

Cannery Row

Top 10 Guys Getaways

#1. Gentlemen's Getaway

It's not all about the WWE or Nascar when guys band together for a road trip. The Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa's two-bedroom executive suites give you a place to spread out, watch some ESPN and then go to your own corners—all with amazing ocean views. Walk next door to the Chart House, where every table offers up views of the bay and the yacht-like ambiance is an elegant background to seasonal seafood. The early morning is a perfect time to take a kayak out from the beach below and watch the sea otters and sea lions at play. Come back to the hotel for delicious wine tasting at Baywood Cellars. Don't forget to stop into American Revival Company to pick up a reminder of your getaway—maybe a Route 66 poster?

#2. Male Bonding made Easy

Hmm, isn't every guys getaway an adventure? If your last male bonding trips haven't measured up, plan a Cannery Row getaway that runs the gamut from diving to spa treatments (here's where you make the Scooby gulp). The spacious rooms at the Monterey Bay Inn feature private balconies that overlook the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, the site of your morning dive from San Carlos Beach—one of the country's premiere shore dive locations. Indulge in an afternoon nap and head over to the Monterey Plaza Hotel's penthouse Vista Blue Spa for an unbelievably relaxing La Stone Massage, where warm and cool stones are used to promote balance and grounding. Head downstairs to Schooners Bistro, and enjoy a delicious dinner out on the heated terrace perched over the bay. A one of a kind boat model or Tommy Bahama shirt from Boatworks reminds you in later days of this special guys getaway.

#3. Boys will be Boys

Affordable and accessible describes this competitive excursion. The Otter Inn is in the heart of Cannery Row and its contemporary, comfortable rooms feature fireplaces or whirlpool tubs, as well as morning pastries and coffee. The competition starts with a walk over to Oceans 18 Black Light Miniature Golf at the American Tin Cannery. The winner gets his fee reimbursed and is treated to the best burger and fries in town at Archie's American Diner. Then move on to the photo contest, where each guy takes his camera and shoots the best images of marine mammals or rocky seashore or historic Cannery Row architecture. Pick a winner and everybody else pays for his dinner and drinks that night at Sly McFly's, where the award-winning live music goes on until the wee hours. The final contest? Everyone has to find a great gag gift at Zucchini's Tricks N' Things, put it in a bag and then exchange them. Amaze your friends!

#4. Bayside with the Buddie

Round up your mates and go for an ocean theme. Check into the Victorian Inn for comfortable, affordable accommodations that make driving obsolete. Spacious rooms with a complimentary breakfast served in the Parlor make this an easy choice for guys. Get down onto McAbee Beach and bring the playing cards, winner has to buy drinks upstairs on Louie Linguini's patio. Then walk up to San Carlos Beach and continue the game. Sticking with the marine theme, head over to the Monterey Plaza Hotel's Vista Blue Spa for an invigorating Monterey Bay Salt Glo treatment for a great exfoliation, and then spend some time enjoying the ocean view sundeck and steam room. Even though you can get remarkable seafood at the Whaling Station, what guys really want here is to select their own cut of USDA Prime, whether it's a 16-oz New York or classic Rib Steak, it's all about the meat. Don't forget to bring her home some chocolate from Ghirardelli or fudge from The Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory.

#5. The Mancation

If a break with the boys sounds appealing, but the hassle of planning and preparing does not, consider this simple, satisfying, mellow-yet-macho getaway. Reserve a few rooms (or better yet, book a suite!) at the Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa, where you can park your cars and settle in just steps from all the action on Cannery Row. After a quick in-room card game, head down to Schooners for a nightcap. In the morning, shake off the effects of travel with a bike ride; rental cycles are available just across the street at Adventures by the Sea. By early evening, catch the game while enjoying pitchers and pies at Cannery Row Pizzeria, and then head down the block to Sly McFly's for a late-night classic rock fix. Before heading home, remember to grab trip mementos at the Pebble Beach Shop.

of town. Follow a leisurely morning bike ride with a stop at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, housed in the former Hovden Cannery. The aquarium spotlights the street's industrial heritage with special sardine packing displays. Next door is Ed Ricketts' Pacific Biological Laboratory, a small brown building that was the model for Doc's Western Biological Lab in Cannery Row. Just up the street, past a collection of historic cannery workers' houses, the Sardine Factory Restaurant serves up steak and seafood dinners and cocktails in a legendary setting.