

# Monterey County Artichoke Trail

## Branded Road-Trip Map & Half-Day Itinerary

■ Castroville: World's Largest Artichoke	Photo stop at the 20-foot sculpture
■ Pezzini Farms & Choke Coach	Fresh artichokes, fried hearts, cupcakes
■ AgVenture Farm Tour	90-min guided tour & tastings
■ The Giant Artichoke Restaurant	Iconic artichoke-focused menu
■ Ocean Mist Farms (drive by)	California's largest artichoke grower
■ Monterey: Cella & Pearl Hour	Cocktails + dishes with artichokes

## Trail Highlights

\***World's Largest Artichoke** – Iconic 20-foot sculpture in Castroville, perfect for a quick photo op.

\***Pezzini Farms & The Choke Coach** – Visit their farm stand, explore the fields, and enjoy treats like artichoke cupcakes or fried artichoke hearts from their food truck.

\***AgVenture Walking Tour** – A 90-minute guided tour (at Pezzini Farms) showcasing how artichokes are grown, plus sampling options such as deep-fried artichoke hearts or cupcakes.

\***The Giant Artichoke Restaurant** – A classic destination in Castroville with a menu packed with artichoke-forward dishes—from fried hearts to salads, soups, pasta, and veggie burgers.

\***Ocean Mist Farms** – One of North America's largest artichoke growers; while public tours may be limited, it's an agricultural icon worth seeing from the road.

### Castroville to Monterey Dining & Cocktails

\***Flaherty's Seafood Grill & Oyster Bar** (Carmel-by-the-Sea) – Artichoke & crab quesadilla.

\***Cella Restaurant & Pearl Hour** (Monterey) – Known for artichoke-themed cocktails and small bites/creative dishes.

\***Artichoke Festival** (historical note) – While permanently canceled after 2025, the long-running Artichoke Festival has deep roots in Castroville's culture.

### ■ **Notes & Travel Tips:**

- Best season: August for peak crowns.
- Try fried artichoke hearts at Pezzini Farms.
- Plan extra time for photos in Castroville.
- Perfect as a half-day trip along Highway 1.