

48 Hours in San Francisco

Travelling on the Caltrain from San Jose Diridon Station to San Francisco Station was a breeze.

The journey gives you a great view of the outskirts of the industrial city and the main San Francisco airport. The constant honking of the train horn makes you feel your in an American movie set but the reality is it's actually mandated in law that trains blow their horns every time they meet a crossing, unless the crossing has been set up as a "quiet zone".

Arriving in San Francisco (SF) station I thought it was much smaller than what I expected but to be fair you are virtually in the heart of city.

Oracle Park

The short walk from SF Caltrain Station (4th and King) towards Oracle Park, home of the San Francisco Giants baseball stadium
<https://www.mlb.com/giants/ballpark>.

An impressive stadium with several great statues outside respecting those players who became Giant's hero's on the baseball pitch. A good photo opportunity in front of a historic stadium.

Oakland Bay Bridge

Then continue along the Embarcadero footpath towards the WaterBar with the close up view of the grey Oakland Bay Bridge. This impressive bridge can really only be described as some what

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ugly in comparison to the Golden Gate Bridge, 11 miles further along the Bay Area.

The name Embarcadero derives from the Spanish verb embarcar, meaning "to embark" embarcadero itself means "the place to embark".

The Waterbar

The Waterbar is in a quite stunning building and location, a stylish seafood bar serving spectacular oysters, we sat at the horseshoe-shaped bar which provided up-close views of the Bay Bridge.

Perfect for a drink or two and several oysters (\$1 an oyster) and then on your way again towards Fisherman's Warf.

<https://www.waterbarsf.com/> Ferry Building

Continue walking along the Embarcadero to the Ferry Building. A slow meander through the shops and market stalls within the Ferry Building is highly recommended. On the waterside you can also catch ferry's to Golden Gate Bridge, Treasure Island and other tourist spots.

Croqueta

Then walk along the footpath on to Coqueta for lunch or a snack. Michael Chiarello's Spanish menu offers tapas & family-style plates in classy with a nice patio area for when it's warm and sunny.

Recommended are the shrimp with garlic and toast, the seafood paella, smoked salmon toast, grilled octopus, custard desert, or chocolate cake are all delicious!

<https://coquetasf.com/> Hard Rock Cafe

As you head towards Pier 39, the Hard Rock Cafe sits with a great seating area on an open air terrace again for when it's warm and the sun shines. Especially appealing to families.

Pier 39

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A buzzing ocean front area where tourists and locals alike can enjoy indoor and outdoor dining in any of the 74 restaurants and bars, a huge variety of unique shops, the offering of various Bay cruises, family attractions and museums, as well as amazing outdoor activities to keep all ages occupied.

Cable Car

San Francisco's cable cars are symbolic of the charm and distinct flavour of the city. No other city provides the opportunity to ride a moving national historic monument.

Fisherman's Wharf is served by two cable car lines: the Powell-Hyde line on Hyde and Beach Streets (Aquatic Park near Ghirardelli Square), and the Powell-Mason line on Taylor and Bay Streets (middle of Fisherman's Wharf area, a few blocks from Pier 45 at Taylor and Bay Street). Both lines run between Fisherman's Wharf and Powell and Market Streets in Union Square.

Riding the cable car to Union Square up Hyde St, past the iconic Lombard St with its windy road, skirting China Town and onto Union Square is an experience not to be missed. If you have the capability and the opportunity to ride on the outside holding onto the handle go for it! You will be the subject of so many tourist photos and holiday videos but you will enjoy the experience!

Union Square

Union Square is a very impressive square in downtown San Francisco. It's bordering streets have major upmarket shopping stores, hotels, and a theatre district that surrounds the plaza for several blocks. The area got its name because it was once used for rallies and support for the Union Army in the American Civil War, this earned its designation as a Californian landmark.

The Dewey Monument is at the center of the Square. Streets. The monument is dedicated to Admiral George Dewey and commemorates his victory in the battle of Manila Bay during the Spanish - American

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company despite an ex staff member sitting on our side of the bar blowing his own trumpet about his pre pandemic earnings as a Bar Tender. Ethan rose above this and professionally kept all his customers happy! Having had a long day and relaxing in the bar we opted for bar food of egg spring rolls, chicken sliders and buffalo cauliflower wings which were excellent and come recommended.

The excellent leisure facilities on level 5 of the hotel were very appealing and helped waken us up on a cold early December morning.

Bartlett Hall 242 O'Farrell St.

Recommended by Miguel this Bar & Restaurant is opposite Hotel Nikko and it captures the essence of San Francisco in the form of food, drink and relaxation. It's a gastropub and brewery which fuses the city's historic elements with its present day lively personality-serving as an authentic reflection of San Francisco where quality, comfort and craft reign supreme. An eating and drinking establishment like no other nearby and is open from lunch to late night. The staff really work as a team and offer a seasonally-driven menu that's interesting and forward-thinking. In the true Californian fashion, the menu's provide both traditional and innovative offerings, including local craft and house-brewed beers, artisanal cocktails, and California-focused wines.

If you're visiting the city and want some casual dining then definitely visit Bartlett Hall.

ONE65 Patisserie & Boutique 165 O'Farrell St

We found this by chance while looking for brunch after our flight back from Tahiti. Slightly on the expensive side for a cafe/dessert parlour, but hey, it's oh so worth it. Unusually, we ended up with desserts after brunch and finished both, the lemon yuzu cake and pan au raspberry come highly recommended! Empty plates all round! We also purchased 6 hand made chocolates for coffee on our flight back to London. If BA could serve chocolates this good they would be a 5 star airline!

A visit is highly recommended.

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view change from dusk to darkness! Just brilliant and very highly recommended. Thank you Danyka for restoring our faith in San Francisco.

Ghirardelli Square 900 North Point St.

<https://www.ghirardellisq.com/>

If you continue along past Pier 39, Fisherman's Warf and the Powell & Hyde Cable Car turnabout you will see the huge Ghirardelli Square sign above the Bayside Landmark Building which have been there since 1862. The impressive square has shops, wineries and award-winning restaurants. It's recommended as the premier San Francisco destination which also enjoys spectacular views of the Golden Gate Bridge to Alcatraz and, of course shops full of the famous Ghirardelli Chocolate.

Vom Fass
Suite E205, CA94109

Also in the square is the very interesting Vom Fass (translates to "from the cask") which is a European market experience featuring premium culinary oils, exclusive balsamics, sophisticated spirits, and fine organic wines. They deal with small family producers from throughout the world to obtain and sell the highest quality products.

Highly recommended, certainly worth a visit and don't miss your opportunity to try before you buy! The Barbados Rum aged 8 years in Port Casks was exceptional and strangely enough made it all the way back to my Gourock Christmas table!

Homelessness Issue

Like many other major cities homelessness is a very apparent issue in San Francisco. Begging etc is common place and some people may find it intimidating but thankfully most are polite but firm with their requests. On numerous occasions I witnessed people handing food over rather than money.

What is obvious is there is a fine line between homelessness and mental

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Cars plus their alter ego the driverless taxis.

The cable cars connect the vibrant neighbourhoods and provide easy access to the tea rooms and mah jong parlors of Chinatown, the hippie chic of Haight-Ashbury, and the family fun of Ghirardelli Square.