



# Sights, Entertainment, Transportation . . .

# Aquatic Park

A lovely lawn that borders the water, and home of the marine memorabilia at the Maritime Museum.

#### BART

The Bay Area Rapid Transit is reminiscent of Disneyland's monorail. It operates streamlined cars that zip beneath, above, and beside city streets. This form of public transit carries hundreds of thousands of commuters into San Francisco daily.

### **Bay Bridge**

The Bay Bridge links San Francisco to the East Bay. Over 8 miles long, this bridge runs through Treasure Island. Railroad trains once ran on the bottom deck of this bridge. The second course ends on the other side of the Bay Bridge.

### The Cannery

A three-story complex of red-brick former factories. The structure was built in 1894 to house the Del Monte fruit-and-vegetable cannery. Shops, art galleries, bookstores, and unusual restaurants now ring the olive-tree courtyard.

#### Chinatown

Though this area is only 16 square blocks, more Chinese live here than anywhere outside of Asia. The gold rush attracted San Francisco's first Chinese immigrants in the 1850's. A decade later thousands more came to help build the Central Pacific Railroad. The architecture and culture that mirrors China of the 1800's can be seen in Chinatown. The main entrance to Chinatown on Grant Avenue is guarded by stone lions on either side of an oriental arch. Grant Avenue is lined with tea rooms, shops, temples, restaurants, and street performers, while the sidewalks of Stockton Avenue are overflowing with fresh produce and other groceries. But most visitors only see the tip of pagodaland. To savor

Chinatown best, explore it on foot, and remember that nighttime is as busy as daytime. You can eat the best of Chinese cuisine here, and the crowd-pleasing Chinese New Year's parade always brings out plenty of firecrackers and the famous gold dragon.

## Coit Tower

Your route may take you past this famous tower located on Telegraph Hill. Rising above its neighbors, the tower was designed roughly in the shape of a firehose nozzle. It was built in 1933 as a monument to the city's volunteer firemen, and its rotunda is decorated with fifteen frescoes done by WPA artists. Lillie Hitchcock Coit, who had an overwhelming fondness for fire engines, provided this memorial. Legend relates that at age seventeen Lillie deserted a wedding party and chased down the street after her favorite engine, Knickerbocker No. 5, clad in her bridesmaid finery. Soon after, she signed herself Lillie Hitchcock Coit 5, in honor of her favorite fire engine. Lillie died in 1929 at the age of eighty-six, leaving the city \$125,000 to erect the 210-foot tower.

### The Embarcadero

If you follow the waterfront, you'll be driving down The Embarcadero with its many shipping piers. At the end of the road is the Embarcadero Center, four skyscrapers connected by a pedestrian mall in one plaza.

# Ferry Building

Just before you drive onto the Bay Bridge, you'll see the Ferry Building. Lit at night, this clock tower by the bay used to tell time for those commuting to San Francisco via ferry boats.

### **Financial District**

Known as the "Wall Street of the West."

#### Fisherman's Wharf

Home of San Francisco's fishing fleet. Fisherman's Wharf features sidewalk stands that sell fresh crab, shrimp cocktails and sourdough bread. Excellent seafood restaurants, shops, boat tours of the bay.

#### Fort Funston

A well-known spot for hang gliders.

### Fort Mason

If you drive along the water, you might pass by Fort Mason, located on the waterfront. This World War II army base has been transformed into a home for many cultural groups, such as theater workshops and art studios. The 39,000-acre Golden Gate National Recreation Area is headquartered here, where a number of booklets and maps, and information on special programs is located.

# Ghirardelli Square

A charming series of brick former factory buildings housing outstanding ethnic restaurants as well as shops. Until the early 1960's, the Ghirardelli Chocolate Company's aromatic production perfumed the northern waterfront.

### Golden Gate Bridge

Built in 1936, the most photographed landmark of San Francisco connects the city to Marin County and the Redwood Empire farther North with 8,981 feet of orange painted steel. Its 1.7 mile span hangs from two steel cables, each 36.5 inches in diameter. Joseph B. Strauss designed the bridge, which opened in 1937 at a cost of \$35.5 million.

# Golden Gate Park

The world's largest human-made park, stretching from the Pacific Ocean to Baker Street, offers 1,017 acres of woods and meadows, lakes and streams, flowers and trees. The "Central Park of the West" spans nearly half the width of the city. The transformation of sand dunes to park grounds was begun in 1877 by John McLaren. Golden Gate Park is also the home of the California Academy of Sciences, the De Young Museum and other cultural sites.

# **Hyatt Regency**

Located in the center of The Embarcadero and topped by a rotating restaurant, this hotel sports a spectacular atrium, rising 170 feet.

#### Lake Merced

A U-shaped reservoir used by joggers, rowers, and picnickers.

# Lincoln Park

As you turn right on Geary Boulevard, you'll pass by this beautiful park on the left with Monterey cypresses guarding its golf course. Lincoln Park is also the home of the California Legion of Honor with its fine collection of French paintings.

### **Lombard Street**

Coined "The Crookedest Street in the World."

## Moscone Center

Opened December 2, 1981, this superblock at Third and Howard occupies eleven acres. This mostly-underground hall is distinguished by a glass-and-girder lobby at street level and a land-scaped lawn over the roof.

# Olympic Country Club

One of the world's most famous golf courses.

#### Presidio

As Lincoln Boulevard turns left, you'll be bordering the Presidio, the oldest active military base in the nation. Established by the Spanish in 1776, this military garrison is now the Headquarters of the United States Sixth Army. Its more than fifteen hundred acres of rolling hills and majestic woods and attractive red-brick barracks and stables present an air of serenity in the middle of the city. A small museum displays historical memorabilia of the early Spanish and U.S. occupants. Composed of 1500 acres of beautiful wooded hills, the Presidio has been declared a National Historic Landmark.

### San Francisco Zoo

The beginning of the San Francisco Zoo was the arrival of an inhabitant, a grizzly bear named Monarch, a gift of the San Francisco Examiner. Not until 1940 was the major portion of the present zoo completed, at its current site just northwest of Lake Merced. Presently, of the 1000 animals, more than 130 have been designated as endangered species. Very new is Gorilla World, a \$2 million exhibit almost an acre in size, the world's largest and most natural captive-gorilla habitat.

#### South of Market Area

South of Market is the Mission District, one of the oldest and most polyglot areas of San Francisco. Called "SoMa" for short in homage to SoHo in New York, this entire area is undergoing a renaissance in the arts with new galleries and clubs opening almost overnight. Between Mission and the bay is the Potrero District, mostly industrial but with a growing residential area of refurbished Victorians and low-rise apartments. Both Mission and Potrero are on the rise while still rather seedy.

# Transamerica Building

Immortalized in ads, this structure is the best-known of San Francisco's skyscrapers and seems to have been inspired by the pyramids of Egypt.

### Treasure Island

The Bay Bridge runs through this man-made island, an island which was created for the 1939 Golden Gate International Exposition.

# **Union Square**

Located near the Financial District, this shopping mecca is lined with fabulous shops and boutiques. Much of the glamour and gloss of San Francisco is centered in this one-block spree of high-fashion stores, international hotels, and some drifters sunning, preaching, and panhandling in the carefully cared-for park three or four blocks south of Chinatown. Named for the pro-Union gatherings held here during the Civil War.

# Facts, Figures, and Helpful Hints . . .

# Population

San Francisco is the 4th most populous city in California. A January 1, 1989 estimate puts the city's population at 731,700, behind Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Jose.

# **Earthquake Territory**

Two main fault zones divide the city into three main blocks, each composed of different kinds of rocks. When the rocks move suddenly along the larger faults, the result is an earthquake. The San Andreas Fault, responsible for the 1906 quake, does not appear within San Francisco but it crosses the ocean floor just off the Golden Gate.

## Hotels and Motels

San Francisco is singularly blessed with many distinguished hotels of world renown, as well as charming bed-and-breakfast hideaways, convenient and popular chain motels, and affordable accommodations throughout the city. However, it is essential to have confirmed reservations. In addition to its business and vacation guests, the city hosts major events, causing acute shortages of hotel rooms.

### Seasonal Events

Throughout the year, the San Francisco Bay Area hosts all types of events: Chinese New Year festivities, St. Patrick's Day Parade, San Francisco Examiner Bay to Breakers Race, and the Japanese Fall Festival, to name a few. For information, try the San Francisco Convention and Visitors Bureau which publishes a series of free booklets and maps on San Francisco.



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