

Cannery Row

Top 10 Romance Getaways

#1. Classic Seaside Romance

Monterey is all about the Bay and the Spindrift Inn puts you and your significant other up close and personal with ocean-view rooms with fireplaces and complimentary breakfast delivered to your room on a silver tray. Dinner at the Whaling Station allows you to select your own USDA Prime steak. A late afternoon couples massage at the penthouse spa at the Vista Blue Spa at the Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa followed by a walk along San Carlos Beach before returning to your room caps off a romantic getaway. Mementos? How about matching golf wear from The Pebble Beach Store?

#2. Love and Luxury

Whether a one-year anniversary or that first time away together, special occasions call for extraordinary ambiance, and the Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa is up to the challenge. This gorgeous, oceanfront luxury resort is perched over the waters of Monterey Bay, and features two fabulous restaurants and a penthouse level full service spa. Dinner at the world-famous Sardine Factory ensures that romance is on the menu; the restaurant's cachet has made dining in the historic Cannery Row setting a tradition for celebrities. Bargetto Winery has produced local handcrafted wines since 1933, and the Cannery Row tasting room also features unique wine-related gifts. On day three a visit to the renowned Monterey Bay Aquarium lets you experience firsthand the glories of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. On your walk back to the hotel, stop into Candles & Clay for locally made aromatherapy candles to take home.

#3. The Three-Night Honeymoon

The 3-night honeymoon is perfect for couples who don't have a lot of time to spare, but want a memorable, romantic start to married life. The Monterey Bay Inn could not be more perfect. The elegant guestrooms harken back to the era of luxury cruising, and the double-sinked vanities in the bathroom assure a harmonious start. Private balconies with ocean views are made for sitting and sipping wine at the end of the day, while there's no better spot than the rooftop hot tub to enjoy your first cup of coffee and watch the sun rise over the water. Romantic dinners can be relaxed and casual at the Paradiso, where your window table overlooks McAbee Beach and the Italian menu is deliciously innovative. Romance can also be a bit more dressed up at the Sardine Factory in the Captain's Room, where you'll dine fireside on the freshest seafood and USDA Prime steaks, and be captivated by the candle-lit ice swans filled with sorbet. Rent a canopied surrey and bike down the Coastal Recreation Trail, stopping for photos with the waves crashing on the shore behind you. Don't leave without a sentimental reminder of your first visit to Cannery Row—maybe a piece of art glass from Crystal Fox or a work from a local artist at Dick Crispo Coastal Painting Gallery to commemorate the start of a new life together.

#4. Time Out for Two

Sometimes you just need to run away together, no special occasion, nothing extravagant, you just need time alone. The contemporary rooms at the Otter Inn are comfortable, feature fireplaces and whirlpool tubs, include breakfast pastries and won't break the bank. Bring your own blanket and walk over to San Carlos Beach Park, where you can sit on the grass and watch the world go by. A cold beer on the heated outdoor patio at Bullwackers is so relaxing you'll be tempted to stay for a second. Pick up your favorite team cap at Lids and stop into the Sockshop—you'll get lost in the hundreds of patterns and styles (toe socks anyone?). And then when you just can't wait any longer, it's "hubba bubba, come get your grubba," at the zany, energetic Bubba Gump Shrimp Company. This movie-themed restaurant delights with great food and drinks, truly friendly and fun staff and if you need more souvenirs stop into the Bubba's shop for your own stuffed shrimp (inedible of course). Did we mention ocean views?

#5. Relaxed Romance

A couple's getaway doesn't have to be about long-stemmed roses and expensive dinners. Sometimes the simple things – strolling on the beach, cocktails at sunset, window shopping and long chats over coffee – are just right for rekindling and reconnecting. The Spindrift Inn, a charming escape on Cannery Row's waterfront, exudes warm, welcoming elegance with wood-burning fireplaces, window seats and cozy down featherbeds. The adjacent beach is a great place to watch the waves or enjoy a romantic picnic lunch. A short walk along the water takes guests to the Baywood Cellars tasting room, featuring Central Coast wines plus gourmet treats, olive oils and specialty gifts. In the opposite direction, Woody's Bayview Grill in the American Tin Cannery offers live music and casual fare with views of the ocean. And what better way to wrap up a date than with a shared banana split? And what better way to wrap up a date than with a sweet treat from Myo Pure Frozen Yogurt.

#6. Artistic Adventures

The Monterey Peninsula is a celebrated art center, and Cannery Row offers its own attractions for those who love the finer things. The new InterContinental The Clement Monterey is an elegant, contemporary hotel on the shores of Monterey Bay. As you walk along the district's avenues, several distinctive galleries beckon: Crystal-Fox carries stunning Swarovski creations. Z Folio Gallery offers contemporary Czech art glass, handmade jewelry, & vibrant nature photography. The Thomas Kinkadee Gallery is popular among collectors and Rip Squeak and Friends offers playful storybook art for collectors, while the tots love the books. The newest art stops on Cannery Row is Gallery i, where world-class sculpture and paintings can be found. Following a day of viewing, reflect upon what you've seen over dinner at Paradiso and a nightcap at the Chart House.

#7. The Babymoon

Whether baby makes three or four or more, new parents can always use a break. With charming inns, cozy restaurants and romantic outings galore, Cannery Row is the place to revitalize that romance – and catch up on some much-needed rest. Check in at the Spindrift Inn, a welcoming hotel with dreamy ocean views, fireplaces, nightly turn down service and breakfast delivered right to the room. After a morning stroll along the coast, sit back and sample dynamic local wines at A Taste of Monterey, where the tasting room overlooks the Monterey Bay and staff members can offer up suggestions for area sightseeing. At night, keep it casual with authentic pub fare at Bullwackers or amp up the romance with dinner for two at the Sardine Factory.

#8. Carefree and Casual

Cannery Row boasts attractions, activities and accommodations sure to make couples feel like giddy teenagers in love. Keep things lighthearted with a stop at the Cannery Row IMAX Theatre. Find your seat, throw on a pair of 3-D glasses, and hold your sweetie's hand as you sit back and enjoy fascinating films that explore ocean life and natural wonders. For more shopping, explore the galleries, gift shops and clothing boutiques along Cannery Row. From polos at the Pebble Beach Shop, to gourmet treats from For Garlic Lovers, to fine glass art at Sand to Glass, there is something for every interest. Break up a busy afternoon by sharing some ice cream at Dippin Dots, or kick back as you sip margaritas at El Mariachi Restaurant y Cantina. At night, head back to your cozy fireplace room at the Victorian Inn.

#9. Anniversaries Made Easy

Want to surprise your sweetheart for your next anniversary? No time to plan a complicated getaway? Don't worry – with a cluster of top restaurants, tasting rooms, sumptuous spas and ocean-view inns, Cannery Row makes planning that romantic getaway simple. Reserve a lavish room overlooking the water at InterContinental The Clement Monterey. The new resort hotel exudes sophistication, with luxurious linens, marble and granite bath fixtures, soaking tubs, walk-in showers, flat-screen televisions and daily newspaper delivery. Call ahead to schedule a couple's massage in the on-site Energia Spa; for dinner, book a quiet corner table at The C Restaurant. Sleep late and order breakfast in bed, and then spend the afternoon exploring the art galleries and boutiques that line Cannery Row. For a treat, split an ice cream sundae at the Ghirardelli Ice Cream & Chocolate Shop or sample wine at the Scheid Vineyards Wine Lounge in the hotel. In the evening, stroll hand-in-hand on McAbee Beach as the sun slips below the horizon.

#10. Natural Highs

For outdoor activities and sheer natural beauty, few places can compete with Monterey – and, stretched along the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Cannery Row is in the heart of it all. Many of the guestrooms and suites at InterContinental The Clement Monterey present panoramic Monterey Bay views, which means you can start the day with breakfast in bed or sip your morning coffee on your private balcony overlooking the water. Rent a cycle and explore the Coastal Recreation Trail or head out on a guided kayak tour of the bay. Either way, you'll likely spot sea otters and sea lions, and you'll encounter endless photo opportunities. If the winter rains are falling, duck into the Monterey Bay Aquarium for an insider's view of local marine magic, including jellies, sea turtles and a swaying kelp forest. When you're ready to unwind, sign up for a soothing massage at the hotel's Energia Spa, and keep the bay in view with pre-dinner cocktails at El Torito and fresh seafood at Louie Linguini's.