

Chapter 1 : Explore Monterey: #1 Vacation Travel Guide - hotels, maps, photos

*Magnificent Monterey and the Big Sur Area [Maxine Knox, Mary Rodriguez] on www.nxgvision.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. Book by Knox, Maxine, Rodriguez, Mary.*

A wide variety of attractions and destinations await your Central California Coast getaway. Take a whale watching boat tour and experience those magnificent creatures. Walk through the Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary, and enter a world of fairytale enchantment. Local Favorites Ready to venture beyond Cannery Row? Monterey Bay and Peninsula are home to a wealth of amazing attractions and activities. From surfing meccas and enchanting wineries to the stunning seascapes of Big Sur and Mile Drive, head in any direction to find just the Central California coast you came to see. Often the setting for TV car commercials, Highway 1 is itself a destination for those who love putting wheels to the road – and that includes car enthusiasts, cyclists and bikers, too. Laid-back and mellow, the vibe in Big Sur is one of relaxation. Charter flights and commuter flights are available to and from the airport from cities like San Francisco and Las Vegas. Carmel-by-the-Sea Take a walking tour of the fabled cottages of Carmel-by-the-Sea. Pebble Beach has attracted visitors throughout its history, From Samuel F. Morse to Clint Eastwood. Teddy Roosevelt to Sir Winston Churchill. Jay Leno to Chef Thomas Keller. Bing Crosby to Bill Murray. Justin Timberlake to Don Cheadle. Legendary people drawn to a legendary setting. For nearly years, this charming conference center has beckoned thousands of visitors who have participated in business meetings, corporate seminars, weddings and family reunions. Nature lovers and outdoor enthusiasts find their personal heaven at Asilomar. Activities range from kayaking, surfing, and scuba diving to deep sea fishing, horseback riding, and biking. Throughout the winter months, thousands of must-see monarch butterflies make their way to Monarch Grove Sanctuary. Bird watchers are also be drawn to this exceptionally beautiful Monterey Peninsula paradise. This awesome road follows the shores and cliffs around Monterey Bay and through the tiny neighborhoods of Pacific Grove and Pebble Beach. For additional information click here [Monterey Bay Aquarium At Monterey Bay Aquarium](#) , visitors can watch a great white shark in captivity, a rare occurrence. Open Championship is one of the most iconic – not to mention stunningly beautiful – golf courses in the world. From the legendary Lone Cypress to the 18th green, a journey along Mile Drive will leave you breathless. Pacific Grove Golf – 0. These 18 holes boast sweeping ocean views and a lovely wooded area as well. Spanish Bay Golf – 2 miles Spanish Bay has been compared to the downy landscapes of Scotland, the birthplace of the game of golf. The ocean views, for one, and the sandy links. To learn more about the Links at Spanish Bay, click here.

Chapter 2 : Luxury Lodgings in California's Big Sur

Search the history of over billion web pages on the Internet.

The main road through Big Sur is the scenic two-lane State Route 1, winding along steep cliffs and offering breathtaking views of the coast. Big Sur is sparsely populated but very rich in parks, hot springs, nature reserves, and sanctuaries with a diversity of plants, trees, and animals that is rarely seeing anywhere else. Big Sur is best explored on foot as it is covered in a network of hiking and biking trails that pass through spectacular redwood forests and descend down flower-filled valleys before reaching lovely, small secluded beaches. Stop by Fanshell Overlook to take in the view of the ocean and watch the harbor seals and, if you pass from April to June, their babies too. As you come by a lovely little beach in Spanish Bay, take a break and have a picnic. If you are in the mood to celebrate, treat yourself to a gourmet meal at the Lodge. There are miles of hiking trails that cross the verdant meadows, dramatic bluffs, sandy beaches, and gentle hilltops. Fires are allowed in the park only in the designated metal fire rings. The beach is great for strolling and beach combing. While you can see these charming sea animals floating in the sea of kelp all over Big Sur, there was a time when they were believed to be extinct as they were hunted for their pelts. Thanks to efforts of people like Margaret W. Owings and the Friends of the Sea Otter society, which she founded, their numbers increased significantly. Calla Lily Valley If you are driving along Highway 2 in early spring, stop at lovely Garrapata Park for a very special treat. At the small narrow ravine where Doud Creek passes through on the way to Garrapata Beach, there is a valley filled with elegant, wild calla lilies. To protect the beautiful but fragile flowers, there are stairs and trails through the valley. Take your time and enjoy the scene of rare but very fleeting beauty – the lilies do not last long. After enjoying the scene, keep going through the park to the 2-mile-long beach surrounded by coarse coastal vegetation. The house is a home to the Carmel Heritage Society, a non-profit organization that has a goal of protecting, promoting, and preserving the cultural heritage of Carmel. Visitors to the First Murphy House can enjoy a range of historical exhibits as well as a research library with books, video, and audio tapes and periodicals about the history of Carmel. The First Murphy House is also a place for friends and residents of Carmel to get together. Carmel Heritage Society More: The beach is very popular with bird watchers as the lagoon is a natural habitat that attracts a huge number of migratory birds. The area has been declared a bird sanctuary for its diversity of waterfowl, song birds, and many other species of birds. Monastery Beach, also known as San Jose Creek Beach, is also part of the park and is very popular with scuba divers, Other activities, such as swimming or even walking near the edge of the water, are considered dangerous due to the very strong currents. The park has a lovely 2-mile-long beach, fantastic hiking trails, and a foot climb in order to enjoy the most spectacular view of the Pacific Ocean and nearby Santa Lucia. The beach is at times used for nude swimming and sunbathing. The trails through the park are surrounded by thick coastal vegetation and run through dense groves of magnificent redwoods. The coastal headlands at Soberanes Point are a great spot to watch sea lions, sea otters, and harbor seals as well as gray whales during their yearly migration. Henry Miller Memorial Library Located in a redwood grove on the mountain side of Highway 1 about a quarter mile from the famous Nepenthe restaurant in Big Sur, the Henry Miller Memorial Library is not a normal kind of library: It is an unofficial Big Sur art hub as well as a book store with a focus on promoting the artistic and literary works of Henry Miller. Known as a fiction writer, Miller also wrote some very good travel books, mostly about Greece. The library soon became a gallery and a gathering place for local artists. Henry Miller Memorial Library 9. The trails through the park offer fantastic views of the rugged coastline and the endless ocean. There is no beach access from the park. Fenced cliff areas, the beach, Saddle Rock, and McWay Falls are off limits from the park and accessing them from the park is considered very dangerous. Limekiln State Park Limekiln State Park is a acre park established in and located about 56 miles from Carmel. The park is best known for spectacular views of the Big Sur Coast, magnificent redwood forest, the rugged, dramatic terrain, and four limekilns that operated from to The park has a network of hiking trails leading to the limekilns or to the Hare Creek Canyon. One trail leads to the foot Limekiln Falls on the fork of Limekiln Creek. The park has a small campground with 31 campsites in the

redwood forest and 11 on the coast, with a view of the ocean. Los Padres National Forest Los Padres National Forest is a 1,100-acre area that includes an 8,000-foot-high mountain, rivers, streams, beaches, and magnificent forests. Most of the forest is on public land. Los Padres is divided into two separate areas. Los Padres is very popular with hikers, with miles of hiking trails and a range of campgrounds. Goleta, CA , Phone: The views from the top of the falls are among the most breathtaking on the California coast. On the hillside just north of the falls are the ruins of the long-abandoned Waterfall House, surrounded by exotic palm trees, crumbling foundations, terraces, and steps. The views from the house are so spectacular, it is difficult to believe that anyone would abandon such a house. The last owner, the wife of late Lathrop Brown, donated the house and the land to the state of California. The mission consists of five museums and is known for its exceptional beauty. The main edifice is the basilica, with a magnificent catenary ceiling, 5-foot-thick walls, foot-tall reredos, and a collection of significant Spanish artifacts and colonial liturgical art. In the forecourt of the Basilica is the Harry Downie Museum with artifacts and displays about the restoration of the mission. Molera Horseback Tours Seeing magnificent Big Sur from horseback is certainly a unique way to enjoy the scenic coastal landscape, inhale the scents of the trees and bushes, and feel the breeze in your hair. Molera Horseback Tours takes visitors through historical Andrew Molera State Park, the 4,000-acre coastal heaven with flower-covered meadows, ancient redwood groves, clear streams, and sandy beaches. The tours are guided by certified guides, who will share with their guests the stories about Big Sur while pointing out edible and useful native plants as well as indigenous animals going about their lives in their natural habitat. Supporting one of the most diverse marine ecosystems in the world, the sanctuary offers a home to a large number of fish, mammals, invertebrates, seabirds, and plants. It also includes beautiful beaches, tidepools, kelp forests, underwater seamounts, cliffs, and canyons, all teeming with life. The National Marine Sanctuary has the goal of promoting environmental protection and ocean research and stewardship. Monterey Bay, CA , Phone: Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Nepenthe High on top of a peak in the Santa Lucia Mountains, just off the scenic coast-hugging Cabrillo Highway, is Nepenthe, a restaurant where spectacular views of the ocean and rocky beaches compete with equally spectacular California edible delights. Nepenthe has a history more than half a century long that involves stars such as Elizabeth Taylor, Orson Welles, and Henry Miller. From the very beginning it attracted musicians, artists, writers, and other interesting types. Surrounded by ancient redwood and oak forest, with the rail seating overlooking the ocean and Graves Canyon, eating at Nepenthe is a unique experience. New Camaldoli Hermitage New Camaldoli Hermitage is a secluded community of Roman Catholic monks who are spending their lives in prayer and contemplation. The Camaldolese branch of the Benedictine family was established in the late 10th century by St. The New Camaldoli Hermitage was established in and its site was chosen because it combines rare natural beauty and solitude. Its location, at 1,000 feet, can be accessed by a narrow 2-mile-long road that offers spectacular views of the surrounding landscape. About 20 monks now live at the hermitage, each in a private small cottage, seeking solitude and privacy. About 100 people have so far undertaken retreats at the hermitage since its foundation. New Camaldoli Hermitage Old Coast Road The road from Big Sur to Carmel runs through what is probably one of the most beautiful stretches of the California landscape. The back road, which runs from the scenic Bixby Bridge to Big Sur, is not as well known to tourists, although it was the main road before the Bixby Bridge was completed in 1932. It is 10 miles of spectacular beauty, going up and down a narrow dirt road over the Santa Lucia Mountains, through tunnels and the deep shade of fragrant pines and massive coastal redwoods, then out into the bright sun with views of Andrew Molera State Park and the Big Sur River as it empties into the Pacific Ocean. Since its establishment, the museum has spearheaded the national tradition of nature preservation and hands-on science education. The museum is also the largest public site for monarch butterflies, which stop in Pacific Grove on their annual migration south. Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History The park has a network of scenic trails that wind along the river banks and through the dense, verdant groves of redwoods, oaks, conifers, sycamores, maples, alders, cottonwoods, and willows. Many campsites in the large campground are stretched along the Big Sur River. The park is rich in wildlife, and it is not rare to spot elusive bobcats, gray squirrels, black-tailed deer, raccoons, skunks, and many species of birds. This unique spot on the coast combines on the one side rocky cliffs, patches of dense forest, deep canyons, and valleys covered in wild flowers. On the other side is the

Pacific, with endless waves crashing at the coastal cliffs. The reserve is very popular for hiking, scuba diving, visiting important geological sites, and observing native plants and animals such as harbor seals, seabirds, sea lions, sea otters, and gray whales. There is a small cabin in Whalers Cove, built a long time ago by Chinese fishermen, that is now a cultural history museum. Its importance lies in the fact that it has one of the largest stands of endemic native Monterey pines in the world, the endangered rare Gowen cypress, and a plant community of rare maritime chaparral. The area also offers spectacular views of the coastline and Carmel Bay. The ranch lands and surrounding public lands are a habitat for mountain lions, and San Jose Creek is an important spawning ground for steelhead trout. In addition, there are some significant archeological Native American sites. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Point Sur is currently the only functioning turn-of-the century lighthouse in California open to the public. It was first lit in and has continued to operate ever since. From to , before the lighthouse was automated, it was home to the lighthouse keepers and their families. The lighthouse and its surrounding buildings are being restored by the park staff and volunteers, and there are docents who lead guided tours of the lighthouse. They hang in thick clusters from each eucalyptus branch to keep warm, creating a stunning effect and attracting thousands of visitors. To protect butterflies and their preferred eucalyptus habitat, the city of Pacific Grove established the grove as a butterfly sanctuary. Visiting the sanctuary is free, and visitors can watch and admire monarch butterflies as long as they do not touch them. The sanctuary is maintained by Pacific Grove volunteers. The monarchs stay in their protected grove until February, when they continue their journey south. The tours are totally customized and are perfect for small groups of two or three people.

Chapter 3 : See California: Magnificent Big Sur - Sacramento Press

Magnificent Monterey and the Big Sur area 1st ed. [Maxine Knox and Mary Rodriguez ; edited by Laurie Cohn]. Published by Lexikos in San Francisco, Calif.

Take in the local wildlife from the water. In downtown Monterey, hop on a SUP and explore yourself talk about one with the sea , or join a guided kayaking tour of Monterey harbor and beyond. Go on a whale-watching tour. Slow down your road-tripping pace on Mile Drive. There are multiple turnouts where you can take in the vista as you very slowly wind through lush forests, gorgeous beaches and craggy viewpoints, including the iconic Lone Cypress. Drink with the jellyfish at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. This is an aquarium built for adults. The building itself is stunning, with an open, industrial design, a million-gallon shark tank and an outdoor amphitheater overlooking natural tide pools. We have two words for you: Immerse yourself in nature near Big Sur. For a quick half-mile hike with a major payoff, take the Waterfall Trail at Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park until you arrive at that classic view of McWay falls flowing over foot cliffs down onto the beach. Check out the sea-to-table and local wine scene. Restaurant , a renovated historic adobe with very different stylish yet cozy vibes in every room, has a mouth-watering menu. Passionfish will fulfill your craving for seafood and a good cause. Started by a chef and sustainable seafood advocate hubby-wife team, your delish meal from the sea can be paired with a local wine from their incredible wine list sold at super reasonable prices. Down near Big Sur, the Big Sur Roadhouse will fill you up or hold you over with locally sourced grub after your nearby hike. Photo via Restaurant 7. Go glamping overlooking the sea. If the idea of sleeping on a cot makes you cringe, but you wish you could stargaze all night long, the Treebones Resort is for you. Join a full-on spiritual retreat or just visit their hot springs. Get in touch with your inner zen at the Esalen Institute , a spiritual center built on the Big Sur coastal cliffside in the s. Forget to pack a suit? Totally fine to skinny dip, as clothing is optional. Enjoy some world-class music. From classic to modern jazz, Monterey attracts some impressive acts. If you love dancing to big brass, visit in September to attend the longest running jazz fest, the Monterey Jazz Festival. Get off the beaten path. Have you visited Big Sur? Let us know BritandCo!

Chapter 4 : Monterey (California) – Travel guide at Wikivoyage

Magnificent Monterey and the Big Sur Area by Maxine Knox, Mary Rodriguez starting at \$ *Magnificent Monterey and the Big Sur Area* has 1 available editions to buy.

And so it seemed to early settlers in Monterey. The coastal area to their south was huge and unexplored, and its coastline was especially treacherous to ships. Some people assume that Big Sur is a state or national park. Though there are state parks in Big Sur, including two with the word "Sur" in their names, they cover only a small fraction of the Big Sur region of the central California coast, and much of what there is to see and do in Big Sur is not in any of the state parks. Where is Big Sur? Like many others, I think of this entire stretch of coastline, together with the western slopes of the Santa Lucia mountain range to the east, as "Big Sur". Post Office in "Big Sur, California ". There are no borders of this Big Sur, however, because there is no officially-established city or town, just unincorporated county land. This amuses me because the atmosphere and physical setting of that state park is very different from the rocky coastal environment that means "Big Sur" to many others. So I suggest that travelers recognize and understand all those uses of the term "Big Sur". The ambiguity fits the relaxed nature of the region. Construction began in , and Highway 1 was officially opened through the Big Sur region in with the completion of Big Creek Bridge in the southern Big Sur region. There is the magnificent coastal scenery, of course. But the region has a colorful recent human history some of it in books and on film that is of interest: Filmmaker and film actor Orson Welles *Citizen Kane*, and his then-wife, film star Rita Hayworth 62 films including *You Were Never Lovelier*, , opposite Fred Astaire , jointly purchased a log cabin for use as a refuge from the pressures of Hollywood. The property is now the location of Nepenthe Restaurant, whose Web site has a fuller version of this story. Miller had arrived in Big Sur in See also the Books and Maps page. The first tours of the property were offered to the public in The Big Sur Master Plan, said to be the first of its kind for the protection of scenic values, was adopted by Monterey County. Esalen Institute, a leader in the human potential movement, was founded on the central Big Sur coast, incorporating cliffside hot springs. Filmed in Big Sur, it portrays a boy and his free-spirited, unwed mother Taylor living an idyllic lifestyle in Big Sur. An Episcopalian priest Burton initially disapproves of the mother, but eventually they have an illicit affair. Mid to late s: Possibly inspired by *The Sandpiper* even more than by Kerouac, hippies arrived in large numbers in Big Sur. Today Big Sur retains some effects of all these influences but is above all slow-paced, low-key, remote, and mostly natural. Seen from Big Sur, the concept of growth and development that drives most modern American communities seems to belong on some other planet.

Chapter 5 : Welcome Back to Big Sur

Big Sur is known best for its iconic coastline - sweeping views of California's Santa Lucia Mountains rise from the ocean, rugged cliffs and turquoise waters.

For guests who want to get even closer to the trees, the resort, which underwent a renovation in , offers new glamping accommodations: Visit Spa Alila for relaxation and rejuvenation through massage, energy work, bodywork, skin care, and astrology readings. Soak in the Japanese hot baths, swim in two heated outdoor pools, explore the property on daily guided hikes, or visit the Glass House Gallery to view work by local artists. At the Sur House restaurant, ingredients from the nearby farms and sea are the stars—along with dramatic views. The highway traffic noise disappears, the filtered sunlight takes on the quality of stained glass, and the earthy smell of the forest is enough to cleanse your mind of digital and other distractions. This quiet altar of wisdom and irreverence serves as a bookstore and art hub focused on promoting the works of author Henry Miller, who lived in Big Sur between and . The library hosts events throughout the year, but especially from May to October, including concerts, lectures, and book signings. At breakfast, lunch, and dinner, perfectly seasoned dishes emerge from the wood-fired oven. Big Sur Bakery is also a community hub, where locals drop by to have a scone and a cup of coffee, and catch up with friends. Go early for freshly baked pastries. Visitors can view the foot McWay Falls as it plummets from a granite cliff to the sandy cove below from the half-mile Waterfall Overlook Trail, which is easily accessible from the entrance gate of Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park. The falls, creek, and canyon are named after Christopher McWay, an early settler and farmer, but the park itself is named after a legendary early pioneer who had a ranch in McWay Canyon with her husband. For a different view, turn to Ewoldsen Trail, a two-mile loop that crosses streams and winds through redwood trees. At its highest elevation gain, the views make any effort more than worthwhile. Perched high above the Pacific and in the shadow of the Santa Lucia Mountains, Nepenthe offers miles-long views of the coast. Enjoy it all from a seat on the laid-back patio, or inside the main building, designed by a student of Frank Lloyd Wright and made of native materials to blend with the landscape. The Sushi Bar at Treebones Before glamping was a phenomenon, there was Treebones Resort , its yurts set on redwood platforms with views of the Pacific Ocean. The Sushi Bar at Treebones Resort is the local go-to spot for sushi. The two-seating nightly omakase experience offers an elaborate tasting menu, served against the backdrop of a spectacular sunset over the ocean, visible through the windows behind the chef. The sushi chef thoroughly guides you through the dishes. While the freshest catch is always the star of the menu which can include scallops with black garlic and yellowtail nigiri , even vegan diners will have plenty to enjoy with sushi options that highlight produce from the on-site organic garden. Only open from March through November, the Sushi Bar offers same-day reservations for off-property guests; with very limited seating, you need to be fast on the phone dial. Even better, since overnight guests receive first priority when they book their yurt, your odds of dining here improve if you stay over, too. Post Ranch Inn Described by devotees as the most luxurious, one-of-a-kind lodging experience in all of California, the Post Ranch Inn was purpose-built to blend in with the Santa Lucia Mountains. Opened in , and designed by famed Big Sur architect Mickey Muennig, the modern dwellings here resemble sophisticated tree houses—“at one with the earth, sky, and water. Each of the 39 buildings is built from recycled redwood and paneled glass, and each was designed with complete seclusion in mind. Or if you get your inspiration from the mountains, book the Peak House, which faces the top of the ridge. The Post Ranch Spa offers soothing body and facial treatments, private yoga and meditation practices, and even shaman healing sessions, while two pools on the cliffs have views that blend sea and sky. This is the place to go off the grid, commune with loved ones or reconnect with yourself , and enjoy total privacy. And those climbs along the coast are much easier when you have a watt assist. Big Sur Adventures offers a trio of e-bike tours for all levels of riders: One of the best choices for intermediate riders is the Old Coast Road route, a dirt road that follows the original wagon trail into Big Sur. Trips include four to 12 people and typically last three to four hours. Sure, in a car, you can roll down the windows to smell the sea, but exploring the coast by bike gives you a full sensory experience: In Partnership with Afar.

Chapter 6 : 10 Things Not to Miss on Your Weekend in Monterey and Big Sur | Brit + Co

Big Sur Tours and More is a one-person tour agency run since by Dave Engerberg, a Monterey native with an in-depth knowledge of all important spots a visitor to Big Sur should not miss. The tours are totally customized and are perfect for small groups of two or three people.

A series of activities for the whole family. Park day use fees apply for Nature Walks and daytime activities. Big Sur Hiking, Tours and Activities Guides While a visit to Big Sur can be for some overwhelming at the outset there are tour guides available to help focus your visit to your specific goals. If you would like to have the professional guidance of a tour guide to maximize your time in Big Sur you have your choice of personalized hiking tours, vehicle tours and van tours that focus on condor watching. Local Hiking From beaches to mountains Hike along the streams in the cool, tree lined valleys. Climb up on the high ridges for a spectacular view of the coastline on the western slope and gaze into three million acres of wilderness in the Los Padres National Forest on the eastern slope. Calendar of Events Check the Calendar of Events page for local music, whale watching, festivals, marathons, lighthouse tours and many other events. Evenings offer the opportunity to dine in restaurants from fanciful to exquisite. Relax in lodging that ranges from rustic to luxurious. Camp out in the many well equipped campgrounds. Luxuriate at the local health spas. And of course one of the favorite past-times of Big Sur, Do Nothing! Relax and take in the magnificent beauty of Big Sur. Once you are here there is no reason to do anything more. Replenish your spirit by simply absorbing the weepingly beautiful vistas of Big Sur. Do Nothing in Big Sur and leave refreshed and rejuvenated from head to toe. Big Sur has been here for millions of years. Make your reservation today! To help keep it as pristine as possible and to ensure your own safety, please observe these sustainable practices and follow these rules of the road and basic safety tips. Big Sur, offering the best lodging in Monterey County and the best lodging in California. Big Sur also offers the "Best Restaurant in California. Join us for a romantic getaway and come share with us one of the most spectacular coastlines in the world. Evenings can offer spectacularly clear skies, which are perfect for star gazing. Bring layers of clothing because at this time of year it can be sunny in the afternoon and very cool in the evening. Big Sur Chamber of Commerce <http://>

Chapter 7 : 25 Best Things To Do in Big Sur

Pfeiffer Big Sur Highlights. Enjoy the magnificent beauty of the Big Sur area. Relax with great campground amenities. Hike among the redwoods and explore nearby beaches.

Chapter 8 : Big Sur Hotels: A Redwood Adventure on the Magnificent California Coast - Ecophiles

Big Sur's natural beauty is like a magnet, but if you've visited the area before or want a unique experience, you can definitely find it once you get off of Highway One. Gawk at the gorgeous little houses built into the hillside along Narrow Palo Colorado Road, or go back in time (and learn about California's history) at the Mission San.

Chapter 9 : Monterey to Big Sur - 3 ways to travel via bus, taxi, and car

One of the most jaw-droppingly beautiful destinations in the world, you might want to begin in San Francisco, driving south through Santa Cruz, Monterey and Carmel before reaching Big Sur and enjoying the myriad of things to do there.