

Skydive and Monterey Bay, CA

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Beverly had planned to go skydiving for her 70th birthday with her grandsons. Unfortunately, one of them was 4lbs over the maximum weight. Seems minor, but a safety concern. We postponed the skydive for another day we would be in town to give him a chance to lose some weight. The company kept the deposit and applied it when we returned.

We do a lot of traveling, and it was about a year later before we were able to get back to Monterey. With everyone's timing, only Beverly and I could make it.

I had done about 20 solo jumps about 50 years ago living in Calgary. We used old fashioned round canopy like WW2 style with a little maneuverability. The high performance was fairly new and neither the club nor I had the money. Our basic jump altitude was 5,000 feet – keep our gas cost down and typical clouds. We jumped out of a Cessna 182 – small. This was Beverly's first time.

We both did a tandem jump with a jumpmaster attached to us.

Company

The company is Skydive Monterey Bay at the Marina airport. Everyone we worked with was very friendly and helpful.

Besides the location jumping, they are FAA certified to jump at 18,000 feet using a large twin prop plane – Super King Air 200. The typical drop zone jumps out at 8,000 to 10,00 feet.



The price is reasonable. They offer a second jumper with you to take a video of your experience.

Here is their website - <https://skydivemontereybay.com/>



Planning

The airport is about 100 miles south of San Francisco.



Reservations are required due to popularity, arranging jump masters, and plane space. Tickets can be purchased online.

The minimum age is 18 and you need to be in good health. Consult your doctor if you have heart, respiratory or other issues. This is part of the waiver.

The weight limit for the price is 200lbs. The MAXIMUM weight is 250lbs with additional cost and no deviation – Gabe was 254lbs so 4lbs over.

We watch a video, get harnessed up and given instructions on what to expect and do. Then headed to the plane and entered carefully with a jumpmaster attached to us.

We watched the plane before us and could not see or hear the plane from the ground. Beverly was both a bit nervous and excited.

The Jump

We sat straddling a bench to make it easier to move. The views as the plane climbed to the jump location, not directly over the zone due to altitude winds.



Beverly jumped out first. She did not feel like she was falling when jumping out. The jumpmaster puts out a small stabilizing chute to give you stability. You just spread your arms and legs out like a “Y”.



When you are in freefall, there is no sense of “falling”. It is like floating with a lot of wind on you. You can make some funny faces. You’ll be traveling about 120 mph.



Hopefully it does not take very long to get accustomed to the wind and you are calm and wide eyed. You can do slow spins to see the ENTIRE Monterey Bay. You see weird patterns on the ground due to grass, dirt, roads, ponds, etc.



The freefall is about 90 seconds. When the parachute opens – you do NOT go up, you fall away from the camera far slower, so it looks like you go up.

Now there is very little wind in your face and you can focus on more of your surroundings. There are some basic maneuvers you ask for.

When you look at the ground, it appears to zoom in as you get closer. Look at the point that does not move and that is where you are heading. This point will change as you get close to land.

For the landing, you just raise both of your legs up. Do NOT try to stand as the forward momentum with trip both of you. The jumpmaster has you under control. There will be assistants on the ground to help deflate the canopy and help you up.



Then CELEBRATE.
We plan on doing it again!!!



While in the area

Beverly's FAVORITE place is the Monterey peninsula. It's about 10 miles from the airport. We try to stay at Lover's Point Inn or with Beverly being retired military, we can stay at a couple military hotels. We have a tradition of having breakfast at Rosine's Restaurant.

We always go to Fisherman's Wharf for lunch and buy some caramel popcorn. There are whale watching tours from the wharf. Could see or will hear a huge number of sea lions.



Fantastic ocean views with jagged rocks tossing up water.



There is a video of me getting totally soaked when a wave hit some rocks and went straight up about 20 feet over my head. Fortunately, I was standing on a path so the water just pooled in the area.

There is a 17 Mile Avenue drive for a small fee or free on a bike – we use our e-Bikes. Here you can see the iconic “Lone Cypress”.



The quaint city of Carmel-by-the-Sea is a short drive. LOTS of shops and restaurants. We try to come here for dinner with crackers, cheese, summer sausage and wine. One of the best places to watch the sunset over the peninsula. Pebble Beach with the famous golf course is nearby.

