



Good Times Travel
Monterey & Carmel Holiday By Rail
 Featuring a Single-Hotel Stay in Monterey, 17-Mile Drive, Steinbeck Center, Steinbeck Home, *Coast Starlight* Train
December 12-15, 2022 – 4 Day Tour

Tour Highlights

- ◆ Enjoy a five-hour rail journey along the spectacular California coast aboard Amtrak's *Coast Starlight* train
- ◆ Enjoy a three-night single-hotel stay in the heart of Old Monterey at a bayfront, AAA Four Diamond hotel decked out for the holiday and adjacent to Fisherman's Wharf
- ◆ Join a local guide for an in-depth tour of the Monterey Peninsula highlighting Cannery Row, Pacific Grove, sights along the picturesque 17-Mile Drive, Carmel-by-the-Sea and a visit to the famed Monterey Bay Aquarium
- ◆ Visit the National Steinbeck Center and enjoy an included tea lunch at the Steinbeck House – the beautifully restored Victorian home that was John Steinbeck's boyhood home
- ◆ Enjoy time at leisure exploring the quaint boutiques and galleries in Carmel and Solvang



Lone Cypress

Tour Inclusions

- ◆ 3 Nights deluxe hotel accommodations
- ◆ 5 Meals – 2 lunches, 3 breakfasts
- ◆ Services of a professional tour director
- ◆ Comprehensive sightseeing with a local guide
- ◆ Admissions per itinerary
- ◆ Transportation aboard a deluxe motorcoach and aboard the deluxe *Coast Starlight* Train
- ◆ Luggage handling throughout the tour



Carmel-by-the-Sea



Carmel-by-the-Sea

Accommodations

- ◆ Nights 1-3 **Portola Hotel & Spa**
Monterey, CA

Tour Prices

Double Occupancy: \$1,199 per person
 Single Occupancy (no roommate): Add \$300



Solvang



Portola Hotel & Spa

Reservations



www.goodtimestravel.com

(714) 848-1255

17132 Magnolia St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708

California Seller of Travel License #: 2018390-40

Departure Information

Join this tour from one of our convenient departure points available in these cities:

◆Fountain Valley ◆Laguna Hills ◆Long Beach

Approximate Departure Time: 7-9 a.m.

Approximate Return Time: 6-8 p.m.

Exact times are provided in your tour documents which are mailed two weeks prior to departure.

Payment Information

- ◆ Full payment due at time of booking
- ◆ Payment may be made by mailing a check to the above address or making a credit card payment at www.goodtimestravel.com

Cancellation/Travel Protection

A travel protection policy (which includes cancellation protection and other benefits) is highly recommended and available through a third-party. A travel protection brochure will be provided with your payment receipt and invoice. Regardless of the reason, cancellations, credits and transfers of paid bookings require us to retain an administrative fee (ranging from \$25-\$200 depending on the date of cancellation) in addition to all non-recoverable fees paid to our tour suppliers on your behalf. Those guests who have purchased travel protection and must cancel for a covered reason, will be reimbursed by the travel protection company the balance of any non-refunded or credited monies (minus the premium itself). Visit www.goodtimestravel.com or see our tour catalog for our full cancellation policy and other terms and conditions.

Health & Wellness

To better ensure the health and wellness of all guests, this tour requires all guests to wear face masks where required, provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination and complete a Wellness Pledge on the day of departure.

Tour Pace & Activity Level



Visit our website for further explanation of what each of these designations means to assist you in determining which tour is right for you based on your physical abilities and the pacing you prefer.

Itinerary

On this holiday escape to the Monterey Peninsula, we'll not only discover the cypress groves, historic towns, early California history and exceptional stories that make the Monterey Peninsula so special, but do it at a magical time of year when it's charmingly decorated for the holidays. Join us as we travel along the coast by train, enjoy a single-hotel stay in the heart of Old Monterey, and appreciate this region that celebrates the holiday season with beautiful lights, fairy tale-like decor and the simple pleasures like a cup of hot cocoa with an ocean view.

Day 1 – Coastal Train Ride

We set out from our departure points this morning aboard a deluxe motorcoach and travel to downtown Los Angeles' Union Station to board Amtrak's **Coast Starlight train** for a memorable, **five-hour rail journey** along California's spectacular coastline and through its fertile valleys to San Luis Obispo. We'll travel along Point Conception and through Vandenberg Air Force Base where you'll see the launch complexes and beautiful undeveloped coastline only visible by train. We'll enjoy an included boxed lunch onboard along with a snack bar selling snacks and drinks. Check out the view from the observation car or just relax in your reclining seat. Upon arrival in San Luis Obispo, we'll reboard our motorcoach and continue north to the Monterey Peninsula. We'll enjoy a three-night stay at an **upscale, bayfront, AAA Four Diamond hotel** decked out for the holidays and adjacent to **Monterey's Fisherman's Wharf** in Old Monterey. Enjoy the balance of the evening at leisure with dinner on your own at the hotel or a nearby restaurant. (Lunch)

Day 2 – Monterey Peninsula

Following an included breakfast, we'll join a local guide for a comprehensive area tour. Wrapped by the Pacific Ocean on three sides, the Monterey Peninsula is often described as "the greatest meeting of land and sea." For centuries, artists, poets, explorers and novelists have been drawn to the rugged beauty here – from the crashing surf to the towering redwoods to the unspoiled wildlife. On this in-depth driving tour, we'll travel through historic **Old Monterey, Cannery Row, Pacific Grove** and along the famed **17-Mile Drive**. One of the most picturesque drives in the world, 17-Mile Drive is an enchanting journey full of dramatic coastal cliffs, snow-white beaches and mystical forests. Along the way, we'll encounter such spectacular sights as **The Lone Cypress, Bird Rock**, celebrity homes and the world-renowned Pebble Beach Golf Links. Enjoy time at leisure for lunch on your own and browsing in the quaint seaside town of **Carmel-by-the-Sea**. This town that deftly straddles the balance point of rich history and new wealth, features great restaurants, boutiques and galleries. The setting is even more magical at Christmastime, when the adorable shops, inns and cafes are charmingly decorated for the holidays. We return to the hotel with the balance of the evening at leisure. (Breakfast)

Day 3 – "Steinbeck Country," Monterey Peninsula

Following an included breakfast, we'll travel to the **Salinas Valley**, often referred to as "Steinbeck Country." The agriculturally rich area is where John Steinbeck grew up and drew inspiration for his most famous novels like *East of Eden*. In John Steinbeck's hometown of **Salinas**, we'll enjoy time at leisure to discover Steinbeck's world through interactive, multi-sensory exhibits and rare artifacts at the **National Steinbeck Center**. This afternoon we'll enjoy an included lunch at **The Steinbeck House**, Steinbeck's birthplace and boyhood home. This restored Queen Anne Victorian built in 1897 is charmingly decorated for the holidays. Our **High Tea Lunch** will include fresh baked scones, assorted tea sandwiches, mini quiche, fresh fruit, assorted desserts and hot tea. We return to Monterey this afternoon with time at leisure to browse Monterey's historic Cannery Row and take advantage of an included admission to the world-famous **Monterey Bay Aquarium**. The former sardine cannery located on the ocean's edge of Cannery Row boasts spectacular coastal views and sets the standard for aquariums around the world because of its immersive exhibits and ability to present marine life on a truly grand scale. Get up-close and personal with 35,000 sea creatures representing over 550 marine species including sea otters, penguins, sharks, jellies and thousands of other marine animals and plants. We return to the hotel with the balance of the evening at leisure. (Breakfast, Lunch)

Day 4 – Solvang, Journey Home

After an included breakfast, we'll travel south by motorcoach to the **Santa Ynez Valley** and the quaint Danish town of **Solvang**, known as America's famous "Little Denmark." This time of year, the quaint old-world architectural styles and flower-lined streets are beautifully decorated for the holidays. Enjoy time at leisure to browse the wonderful shops that offer imported European wares and collectibles with lunch on your own in the delicious restaurants. For a true taste of Danish culture, sample the delicious pastries offered by Solvang's authentic local bakeries. We continue south to our drop-off points, arriving this evening with many fond memories of our holiday getaway to the Monterey Peninsula. (Breakfast)

While we make every effort to operate our tours as outlined in the itinerary, we ask for your patience, understanding and flexibility and to retain a sense of adventure while traveling with us. Situations may arise that necessitate changes to the itinerary. Should we need to adjust the itinerary either prior to or while on tour, these changes will be communicated to you and only done when absolutely necessary.