Monterey, Carmel and 17-Mile Drive™ Tour

Tour 9 — Monterey + Carmel including 17-Mile Drive

Follow the rugged California coast-sculpted by earthquakes, wind and ocean—to the stunningly beautiful Monterey Peninsula. Dotted with picturesque seaside communities, the Monterey Peninsula has been called “the greatest meeting of land, sea and sky”. Your tour takes you first to Monterey, the original capital of California, where you will have time to browse the shops of historic Cannery Row, dine in one of the 30 restaurants or visit the world-famous Monterey Bay Aquarium (admission not included). Continuing down the coast, you will pass through Pacific Grove-known for its Monarch butterflies and turn-of-the-century Victorian homes—then follow scenic 17-Mile Drive through the Del Monte Forest, seeing famous Pebble Beach™ and its icon, The Lone Cypress Tree™. Enchanting Carmel-by-the-Sea, with its downtown shopping district, beautiful beaches and historic mission, is the last stop on your tour; you will have time to visit the many boutiques and art and photography galleries.

- 11-Hour tour of Monterey, Carmel & 17-Mile Drive
- Follow Highway 1 along the rugged coastline
- 1 3/4 Hour at Cannery Row (Monterey Bay Aquarium)
- 17-Mile Drive, Pebble Beach, The Lone Cypress Tree
- 1 Hour to browse the shops and galleries in Carmel

Monterey

Hugging the crescent-shaped shoreline of Monterey Bay, the city of Monterey was California’s first capital after the territory was claimed by the United States. Old adobe buildings line the tree-shaded streets of its historic district. Monterey’s rich cultural heritage, mild year-round climate, and an abundance of recreational opportunities make this a popular visitor destination.

Cannery Row

John Steinbeck made Cannery Row, once the center of a booming fishing and canning industry, famous in his 1945 novel “Cannery Row”. When the sardine industry died, the vacant canneries were converted to a vibrant shopping, dining and entertainment district. Luxury hotels, 30 restaurants, hundreds of shops and a world-class aquarium make Cannery Row the place to go on the Monterey Peninsula.

Monterey Bay Aquarium

While at Cannery Row, you will have the option of visiting the Monterey Bay Aquarium (admission can be included, order Tour 9B). This world-renowned aquarium is a living extension of Monterey Bay, which is at the heart of the largest national marine sanctuary in the United States. The exhibits feature more than 250,000 creatures and nearly 700 species of plants and animals from the waters of California’s central coast. Among its exhibits are a three-story living kelp forest, a Monterey Bay Habitats exhibit with large sharks and schooling fishes, a two-story sea otter exhibit, a walk-through aviary and nearly 200 smaller exhibits and galleries devoted to the varied habitats around the bay.
**PACIFIC GROVE**

Best known for its thriving Monarch butterfly population, Pacific Grove is also famous for its well-preserved, turn-of-the-century Victorian homes. Point Pinos Lighthouse, the oldest operating facility of its kind on the California coast, overlooks the rocky shoreline. There are abundant opportunities to view sea lions, sea otters and maybe even a passing whale.

**17-MILE DRIVE, PEBBLE BEACH, THE LONE CYPRESS TREE**

Before the turn of the century, horse-drawn carriages made the trek from the Hotel Del Monte in Monterey to the Del Monte Forest along a dirt trail that is now the famous 17-Mile Drive. Then, as now, the incredible natural beauty of the spectacular coastline thrills all who visit. From Pacific Grove, 17-Mile Drive winds its way through the forest and along the shore, past the famous Pebble Beach Resorts, the legendary golf courses and The Lone Cypress Tree before entering Carmel.

**CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA**

Carmel was once an artist's colony where painters, photographers and writers found the relaxed pace and bohemian atmosphere just right for inspiring their art. Now this sleepy town has come alive, and is the most popular visitor destination on the Monterey coast. White-sand beaches, million-dollar views, and a charming downtown district filled with country inns, art galleries, house-and-garden-shops and restaurants draw both tourists and locals. Before the artists and tourists arrived, Carmel was the headquarters of Father Junipero Serra’s chain of California missions. Located at the south end of town is the restored Mission San Carlos Borromeo del Rio Carmelo, built in 1770.

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