

DO CAR WEEK
LIKE A LOCAL

Stand next to a hundred million dollars of cars, skip the gridlock, and find the rare stuff. No ticket required.

MONTEREY CAR WEEK LOCAL'S GUIDE 2026

YOUTUBE.COM/@PURSUITOFSOMETHING

WHERE	PRIMARY ROUTE	BEST SPOTTING	BUDGET
MONTEREY PENINSULA	HIGHWAY 68, CARMEL VALLEY, GENERAL JIM MOORE BLVD	PACIFIC GROVE, CARMEL, & DOWNTOWN MONTEREY	\$0

01 BEAT THE TRAFFIC

Highway 1 Gridlock

LOCKS UP AFTER NOON ON BUSY DAYS

Don't sit in it. Highway 1 down the coast is the choke point. For Pacific Grove and Monterey, come in on Highway 68 west (Holman Highway). For Seaside and Sand City, drop down Canyon Del Rey (218). For Carmel, take Laureles Grade over to Carmel Valley Road and come in from the east. The views will be worth it.

The Pebble Gate Line

THE SCENIC ROUTE TO PEBBLE

Skip the Highway 1 gate into Pebble Beach. Use the Pacific Grove gate (Country Club Gate) or the Morse Drive gate instead. Same destination, a fraction of the wait.

02 WHERE THE CARS ARE

Lighthouse Ave, Pacific Grove

WED AFTERNOON, FRI MORNING

Casual lot pop-ups, morning coffee runs, and raw enthusiast builds. The most relaxed car-watching of the week.

Alvarado St, Monterey

IN BETWEEN EVENTS

Downtown's main street fills with cars and people between the marquee shows. Easy walking, food and coffee steps away.

Carmel Residential Grid

5PM TO 8PM

Two or three blocks north and south off Ocean Avenue, hypercars and ten-million-dollar classics park on quiet streets. Walk them at dusk.

Highway 68 Gas Stations

7AM TO 8:30AM

Race cars and hypercars fueling up between Laguna Seca and Monterey. Early morning is the window.

Inn at Spanish Bay

6:30PM UNTIL DARK

Hypercars idle into the lower lot while the bagpipes play on the lawn. Post up at the exit corners for clean footage.

Asilomar Beach

SUNSET, ALONG THE COAST

Sunset Drive turns into a slow coastal cruise as the light goes gold. Pull off past Spanish Bay and watch the cars work the shoreline.

Spanish Bay Beach / 17-Mile Drive

ALL WEEK

Cars and ocean views all week along 17-Mile Drive. Pull off near Spanish Bay and watch them run the coast.

LOCAL SURVIVAL NOTE

Coastal fog can make 55 degrees feel cold, and highs in the 70s can feel way warmer in the sun, so always pack sunscreen and a sweatshirt. Cell data also crawls around Pebble and Carmel Valley when crowds are thick, so download offline maps before you go.

THE FREE CAR WEEK ITINERARY

The events worth showing up for, all open to the public with no ticket at the gate. Days and times shift year to year, so confirm before you drive out.

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FRI 8/7

KICKOFF

Monterey Kick-Off

Downtown Monterey

Thirty-plus classic race cars roll through downtown, 5 to 7pm. Grab dinner nearby and watch them arrive.

TUE 8/11

CARMEL

Concours for a Cause

Carmel-by-the-Sea

A relaxed morning of rare vintage classics with far less crowd chaos than the marquee shows.

WED 8/12

PACIFIC GROVE

The Little Car Show

Lighthouse Ave, PG

Microcars, minis, and quirky builds, noon to 5pm. Great community feel and easy street walking.

THU 8/13

PACIFIC GROVE

Legends of the Autobahn

PG Golf Links

German marques out on the grass, free to walk. BMW, Porsche, Mercedes, Audi.

THU 8/13

CARMEL

Pebble Beach Tour d'Elegance

Hwy 1 to Ocean Ave

Watch the Concours cars drive under their own power. Line up along Ocean Avenue before 11am.

FRI 8/14

PACIFIC GROVE

Werks Reunion & PG Auto Rally

Monterey Pines GC

Hundreds of Porsches at Werks in the morning, then the PG Concours Auto Rally down Lighthouse in the afternoon.

SAT 8/15

SEASIDE

Concours d'LeMons

Seaside City Hall

The worst cars on earth, celebrated, 8am to 1:30pm. The anti-Pebble, and the most fun you'll have all week.

SAT 8/15

SEASIDE

Exotics on Broadway

Broadway Ave

Modern hypercars on the street, 11am to 4pm, with the Ferrari gathering at The Barnyard in Carmel later that day, 4 to 7pm.

WORTH THE TICKET

Two marquees are worth paying for if you splurge on one thing. **The Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion** at Laguna Seca, Aug 12 to 15, vintage racing you hear before you see. And **the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance**, Sunday Aug 16, the 75th, the lawn everyone else is filming.



PORSCHE 550 · PORSCHE CLASSIC



FERRARI · ALVARADO STREET



MCLAREN F1 · DOWNTOWN MONTEREY

SHOT ON THE GROUND · NICK ENGVALL

WHERE THE LOCALS EAT

Skip the two-hour waits on the main drag. Here's where to fuel up before the shows, grab something quick between them, and where to spend real money when the day earns it.

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BREAKFAST

Butterhouse SEASIDE

From Scratch THE BARNYARD · CARMEL VALLEY

QUICK BITES

Lucy's on Lighthouse PACIFIC GROVE

Papa Chevo's SEASIDE

CHOWDER & SIT-DOWN

Old Fisherman's Grotto *the* FISHMAN'S WHARF · MONTEREY
chowder

COFFEE

Captain & Stoker MONTEREY

Manasiri Crepe *tiramisu latte* MONTEREY

SWEETS

Dutch Door Donuts *made to order* CARMEL

Alta Bakery & Café MONTEREY

Revival Ice Cream MONTEREY

WORTH THE SPLURGE

Enzo *Italian* CARMEL

Mission Bistro CARMEL



LUCY'S ON LIGHTHOUSE · PACIFIC GROVE



ALTA BAKERY & CAFÉ · MONTEREY



BUTTERHOUSE · SEASIDE

MUST EAT IN THE MONTEREY AREA

CREATOR NOTE · BEST PHOTO & VIDEO SPOTS

For clean shots without a crowd in frame, hit the Carmel side streets around 7:30am, or set up at the exit corners of Spanish Bay as cars leave for dinner.

New videos and journal posts all week on PursuitMonterey.com