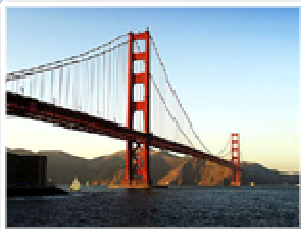
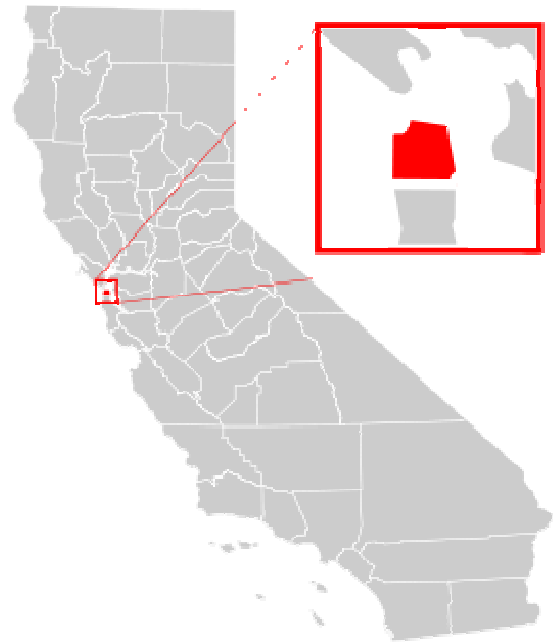


SAN FRANCISCO

San Francisco is a major city in California, the center piece of the Bay Area, well-known for its liberal community, hilly terrain, Victorian architecture, scenic beauty, summer fog, and great ethnic and cultural diversity. These are only a few of the aspects of the city that make San Francisco one of the most visited cities in the world.

San Francisco is located on a small seven-by-seven mile, square of land at the tip of a peninsula between the San Francisco Bay and the Pacific coast. San Francisco's neighbors, cities and towns to the east of the Bay Bridge, north of the Golden Gate Bridge, and south of the city are all in separate counties, each with their own city government and local public transportation systems.

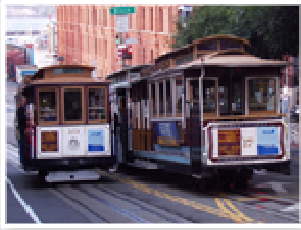


The Golden Gate Bridge : is a suspension bridge spanning the Golden Gate, the opening of the **San Francisco Bay** onto the **Pacific Ocean**. As part of both U.S. Route 101 and State Route 1, it connects the city of San Francisco on the northern tip of the San Francisco Peninsula to Marin County. The Golden Gate Bridge was the longest suspension bridge span in the world when it was completed during the year 1937, and has become an internationally recognized symbol of San Francisco and

California. Since its completion, the span length has been surpassed by eight other bridges. It still has thesecond longest suspension bridge main span in the United States, after the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge in New York City.

Alcatraz Island : commonly referred to assimply **Alcatraz** or locally as The Rock, is a small island located in the middle of San Francisco Bay. It served as a lighthouse, then a military fortification, then a military prison followed by a federal prison until 1963. It became a national recreation area in 1972 and received landmarking designations in 1976 and 1986.

Today, the island is a historic site operated by the National Park Service as part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and is open to tours. Visitors can reach the island by ferry ride from Pier 33, near **Fisherman's Wharf**.



The Cable Car: Historical means of transport of San Francisco. There are three cable car lines: Powell-Hyde, Powell-Mason and California, compared with the street names they use. Powell-Hyde is the most important.

Chinatown: the oldest of the United States, the second largest behind New York. Take the time to go through Waverly (temples and traditional small shops) and Stockton St. In the latter, stop at the shops of fruits and vegetables, meat or fish.

Golden Gate Park: is a large urban park consisting of 1017 acres of public grounds. Configured as a rectangle, it is similar in shape but 174 acres larger than Central Park in New York, to which it is often compared.

The San Francisco Opera (SFO): is the second largest opera company in North America after the Metropolitan Opera in New York City. It was founded in 1923 by Gaetano Merola (1881-1953). The **Opening Night Gala of the San Francisco Opera** is widely considered to be one of the most memorable events of the year for opera patrons.

Le California Palace of the Legion of Honor: is a fine art museum. The name is used both for the museum collection and for the building in which it is housed. The museum contains a representative collection of mainly European art, the largest portion of which is French. Its most distinguished collection is of sculpture by Auguste **Rodin**. Casts of all his most famous statues are on display, including one of *The Thinker* in the forecourt. However there are individual works by many other artists, including François Boucher, Rembrandt, Gainsborough, David, El Greco, Rubens, and many of the Impressionists and post-Impressionists—Degas, Renoir, Monet, Pissarro, Seurat, Cézanne and others. There are also representative works by key twentieth century figures such as Braque and Picasso, and works of contemporary artists like Gottfried Helnwein and Robert Crumb.

The San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park: includes a fleet of historic vessels, a visitor center, a maritime museum, and a library/research facility. The park also incorporates the Aquatic Park Historic District, bounded by Van Ness Avenue, Polk Street, and Hyde Street.

USEFUL INFORMATION

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