

Monterey Bay Region: Ideas for Romance



FINDING ROMANCE IN THE MONTEREY BAY

Once you've found the time to break away, Monterey County is the ideal spot to reconnect. Breathtaking scenery, a large supply of creature comforts and a pace of life that allows you to get caught up in the moment all combine to create a magical elixir that works on even the most casual romantic.

Romantic Destinations

- Pack a picnic basket with wine, cheese, fruit and chocolate and take in an evening show by firelight at Carmel's **Forest Theater**.
- Try horseback riding or a hike. There are hiking trails into the **Ventana Wilderness** from Ventana Inn. **Garland Ranch Regional Park** in Carmel Valley is a popular place for horseback riding and hiking and welcomes dogs.
- Golf anyone? World-renowned golf courses provide a dramatic backdrop to a day on the green. With eleven public courses, making a reservation to tee off in Monterey County is easy.
- Rent a kayak, go sailing or diving – all offer unique perspectives on the bay.
- Rollerblade down the **Monterey Bay Coastal Recreation Trail** or rent a bike or surrey to scout for sea lions, birds and otters.
- Pitch a tent at one of Monterey County's many campsites and make s'mores over a crackling fire. Even better – bed down near ancient hot springs and take a late-night dip in the healing mineral waters.
- Visit some of Carmel's more than 70 galleries, shop for unique gifts, or stroll the soft white sands of **Carmel Beach**.
- **Cannery Row** has a colorful history, and now features shops and fine dining. While on "The Row" schedule a morning or afternoon visit at the world-famous **Monterey Bay Aquarium**.
- Create an unforgettable experience by rejuvenating at one of Monterey County's luxurious spas.
- Looking to plan a special anniversary trip in Monterey, or wanting a unique proposal idea? **Romantic Room Designs** from Borgia and Associates specializes in creating romantic themes for homes, hotel rooms, weddings, engagement proposals, and beach bonfires.
- Spend the morning exploring **Big Sur** and then grab an intimate lunch for two on the river at the **Big Sur River Inn**. Let the smooth current cool your feet as you soak in Monterey County.

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Romance on a Shoestring

Want to sweep your partner off his or her feet without completely emptying your pockets? Here are some low-cost ways to make your significant other swoon.

- Drink some wine with a view at **A Taste of Monterey** on Cannery Row. Sit at one of the tables next to the floor-to-ceiling picture windows and enjoy a breathtaking view of the bay while you sample some of Monterey County's best wines.
- Take a romantic ride on the beach with **Monterey Bay Equestrian Center**. Enjoy the sea air and each others' company for an hour and a half as you transport yourself back to a gentler time.
- Arrange a tour of **Tor House**, the stone home that poet Robinson Jeffers hand-built for his wife. Docent-led tours are limited to a handful of people, and the story of Robinson and Una Jeffers is sure to stir the heart.
- Enjoy the romance of the open sea with Monterey Bay sailing. Let a qualified sailor do all the work while you and your partner admire the marine life, the sea air, and each other. Or, if you're a qualified sailor, make it a boat trip *a deux!*
- Pack a picnic and head on up to **Jacks Peak County Park**. The Jacks Peak Parking Area is only a few yards from the summit; you won't have to get out of breath to see the breathtaking views.
- For a romantic picnic, the best spot is on the **Jacks Peak Trail**, about 50 yards from the intersection with the Skyline Trail. A perfectly placed bench allows you to eat a leisurely meal while taking in sweeping views of **Point Lobos State Reserve** and **Carmel Valley**.
- It's not called **Lovers Point** for nothing! Pack up some pastries from **Paris Bakery Cafe**, get up very early (or stay up all night), and head to Pacific Grove's Lovers Point to watch the sun rise. Due to a quirk in local geography, it's one of the few places on the West Coast where you can watch a sunrise over the ocean.
- Pack some wine, cheese and a beach blanket and head to **Marina State Beach** in the late afternoon. Savor the flavors, and the company, as you watch a magnificent sunset. If you're lucky, you'll get to watch the hang gliders dance through the air as a prelude.

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Romantic Movies Filmed in Monterey County

Cinematic sparks fly when romantic scenes are filmed in Monterey County. Perhaps the filmmakers inspired by their environment. Why not see the movie again, and then visit the scene for yourself?

- ***The Sandpiper*** (1965) Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton; the ultimate romantic couple filmed on Pfeiffer Beach, Big Sur.
- ***A Summer Place*** (1959) Sandra Dee and Troy Donahue; locations in Pacific Grove, All Saints Episcopal Church in Carmel, and Monterey Peninsula Airport.
- ***Rebecca*** (1940) Joan Fontaine and Laurence Olivier filmed parts of this haunting romance at Point Lobos.
- ***Basic Instinct*** (1992) Sharon Stone and Michael Douglas; on location at Carmel Valley Village, and Garrapata Beach standing in for Stinson Beach (located north of San Francisco).