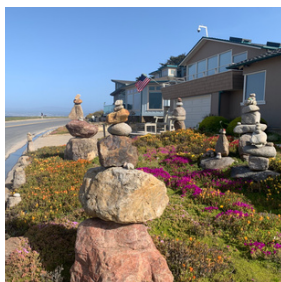


The Great Tidepool

TALES OF PACIFIC GROVE, CALIFORNIA
by local award-winning author, [Brad Herzog](#)

LOOK THE OTHER WAY



The four-mile trek along the entirety of Pacific Grove's coastline, from the Monterey Bay Aquarium to Asilomar State Beach, takes you along Ocean View Boulevard and a section of Sunset Drive. It's a profoundly picturesque excursion, truly a vroom with a view. But it's an even better walk.



Stroll along the seashore, and you can spot harbor seals sunning themselves, waves crashing into rocky outcroppings, sailboats gliding atop the water, occasional whales spouting from below it. You'll walk past Hopkins Marine Station and Berwick Park and Lovers Point and the Great Tide Pool. I have yet to find a coastal town offering scenery more dramatic.



But I'm here to tell you to look the other way.

I don't mean look away. I simply mean this: The next time you stroll along the coast in PG, consider glancing toward the other side of Ocean View. Look inland. I'm not just talking about at the end, when you reach the winding boardwalk that weaves through the 25-acre Asilomar Dunes Natural Preserve. There are little marvels all along the way.



Take your eyes off the ocean for a while, and your journey will take you past a trio of parks: rugged and lush Andy Jacobsen Park, the eucalyptus trees crowding a steep ravine at Greenwood Park, and the towering Monterey cypress trees of Esplanade Park. You'll also pass three breathtaking B&Bs: the former Parkes mansion that is now the Martine Inn; the Green Gables Inn, a Victorian gem constructed in 1888; and the gorgeous Seven Gables Inn, named after an 1850 Nathaniel Hawthorne novel.



You can take a mini architectural tour, starting with a gorgeous, sky-blue, Arts and Crafts-style house at 187 Ocean View. One block later, at 104 1st Street, you can spot the restored Lena Dinsmore House, the only home in Pacific Grove designed by famed architect Julia Morgan. Six blocks after that, you get another glimpse... of the surprising turret built into the "Captain's Castle" at 106 7th Street.



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Seaside houses along the route also offer weird and wonderful ornamentation: the swinging swan gate at 485 Ocean View, the guardian lion statues at 741 Ocean View and 1007 Ocean View; the pirates and cannon at 1017 Ocean View; the series of stacked rock sculptures at 1123 Ocean View; and the massive rusting ship's anchor fronting 1141 Ocean View.



And you'll get a chance to spectate amid the spectacular at the Pacific Grove Golf Links. Peer down the fairway of the closing par 4 18th hole known as "Last Chance." Watch players finesse their shots over Crespi Pond on the short par 3 17th. Wander the length of "Rocky Shores," the par 5 12th that is perhaps the most scenic hole among PG's gasp-inducing back nine. Golf has been erringly described as "a good walk spoiled." In this case, it's part of a very good walk.



So savor the sea in Pacific Grove, but also soak in the other sights. And if you can't do both at once, the solution is simple: Do the trek twice.



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