

## San Francisco Area Attractions

- 1) **Golden Gate Bridge:** Built in 1937, this beautiful bridge is 1.7 miles long, spanning the entrance of San Francisco Bay. From the Golden Gate Bridge itself, you can see stunning vistas of San Francisco and Marin County, as well as Alcatraz, Angel Island, and oceangoing liners passing through the bridge's tall red towers. Golden Gate Bridge connects the city of San Francisco with the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Sausalito and the Muir Woods National Monument. You can walk or bicycle across the bridge during daylight hours. Best site for more info: <http://www.golden Gate Bridge.org/visitors/whattodo.php>
- 2) **Sausalito:** This beautiful bayside Victorian town has long been a visitor favorite, with its charming shops and abundance of seafood restaurants. The Sausalito ferry takes you directly from the San Francisco Ferry Building (see schedule at <http://www.golden Gate Ferry.org/schedules/Sausalito.php>). If you're into learning about the history and hydrology of the entire bay, don't miss a visit to the Bay Model (<http://www.spn.usace.army.mil/bmvc/>). One idea: walk or bicycle across the Golden Gate Bridge into Sausalito, then take the Golden Gate Ferry back to San Francisco.
- 3) **San Francisco Cable Cars:** Another must-do in the City. This historic transportation line began in 1873 and is the world's last permanently operational manually operated cable car system, a tramway whose cars are pulled along by cables embedded in the street. We recommend the most popular route, which begins at the foot of Powell and Market streets in the Union Square area (less than two blocks from the Hotel Rex), and ends at Hyde Street in the Fisherman's Wharf neighborhood. It's just a few steps from the San Francisco Maritime Museum and Historical Park, home to historic ships anchored in the Bay (<http://www.nps.gov/safr/index.htm>), and the Buena Vista, where the famous Irish Coffee drink was invented (and is served by the hundreds each day), <http://www.thebuenavista.com/home/home.html>. If you can, also visit the free Cable Car Museum, where you can see the actual giant engines and winding wheels that pull the cable cars. <http://www.cablecarmuseum.org/>. Tickets to ride the cable cars are \$5 each way; if you buy a Muni Passport, you have all-day access to the cable cars, streetcars and buses (\$13 for one day; 3 days, \$20; 7 days, \$26: <http://www.sfcablecar.com/riders.html>).
- 4) **Alcatraz Island:** Alcatraz Island offers a close-up look at the site of the first lighthouse and US built fort on the West Coast, the infamous federal penitentiary long off-limits to the public, and the 18 month occupation by Indians of All Tribes which saved the tribes. Rich in history, there is also a natural side to the Rock - gardens, tide pools, bird colonies, and bay views beyond compare. <http://www.nps.gov/alca/index.htm>. Tour boats depart from Pier 33 daily approximately every 30 minutes from 9am to 4pm. Tickets are \$26 adults, \$16 for children ages 5-11. <http://www.alcatrazcruises.com/>
- 5) **AT&T Park:** a beautiful jewel box of a baseball park located in the South Beach area of San Francisco. <http://sanfrancisco.giants.mlb.com/sf/ballpark/index.jsp>

- 46 6) **Fisherman's Wharf:** Although generally avoided by locals, this teeming tourist mecca offers a  
47 great deal of history, diversions, and dining options. <http://www.fishermanswharf.org/> It's the  
48 departure point for tours of Alcatraz and Angel islands; the terminus of the Powell and Hyde  
49 Street cable car line; the location of the Hyde Street Pier (where the historic ships for the  
50 Maritime Museum are berthed); Ghirardelli Square, site of more shopping and great chocolate  
51 (<http://www.ghirardellisq.com/>); and Pier 39, with its abundant shopping, tourist attractions  
52 and the now-famous sea lions (<http://www.pier39.com/index.cfm>) .  
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- 54 7) **The Palace of Fine Arts and Exploratorium:** In the Marina District by the Golden Gate Bridge,  
55 these attractions offer a mix of learning and tranquil beauty. The Exploratorium is a hands-on  
56 museum covering everything from nature to astronomy, biology to culture...great for kids.  
57 <http://www.exploratorium.edu/> . The Palace of Fine Arts is a monumental structure originally  
58 constructed for the 1915 Panama-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco.  
59 <http://www.exploratorium.edu/palace/index.html>  
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- 61 8) **Lombard Street:** Often billed as the "crookedest street," San Francisco's Lombard Street  
62 (between Hyde and Leavenworth, not far from Ghirardelli Square) is, in fact, neither the  
63 crookedest nor the steepest street in the city, let alone the world. Oddly, that fact doesn't deter  
64 the hordes of tourists who come every year to see this famous street, built with eight  
65 switchbacks on a 40-degree slope. The Powell-Hyde cable car stops at the top of Lombard  
66 Street.  
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- 68 9) **North Beach:** San Francisco's historic Italian neighborhood, North Beach is roughly bounded by  
69 Columbus Avenue, Broadway, Bay Street and Telegraph Hill. Most of the shops and restaurants  
70 are along Grant and Columbus Avenues. The annual North Beach Festival takes place on June  
71 18-19 (while you're here!); <http://www.northbeachchamber.com/>  
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- 73 10) **Chinatown:** the largest and oldest Chinatown outside Asia, this is a tourist favorite. The  
74 famous gateway Dragon Gate is on Bush and Grant, not far from the Union Square  
75 neighborhood and Theater District (where the Hotel Rex is located).  
76 <http://www.sanfranciscochinatown.com/>  
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- 78 11) **Union Square:** One of the city's three original parks, it's now a public space atop a multi-level  
79 underground parking garage and ringed with elegant shops and hotels. The Powell cable car line  
80 begins about a block away, and the theatre district is nearby. The City's best shopping is here,  
81 with Bloomingdale's, Nordstrom, Macy's and Nieman-Marcus all steps away. Very close to the  
82 Hotel Rex. <http://www.unionsquashop.com/>  
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- 84 12) **Coit Tower:** The 210-foot Coit Tower is a monument to the firefighters of San Francisco built in  
85 1933. It boasts panoramic views of the City and San Francisco Bay. It's very close to the famous  
86 crooked section of Lombard Street. The parking lot at the top of the hill is only accessible by  
87 one road, Telegraph Hill Boulevard via Lombard Street.  
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- 89 13) **Ferry Building:** At the foot of Market Street alongside the Embarcadero bayfront, the Ferry  
90 Building is where you catch the ferries to Sausalito, Tiburon, Angel Island and other destinations.  
91 Restored in recent years, it's also become a lively farmers's market, and a great place to dine  
92 and shop. <http://www.ferrybuildingmarketplace.com/>

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94 14) **Golden Gate Park:** This beautiful park fills 1,017 acres within San Francisco. Configured as a  
95 rectangle, it is similar in shape but 20% larger than New York's Central Park.  
96 <http://www.golden-gate-park.com/> With 13 million visitors annually, Golden Gate is the third  
97 most visited city park in the United States. It contains some of San Francisco's most spectacular  
98 museums and scenic escapes, including

99 --The Conservatory of Flowers, opened in 1879. <http://www.conservatoryofflowers.org/>

100 --The Japanese Tea Garden, built in 1894; the oldest Japanese tea garden in the U.S.  
101 <http://japaneseteagardensf.com/>

102 --The **San Francisco Botanical Garden** (formerly Strybing Arboretum), 55 acres with  
103 more than 50,000 individual plants from around the world.  
104 <http://www.sfbotanicalgarden.org/>

105 --The **California Academy of Sciences** is among the largest museums of natural history  
106 in the world (and one of the newest, following a complete rebuild in 2008)  
107 <http://www.calacademy.org/>

108 --de Young Museum: a renowned fine arts museum opened in 1921,  
109 <http://deyoung.famsf.org/>

110 --The Beach Chalet, a great spot to dine at the western edge of the park at Ocean Beach,  
111 <http://www.beachchalet.com/>.

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