

marie claire

The 'Big Little Lies' Guide to Monterey, California

Where to stay, eat, and drink in the picturesque setting of the acclaimed HBO series, returning this spring.



by Mehera Bonner Dec 10, 2018



Obsessed with *Big Little Lies*? Same. But there's watching (and re-watching) the series, and then there's *living* the series—minus all the drama. Turns out Monterey, the sleepy California town where HBO's award-winning show takes place, is a dream weekend getaway. At least, if your qualifications for a dream weekend getaway include gorgeous sunsets, lounging sea lions, incredible hiking trails, and delicious freshly caught fish.

RELATED STORY



'Big Little Lies' Season Two Explainer

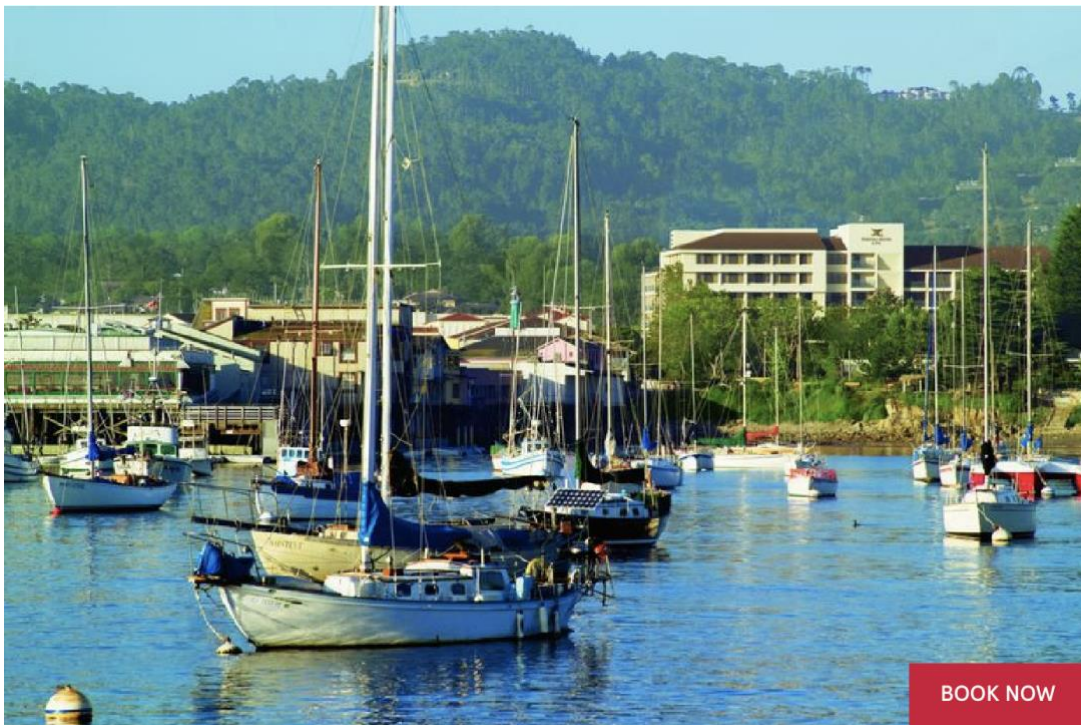
And interestingly, Monterey is actually rather different from how it's depicted in the show. Yes, there are areas that are *incredibly* fancy—but overall this is a down-to-earth town that's

quintessentially Californian. The people are warm and even the fanciest restaurants don't feel uptight. It's easy to see why this area has captivated visitors for generations, from John Steinbeck to Reese Witherspoon.

On that note, here's where to eat, sleep, and hang in my favorite California coastal city.

Where to Stay

There are a couple options to choose from, but I find myself booking the same place every single time I visit Monterey: *Portola Hotel & Spa*. Emphasis on "spa." Aside from access to great massages, the main draw of Portola is its proximity to...well, everything. The hotel is right smack in the middle of Monterey—a gorgeous walk to the Fisherman's Wharf, tons of restaurants and shops, *and* they have free parking. Because yep, I've officially reached the age where I get excited about things like free parking, don't @ me. (You're gonna want that car to do the **iconic *BLL* opening credits drive across Bixby Bridge.**)



Portola Hotel & Spa

[BOOK NOW](#)