

## PLACES OF INTEREST



**Golden Gate Bridge** - Perhaps the most photographed bridge in the world, the Golden Gate Bridge is both a triumph of engineering and a symbol of California's grandeur. Pedestrians and cyclists can cross the bridge to take in breathtaking views of the city and the bay.



**Fisherman's Wharf** - A bustling waterfront district where visitors can enjoy fresh seafood, visit Pier 39's playful sea lions, shop for souvenirs, or hop on a bay cruise to get closer to the Golden Gate and Alcatraz.



**Alcatraz Island** - Known as "The Rock," Alcatraz once held America's most infamous criminals. A ferry ride across the bay takes you to this now-peaceful island, where audio tours let you explore the hauntingly preserved prison and its rich history.



**Golden Gate Park** - Stretching over 1,000 acres, the park is a green oasis. Don't miss the Japanese Tea Garden, the de Young Museum, The California Academy of Sciences or the nearby Ocean Beach



**Chinatown** - As the oldest Chinatown in North America, this neighborhood offers an immersive cultural experience—from ornate temples and red lantern-lined streets to dim sum restaurants and herbal shops.



**Union Square** - A vibrant hub of shopping, theater, and dining. Major department stores, luxury brands, and historic hotels surround this central plaza. This is one block away from the Philippine Consulate General in San Francisco.



**Painted Ladies** - These colorful Victorian homes against the backdrop of downtown are one of the city's most iconic postcard views, best appreciated from Alamo Square Park.



**Lombard Street** - Known as the "crookedest street in the world," this picturesque one-block stretch features eight tight turns, flower-lined sidewalks, and beautiful Victorian homes.



**Palace of Fine Arts** - A stunning architectural landmark built for the 1915 Panama-Pacific Exhibition, now a popular photo spot and peaceful retreat with a lagoon and rotunda.



**Coit Tower** - Perched atop Telegraph Hill, this slender white concrete column offers panoramic views of the city and bay. Inside, you'll find historic WPA-era murals depicting California life in the 1930s.



**Ghirardelli Square** - A historic chocolate factory turned shopping and dining complex. Indulge in decadent sundaes at the original Ghirardelli Ice Cream and Chocolate Shop while enjoying the Bay views.



**Ferry Building** - A historic terminal turned gourmet marketplace located along the Embarcadero. The Ferry Building offers artisanal food, local wines, craft coffee, and a vibrant farmers market, all set against stunning views of the Bay Bridge (Oakland Bridge).

## ABOUT THE CONSULATE

The Philippine Consulate General in San Francisco was opened on 2 December 1946—17 months since the Philippines signed the United Nations Charter at the Herbst Theater in San Francisco on 26 June 1945, and almost five months since the country established formal diplomatic relations with the United States on 4 July 1946. It was initially located in the San Francisco Ferry Building and later moved to the Presidio. In 1974, it found its permanent home at the Philippine Center on Sutter Street.

### Address:

447 Sutter Street 6th Flr, San Francisco, California 94108 USA

### Consulate Email Addresses:

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### Telephone Hotlines

- +1 (415) 433-6666 (Mon-Fri, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM)
- Emergency Hotline +1 (415) 269-2090
- ATN Hotline + 1 (415) 748 9888 (Filipinos in distress only)

Schedule your consular appointment at [pcgsanfrancisco.as.me](https://pcgsanfrancisco.as.me). You can also ask our A.I. chatbot Tala, anytime, anywhere at <https://pcgsanfrancisco.org/chat-with-us/>

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# Welcome to San Francisco

“The City by the Bay”



Perched on the northern tip of California's peninsula, San Francisco has long stood as a beacon of culture, diversity, and progress. Established in 1776 by Spanish settlers and named after Saint Francis of Assisi, the city gained global attention during the 1849 Gold Rush, when thousands flocked to its shores seeking fortune. Over time, it evolved into a melting pot of cultures, ideas, and innovation.

Today, San Francisco is known not only for its iconic sights—the majestic Golden Gate Bridge, the historic Alcatraz Island, and its colorful cable cars—but also for its thriving arts scene, LGBTQ+ rights movement, rich immigrant heritage, and position as a global tech hub.

## DOS AND DON'TS IN SAN FRANCISCO

### DO's:

- Take time to explore the city's diverse neighborhoods—from the historic alleys of Chinatown to the murals of the Mission District.
- Pack layered clothing. San Francisco's weather can shift dramatically, from sunshine to fog within minutes.
- Embrace local cuisine, especially seafood dishes like Dungeness crab and clam chowder served in sourdough bowls.
- Use public transit or explore on foot—Muni, cable cars, and walking tours make it easy to enjoy the city sustainably.
- Be eco-friendly: carry a reusable water bottle and bag—single-use plastics are restricted in many parts of the city.

### DON'T's:

- Leave personal belongings unattended, especially in vehicles.
- Feed pigeons or wild animals—this is both discouraged and illegal in some areas.
- Refer to the city as "Frisco"—residents prefer "SF," "The City," or simply "San Francisco". Only Filipinos call the city "SanFo"
- Underestimate the hills—some are steep and can be challenging if you're walking or biking.
- Block sidewalks or transit entrances—keep pathways clear and accessible in this pedestrian-friendly city.

## YEAR-ROUND WEATHER

San Francisco enjoys a unique microclimate that makes it unlike any other California city. Summer isn't always warm; winter isn't particularly cold. Instead, it's a city of light layers, brisk breezes, and sudden shifts in sky.

- **Winter** (December–February): 45–60°F (7–16°C), rainy days with occasional sunshine
- **Spring** (March–May): 50–68°F (10–20°C), mild with blooming flowers and clear skies
- **Summer** (June–August): 55–70°F (13–21°C), foggy mornings—especially in June and July
- **Fall** (September–November): 60–75°F (16–24°C), often the warmest and clearest time of the year

## SAN FRANCISCO IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

- Emergency (Police, Fire, Ambulance): 911
- San Francisco Police (Non-Emergency): +1 (415) 553-0123
- San Francisco Visitor Information Center: +1 (415) 391-2000
- MUNI Customer Service: 311 (within SF) or +1 (415) 701-2311
- BART Police (Non-Emergency): +1 (510) 464-7000
- SF Travel & Tourism Info: [www.sftravel.com](http://www.sftravel.com)

## ARTS & CULTURE

- **SFMOMA** – One of the largest modern art museums in the U.S., featuring works by Frida Kahlo, Andy Warhol, and more.
- **de Young Museum** – A fine arts museum in Golden Gate Park showcasing American art from the 17th through 21st centuries, plus a stunning observation tower.
- **Legion of Honor** – A neoclassical museum in Lincoln Park featuring European art, ancient artifacts, and Rodin's The Thinker, with sweeping views of the Golden Gate.
- **Asian Art Museum** – Houses one of the most comprehensive collections of Asian art in the world, from ancient to contemporary.
- **California Academy of Sciences** – A world-class natural history museum featuring a Philippine coral reef exhibit, one of the largest and most vibrant displays of its kind outside the Philippines.
- **SOMA Pilipinas** – A designated Filipino cultural heritage district in San Francisco's South of Market, celebrating Fil-Am history, arts, and community with murals, community spaces, and cultural events.
- **Mission District Murals** – Walk through 24th Street (Calle 24) or Balmy and Clarion to see powerful and colorful community art that speaks to social justice, culture, and identity.
- **Orpheum Theatre** – A historic venue known for hosting Broadway tours, concerts, and major theatrical productions in a beautifully restored Beaux-Arts setting.

## GETTING AROUND SAN FRANCISCO

Navigating San Francisco is part of the experience! While hills may challenge your calves (sometimes it's uphill both ways), the city is compact and walkable.

- **Clipper Card** – The all-in-one transit card for the Bay Area. Use it on Muni buses, Muni Metro, BART trains, Caltrain, and ferries.
- **Muni** – The city's public transit system includes buses, light rail, and the historic cable cars.
- **Self-Driving Cars** – San Francisco features self-driving cars like Waymo. To ride in their iconic Jaguar, just download the Waymo app.
- **Riding the Cable Cars** – No visit to San Francisco is complete without hopping on a historic cable car. Try riding on the outside rail!

## RESTAURANTS TO TRY

- **Sotto Mare** – A North Beach favorite, famous for its hearty cioppino.
- **Tony's Pizza Napoletana** – Award-winning pizzeria offering a wide range of authentic Italian pizza styles.
- **Del Popolo** – Known for its wood-fired pizzas and rustic atmosphere.
- **House of Prime Rib** – A classic San Francisco institution
- **La Taqueria** – Mission-style burritos and tacos with national acclaim.
- **Boudin Bakery** – A great place for clam chowder in sourdough bowl.

## BEST SOUVENIRS TO BRING HOME

- **Golden Gate Bakery Fortune Cookies** – Located in Chinatown, their handmade cookies can be customized with your own messages.
- **Ghirardelli Chocolate** – A piece of San Francisco's sweet history.
- **Cable Car Miniatures** – Perfect for your shelf or a gift for loved ones.
- **Boudin Clam Chowder in Cans** – Take home the classic SF comfort food—rich, creamy chowder from the city's oldest bakery.
- **Golden State Warriors Merchandise** – Jerseys, caps, and collectibles from the Bay's beloved basketball team make great souvenirs.

## TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION IN THE BAY AREA

San Francisco and neighboring Silicon Valley make up one of the world's leading hubs for innovation. Home to global giants like Google, Apple, Meta, Salesforce, and OpenAI, the region drives advancements in AI, biotechnology, cloud services, and fintech. It attracts professionals, researchers, and entrepreneurs from around the globe.

The City itself supports a vibrant ecosystem of startups, incubators, and innovation labs. Events like TechCrunch Disrupt, AI Summit, RSA Conference, and Dreamforce bring together global leaders in technology and policy. Whether attending a forum, meeting collaborators, or exploring new ideas, San Francisco offers a dynamic space for engaging with digital transformation.

## DAY TRIPS & NEARBY DESTINATIONS

Looking to explore beyond San Francisco? These nearby destinations make great day trips or weekend getaways:

- **Sausalito** – A charming waterfront town just across the Golden Gate Bridge, known for its harbor views, art galleries, and relaxed coastal vibe. Take a scenic ferry ride from the Ferry Building.
- **Muir Woods** – Walk among ancient coastal redwoods just 45 minutes north of the city. A peaceful retreat into nature.
- **Napa Valley** – World-renowned for its vineyards, wine tastings, and vineyard tours. A perfect escape for food and wine lovers.
- **San Jose** – The largest city in Silicon Valley, home to the Tech Interactive Museum, Japantown, and vibrant shopping districts.
- **Palo Alto** – Visit Stanford University, explore leafy streets and museums, and soak in Silicon Valley's academic-meets-tech energy.
- **Silicon Valley** – Drive through Mountain View (Google), Cupertino (Apple), and Menlo Park (Meta) to see the birthplace of modern innovation.

## MONEY MATTERS

Credit and debit cards are widely accepted in San Francisco, even at food trucks and farmers markets. Mobile payments like **Apple Pay** and **Google Pay** are also common. Tipping is customary—15–20% at restaurants is standard, and it's polite to tip taxi drivers, baristas, hotel staff, and tour guides. Note: A **sales tax of 8.625%** is added at checkout, so final prices may be higher than listed.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- San Francisco's iconic fog is so famous, locals gave it a name – **"Karl the Fog"**. He even has his own Facebook and Instagram accounts where he shares moody photos and witty commentary about life in the city. If you see fog rolling dramatically by the Bay or under the Golden Gate Bridge, just say, "Hi Karl!"
- Tony Bennett first sang **"I Left My Heart in San Francisco"** in 1961. It quickly became the city's unofficial anthem and is still beloved today, playing at the end of Giants games and celebrated with a statue of Bennett outside the Fairmont Hotel. Whether you're exploring foggy hills, riding a cable car, or savoring a fortune cookie in Chinatown, may you too leave a little piece of your heart in San Francisco.
- The **fortune cookie** was popularized in San Francisco—not China! Makoto Hagiwara, the Japanese-American designer of Golden Gate Park's Japanese Tea Garden, is often credited with serving the first modern version in the early 1900s.