

A Weekend in San Fran



Trip Summary: Looking for a weekend adventure in San Francisco? This adventure will guide you to some of our favorite attractions in the Bay Area, both natural and man-made. There is so much to see and do in and around San Francisco, a week wouldn't be enough time to see it all, but if you only have a weekend, this guide highlights many of the must-sees in the area.

Best Time to Go: Summer or Fall

Recommended Hotels

- **Hilton San Francisco Union Square** - 333 O'Farrell St., San Francisco CA 94102
 - a. Incredible hotel, ideal location with amazing views of the San Francisco skyline
 - b. A major bonus? Some rooms up in the tower have open-air balconies!! Very rare in San Fran or any major city downtown!
 - c. Look for the room description with: "balcony w/ Skyline view"
- **The Grant Hotel** - 753 Bush St. San Francisco
 - a. Hotel is located within walking distance of the Dragon's Gate & China Town - excellent location

Day 1: San Francisco – The City and Bay

1. Hit the road for San Francisco
2. Cross the Golden Gate Bridge into Downtown San Fran, park near Market Street (or park at hotel)
3. Check out Market Street, take a selfie or two, and do not forget to tag #iTinereri
4. **Ride The San Francisco Cable Car System** – this is a must-do in San Fran!! Use it to get down to the waterfront and back to Union Square – it is efficient transportation

5. Head down to the waterfront, **Fisherman's Wharf**, explore waterfront -excellent food choices for lunch here as well
6. If want to get out on the water and experience the city and bay from a different perspective, head down to the waterfront, where you will find numerous fishing vessels that supplement their income by ferrying tourists underneath the **Golden Gate Bridge**
 - a. Their crowd haggling is also world famous – their calls will be stuck in your head all day
 - b. These excursions are reasonably inexpensive and quite fun – also great picture opportunities
7. **Ferry Building Marketplace** - Offering everything from freshly caught fish to artisan cheeses, the Ferry Building Marketplace is one of the city's most famous landmarks. Located within the Ferry Building that sits at the bottom of Market Street.
8. Ferry to **Angel Island** - travel here by ferry from San Francisco and once you arrive you can take an open-air tram or a Segway tour of the island. There are some fantastic cafes and bars serving up delicious food. The views of the Bay from the island are spectacular and worth the cost of the ferry alone.
9. **Chinatown** – explore the Chinese culture and architecture. **Grant Avenue** is the biggest Chinatown outside of Asia, and the oldest in North America.
10. **Twin Peaks** – spectacular view of downtown San Francisco from here, must see this!!
11. **Coit Tower** – top of tower provides 360-degree views of the city and the surrounding bay.
12. **Union Square** - Union Square is the most visited neighborhood in San Francisco. Here you will find a large collection of high-end retail outlets, fancy hotels, cafes, art galleries and a very active nightlife.

Other Major Attractions in San Francisco:

1. **Exploratorium** - one of the most interactive places to take your children, the setup is so fun that you do not even realize you are learning while you are being entertained. There are six galleries, each one focuses on a different area and rewards you depending on your concentration.
2. **Alcatraz Island** – visiting Alcatraz takes almost a half day, by the time you take the ferry out there, look around and get back. If you want to see it desperately, reserve ahead (to avoid standing in a long line or finding the tour sold out). Go for their evening tour, and you will have more daylight time to see other things.
3. **Aquarium of the Bay** – on waterfront, aquarium has a mission to protect the bay and the animals that live in the bay; aquarium has 300 feet of clear tunnels that are full of 700,000 gallons of water.

4. **Japanese Tea Garden** - oldest public Japanese garden in the country; pagodas, steppingstones, arched bridges, and native Japanese plants. There is also a koi pond and Zen garden.
5. **Ghirardelli Square**

Day 2: San Fran / Mt. Tamalpais / Muir Beach / Golden Gate Nat'l Recreation Area

1. Drive north on Highway 1 across the **Golden Gate Bridge**
2. Drive to the **Mt. Tamalpais / Muir Woods National Monument** area
3. Drive right up to the top of **Mt. Tamalpais** or "**Mt. Tam**" for short
4. Take Ridgecrest Blvd all the way to the end to Mt. Tamalpais viewpoint
5. Park and hike to the top of **Tamalpais East Peak** – the most incredible views of the coastal mountains, forests, San Francisco bay, cities, and towns
6. Hang out and enjoy the amazing views, take some pics, post with **#iTinereri** and **#AllAboutTheViews** on social media
7. Have time for more nature and beauty? Drive to: **Golden Gate National Recreation Area**
8. **Muir Beach** and **Muir Beach Overlook** (this is regarded as one of the best beaches in the country)
9. Time allowing, check out the Redwoods in **Muir Woods** before heading back to San Francisco