

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: December 3, 2003

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Historic Monterey Celebrates Twentieth Year of Christmas in the Adobes

Eighteen of Monterey's historic buildings will be lit by candlelight as part of the 20th annual Christmas in the Adobes" celebration, December 11 and 13, 5 to 9 p.m. Along with the hundreds of candlelights, called "luminarias," there will be a variety of musical entertainment, foods, and decorations to get everyone in the holiday spirit.

This is the only time of the year that many of these nineteenth century buildings are open to the public and open in the evening. Most of the historic buildings are in close proximity to each other so that visitors are able to walk, using a self-guided brochure, to any or all of the historic houses. Informed volunteers, docents and staff will be on hand to tell about the unique aspects of the buildings and share stories of their former occupants.

The entertainment and decorations match the history of the building. The Custom House, California's oldest public building, will be the site of a fandango because these lively Spanish dances were actually held in this same building as far back as 1827, when it was built. Casa Soberanes, a home that typifies the Mexican era, will offer musical entertainment from the 1840s, as well as Mexican hot chocolate. For those wanting to know more about the life of John Steinbeck, the Lara-Soto Adobe is the place to see.

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Other historic buildings include: the Larkin House with musician Robert McNamara; the Monterey Museum of Art, Monterey County’s premier cultural centers; Old Whaling Station; Casa Serrano; Casa Amesti; Cooper-Molera Adobe and Diaz Adobe; Casa Gutierrez with the Thomas Kinkade Museum and Cultural Center; Monterey Hotel; Colton Hall, one of the more popular sites; California’s First Theatre; Mayo Hayes O’Donnell Library; Pacific House Museum

For holiday shopping, you will find many items to choose from at the Cooper-Museum Store, J. Boston Store, and Maritime Museum Ship’s Store. And for those seeking Santa, you’ll find him and Mrs. Claus at the House of the Four Winds.

Christmas in the Adobes is sponsored by California State Parks in association with Old Monterey Preservation Society. Ticket prices are \$15 for adults (18 years and older). Children’s tickets (6-17 years old) are \$2. Tickets are limited. Free parking is included with your ticket. Thursday night is encouraged because of smaller crowds.

For more information call (831) 647-6226 or 649-7118.

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Note: Images are available upon request