



Insider Guide: Best of San Francisco

By Andy Wright, for CNN

🕒 Updated 1300 GMT (2100 HKT) October 29, 2015



Looking for the best of San Francisco? Start here.

(CNN)—San Francisco is small by urban standards, a compact swath of rambunctious green hills, windswept bays and rainbow-colored Victorian homes.

But it's seen enough upheaval for a town twice its size.

It's a city born of opportunity and reborn of disaster.

It's seen booms and busts both analog and digital.

And it's been the adopted home of numerous seismic social -- and geological -- movements.

As a result, San Francisco is a crossroads of commerce and counterculture, suffused with noir moodiness as well as Gold Rush bravado.

Just remember that San Fran's weather has mood swings that are as complex. To avoid becoming one of those sullen tourists shivering in shorts and a T-shirt as the fog crawls around their ankles, bring a sweater -- as well as these suggestions for experiencing the best of San Francisco.

Nightlife

Comstock Saloon

Named for Henry T "Pancake" Comstock, the man whose fortunes lured thousands of miners to San Francisco in the 19th century, this North Beach saloon is a refined tribute to those rough Barbary Coast times: dim lights, tin ceilings, classic cocktails and ostentatious wallpaper.

The bar also serves period-inspired food, like beef shank and bone marrow potpie.

On Friday, Comstock revives a Gold Rush tradition of serving a free lunch with the purchase of two drinks.

The deal almost makes more sense for travelers than locals, who may have to return to work with a brace of stiff cocktails in their system.



Comstock Saloon | 155 Columbus Ave, San Francisco, CA 94133-5114 | +1 415 617 0071

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