

Responsible Wildlife Tourism

A Visitor's Guide to Monterey County

Simple tips for protecting Monterey County's wildlife while exploring its beaches, trails, and natural areas.

Protecting Monterey County's Natural Beauty

Monterey County is home to some of California's most remarkable coastal landscapes and diverse wildlife. From sea otters and harbor seals to tide pools and migratory birds, these natural areas attract visitors from around the world. By following a few simple guidelines, you can help protect these habitats while enjoying everything Monterey County has to offer.

Why Responsible Tourism Matters

Tourism is an important part of Monterey County's economy, but it can also affect wildlife and sensitive habitats. Many impacts happen unintentionally, such as getting too close to wildlife or leaving marked trails. Responsible tourism helps reduce these impacts while preserving Monterey's natural beauty for future generations.

Before You Go

- ✓ Check park rules and seasonal closures.
 - ✓ Bring a reusable water bottle to reduce waste.
 - ✓ Learn about local wildlife.
 - ✓ Bring binoculars or a zoom lens for wildlife viewing.
- Check weather conditions and park advisories before you visit.

While You're Exploring

- ✓ Stay on designated trails.
- ✓ Observe wildlife from a safe distance.
- ✓ Never feed wild animals.
- ✓ Keep noise levels low around wildlife.
- ✓ Pack out everything you bring.
- ✓ Leave natural objects where you found them.

Protect Monterey County's wildlife today so future generations can enjoy it tomorrow.

Created as part of a Civic Action Project
California State University, Monterey Bay

Leave No Trace Principles

Plan Ahead

Know the rules before visiting and prepare for changing weather and trail conditions.



Dispose of Waste Properly

Pack out everything you bring to help keep Monterey's parks and beaches clean.



Respect Wildlife

Observe animals from a safe distance and avoid disturbing their natural behavior.



Leave What You Find

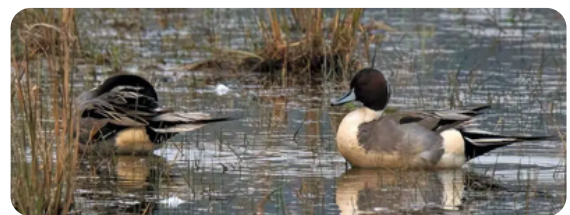
Leave shells, plants, rocks, and other natural objects where they belong.

Great Places to Visit Responsibly



Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

Excellent for coastal hiking, harbor seals, and sea lions.



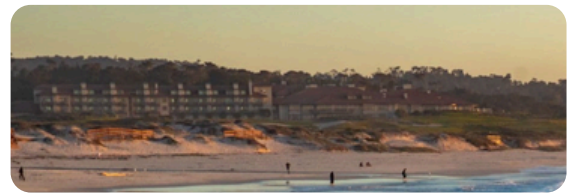
Elkhorn Slough Reserve

Known for sea otters, migratory birds, and wetland ecosystems.



Monterey Bay Coastal Recreation Trail

Scenic walking and cycling with opportunities to observe marine wildlife.



Asilomar State Beach

Protected dunes, tide pools, and native coastal habitats.

Support Sustainable Tourism

- ✓ Support local businesses that value sustainability.
- ✓ Respect park rules and seasonal closures.
- ✓ Participate in local beach cleanups when possible.
- ✓ Share responsible wildlife tourism practices with friends and family.

Learn More

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

montereybay.noaa.gov

Leave No Trace

lnt.org

California State Parks

parks.ca.gov

Monterey Audubon Society

montereyaudubon.org

Need Help While Visiting?

Before your visit, check official park websites for current trail conditions, seasonal closures, and wildlife advisories.

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