Monterey Jazz Festival is the nation’s longest running jazz festival.
- History (www.historicmonterey.org) – Discover Monterey’s rich historic heritage through guided and self-guided tours of 19th century buildings and landmarks, three historic missions and nine museums.
- Events (www.SeeMonterey.com) – Nearly 300 special events take place in Monterey County annually, including AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am Golf Tournament, Monterey Jazz Festival, races at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca, Concours d’Elegance, Big Sur Marathon and other food, wine, cultural and family festivals.

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, 24 golf courses and over 250 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), San Diego (SAN) and San Francisco (SFO). www.SeeMonterey.com.

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