

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.

