Monterey County Hot Spots, Trails and Beaches Added to Google Maps

With just a few mouse clicks, over one billion users of Google Maps will now have a first person view of trails and favorite locations.

Monterey County, Calif. (March, 18 2015)- Visitors interested in Monterey County can now explore the most popular trails and locales from anywhere in the world with the Google Maps "Street View" feature, which will showcase panoramic views of Monterey, Big Sur, Moss Landing, Salinas and Pacific Grove.

Monterey County was one of the few destinations selected by Google to expand the reach of viewable locations provided by the high tech juggernaut. The Monterey County CVB worked with experts who know the 'back story' of Monterey County better than any other to tell Monterey's story with a level of immersion and insight never made available before without actually being here. Through the Google Trekker Loan program, audiences will be able to gain a first-person experience from locations not accessible by car, such as Nepenthe in Big Sur and Dennis the Menace Park in Monterey. The images captured will provide unprecedented 360-degree panoramas of locations for viewers from all over the world to appreciate and will serve as a powerful tool for those planning their next vacation.

"This provides travelers inspiration while they are planning their trips to Monterey and gives them a greater insight into the magic of Monterey County. We are excited to invite them out into different areas of Monterey County that they may have not considered before and we encourage them to grab life by the moments while they're here." Rob O'Keefe, CMO for Monterey County CVB.

Eighteen new locations throughout the county will be available in "Street View" ranging from the wild Fort Ord Dunes State Park to the bustling Fisherman's Wharf near downtown Monterey. Visitors will even be able to map their stroll on the white sands of Carmel Beach or check out the majestic butterflies in Pacific Grove at the Monarch Grove Sanctuary.

"Monterey County is extremely excited to partner with one of the leading technology companies by mapping these locations," said Tammy Blount, President & CEO of the MCCVB. "Many people may not yet have had an opportunity to explore these destinations in person, so we are very happy to have the chance to show these sites to the world."

The Google Trekker device is a backpack-style mounted camera with 15 separate lenses that capture photos every 2.5 seconds. The transportable aspect of the camera allows for an unlimited experience that captures every angle of each location. For a complete list of all the areas in Monterey County that were recently captured visit SeeMonterey.com/streetview.

In Monterey County, Google has previously unveiled panoramic imagery of Pinnacles National Park, Monterey Bay Aquarium, Point Lobos State Reserve, Andrew Molera State Park, Asilomar State beach, Carmel River State Beach, Garrapata State Park, Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park, Limekiln State Park and Marina State Beach.

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ABOUT MONTEREY COUNTY

Monterey County is located 120 miles/192 km south of San Francisco and 345 miles/552 km north of Los Angeles along the classic California corridor. The region boasts 99 miles of prime Pacific Coastline, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, three historic missions, 40,000 acres of premium vineyards, more than 40 tasting rooms, 26 golf courses and over 250 lodging properties. Monterey County includes the Monterey Peninsula, Big Sur, North County and the Salinas Valley. The Monterey Regional Airport (MRY), just three miles from historic downtown Monterey and minutes from the area's major attractions, is served by non-stop flights to and from Las Vegas (LAS), Phoenix (PHX), Los Angeles (LAX), San Diego (SAN) and San Francisco (SFO). www.SeeMonterey.com