



Carmel-by-the-Sea Fact Sheet

LOCATION

Situated on the Carmel Bay in Central California on the southern bend of the Monterey Peninsula, Carmel-by-the-Sea is 120 miles south of San Francisco, 350 miles north of Los Angeles and 26 miles north of Big Sur.

SIZE

Carmel-by-the-Sea is one square mile of incorporated city.

POPULATION

3,787 according to the 2011 census.

HISTORY OF FOUNDING

Fifty years after Columbus discovered America, Spanish explorer Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo sighted the white sands and green pines of Carmel. Two centuries later, in 1771, Father Junipero Serra established Mission San Carlos de Borromeo on a knoll overlooking the Carmel Bay. In the early 1900s, the village of Carmel began its growth around an eclectic group of young artists, writers and intellectuals.

CLIMATE

Carmel enjoys moderately warm temperatures year round, with an average high of 65° F and an average low of 48° F. September and October (Indian Summer) offer the best weather of the year, with an average high of 72° F. Average rainfall, primarily between November and April, is 15 inches. Coastal fog is prevalent during the summer.

TRANSPORTATION

Direct flights are available from Monterey Regional Airport (MRY) to San Francisco (United Airlines); Los Angeles (both United and American Eagle); San Diego (Alaska Airlines); Las Vegas (Allegiant); and Phoenix (US Airways). The Airport is 10 minutes from downtown Carmel; rental cars are available.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Carmel features 45 inns — ranging from casual and comfortable to elegant and refined — offering a total of 925 rooms. The majority of these accommodations are located in quaint and inviting inns,

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and bed-and-breakfast establishments. Many offer special amenities, such as ocean views or secluded courtyards and fireplaces, but all feature the characteristic warmth and charm that has become a trademark of Carmel. There are also four full-service hotels in the village — notably Pine Inn, La Playa Carmel, Cypress Inn and L'Auberge — and several larger hotels throughout the town.

RESTAURANTS

More than 60 coffeehouses, bakeries, pubs, bistros and exceptional restaurants comprise the dining options in Carmel. These establishments serve a bounty of international and regional cuisines — utilizing fresh produce grown locally in the fertile Salinas Valley, and fresh seafood from the azure waters of Monterey Bay. Monterey County also is home to more than 75 wineries, many of which offer daily tastings of wines produced with varietal grapes grown on 45,000 acres of vineyards.

GALLERIES

Carmel has been a mecca for artists, writers and musicians since the turn of the last century. Today, almost 80 art studios, galleries and antique stores represent the works of master artists, both local and from around the world.

SHOPPING

Carmel boasts four exceptional shopping venues: The neighborhood of quaint shops, antique stores, boutiques and galleries centered on Ocean Avenue in town; The Carmel Plaza, also on Ocean Avenue; as well as The Barnyard Shopping Village and the Crossroads Shopping Center, both located at the mouth of the Carmel Valley.

FESTIVALS

Each year, thousands of visitors are drawn to the diversity of art, drama, music and literary events designed to promote Carmel's celebrated cultural contributions and traditions. Some of the most popular events include: the annual Carmel Art & Film Festival, the annual Carmel Bach Festival, and the Carmel Shakespeare Festival featuring performances at the Outdoor Forest Theater and the Golden Bough Theater.

RECREATION

Visitors can enjoy the charm of downtown Carmel and the natural beauty of California's central coast while engaging in a variety of outdoor activities, including horseback riding; jogging, walking and bicycling along coastal bluffs; and fishing, kayaking, surfing or scuba diving off Monastery Beach. Several internationally-renowned golf courses are located nearby, while numerous tennis courts are available as well.

CARMEL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Carmel Chamber of Commerce is the marketing alliance and Visitor Information Center for Carmel representing the city's eclectic shops, galleries, restaurants, businesses and professional services.

CONTACT

The Chamber is located on San Carlos between 5th and 6th Streets. The mailing address is P.O. Box 4444, Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA 93291. Monta Potter is the Carmel Chamber of Commerce's Chief Executive Officer, and she can be contacted by phone at (800) 550-4333 or e-mail at monta@carmelcalifornia.org. The Chamber's website is www.carmelcalifornia.org.

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