

SAN FRANCISCO/OAKLAND

1 MINUTE/1 HOUR/1 DAY GETAWAY

San Francisco is far and away the most mythic city in America, if not the world. Despite its history of earthquakes, fires, floods, social upheaval, economic boom or bust, the “eternal” city by the Bay charms millions of visitors each year with its beauty, individuality, energy and spirit.

1 MINUTE

Twin Peaks **Twin Peaks Blvd.**

Often regarded as the Bay Area’s best view, this 920-ft. summit shows you the entire city in 360 degrees. Visit on a clear day to see beyond the bay, or watch the town twinkle at night. Either way, be sure to wear something warm—it can get quite windy.

City Lights Bookstore **261 Columbus Ave. • 415-362-819**

Fifty years ago, City Lights published Allen Ginsberg’s seminal poem *Howl* and became a magnet for a new generation of poets. It’s been years since tour buses with passengers eager to see “beatniks” began pulling up in front of the store, but this tiny bookshop remains a literary landmark. Stop in to browse, read or just soak up the ambiance.

1 HOUR

Cartoon Art Museum **655 Mission St. • 415-CARTOON • cartoonart.org**

From Batman to Charlie Brown, view from a permanent collection of over 6,000 original sketches, paintings and animation cells in the country’s only museum of its kind. If that’s not enough, perhaps the rotating exhibitions and events throughout the year will draw you in.

Exploratorium **3601 Lyon St. • 415-EXPLORE • exploratorium.edu**

For kids and adults alike, this highly interactive science museum takes concepts we normally take for granted—sight, matter, memory—and makes visitors think with their hands. Case in point: the featured Tactile Dome, a totally dark maze you have to feel your way through.

Alcatraz **Pier 41 • 415-705-5555 • nps.gov/alcatraz**

Take an award-winning recorded tour, or do your own hard time on “The Rock,” the world’s most famous prison. 36 inmates tried to escape throughout the prison’s 29-year history, but you’ll find it easier to leave—the ferries move to and from the island about every half-hour, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

1 HOUR (CON’T)

Golden Gate Bridge **US Hwy. 101**

This two-mile trek is easy to access by car, and you can park for free at the northern Vista Point lot or feed a meter at the southern lot. Bring a camera to capture some stunning views: to the south, you’ll catch the breathtaking San Francisco skyline; to the north, you’ll see the soaring hills of Marin County. Don’t get nervous if the bridge sways: this is the structure’s ingenious protection against the powerful Bay winds.

Tru **750 Kearny St. • truspa.com • 415-399-9700**

Heralded by publications like *Allure*, *Lucky*, *Elle Travel & Leisure* and the *Robb Report*, Tru is Frisco’s premier spa destination. Expect sleek surroundings, champagne and separate suites for men and women. Treatments include a deep-cleansing oxygen facial, an unbelievable one hour and forty-five minute massage and a skin-rejuvenating “Pair Package” for couples in an intimate Tropical Rainforest Room.

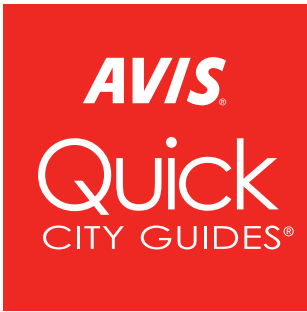
1 DAY

Berkeley **I-80E**

Head across the Bay to explore the UC Berkeley campus and check out a lively local scene. Stroll Telegraph Avenue’s shopping district for bookstores, galleries, boutiques and music shops. Then hop over Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley’s “Gourmet Ghetto,” for cafés, restaurants and foodie-friendly outposts for teas, coffees, cheeses, baked goods and other specialty items.

Marin County **US Hwy. 101 to Hwy. 1**

Venture across the Golden Gate Bridge, and you’ve opened the door to a series of San Francisco day trips. Stop for lunch or breakfast in Sausalito or Mill Valley. Then hike the Marin Headlands or Mount Tamalpais for inspiring views, or head to Muir Woods’ towering redwoods—some of which measure 14 feet across and are more than 1,000 years old.



SAN FRANCISCO/OAKLAND

GOURMET DINING AND LOCAL FAVORITES

GOURMET DINING

A. Sabella's Restaurant

From fishing to feasting, the Sabella family name has been synonymous with seafood in the Wharf since the late 1800s. With the bay in sight, spot your catch from a 1,000-gallon salt water tank.

2766 Taylor St. • 415-771-6775

Postrio

World-famous Chef Wolfgang Puck's San Francisco restaurant is a remarkable place to be, let alone have a meal. Under hand-blown glass lamps, follow the ribbons on the floor down the grand sweeping staircase and into the dining room to try everything from bacon-wrapped quail to Sonoma lamb chops.

545 Post St. • 415-776-7825

Shanghai 1930

Step into the sumptuous past with an underground supper club that serves atmosphere in generous portions. From a menu of refined Chinese cuisine, you can choose the "fish on the vine"—roasted cod resembling a bunch of grapes—before retiring to the cigar lounge.

133 Stuart St. • 415-896-5600

Chez Panisse

Chez Panisse offers internationally-acclaimed fare inspired by local seafood, meats and produce. The upstairs café features a range of daily offerings, and the downstairs dining room offers a single prix fixe menu that changes nightly. In winter you may find grilled Wolfe Ranch quail, in summer Maine lobster-chanterelle salad with orange oil. Craftsman-era architecture completes the restaurant's warm and unfussy vibe. Reservations a must.

1517 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley • 510-548-5525

North Beach Restaurant

Original artwork, Florentine tile, Carrara marble, Venetian granite, cherry panelling and vaulted ceilings create a sophisticated Tuscan-style setting for diners interested in upscale classic Italian cuisine. House specialties include polenta soup, cioppino alla pescatora and filet of lamb. Be sure to leave room for dessert, which ranges from homemade tiramisu to a tray of cheese, walnuts, figs and apples for two. Banquet rooms available.

1512 Stockton St. • 415-393-1700 • toll-free 1-866-860-0013

LOCAL FAVORITES

Yuet Lee

Get a taste of Chinatown at this favorite spot for late-night eats. Under fluorescent lights, the décor isn't much to behold, but locals swear by the menu, especially its salt & pepper squid.

1300 Stockton St. • 415-982-6020

Sushi Groove

Soft lighting, ambient drum-and-bass and the occasional view of a cable car make Sushi Groove a singularly San Franciscan experience. Expect creative small plates, noodle and rice dishes, a selection of bento and impeccable sushi and sashimi handled with precision and artistry.

1916 Hyde St. • 415-440-1905

Hog Island Oyster Company

Welcome to the Bay Area's shrine to shellfish. Sit at the bar and watch the experts shuck oysters harvested earlier in the day at the Hog Island Farm north of the city, or relax at one of the tables with a view of the Bay. Purists will love the oysters on the half shell paired with Muscadet, Sancerre or saki; other highlights include oysters Rockefeller or casino and creative dishes like manila clams with chorizo and white beans.

1 Ferry Plz. • 415-391-7117

Zuni Café

A 20-year old mainstay, Zuni features an open kitchen, copper bar, Southwestern décor and glass walls overlooking Market Street. Expect rustic and Mediterranean-inspired cuisine; highlights include roasted chicken for two (prepared to order) and braised oxtail and beef cheeks with garlic, green olives and orange, and fettuccine.

1658 Market St. • 415-552-2522

Pancho Villa Taqueria

The Mission District's answer to everything you could want in satisfying, inexpensive and exceptionally fresh Mexican eats. Try the house specialty: an enormous, made-to-order burrito. Fillings include steak, chicken, snapper, prawns, beans, veggies, guac, cheeses and other goodies. Expect basic but comfortable décor, communal tables and lickety-split service.

3071 16th St. • 415-864-8840