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Monterey's New Popularity Means New Hotel Deals

In Transit

By SHIVANI VORA NOV. 17, 2015



The Post Ranch Inn in Big Sur, like others in the area, is offering a special package.
Credit: Kodiak Greenwood

Monterey County, spanning California's central coast from Moss Landing to Big Sur, is seeing more tourists in the winter months, once a slow season for the region. According to the Monterey County Convention and Visitors Bureau, hotel occupancy in the area increased an average of 17 percent from 2011 to 2014 from December to February.

Properties are responding to the interest by offering packages at lower-than-usual rates.

L'Auberge Carmel, a Relais & Chateaux property, in Carmel has the Carmel Culinary package; it includes a night's stay, a glass of wine at check-in, a welcome amenity of handmade salted caramels and either a half-bottle of champagne or a fruit bowl, an eight-course dinner paired with wine at its fine-dining restaurant Aubergine, and a full breakfast. Prices from \$1,080 a night.

Romance seekers can book the Hideaway Package at Post Ranch Inn in Big Sur. Two nights' accommodations, breakfast and a picnic lunch with champagne, in-room massages, a four-course dinner and activities such as yoga and guided nature walks are part of the deal. Prices from \$2,100.

Carmel Valley Ranch, set on 500 acres in the Carmel Valley, has the family-friendly Ranch Hands offer, which includes a night in a one-bedroom suite, breakfast and farm activities for two children such as a hike to spot butterflies and a tour of the organic vegetable garden. Prices from \$545 a night.

Portola Hotel and Spa in Monterey has the Sea Car Tours package with a night's stay, breakfast with unlimited mimosas and two hours' use of an open-air scooter car to explore the city. Prices from \$305 a night.

Monterey County is becoming a popular winter getaway because of its mild weather and the dearth of snow at ski destinations, according to Jack Ezon, the president of the travel consultancy Ovation Vacations.

"Following several seasons of unreliable snowfall in the Rockies and Europe, many skiers are turning to other active outdoor pursuits, and given the comfortable climate, great hiking and biking, and hotel deals in the Monterey area, it's becoming a place to go," he said.