

Cannery Row

Top 10 Time To Travel (50+) Getaways

#1. Timeless Traditions

Whether you're 45 or 65, the flexibility to travel midweek can mean great values and fewer fellow travelers. The wood-burning fireplaces and ocean views at the Spindrift Inn can often be enjoyed at a reduced rate midweek. Complimentary breakfast delivered on a silver tray to your room ensures that you have time to relax and listen to the tide below. Walk next door to The Fish Hopper restaurant—operated by second-generation Monterey natives—for more views and delicious fresh seafood. A 5-minute walk the next morning and you are renting a kayak for an hour. Kayaking is surprisingly accessible for most people and is the best way to see California sea otters at play in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

#2. Senior Sophistication

What's a "senior moment" on Cannery Row? Sitting in your room at the Spindrift Inn, sipping a glass of wine, looking out at the ocean and thinking to yourself, "I have arrived." When your complimentary breakfast is delivered to your room on a silver tray next morning, you already have the wood-burning fireplace going. Your most pressing decision for the day—go next door to sample premium Monterey County wines at A Taste of Monterey or take a 5-minute walk to San Carlos Beach to watch the divers? Dinner at the Duck Club is a full sensory experience, surrounded by windows and water, elegant and comfortable banquettes and the excitement of the exhibition kitchen, where fresh seafood and wood-roasted duck and lamb are prepared to order. Be sure to stop into Charms by the Bay, where the selection of 14k charms and fine jewelry includes a sardine can with a sliding lid that recalls Cannery Row's heritage.

#3. Oceanfront Elegance on a Shoestring

Combine a luxury hotel with easy outdoor recreation for an affordable Cannery Row getaway that offers the best of both worlds. All of the luxury of the Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa can be enjoyed for less with a guestroom that offers a garden view rather than ocean view. Your elegantly appointed guestroom is a relaxing retreat, and you can walk downstairs or across the street to enjoy the ocean view terraces, restaurants and penthouse Vista Blue Spa. Midweek is a particularly good time to seek a value. Walks on San Carlos Beach and on the Coastal Recreation Trail cost nothing but deliver big rewards. Stop along the way to explore For Garlic Lovers, where you'll find gourmet foods to bring home and extend your memories. Don't really remember the '60s? Archie's American Diner will bring it all back with their authentic menu and ambiance. Don't pass up a raspberry milkshake; you can walk it off tomorrow.

#4. Cultural Cannery Row

You've earned your freedom, now it's time to enjoy it! The Monterey Bay Inn takes its design cues from the natural beauty of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary just outside its doors. Guestrooms are spacious and invite lingering, with large bathrooms with double sinks. Dual in-room coffeemakers satisfy both the decaf and high-octane lover simultaneously—or just take a quick walk to Starbucks for a fix. A short walk in either direction takes you to San Carlos and McAbee Beaches, where the Monterey Bay can be experienced firsthand. Complimentary breakfast is delivered to your room every morning before you strike out to explore Cannery Row's heritage architecture and eclectic array of shops. A Taste of Monterey offers a chance to taste some of Monterey's award-winning premium wines and browse the unusual selection of wine related gifts. At Paradiso the dinner menu reflects the heritage of the proprietor, a second-generation Monterey native. Choose from the freshest seafood and Italian dishes, while overlooking the waters of the Sanctuary.

#5. Oceanic Excursions

When retirement leaves you with a little extra time to spare, satisfy your sense of adventure with an ocean-influenced weekend away. Check in at the Victorian Inn, where quiet garden courtyards, marble fireplaces and an afternoon wine and cheese reception are among refined guest amenities. Within blocks, several hotel and day spas offer treatments shaped by the nearby Monterey Bay. Schedule a seaweed wrap or sea salt scrub to melt away the stress of everyday life. Once relaxed and ready to explore, head to the Monterey Bay Aquarium for a peek at the marine life teeming just outside – and don't miss the Sea Horse Exhibit, which includes the country's largest collection of sea horses. For a casual, early dinner, grab a table at Schooners and watch the waves roll in while you sample fresh salads and seafood dishes.

#6. Time Travel

Reminiscent for a time when music had meaning, cars were classics and life was a little simpler? Partake in your own blast from the past with a 1950s-inspired vacation on Cannery Row. Browse model cars, tin lunchboxes, postcards and movie posters emblazoned with images of Marilyn Monroe, James Dean, Elvis Presley and other legends at American Revival Company. If speed was more your style, pick up a commemorative t-shirt or leather vest at Harley-Davidson. For a dinner date just like you had in high school, split a pepperoni pie at Cannery Row Pizzeria and then share an ice cream sundae at Ghirardelli Ice Cream & Chocolate Shop. To add an adult twist to the trip, sample wines at Bargetto Winery tasting room or grab a bottle to take back to your own room at the Otter Inn.

#7. Big City Dreams

Looking for a taste of the city without the traffic, expense and hassle? Consider a long weekend on Cannery Row, where you can park your car and stroll from your luxury resort to great dining, shopping and cultural stops. With two bay-view restaurants, a rooftop spa and fitness center and elegant guestrooms and suites, The Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa is all about sophistication and service. Within the hotel, Baywood Cellars tasting room pours award-winning chardonnay, pinot noir, zinfandel and Bordeaux blends. For a post-tasting treat, Café La Strada serves up light bites and Peet's Coffee. An assortment of art galleries, gift boutiques and clothing stores start at the Monterey Plaza Hotel and stretch the length of Cannery Row: among highlights are Pet Pal's Dog & Cat Grooming, with everything you need for the pampered pet, and fine fashion at the Van Heusen and Nine West Outlets in the American Tin Cannery. For live bands and late-night dancing, nothing beats the jazz and blues acts at Sly McFly's.

#8. The Wellness Weekend

Put a healthy spin on the long weekend away with a trip tailored to the active lifestyle. Check in at the Monterey Bay Inn, an inviting and indulgent property anchoring Cannery Row. Start the day with fresh fruit delivered to your room, followed by a morning walk down the adjacent Coastal Recreation Trail. Ramp up the energy level with a bike ride along the waterfront or take a guided kayak trip on the Monterey Bay. The walk-in dive spots along San Carlos Beach are popular with scuba divers throughout the year; for a more mellow adventure, get moving with a round at Ocean's 18 Miniature Golf. To calm tired muscles, pamper yourself with a massage at the Monterey Bay Inn or sign up for a quick treatment at Aqua Massage of Monterey. At lunchtime, settle in for salads at InterContinental The Clement Monterey's hip new C Restaurant. The café offers indoor and outdoor seating, and also serves up to-go meals for busy travelers. For dinner, re-energize with a light seafood pasta and wine at the Whaling Station.

#9. Midweek Indulgence

Why travel only on weekends? With a little flexibility, you can snag some deals and stretch your dollar while settling into Cannery Row's newest rooms. InterContinental The Clement Monterey is bliss on the bay with elegant, airy accommodations, fitness and spa services by The Energia Spa, the on-site Scheid Vineyards Wine Lounge and delectable cuisine at The C Restaurant. Outdoor terraces overlook the ocean and many rooms capitalize on the hotel's scenic setting with large windows and private balconies. Catch a matinee at the Cannery Row IMAX Theatre, where powerful storytelling and amazing images captivate moviegoers; follow it up with a cappuccino at the Edgewater Café. For a splurge, pick up a fine art print at Gallery i or indulge in a bottle of rare local wine from A Taste of Monterey. When it's time for dinner, choose a table by the window at Chart House and take in the panoramic views as you savor seafood entrees.

#10. Going Coastal

When that ocean breeze beckons, satisfy your coastal cravings with some time on Cannery Row. The destination by the bay blends the whimsical feel of a traditional beach town with authentic, only-in-California sophistication and culture. Rent cycles or a sign out a four-wheeled surrey and explore the Coastal Recreation Trail that runs through the heart of Cannery Row, stopping off to photograph playful sea otters and stunning natural scenery. Local shops offer all kinds of trip mementos. Consider picking up a piece of art from Sand to Glass or buy a hand-carved creation from Monterey Candle Gallery. When hunger strikes, grab some light bites at Café La Strada in the Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa and head to San Carlos Beach, which is a prime place to picnic. After a day of adventure, reinvigorate with a body wrap or massage at The Energia Spa at your hotel: the new InterContinental The Clement Monterey. Many rooms here feature fireplaces, private balconies and views of the Monterey Bay. For a memorable evening out, order up fresh salads and rich steak & seafood entrees at The Whaling Station.