

San Francisco Local Attractions Guide

April 7-13, 2018 SCTRI Conference



A hearty welcome to the San Francisco Bay Area! This guide is meant to facilitate your connecting to the local area, with a focus on local sights, attractions and entertainment. A separate amenities guide focuses more on restaurants and shops. You can view the online [companion map](#) as you read along, for geographic context.

Parks & Museums

Golden Gate Park (GGP) is one of the largest urban parks in the world (picture is view from the West): in addition to rolling green space, the park features many sites within its borders, including the [De Young Museum](#) of modern art (go to the observatory on the top for a panoramic view) as well as a natural history museum, the [California Academy of Sciences](#); a [Japanese Tea Garden](#); a renowned [Botanical Garden/Arboretum](#); [Stow Lake](#), where you can rent a row boat; and more. For details, see the park [website](#).



Three restaurant options just south of the park, in the "Inner Sunset" neighborhood, are [Ebisu](#) (Japanese sushi and noodle) at 9th Avenue & Irving St; [Park Chow](#) (American fusion) at 9th Ave. between Irving & Lincoln, and [Pacific Catch](#) (Seafood) at 9th Ave. and Lincoln Way. For a quick bite, [Arizmendi Bakery](#) (sourdough & g/f options) is also near 9th Ave. & Irving.

Parks close to the conference site include Jefferson Square Park and Lafayette Park (see maps in Addendum). [SF Recreation & Parks](#) website lists more open spaces.

There are a myriad of museums in SF, including the ones in GGP mentioned above. The [Legion of Honor Museum](#), home to Impressionist paintings & Rodin sculptures, is within the green space of the Presidio neighborhood, a long bus (#38L) ride from Geary & Van Ness out to 34th Ave. The newly renovated San Francisco [Museum of Modern Art](#) is downtown, few blocks from Powell Street station—tickets needed in advance.



[Alcatraz island](#), a.k.a. "The Rock," just off the Northeast coast of San Francisco, features views and local [history](#). They offer a self-guided tour so you spend as little or much time as you like. Boats come and go regularly and you can catch any of them for the return. But you must [book in advance](#) (about \$37) the boat going over—they take reservations up to 90 days out, and often sell out.

Nature

The Bay Area is known for accessible Nature spots. To mention just a few notable ones, [Muir Woods](#) is less than an hour drive north of the city; the northern California coast is known for its majestic Redwoods and this is a great place to see these ancient creatures. For a longer excursion, [Mt. Tamalpais](#) is nearby the woods, and is the highest point (2475 ft/ 785 m) in the area; a hike to the top pays off with a broad view of the entire Bay.



On the way back, you can zip off Highway 101 just before the Golden Gate Bridge and visit the [Marin Headlands](#). A short (windy) walk takes you to an overlook of the bay and the bridge (which you can also [bike](#) or walk across).

Neighborhoods and Historical Centers

The conference site (Hotel Kabuki) is located in the small neighborhood of [Japantown](#) (one of only three Japantowns left in the country), within a larger area known as [Western Addition](#). For a relaxing treat, one member recommends [Kabukki Springs & Spa](#). Or hang out in picturesque [Peace Plaza](#) (site of the pagoda, pictured), just around the corner, West and South of the hotel.



Check out the [cherry blossom festival](#) from the 14th-22nd, this year starting a day after the conference ends. The parade from Japantown to City Hall takes place Sunday the 15th.

Further out, [Union Square](#) (not to confused with Union *Street*) and the [Westfield Shopping Centre](#) are two popular gathering and shopping locations near the downtown area (about a 25 minute walk or 15 minute bus ride—#2 or #3 down Post St—from the hotel). This Market St. area also has a [bike share](#) program—\$3 per ride (single ride requires mobile app) or \$10 for a day pass, with 30-minute ride periods. Check out the kiosk [locations](#), mostly on the Western side of SF, to see if this would be useful to you.



From the hotel, walk to the [cable car](#) (\$7 per ride—also has two [other routes](#)) stop at California and Van Ness and take it down to Kearny Street; head north to walk around [North Beach](#)—plenty of Italian bistros & cafes—and neighboring [Chinatown](#). Climb up to [Coit Tower](#) for a view of the city, and see the [parrots](#) of Telegraph Hill.



Union *Street* between Gough and Steiner is full of interesting shops. One member-recommended restaurant, [Pane e Vino](#) (Italian, reservation strongly advised), is on this street (between Gough and Octavia). A home design/gift shop named [Aty's](#) gets a RCS (“Really Cool Store”) rating from an SCT member. This area is about a 20 minute walk North and slightly West from Hotel Kabuki.

Another vibrant area, containing shops and music venues, is the [Fillmore District](#), which is a 7-block walk West of the hotel, on Fillmore St. between Jackson and Sutter. Another “Really Cool Store” was noted in this area, [Zinc Details](#) (home decor). [Haight-Ashbury](#), is also well known for its colorful scene, which includes quirky thrift shops.

The stroll-able residential neighborhood of Pacific Heights is Northwest of Hotel Kabuki. There are two big parks in this area, with great views. [Alta Plaza](#) is at Steiner & Clay. Closer by, just a few blocks from the hotel, [Lafayette Park](#) is at Gough & Sacramento.



Finally, another popular destination is the [Embarcadero](#) area, on the Eastern waterfront, which includes the famous Ferry Building with many food shops. Good for strolling, browsing, eating, and gazing over the Bay.

Entertainment & Events

If you enjoy live music, a member recommends the [Fillmore](#) (theater), located near the hotel. There is also an extensive dancing community in the Bay Area, with multiple weekly dances from [free-form](#) style to [swing dancing and plenty in between](#) (check out [9:20 Special's](#)—host of a weekly swing dance—website for some inspiration).



For sporting events, consider buying tickets in advance. The local baseball teams are the [SF Giants](#), and the [Oakland Athletics](#). The reigning basketball champions, [Golden State Warriors](#), play in Oakland until 2018, when they move to SF. The U.S. Major League Soccer (i.e. football) team, [San Jose Earthquakes](#), play in the South Bay.

The San Francisco/Bay Area [Film Festival](#) takes place April 4-17 this year. There is a [half marathon](#) in SF on the 8th, and a Silicon Valley [Comic Con](#), 6th-8th (so don't be surprised to see costumes around that time). For more events and happenings, you can browse the San Francisco Chronicle's [website](#), or the [sf-arts](#) website.

Final notes

- For walking route suggestions, please see the addendum on the next page.
- Additional resources: try websites such as the San Francisco [Travel website](#) or [Not For Tourist's website](#).
- Suggestions and feedback most welcome, including your favorite sites for future guides.

Addendum: Walking Routes from Hotel

Two easy walking routes from hotel: (A/Green) 4 blocks South to Jefferson Square Park
(B/Orange) 5 blocks North to Lafayette Park.

