

# "Must Visit Attractions in San Francisco"

Created by: Cityseeker

 16 Locations Bookmarked



 by Beland 

## Japantown

"A Peep into Japan"

San Francisco Japantown Center is a major attraction that reflects Japanese regalia and arts and crafts through a number of showrooms, galleries and bookstores. Its almost like a mini-Japan in the heart of San Francisco. Also known as Nihonmachi, the area serves as a rich treasure of Japanese culture and tradition in the form of clothes, literature and the like, perennially stacked in the several stores tucked inside the center. Japantown also has movie theaters and hotels.



 +1 415 391 2000 (Tourist Information)

 [www.sfjapantown.org/](http://www.sfjapantown.org/)

 Japantown, San Francisco CA

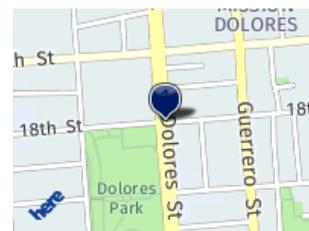


 by Mélanie Lacroix (mle\_farfalle) 

## Mission Dolores Park

"The City's Recreational Space"

Dolores Park is one of the main hot spots in San Francisco and is the major meet-up place for many citizens. Though it is not very large, it attracts crowds of people and the beautiful views make it worth the visit. Recreational resources include a few tennis courts, basketball courts, two soccer fields and a children's playground, but most of all Dolores Park is often used as a venue for special events such as movies in the park. Its surrounding area is known for some of San Francisco's major culinary attractions: Delfina, Pizzeria Delfina and the Tartine Bakery. It is also a great place to chill with some ice cream from the Bi-Rite Creamery. Saturday hang-outs in the park are often events themselves and it's always packed on weekends. Given its location, it's almost always sunny; the famous fog knows better than to ruin the oasis that is Dolores Park. Whether you choose to sit in Dog Beach, Hipster Beach, Speedo Ridge or partake in actual activity at the playground or tennis courts you are sure to have an unforgettable time.



 +1 415 831 2700 (City Park Council)

 [sfrecpark.org/892/Mission-Dolores-Park](http://sfrecpark.org/892/Mission-Dolores-Park)

 19th Street and Dolores Street, San Francisco CA



 by Benson Kua 

## Union Square

"Shopping, Dining & More"

Since the beginning of the 20th Century, Union Square has been the centerpiece of the city's shopping district. With big names like Burberry, Emporio Armani, Macy's and Kate Spade lining the streets, this is the place to go for retail therapy. If you need to fuel up after a long day of shopping, Union Square has a variety of dining options, from the ultra-posh to the quick stops. At the heart of the square, a large open-air plaza is bustling year round with art sales, musical performances and holiday decorations. In the center of it all stands a huge stone monument, which was built in 1903 and crowned with a bronze statue of Victory.



 [www.visitunionsquaresf.com/](http://www.visitunionsquaresf.com/)

 [info@visitunionsquaresf.com](mailto:info@visitunionsquaresf.com)

 333 Post Street, San Francisco CA



by Bobak Ha'Eri

## Grace Cathedral

### "Neo-Gothic Landmark"

This impressive structure crowning Nob Hill was built on the site of the Crocker Mansion after the 1906 earthquake and fire. One of the main attractions of the cathedral are the stained glass windows. These windows showcase over 1000 figures, with some of them dating back as far as the 1930s. The gilded bas-reliefs that adorn the doors of the main entrance are cast from Ghiberti's original molds for the Gates of Paradise that adorn the Baptistery in Florence. The cathedral also boasts two labyrinths. The outdoor one is made of Terrazzo stone and the indoor one from limestone.



+1 415 749 6300

[www.gracecathedral.org/](http://www.gracecathedral.org/)

[Info@gracecathedral.org](mailto:Info@gracecathedral.org)

1100 California Street, San Francisco CA



by Janitors

## Chinatown

### "Non-Stop Bustle"

Chinatown, one of the busiest areas in the city, is a hodgepodge of shops, restaurants and businesses of every kind. The vibrant and close-knit community that lives within this neighborhood has also made it one of San Francisco's top tourist destinations. Thankfully, there are many side streets, quiet shops and traditional restaurants that provide some relief from the bustle outside. Try your luck at one of the hundreds of dining options in the area, especially those serving Dim Sum, as they can be some of the best in the city. Also make sure to stop in some of the small herbal shops for some unusual trinkets and art.



+1 888 212 3203

[www.sanfranciscochinatown.com/](http://www.sanfranciscochinatown.com/)

[info@sanfranciscochinatown.com](mailto:info@sanfranciscochinatown.com)

Chinatown, San Francisco CA



by Allie\_Caulfield

## Haight-Ashbury

### "Heart of the Hippie"

Haight-Ashbury is a district in San Francisco named after the intersections of Haight and Ashbury Streets, known to many as The Haight. It encompasses the area from Golden Gate Park and Oak Street to Baker Street and the Buena Vista Park. This district is famous for its role in the 1960s hippie movement, and remains a popular tourist attraction for its bohemian vibe. Many restored Victorian houses can still be found gracing the streets in the neighborhood.



+1 415 391 2000 (Tourist Information)

Haight Street and Ashbury street, San Francisco CA



by Daniel Schwen

## North Beach

### "Rich History, Vibrant Neighborhood"

The history of North Beach, a San Francisco neighborhood nestled between Telegraph and Russian Hill, is as rich and storied as they come. The area's vibrant past encompasses the formation of San Francisco's Little Italy, the Barbary Coast and the Beatnik traditions that have become so synonymous with this small section of city. The Italian influence is still ever-present today with some of the best Italian restaurants and cafes lining the streets of Columbus Avenue. Caffè Trieste is a must-see for espresso lovers and movie buffs (Francis Ford Coppola wrote parts of The Godfather sitting in this cafe). The infamous Beatnik generation called Grant Street their home in the 1960s and City Lights Bookstore and Cafe Vesuvio are the historic hangouts still popular today among the literary and liberal crowds. North Beach is also home to Lombard street, affectionately named the worlds "crookedest street" and one of the biggest tourist destinations in San Francisco. If you have enough energy to climb Coit Tower, you will find some of the best views offered in the city and may even catch a glimpse at the celebrated wild parrots that flock here.



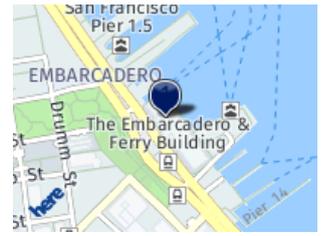


by Meriç Dağlı on Unsplash

## Ferry Building Marketplace

### "Waterfront Icon"

The Ferry Building Marketplace is a must-see for San Francisco visitors. This multi-million dollar development has an abundance of activities for the entire family. The marvelous building was designed by renowned architect Arthur Page Brown in Beaux Arts Style. Similar to that of the iconic Giralda Bell Tower in Seville, the clock tower of this building is a popular landmark and can be seen from afar. Take a tour of the historic Ferry Building, browse through antique shops, enjoy a view by the bay and a bowl of chowder at Ferry Plaza Seafood or buy organic produce at the Farmer's Market. Enjoy the sights and sounds of what makes the Ferry Building one of the Bay's most popular destinations for entertainment, food, and fun.

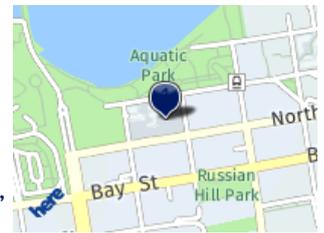


by Towerman86 at en.wikipedia

## Ghirardelli Square

### "Shopping, Dining & Chocolate"

Don't leave San Francisco without a stroll through this legendary square near Fisherman's Wharf, which is named after San Francisco's original chocolate-maker. There is a bakery and several restaurants and, of course, there's the Ghirardelli Ice Cream Shop where you can savor the deliciousness of the old-fashioned Ghirardelli sundae or buy some sweet goodies to bring back. Take some time and visit the art galleries, gift and specialty stores, and shoe and clothing shops.



by Dougtone

## Fisherman's Wharf

### "Tourist Hot Spot"

Fisherman's Wharf remains one of San Francisco's most popular tourist destinations. The Wharf consists of a long, waterfront row of seafood restaurants, street vendors, souvenir stores and beautiful ocean scenery. Fisherman's Wharf was originally a major fishing pier, and although San Francisco fishing industry is alive and well, it mainly appeals to the masses as a tourist sight. Some of the wharf's main attractions include Pier 39, Ghirardelli Square, Musee Mecanique and Madame Tussauds among many others. The wharf's shores are beautified by the presence of the majestic Balao-class submarine USS Pampanito. Parking is limited on the wharf itself so parking downtown would be highly recommended.

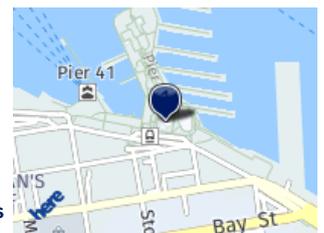


by Peter K Burian

## Pier 39

### "Fisherman's Wharf's Major Attraction"

This San Francisco landmark features some of Fisherman's Wharf's best shopping and attractions. Ride the carousel, people watch, or take in views of the bay. There are more than 25 one-of-a-kind gift stores that carry automobile, Hollywood, and rock 'n' roll memorabilia, as well as flags of the world, Russian dolls, collectible knives, hammocks, kites, and more. But that's not all. You will find over 30 more stores, including the famous Na Hoku to shop for clothing, jewelry and toys. It is a great place to pick up high-end San Francisco souvenirs. When you're done shopping and eating to your heart's content, visit the famous resident sea lions for a prime photo session. Pier 39 is a magnet for locals and tourists for many reasons, including their calendar of special attractions for the whole family like the Tulipmania tulip festival held in late February or the Holiday Tree Lighting in November.





by Carol M. Highsmith

### Sea Lions at Pier 39

#### "Say Hello to the Sea Lions"

Wild sea lions have flocked to Pier 39 since the 1989 earthquake and the population has grown ever since. Every winter the number increases to almost 900, thanks to the availability of space and ample food. Although some of the sea lions choose to migrate seasonally, usually some still keep Pier 39 as their regular haunt. You can bring your kids over for free educational talks by the Marine Mammal Center, held on weekends year-round provided the weather is good. See these wild adorable creatures up close and personal at this family friendly spot.

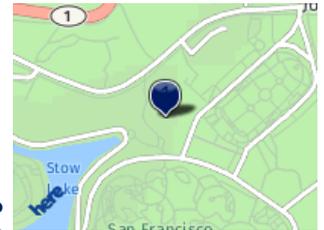


by wward0

### Japanese Tea Garden

#### "Step Into a Japanese Oasis"

Located within the Golden Gate Park is the enchanting Japanese Tea Garden. Its origins date back to 1894, when the garden was created as an exemplary exhibit of a Japanese Village for the California Midwinter International Exposition. Created by Japanese landscape architect Makoto Hagiwara, this sprawling tea garden proffers an unmissable opportunity to experience the ethereal beauty and tranquility of a true-blue Japanese-style verdant oasis. Several paths take you by an authentic pagoda, a monumental Buddha, and a miniature waterfall over an acutely arched bridge that no kid can resist. Overlooking the gardens, a koi-filled pond rests beside a Japanese-style teahouse, which covered with a cascade of wisteria in the month of springs. Followed by your stroll of the garden, do head to the gift shop to purchase souvenirs marking your visit to this paradisiacal spot.



by BKD

### Alcatraz Island

#### "The Legendary Rock"

A mere 1.25 miles (2.01 km) off the coast of San Francisco, Alcatraz Island boasts a fascinating history that extends far beyond its stint as a federal penitentiary from 1934 to 1963; it is also the site of the West Coast's oldest operating lighthouse, the remains of a historic military fortress, and a bird sanctuary. Although within sight of the city, Alcatraz is isolated from the outside world, surrounded by the frigid waters of the bay, the perilous currents making escape virtually impossible. This very fact made Alcatraz an apt choice for a prison meant to house some of the country's most notorious criminals, including the likes of Al Capone, Robert Franklin Stroud and Alvin Karpis. The year 1969 marked the beginning of another intriguing chapter in the history of Alcatraz when a group of Native American activists occupied the island for 19 months, signs of which are still visible to this day. Amid this turbulent narrative thrives a vibrant habitat for native flora and fauna, creating a miniature world of startling contrasts where the haunting remains of the prison stand amid a striking landscape of rock pools, rugged coasts and lush flora. The isle is now a tourist attraction, one of San Francisco's most popular, with self-guided and guided tours that delve into the past of the island as a whole and the prison in particular.



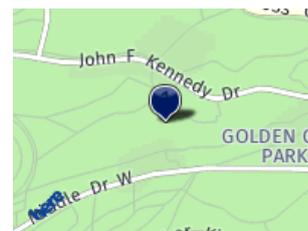


by Rich Hay on Unsplash

## Golden Gate Park

### "Expansive Green Haven"

In the late 1800s, California's first state engineer, William Hammond Hall, and his assistant, a Scotsman named John McLaren, transformed more than 1000 acres (405 hectares) of sand dunes into a wondrous haven in the midst of the city, christened Golden Gate Park after the eponymous strait nearby. Stretching over 50 blocks from Stanyan Street to the Pacific Ocean, the lush landscape is etched with numerous trails for walking, jogging, biking and horseback riding, alongside a golf course, bowling greens, a lake with paddle boats, soccer fields and a baseball diamond. From the Japanese Tea Garden and the Conservatory of Flowers to the California Academy of Sciences and the de Young Museum, San Francisco's Golden Gate Park encompasses a wealth of scenic beauty and cultural intrigue within its expansive embrace. There are also several playgrounds, a quaint carousel, an aquarium, a buffalo reserve and an outdoor bandshell where open-air concerts are hosted each summer.



+1 415 831 2700

[sfrecpark.org/770/Golden-Gate-Park](http://sfrecpark.org/770/Golden-Gate-Park)

501 Stanyan Street, San Francisco CA

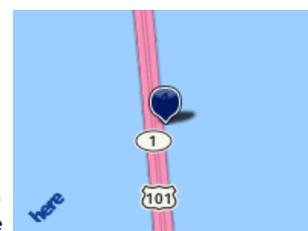


by Maarten van den Heuvel on Unsplash

## Golden Gate Bridge

### "The Gate to the Bay"

Named one of the Wonders of the Modern World by the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Golden Gate Bridge spans the eponymous strait that links the San Francisco Bay to the Pacific Ocean. Designed by Joseph Strauss, Irving Morrow, and Charles Ellis, the bridge opened in 1937 as the world's longest suspension bridge, its main span measuring at an impressive 4,200 feet (1,280 meters) in length. The bridge is not quite golden, but is instead a bright orange, its Art Deco towers looming through the dense fog that often mires the bay; a sight that has come to be emblematic of the city of San Francisco. The bridge ferries vehicular and pedestrian traffic between San Francisco and Marin City, the vista points on either side boasting awe-inspiring views of the Golden Gate, while the bridge itself promises unmatched views of the bay.



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