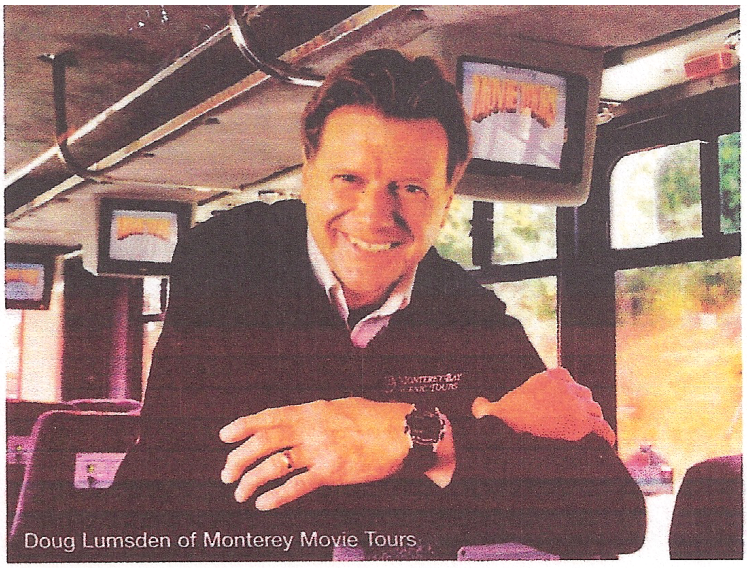
A "Reel" Treat

Think all Monterey has to offer is world-class golf and one of the largest aquariums in the world? Well, think again. Allison Johnston reports on Monterey's newest attraction—a scenic tour exploring the area's cinematic past.


Doug Lumsden of Monterey Movie Tours

Play Misty for Me, *Captains Courageous*, *Turner & Hooch*—these are just a few of the Hollywood classics that have featured California's picturesque Central Coast as their backdrop. Though California is often associated with the film industry because it is home to star-studded Hollywood, one cannot overlook the leading role the Monterey Peninsula has played in countless films. With the help of Doug Lumsden's award-winning Monterey Movie Tours, locals and visitors alike can come to appreciate the rich film history that resides there.

Founded in 2003 by Lumsden, a Monterey native and movie buff, the tour takes visitors on a 3-hour, 32-mile loop through Monterey, stopping at sites where more than 200 films were shot. Aside from being the only daily guided scenic tour of Monterey, Lumsden's operation is also the only guided movie tour in the continental U.S. He believes his tour's appeal lies not in its nearly one-of-a-kind offering, but in its ability to bring famous landmarks to life for true cinema lovers and Monterey Bay visitors alike. "Locals especially," says Lumsden, "love how the tour captures an era of their hometown and showcases the natural beauty of the area to visitors."

Beginning in downtown Monterey where Lumsden's personal favorite, *A Summer Place*, was filmed at Colton Hall, the tour passes through Fisherman's Wharf, historic Cannery Row, the Monterey Bay Aquarium, Pacific Grove, legendary 17-Mile Drive, Carmel-by-the-Sea, and the celebrated Pebble Beach golf course. The bus also stops at Bird Rock and the iconic Lone Cypress Tree, concluding at the world-renowned Lodge at Pebble Beach. In addition to taking walking tours of the sites, Lumsden plays short clips of each movie scene whose site you visit on one of eight overhead monitors inside the luxury tour bus. You can make your visit to Monterey even more star-studded by staying at the pet-friendly Cypress Inn co-owned by legendary screen actress Doris Day, or sampling the local cuisine at Clint Eastwood's restaurant at Mission Ranch Inn in Carmel.

Though Lumsden notes that fewer movies are being shot in Monterey today due to enticing production deals elsewhere, he hopes his tour will help to bring California's majestic Central Coast to the forefront once again. After all, he says, the Monterey Peninsula possesses that rare, yet undeniable "movie-making magic."

Tickets: $55 for adults, $50 for seniors, $35 for children. Customized tours available for private or corporate groups. 800.343.6437, www.montereymovietours.com ■