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THE MOST AWESOME THINGS TO DO IN MONTEREY THAT WON'T MAKE YOU LOOK LIKE A TOURIST

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Beyond Cannery Row, subpar seafood restaurants, and the fantastic but ever-mobbed [Monterey Bay Aquarium](#), and the touristy hordes of Fisherman's Wharf, there's a Monterey that is equal parts battered and beautiful. Compared to the chichi world of Carmel and sleepy Pacific Grove, Monterey is the edgier sibling, showcasing just the

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right amount of grit, authenticity, and approachability. Whether you're seeking a classic and elegant piano lounge happy hour or a haunted restaurant from the 1800s, Monterey has your ticket. Here are 11 things to do that will show you the real Central Coast town.

Relax in a rooftop spa overlooking the ocean

Monterrey Plaza Hotel & Spa is situated on the coast right in Cannery Row (a short walk from the Aquarium), with oceanfront rooms jutting out over the sea. Luckily, anyone can make spa appointments at its [Vista Blue Spa](#), one of the best around. Yes, they've got some skilled masseuses (you can also get facials or body wraps), but it's that striking rooftop with hot tubs gazing over the Pacific that feels like a Mediterranean escape. It's open all day, making it ideal for lingering pre- or post-massage.

