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TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



# Monterey Bay Coastal Recreation Trail

*California*



# Monterey Bay Coastal Recreation Trail

California

*Overview Winding along the Pacific coast, the Monterey Bay Coastal Recreation Trail offers breathtaking views of the Pacific*



## Overview

Winding along the Pacific coast, the Monterey Bay Coastal Recreation Trail offers breathtaking views of the Pacific Ocean and a great way to tour Monterey and adjacent communities while enjoying the outdoors. This wonderful coastal rail-trail extends 19 miles from Pacific Grove to Castroville and is regarded as one of the most scenic long trails in California.

## About the Route

The northern end of this trail begins in Castroville. While arguably the less scenic portion of the trail, Castroville comes with its own unique town identity, being famous for artichokes and its Artichoke Festival.

It's about 8 miles through flat farmlands before the trail reaches the city of Marina and the Fort Ord Dunes State Park, which protects and preserves this coastal region once home to the Fort Ord Army Post.

Leaving Fort Ord, the scenery begins to change dramatically as the route begins to hug the coast and passes Monterey State Beach. This beach, a picturesque spot, features impressive sand dunes and a eucalyptus forest that separates the trail from the busy road.

2 miles from the southern endpoint, the trail reaches Fisherman's Wharf which offers a variety of restaurants, shops, and scenic ocean views. The wharf is arguably the most scenic section of the trail, with impressive scenery, historical displays, and ties to seven generations of fishing craft.

The southernmost 1.5 miles of the trail are packed full of scenery and other pitstops. Just after Fisherman's wharf, the trail passes San Carlos Beach, a popular diving spot and then shortly after, Monterey Bay Aquarium which is often recognized as one of the best in the world, the aquarium exhibits a wide array of sea creatures, from a giant octopus to nearly two dozen species of shark.

Just before reaching the southern end of the trail, the trail passes Cannery Row, an area made famous by John Steinbeck, and features numerous restaurants, shopping, lodging and entertainment.

At the southern endpoint at Lover's Point Park, there is a picturesque rocky shoreline to the west, a nice treat to round out one's trip along the trail.

## Connections

The Monterey Bay Coastal Recreational trail connects with the [Beach Range Road Multi-Use Trail](#) in two spots along Fort Ord Dunes State Park.



# Monterey Bay Coastal Recreation Trail

California

**States:** California

**Counties:** Monterey

Length: 19miles

**Trail end points:** Haro St. (Castroville) to  
Lover's Point Beach, Ocean View Blvd.  
(Monterey Bay)

**Trail surfaces:** Asphalt,Concrete

**Trail category:** Rail-Trail

**Trail activities:** Bike,Inline

Skating,Fishing,Wheelchair

Accessible,Walking

## Parking & Trail Access

The Monterey Bay Coastal Recreation Trail Haro St. (Castroville) and Lover's Point Beach, Ocean View Blvd. (Monterey), with parking available at the southern end.

Parking is also available at:

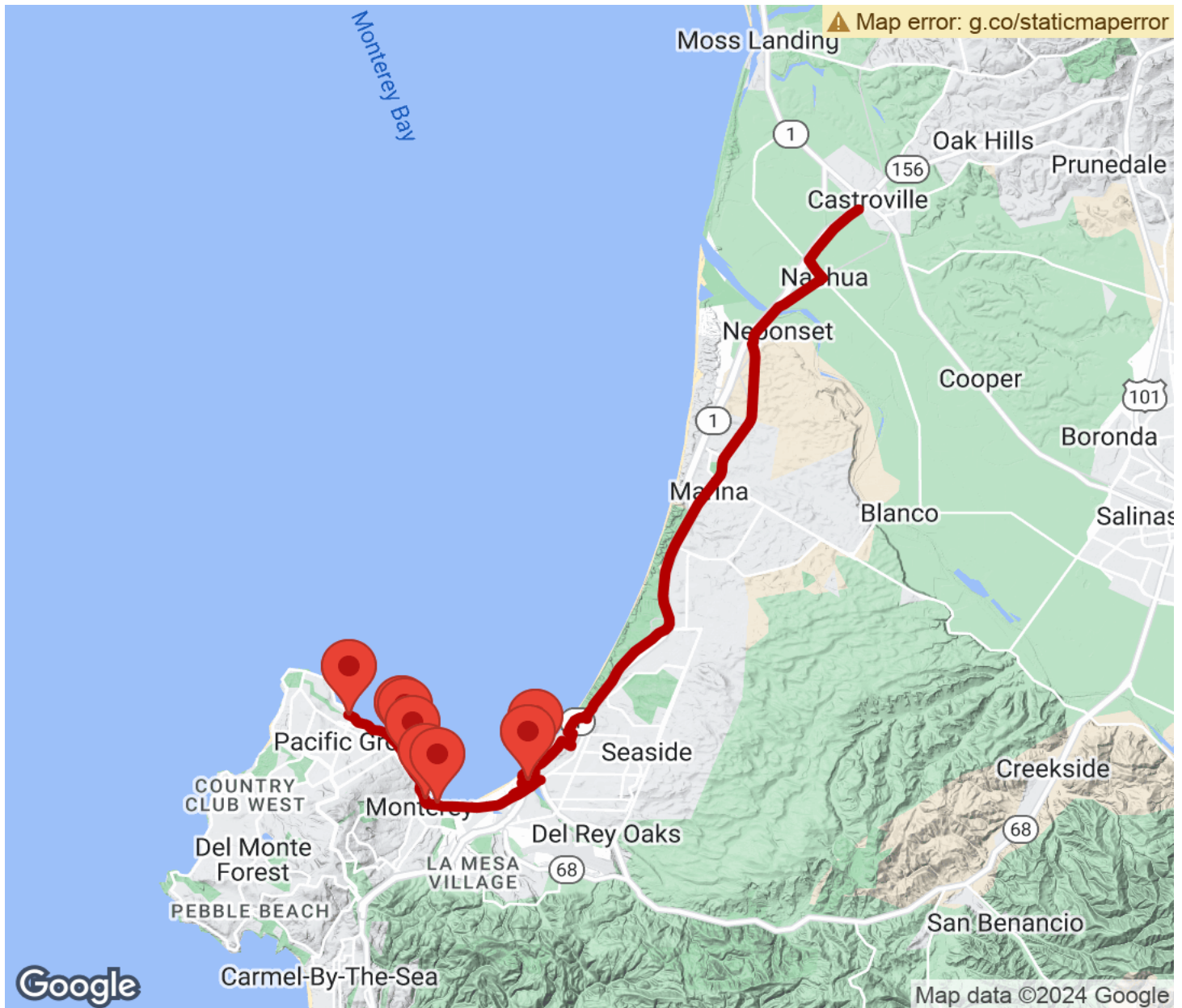
- 101-106 Washington St (Monterey)
- 100-136 Cannery Row (Monterey)

Visit the [TrailLink map](#) for all options and detailed directions.



# Monterey Bay Coastal Recreation Trail

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



**TrailLink**  
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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