



American Sky
USA Travel Specialist

24 HOURS IN

SAN FRANCISCO



At American Sky, we offer a number of holiday options if you'd like to visit San Francisco. You can choose to stay in one of the city's fabulous hotels through one of our packages or alternatively we run a number of tours that stop off in the city, including the [American Sky Western Discovery Tour](#).

Offering scenic beauty, world class cuisine, diverse communities, renowned landmarks and cultural attractions, you certainly won't be stuck for things to do in this most European of American cities. You may only be in San Francisco for a short time, but that doesn't mean you can't make the most of your visit. In fact, that's just why we've created this guide. Thanks to the city's relatively small size of 49 square miles, San Francisco is pretty easy to get around (provided you don't mind walking up the odd hill).

Still, it can be tough to figure out what you simply can't leave the city without seeing. As such, we have created this guide to our San Francisco must-sees to help you know where to start.

At the end of the guide, you will find a directory of all the places we have mentioned so you know where to find them and how to get in touch if you want to find out more.

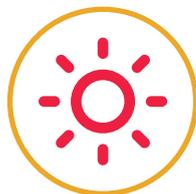
How to use this guide

First, you will see our top tips section. These are just a few notes to help you on your way before you've even set foot near a cable car.

The rest of the guide is then split into four sections:



MORNING



AFTERNOON



EVENING



NIGHT

Symbol key

Throughout the guide, you'll see a number of symbols. These are to help you quickly identify the following things:

 = Free

 = Cheap

 = Average

 = Expensive

 = Very Expensive

 = Family Friendly

 = Food & Drink

 = Shopping

 = Arts & Culture

 = Outdoor

 = Star Attraction

 = Nightlife



TOP TIPS

Bring warm clothes

San Francisco has a pretty steady climate all year round, with the warmest months being September and October. However, even during these months, temperatures rest around the low twenties (Celsius) and it all gets very foggy. Bring layers to keep comfortable but you probably won't need the thermal gloves.

Wear comfortable shoes

San Francisco's hills are almost as famous as its Golden Gate Bridge. Although you can use public transport to help you some of the way (more about that in a moment), wear a pair of shoes you know you can clock up the miles in. There's no need to let sore feet ruin the awesome experience that San Francisco has to offer.



Make dinner reservations

Eating in San Francisco is big for both locals and visitors. If you've got your heart set on dining at one of the most popular restaurants in the city, it's a good idea not to leave it to chance. However, don't be too downhearted if you can't get in where you first wanted to; there are plenty of options out there and many are just a stroll away.

Use public transport

San Francisco is well served by public transport and taking advantage of the network is a good way to avoid parking fines. The city's two main systems are BART, the subway line that runs through San Francisco from further afield, and Muni, a large network of buses, street cars, trolleys and trains. For \$14, you can buy a one-day Muni passport for unlimited travel on the network (excluding BART).





Cable Cars & Breakfast



What better way to start your day in San Francisco than with a ride on one of the city's iconic cable cars? San Francisco's trolley network is the world's last manually operated cable car system and is one of the city's big tourist attractions. Your Muni day passport will cover your journey fare, too, because the cable cars are part of their network. Catch the California Street line to avoid the crowds or the Powell Street line for the tourist-tastic experience. If you are in the mood for an early morning shop, stop off at Union Square for mainstream, high street and designer stores. If not, just keep heading towards the Ferry Building at the Embarcadero.

If you have skipped breakfast then the Ferry Building is the perfect place to grab a delicious meal, especially if the Ferry Building Farmers Market is on the day you visit. A foodie's paradise, the market prides itself on showcasing small regional producers offering world-class food and drink. You'll also find a number of famous restaurants here serving everything from American to Vietnamese food.

Cable cars

California Street line or Powell Street line



Union Square

San Francisco, CA 94108



Ferry Building and Farmers Market

1 Ferry Building



MarketBar

1 Ferry Building



The Slanted Door

1 Ferry Building



Gott's Roadside

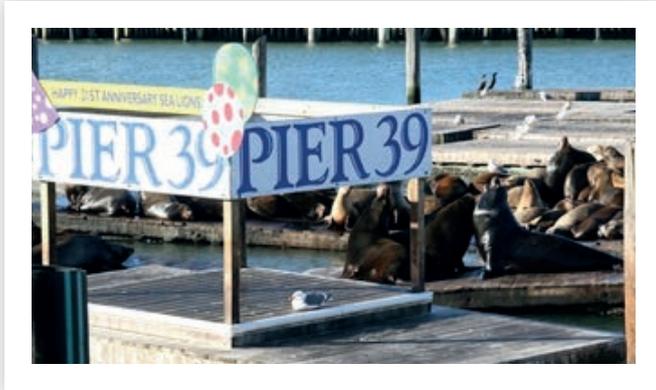
1 Ferry Building, Space #6





MORNING

Attractions



If you were awake early enough, you should still have time to visit Fisherman's Wharf before it gets too busy. Here you will find the famous Pier 39 for restaurants, shopping, live entertainment and sea lions. Explore the historic vessels at the San Francisco Maritime National Park, try your luck at the penny arcade of the Musee Mecanique or be astounded by Ripley's Believe It or Not! If you didn't fill up at breakfast then don't miss this opportunity to try one of the stands serving fresh seafood, including the famous Dungeness crab and sourdough.

If you're a big sports fan and don't fancy the bustle of Fisherman's Wharf, head south east from the Embarcadero to the AT&T Park instead - home of the San Francisco Giants - to enjoy baseball, San Francisco style.

On your way to North Beach, make a detour to the Coit Tower. You can get a Muni bus from Fisherman's Wharf or, if you're in the mood for a bracing uphill walk, you can tackle the steps (parking is very limited). Inside the tower's base, you will find murals by 27 different artists. Head to the top of the tower (less than \$10) for a stunning view of the city below then wander back through the surrounding Pioneer Park.

Fisherman's Wharf

Pier 39, Concourse #2



Pier 39

2 Beach Street



San Francisco Maritime National Park

499 Jefferson Street



Musee Mecanique

Pier 45, Shed A, Fisherman's Wharf



Ripley's Believe It or Not!

175 Jefferson Street



AT&T Park

24 Willie Mays Plaza



Coit Tower

1 Telegraph Hill Boulevard





AFTERNOON

Lunch



Once in North Beach proper, you will find yourself in San Francisco's Little Italy, the historic centre of beatnik subculture. Grab a bite to eat (and a cup of coffee to wake you up if you're feeling a little tired after your jam-packed morning) at Caffe Trieste, which is best known as the hangout of '50s beatnik heroes including Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg. You really will be spoilt for choice of cafes, restaurants and bakeries here.

Take a stroll down the North Beach streets to discover small and busy Italian coffee houses that pride themselves as much on their desserts as they do their beverages or try one of the delicious seafood restaurants. And of course, a trip to Little Italy wouldn't be complete without tasting the delicious dried meats and sausages of an authentic Italian deli. You'll find a few of our favourite places to grab a bite to eat on the right.

Caffe Trieste

609 Vallejo Street



Sotto Mare

552 Green Street



Caffe Puccini

411 Columbus Avenue



XOX Truffles

754 Columbus Avenue



Molinari's

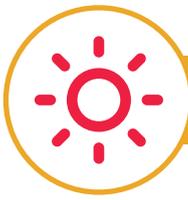
373 Columbus Avenue



Cavalli Cafe

1441 Stockton Street





AFTERNOON

Shopping, the Golden Gate Bridge & Alcatraz



For shoppers looking for the independent spirit San Francisco is so proud of, North Beach is the perfect place. For Kerouac and Ginsberg-esque vibes, head to the City Lights bookstore. A San Francisco landmark, this store boasts three floors of books. Music fans should try 101 Music, while hat fans should not miss Goorin Brothers. Looking for all-round custom tailoring? Try Al's Attire. For more boutiques and cafes, take a stroll (or a brisk walk – you've only got 24 hours after all) down Grant Avenue.

Next, jump back on the Muni and head towards the Golden Gate Bridge. One of the most famous bridges in the world, this rust-coloured feat of engineering offers unparalleled views of San Francisco and the surrounding bay. Drive, walk or bike its 1.7 mile span and you'll see Alcatraz to the east of the bridge.

Explore the infamous Alcatraz prison island by booking your place with Alcatraz Cruises. It takes about 15 minutes to get there by boat and you can make your tour last as long as you like (just make sure you don't miss the last boat). Places on these trips can get booked up pretty quickly, so book a few days in advance if you can. If not, try your hotel concierge for tickets.

City Lights

261 Columbus Avenue



101 Music

1414 Grant Avenue



Goorin Brothers

1612 Stockton Street



Al's Attire

1300 Grant Avenue



Golden Gate Bridge

San Francisco, 94129



Alcatraz

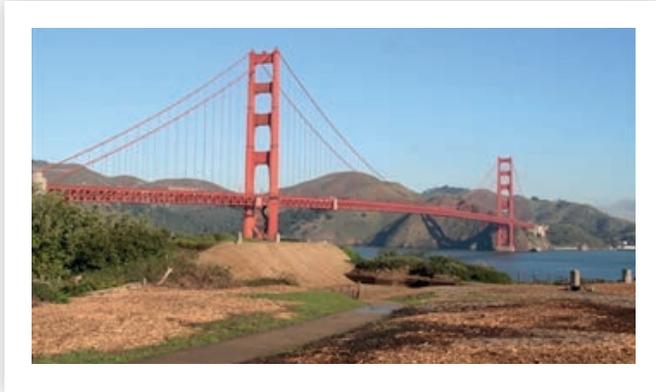
Cruise from Pier 33, Hornblower Alcatraz Landing





AFTERNOON

Golden Gate Park & Attractions



Back on dry land, head to the beautiful Golden Gate Park on the west side of the city. Often compared to New York's Central Park because of its rectangular shape, this park is actually even larger than its brother in the Big Apple. Yet another beautiful part of the city where you could easily spend a whole day, you can choose from a wide range of activities to help you while away the last hour or so of the afternoon.

Take a ride on the Golden Gate Park Carousel on Kezar Drive and marvel at its collection of fanciful characters including a dragon, a camel, a tiger and, of course, horses. Head to the De Young Museum to see art from all around the world, including paintings, sculptures and an impressive permanent collection. In the park you will also find the Conservatory of Flowers, the magnificent California Academy of Sciences, the Japanese Tea Garden and even the odd buffalo or two in the Buffalo Paddock.

Golden Gate Park

501 Stanyan Street



Golden Gate Park Carousel

Kezar Drive



De Young Museum

50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive



California Academy of Sciences

55 Music Concourse Drive



Conservatory of Flowers

100 John F Kennedy Drive



Japanese Tea Garden

75 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive





EVENING

Haight, Hayes Valley & Castro



Adjacent to the eastern edge of Golden Gate Park (and indeed visible from the park's famous Hippie Hill) you will find the district of Haight, considered by many as the birthplace of American counter-culture and the epicentre of the Summer of Love. If it's not too late in the evening, now is the perfect time to explore some of the boutiques and shops the district has to offer. Favourites include Amoeba Music and Booksmith. Keep heading east and you will find yourself in another of the city's fashionable and favourite shopping districts, Hayes Valley.

As with most places in the gourmand's paradise that is San Francisco, you won't struggle to find somewhere delectable to dine, whatever your budget. If you are feeling flush, try Absinthe (the restaurant, not the drink) or Jardiniere. If you miss the Italian offerings of North Beach already, try Caffè delle Stelle. For Brazilian cuisine, check out Canto do Brasil and for good burgers California style try Flipper's.

South of Hayes you'll find the district of Castro, known as one of the USA's first gay districts. Head to the famous 1920s movie palace The Castro Theatre to catch a classic screening and hear the Wurlitzer organ being played.

Amoeba Music

1855 Haight Street



Booksmith

1644 Haight Street



Absinthe

398 Hayes Street



Jardiniere

300 Grove Street



Caffè delle Stelle

395 Hayes Street



Canto do Brasil

41 Franklin Street



Flipper's

482 Hayes Street



The Castro Theatre

429 Castro Street





NIGHT

Chinatown & Mission



If you fancy flavouring your evening with a taste of the orient, San Francisco's Chinatown is not to be missed. As the oldest Chinatown in North America, this district features pagoda roofs, dragon parades and, of course, a whole host of Asian restaurants.

Just east of Castro you'll find the district of Mission. This area is the epicentre of San Francisco's Latino culture and, thanks to landmarks such as Mission Dolores and Dolores Park plus many galleries, street murals, public art projects and performance spaces, is a delight to explore in the daytime. However, it is when the sun goes down that the Mission district really shines.

Although it's probably too late to take advantage of the Tartine Bakery's delectable offerings, try Bar Tartine for some of San Francisco's famous seafood. For fabulous French cuisine, try the Michelin-starred Saison or for Peruvian try Limon Rotisserie. For Italian, Pizzeria Delfina is a favourite, while there are also a multitude of taquerias dotted around the neighbourhood, offering the Mission's take on Mexican food.

In terms of nightlife, aside from the impromptu sessions from mariachi bands, you'll also find a lot of indie, soul, funk and jazz music here.

Bar Tartine

561 Valencia Street



Saison

2124 Folsom Street



Limon Rotisserie

1001 South Van Ness Avenue



Pizzeria Delfina

3621 18th Street



Elbo Room

647 Valencia Street



Bruno's

2389 Mission Street



Savanna Jazz Club

2937 Mission Street



The Latin American Club

3286 22nd Street



VISITING SAN FRANCISCO WITH AMERICAN SKY

If you would like more information on [American Sky holidays to San Francisco](#), or would like to make a booking, please contact our expert travel team on:



08432 495814 (UK)

066 7164410 (Eire - Tralee)

01 664 9900 (Eire - Dublin)

Alternatively you can send us an email by clicking [here](#).

DIRECTORY

101 Music

1414 Grant Avenue, San Francisco, 94133
(415) 392-6369

Absinthe

398 Hayes Street, San Francisco, 94102
(415) 551-1590
<http://www.absinthe.com/>

Amoeba Music

1855 Haight Street, San Francisco, 94117
(415) 831-1200
<http://www.amoeba.com/>

Al's Attire

1300 Grant Avenue, San Francisco, 94133
(415) 693-9900
<http://alsattire.com/>

AT&T Park

24 Willie Mays Plaza, San Francisco, 94107
(415) 972-1800
<http://sfgiants.com>

Bar Tartine

561 Valencia Street, San Francisco, 94110
(415) 487-1600
<http://www.bartartine.com/>

Booksmith

1644 Haight Street, San Francisco, 94117
(415) 863-8688
<http://www.booksmith.com/>

Bruno's

2389 Mission Street, San Francisco, 94110
(415) 643-5200
<http://www.brunosf.com/>

Caffe delle Stelle

395 Hayes Street, San Francisco, 94102
(415) 252-1110
<http://www.dellestelle.com/>

Caffe Puccini

411 Columbus Avenue, San Francisco, 94133
(415) 989-7033

Caffe Trieste

609 Vallejo Street, San Francisco, 94133
(415) 392-6739
<http://www.caffetrieste.com/index.html>

California Academy of Sciences

55 Music Concourse Drive, San Francisco, 94118
(415) 379-8000
<http://www.calacademy.org/>

DIRECTORY

Canto do Brasil

41 Franklin Street, San Francisco, 94102
(415) 626-8727
<http://www.cantodobrazilrestaurant.com/>

The Castro Theatre

429 Castro Street, San Francisco, 94114
(415) 621-6120
<http://www.castrotheatre.com/>

Cavalli Cafe

1441 Stockton Street, San Francisco, 94133
(415) 421-4219
<http://cavallicafe.com/>

City Lights

261 Columbus Avenue, San Francisco, 94133
(415) 362-8193
<http://www.citylights.com/>

Coit Tower

1 Telegraph Hill Boulevard, San Francisco, 94133
(415) 362-0808

Conservatory of Flowers

100 John F Kennedy Drive, San Francisco, 94118
(415) 831-2090
<http://www.conservatoryofflowers.org/>

De Young Museum

50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive, San Francisco, 94118
(415) 750-3600
<http://deyoung.famsf.org/>

Dolores Park

566 Dolores Street, San Francisco, 94110
(415) 554-9529

Elbo Room

647 Valencia Street, San Francisco, 94110
(415) 552-7788
<http://www.elbo.com/>

Ferry Building and Ferry Building Farmers Market

1 Ferry Building, San Francisco, 94111
(415) 983-8030
<http://www.ferrybuildingmarketplace.com>

Fisherman's Wharf

Pier 39 Concourse #2, San Francisco, 94133
(415) 674-7503
<http://www.fishermanswharf.org/>

Flipper's

482 Hayes Street, San Francisco, 94102
(415) 552-8880

Golden Gate Bridge

San Francisco, 94129
(415) 455-2000
<http://goldengatebridge.org/>

Golden Gate Park

501 Stanyan Street, San Francisco, 94117
(415) 750-5105
<http://www.golden-gate-park.com/>

Goorin Brothers

1612 Stockton Street, San Francisco, 94133
(415) 402-0454
<http://www.goorin.com/>

Gott's Roadside

1 Ferry Building, Space #6, San Francisco, 94111
(415) 318-3423
<http://gotts.com/>

Jardiniere

300 Grove Street, San Francisco, 94102
(415) 861-5555
<http://www.jardiniere.com/>

DIRECTORY

Japanese Tea Garden

75 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive, San Francisco, 94118
(415) 752-1171
<http://japaneseteagardensf.com/>

The Latin American Club

3286 22nd Street, San Francisco, 94110
(415) 647-2732

Limon Rotisserie

1001 South Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, 94110
(415) 821-2134
<http://www.limonsf.com/>

MarketBar

1 Ferry Building, San Francisco, 94111
(415) 434-1100
<http://www.marketbar.com/>

Molinari's

373 Columbus Avenue, San Francisco, 94133
(415) 421-2337

Musee Mecanique

Pier 45, Shed A, Fisherman's Wharf, San Francisco, 94133
(415) 346-2000
<http://www.museemechanique.org/>

Pier 39

2 Beach Street, San Francisco, 94133
<http://www.pier39.com/>

Pizzeria Delfina

3621 18th Street, San Francisco, 94110
(415) 552-4055
<http://pizzeriadelfina.com/>

Ripley's Believe It or Not!

175 Jefferson Street, San Francisco, 94133
(415) 202-9850
<http://www.ripleys.com/sanfrancisco/>

Saison

2124 Folsom Street, San Francisco, 94110
(415) 828-7990
<http://www.saisonsf.com/splash.html>

San Francisco Maritime National Park

499 Jefferson Street, San Francisco, 94109
(415) 447-5000
<http://www.nps.gov/safr/index.htm>

Savanna Jazz Club

2937 Mission Street, San Francisco, 94110
(415) 285-3369
<http://www.savannajazz.com/>

The Slanted Door

1 Ferry Building, San Francisco, 94111
(415) 861-8032
<http://www.slanteddoor.com/>

Sotto Mare

552 Green Street, San Francisco, 94133
(415) 398-3181
<http://www.sottomaresf.com/>

Tartine Bakery

600 Guerrero Street, San Francisco, 94110
(415) 487-2600
<http://www.tartinebakery.com/>

XOX Truffles

754 Columbus Avenue, San Francisco, 94133
(415) 421-4814
<http://www.xoxtruffles.com/>

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