

A Home and
Travel Magazine

Vacation Rental

travels

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A perfect ocean getaway
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It helps us out greatly when you click on their advertisements to visit their sites and make reservations, visit their location, attend the events they put on, and buy their products. It also signals to our partners that you are interested in what they offer.

Please help keep Vacation Rental Travels free by frequenting our partners, letting others know about our magazine, and [sharing us](#) on your Facebook timeline.

Thank you to this month's sponsor, [Starfish Blue](#), a private retreat on Fiji's Suncoast. If your soul is longing for true paradise, it can be found on the northern tip of Viti Levu, Fiji's main island. Absolute waterfront, but on a bit of a hill, you'll have views of 3 nearby islands, and on very clear days, Vanua Levu, which is 50 miles away.

The water color changes with the tide and the sun, starting out clear where it's sandy, then pale aquamarine, turquoise, then shimmering cobalt blue. A short swim will take you to the edge of the reef where you'll feel like you're in an aquarium- healthy, vibrant coral and darting fish. You can even hear the parrot fish munching on stalks of coral and turning it into sand.

With the upstairs master suite nicknamed "The Penthouse" by happy guests, and 2 ensuite rooms downstairs, a mere 6 steps from the pool, Starfish Blue caters to honeymooners, families and adults traveling together.

Spend some time getting in touch with nature- where Fiji shows off her beauty, above and below the waterline. [Reserve your stay today.](#)



Welcome!

Vacation Rental Travels - where travel inspiration is born! We are a free, digital magazine that highlights the unique experience of vacationing in stylish and comfortable vacation rentals.

Explore hidden garden cottages, sumptuous penthouses, and quirky homes that make traveling a rich and rewarding experience.

You can have any kind of experience in a vacation rental... whether you are on a budget or want lavish pampering. It's all available to you.

Vacation Rental Travels magazine covers the best, most unique, quirky, beautiful, amenities-laden homes for rent to vacationers.

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Mermaid House and the Monterey Bay

By Kathleen K. Poole

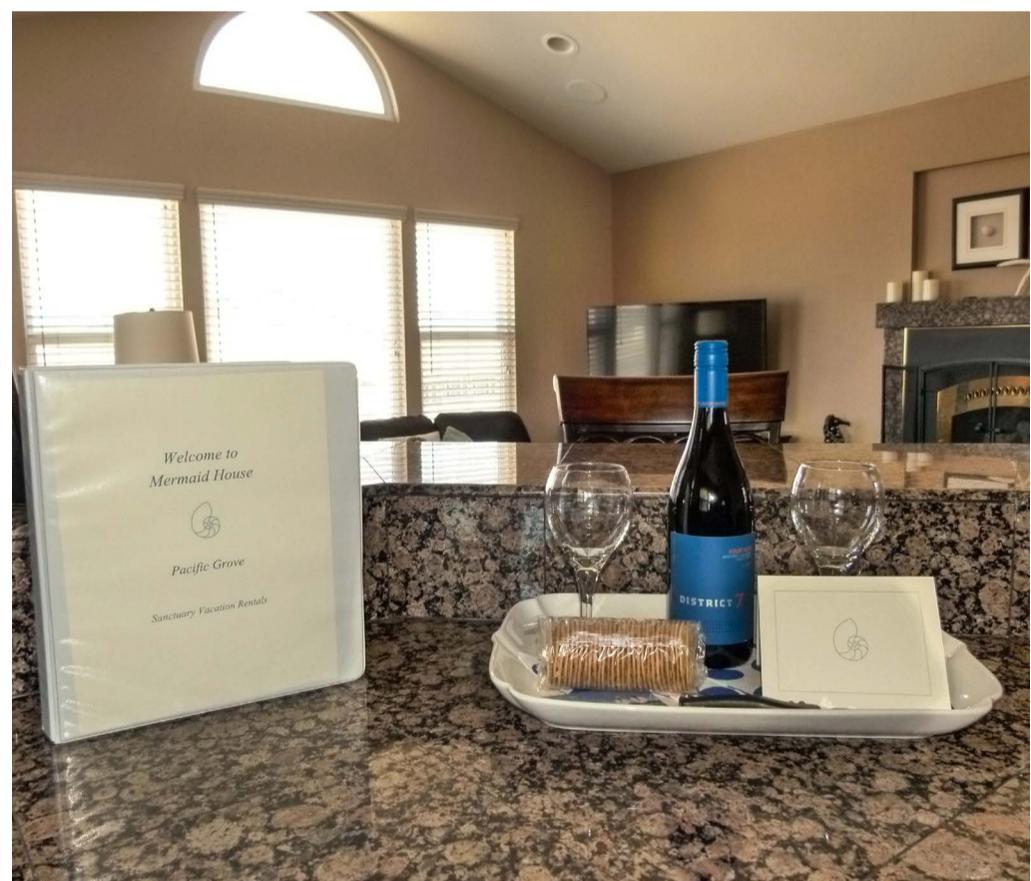
"I feel like I'm breathing real air," Tina, one of the owners of Mermaid House said describing the joy she feels, walking each morning along the ocean's edge. People come to Pacific Grove to smell the sea air, and bicycle or walk trails carpeted with fuchsia ice plant, succulents and wind-blown cypress. Here, visitors find an enclave with a more leisurely pace, lighter traffic and fewer pretensions than nearby tourist destinations. Street parking is free, a unique display of welcoming hospitality.

Every type of accommodation is available to visitors. However, private houses appeal to people who want the informal comradery of home and easy exploration from a central location.

Mermaid House, next to the Lovers Point Inn, is one such house. Visitors pass through the white picket fence and enter a contemporary, two-story, three bedroom, three bath home. The downstairs suite includes a living room decorated with smart brown and aqua sea motifs, wood burning stove, an outdoor patio for cocktails and a barbeque. The adjacent bedroom and full bath provide plenty of places to unpack and stay a while.

At the top of the hardwood staircase, travelers are greeted with a plate of cheese and bottle of wine set out on the marble kitchen counter. The kitchen is fully appointed with a large stainless steel refrigerator, new appliances and the accoutrements necessary in a superb vacation home.

The dining table is already set up for a full dinner. The only requirement is to order take-out or prepare



something picked up at Nob Hill Foods on nearby Lighthouse Avenue.

Large picture windows and second-floor balcony patio off the sumptuously appointed living room offer the ocean view travelers seek. The oversized coffee table ottoman sits in the heart of the living room. Cameras, hats and bags wind up on it and invite visitors to sit on the generous leather sofa and put up their feet. Local guidebooks on the ottoman allow guests to create custom itineraries.

Every room includes a large flat-screen TV and family friendly videos thoughtfully slipped into nearby drawers. Beds have pillow tops, and an assortment of voluptuous cushions that add to the atmosphere of gleaming, low-key luxury. Mermaid House includes well thought out details for each guest's comfort and convenience including a cedar lined walk in closet in the master suite and easily adjusted thermostat for cool mornings and evenings. A one car garage is available while guests make use of the Monterey Bay Trail or take the Pacific Grove Walking Tour.

One hundred and twenty miles south of San Francisco, visitors explore the edge of North America at the level they find most comfortable.

- **They stay dry** at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, the most important attraction at the end of Cannery Row.
- **They'll get moderately wet** in a kayak, exploring the bay from the surface of the ocean.
- **They'll get completely wet** SCUBA Diving in its 48F degree, kelp forests or surfing at Asilomar State Beach.

Even though Monterey is only a mile away, there are many enjoyable activities that start half a block from the front door of Mermaid House.

Things to Do in Pacific Grove

Pacific Grove Walking Tour - History and architectural buffs don't need to walk up to the Chamber to start this fascinating, self-guided outing. Turn right outside the Mermaid house's front door and walk half a block to the corner of 17th Street and Ocean View Blvd. As you walk up 17th Street toward Lighthouse Ave, you'll notice colorful



homes of various historical and architectural styles. [Get the tour on your phone](#) or pick up a brochure from one of two Pacific Grove Chamber of Commerce & Tourist Center locations: 100 Central Avenue, or 584 Central Avenue.

Lovers Point Park - Lovers Point Park is a little jut of rock where, legend says, two lovers jumped off when their families tried to keep them apart. Today, Lovers Point is a central location between the crowd friendly attractions of Cannery Row and the Monterey Bay Aquarium to the north and the chic boutiques and art galleries of Carmel to the south. Instead of jumping, lovers sit and watch pelicans fly in formation or cormorants protect their rocky fortresses.



Stop by for a moment of remembrance at the bench dedicated to those touched by the terrorist attacks on 9-11-2001.

Travel the Shoreline Recreational Trail - Also known as the breathtaking [Monterey Bay Coastal Trail](#), follows the course of the old Southern Pacific Railroad line. It currently extends 18 miles from Pacific Grove to Castroville and is regarded as one of the most scenic, long trails in California. Again, catch the trail half a block from the front door of Mermaid House.

Luck isn't required for visitors to see harbor seals basking on rocky beaches. Fences, installed by The Harbor Seal Sanctuary allow pedestrians to enjoy seals, while protecting them from human and canine interference.

In the morning, instead of walking north to Cannery Row, take the trail south to Point Pinos Lighthouse. It is the oldest lighthouse on the West Coast and still operates today.

Temperatures rarely rise above 72 degrees Fahrenheit and morning and afternoon wind make it feel much cooler. Dress in layers. *You have been warned.*

Saint Mary's By the Sea Episcopal Church - [St. Mary's](#) (146 12th Street at Central Ave.) is the community's first church built in 1887. Sunlight streams through 12 splendid stained glass windows. The crown jewels are two Tiffany windows depicting wisteria in full bloom that Cyrus H. McCormick, a McCormick farm implement heir, donated after his wife's death in 1922. Church staff accommodates visitors who wish to appreciate the atmosphere at their leisure.



Where To Eat

For breakfast the [Red House Café](#) (662 Lighthouse Ave.) is the place. This quaint, early 20th Century red bungalow restaurant offers freshly made dishes such as rich Cinnamon Brioche French Toast, or the light Red House Frittata made with spinach, artichoke hearts and red peppers. Finish with a bowl of bright fruit and honey cream. Friends and visitors alike linger over strong coffee and newspapers discussing current events or their daily outings.

Lunch at [International Cuisine](#) (620 Lighthouse Ave.). This family-friendly restaurant serves seafood, American hamburgers, pizza, pasta and Mediterranean fare with classics from Syria, Greece and Turkey. Portions are generous; the ingredients fresh and juicy.

[Beach House Lovers Point:](#) (620 Ocean View Blvd. at Lovers Point) has The Sunset Supper value menu of fresh seafood and mouthwatering ingredients, is perfect for weary travelers seated before 5:30 pm. One half block from the Mermaid House and on the Monterey Recreation Trail, this newly reopened and popular restaurant is perfect for a relaxing first night in the area. In addition to the large dining room with wall to wall windows, patrons can admire the view from the heated patio, or socialize at the polished bar.

Visitors may also enjoy fine art, wine tasting, world class golf, car shows, water sports and history on the Monterey Peninsula. Explore and enjoy the area from centrally located Mermaid House in Pacific Grove and you'll realize you need to go back, soon, because one weekend or even one week isn't enough.

[Stay in Monterey at the Mermaid house and be just steps away from these adventures. Connect with Sanctuary Vacation Rentals by clicking here, make your reservations, and get your vacation on!](#)



WHO'S ON THE INSIDE?

Each issue we have terrific content created by travel writers from around the world. Without their time and effort, we would not be able to share the wonderful places, glorious vacation homes, and the fun and cool events and activities with you in each issue. We want to not only thank them, but invite you as our valued readers to support them by visiting their websites, subscribing to their publications, and liking them on Facebook or any other social media that you value. It's how we help each other grow.



Camille Miller has been writing since 2011 on a variety of topics. She especially loves introducing people to their next memorable vacation spot, and has a knack for picking out the unique homes and luxurious locations you want to return to again and again. She often writes about her travels with her husband and three crazy kids, who are chiefly responsible for keeping things lively, and who never disappoint.

Theresa St. John is a travel writer and photographer based in Saratoga Springs, New York. Her images can be found on various stock sites and they sell as fine art. She works closely with restaurants on food styling images and is published in many local magazines and on-line magazines. She works with Chambers of Commerce writing tourism articles when visiting their areas. Theresa has two wonderful sons and is "Nonnie" to a number of rescue animals. [Read more about Theresa's adventures on her blog](#)



Kathleen Poole's first travel experiences were road trips with her family to McCall, Idaho, South Dakota's Black Hills, Tonganoxie, Kansas and one trip cross country to Washington DC. She has been blogging for three years at [Adventuring Women](#). She expands on each Pacific Grove activity [covered in this issue here](#). Please feel free to stop by, poke around and leave a comment.

Noreen L. Kompanik is a published freelance travel writer and photographer based out of San Diego CA. Fortunate to have lived overseas as Naval Officer wife, she has traveled extensively and her many Italian and other European adventures have sparked her passions for cooking and wine tasting. She shares her latest adventures, photos, and stories on her [What's In Your Suitcase? Facebook page](#). She is a frequent contributor to several in print and on-line publications.



Mary Beth Cooper is a freelance journalist and copywriter currently based out of Peoria, Illinois. A lifelong lover of travel, she believes that seeing the world is one of the most important elements of a well-rounded life. In her spare time, she researches future expeditions. You can connect with Mary Beth through her company [Cooper Market Connect](#).

Valerie Swiderski - Never traveling much growing up, I caught the travel bug later in life. Raised by self-employed parents, there wasn't much time for travel. I was raised on traditional Midwest food and now have an insatiable appetite when it comes to trying new foods. I enjoy learning about culture through their meal traditions and love learning how to prepare new foods. When I am not traveling abroad, I enjoy exploring the amazing wineries the Midwest has to offer. I often have separation anxiety from TSA and always look forward to exploring the next new place. You can contact Valerie via email: TripsOrTreats13@gmail.com



Dede Sindelar lives her life driven by creativity and adventure as a freelance copywriter. She blends that with her background in wellness and her insatiable appetite traveling to exotic destinations. Her family jokes saying they never have to take out their cameras because she's forever capturing the moment with her photographs. When she isn't busy writing or taking photos, Dede is throwing frisbees for her dog, spending time with her husband and planning their next journey. Please visit [Sindelar Wellness Travel](#) to catch up with Dede.



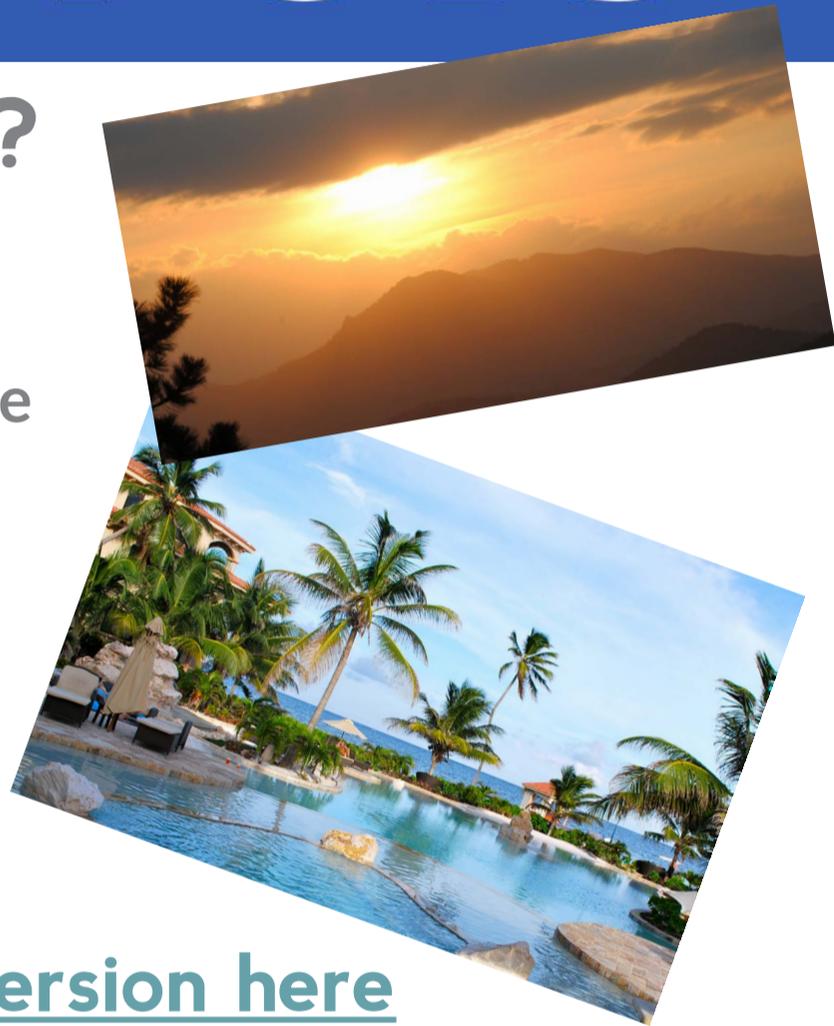
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