

Monterey's Fisherman's Wharf Association hosts FREE "Wharf Walks - Walking Tours at Monterey's Old Fisherman's Wharf" every month – the next one is on Saturday, February 1, 2025 with Maritime Historian Tim Thomas. Next one is "The Story of Squid in the Monterey Bay"

Monterey, CA. January 2025 Monterey's Fisherman's Wharf Association is pleased to continue its popular Wharf Walks, led by award-winning Monterey Bay Fisheries Historian and author, Tim Thomas. These fascinating and educational tours offer participants a unique glimpse into the rich cultural history of Monterey's Old Fisherman's Wharf and its surrounding neighborhood.

On Saturday, February 1, 2025, Tim Thomas will lead a special Wharf Walk focused on "The Story of Squid in the Monterey Bay." This 2-hour walking tour will explore the history of Monterey's famous sardine industry, which continues to influence the local cuisine—many of the Wharf's restaurants still serve delicious calamari (squid) today.

The Ode to Calamari Contest continues through January 31st as part of the 180th Anniversary of Old Fisherman's Wharf. (details on MontereyWharf.com's event page).

The free Wharf Walk begins at 10 a.m. and will meet at the head of Old Fisherman's Wharf near the pink "Harbor House" store (#1 Old Fisherman's Wharf, Monterey). **Advance reservations are required**, and participants can reserve their spot by calling Tim Thomas at (831) 521-3304 or emailing timsardine@yahoo.com. The tour is open to ages 10 and up, with a maximum group size of 15 participants.

About Tim Thomas

A fourth-generation native of Monterey, Tim Thomas is a respected historian and engaging tour guide, known for his expertise in the region's maritime history. Tim served as historian and curator for the Monterey Maritime & History Museum for 16 years and has collaborated with notable organizations such as the Monterey Bay Aquarium, California State Parks, and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. He is the author of several books, including *The Abalone King of Monterey: 'Pop' Ernest Doelter* and *The Japanese on the Monterey Peninsula*, and is the co-author of *Monterey's Waterfront*. Tim also serves as the curator of the new Heritage Center/Museum at the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), where he is a board member. He is a 2023 recipient of the prestigious Ed Ricketts Memorial Award.

About Wharf Walks

Monterey's Wharf Walks transport visitors back in time, exploring the captivating history of Old Fisherman's Wharf and Monterey's waterfront. Thousands of years ago, the Rumsien Ohlone people, Monterey's first fishermen, began harvesting the bounties of the Monterey Bay. Since then, the region has seen a diverse array of cultures—Azorean whalers, Chinese squid fishermen, Japanese abalone divers, and Sicilian sardine fishers—all of whom have left an indelible mark on Monterey's fishing industry.

During the Wharf Walk, participants will hear fascinating stories about these cultures and the people who worked on and around the Wharf. The tour covers the early history of Monterey's waterfront, the legendary sardine and squid industries, and the region's vibrant multicultural fishing history. Visitors will discover how this rich heritage has shaped the Monterey Bay area as we know it today.

About Old Fisherman's Wharf

A historic waterfront district, Old Fisherman's Wharf has been a cornerstone of Monterey's fishing and trade industry for over 179 years. Originally built in 1845 for passenger and freight services, the Wharf is now a bustling tourist destination located conveniently near Downtown Monterey and the Monterey Recreation Trail. Visitors can enjoy award-winning dining, embark on whale-watching and fishing excursions, explore local gift shops, and savor sweet treats from one of the Wharf's three candy shops.

Old Fisherman's Wharf is renowned for its vibrant food scene, featuring everything from sustainable seafood and award-winning Italian fare to the Wharf's famous clam chowder and calamari. Visitors can also spot marine wildlife up close, including sea otters, sea lions, dolphins, and even whales, while strolling along the Wharf.

The Wharf is home to four whale-watching tour companies, fishing charters, and glass-bottom boat rides, making it an ideal destination for marine enthusiasts. Old Fisherman's Wharf also hosts Whalefest Monterey, a popular annual event that draws thousands of visitors to celebrate Monterey's rich marine heritage.

Whether you're seeking delicious food, exciting excursions, or a leisurely day by the water, Old Fisherman's Wharf is a must-visit destination on the Monterey Peninsula. For more information about events, tours, and dining options, visit www.montereywharf.com or call (831) 238-0777.