



**nileGUIDE**

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



MikeBehnken

# Nice days in the Outer Sunset

## **San Francisco, 1 Day**

### Table of contents:

- Guide Description 2
- Itinerary Overview 3
- Daily Itineraries 4
- San Francisco Snapshot 8

# Guide Description



**AUTHOR NOTE:** The Outer Sunset and Ocean waterfront have a lot to offer anyone looking for an off-the-beaten-path adventure in San Francisco. Often covered in fog and mainly residential, this area will not make many people's must see list. However when the weather is nice, the Outer Sunset can be a great place to spend the day on foot.

# Itinerary Overview

things to do  
restaurants  
hotels  
nightlife

## Day 1 - San Francisco



### Golden Gate Park

1,000+ acres of green retreat in the heart of the city



### Ocean Beach

San Francisco's largest



### Dutch Windmill

A slice of Holland



### Sutro Bath Ruins

Turn of the century baths



### Outerlands



### Park Chalet

Fun Food



### Cliff House



### Trouble Coffee Co

Community Coffee Shop



### Java Beach Cafe

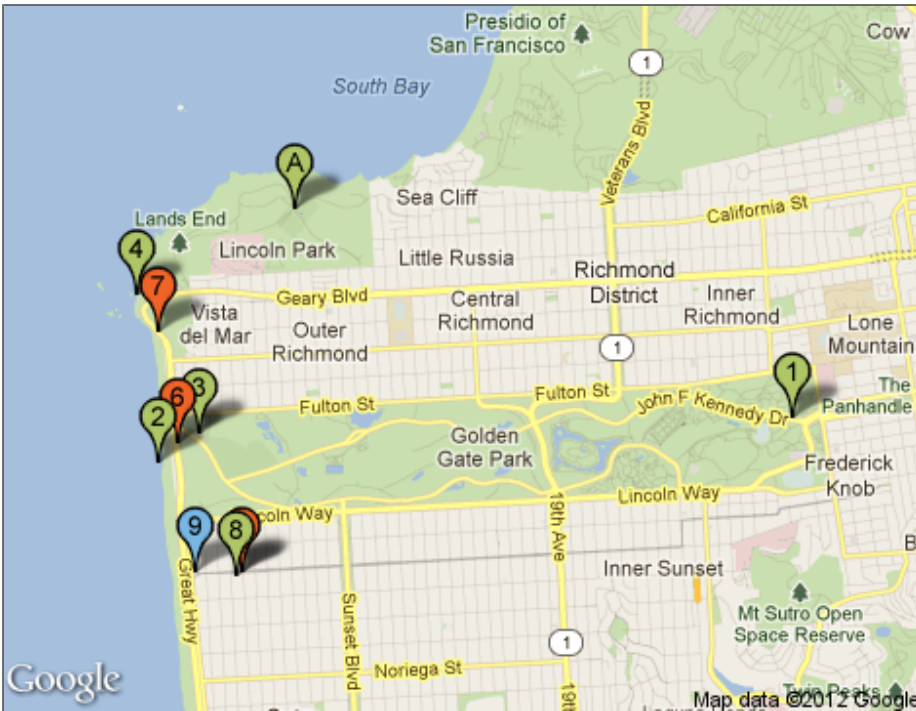
Seaside coffee



### California Palace of the Legion of Honor

Beautiful museum, grand location

# Day 1 - San Francisco



QUICK NOTE

**contact:**  
tel: (415) 831-2700  
fax: +1 415 581 2540  
<http://www.sfgov.org/>

**location:**  
Stanyan & Fulton Sts  
San Francisco CA 94118

## 1 Golden Gate Park

### OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

You can pedal a boat around Stow Lake, but a better bet is to rent a bike at the boathouse there and pedal around the park. On your way, check out the historic herd of bison (That's right, big shaggy buffalo) in their paddock near the lake.

**DESCRIPTION:** Spanning three miles from the edge of Haight-Ashbury all the way to the Pacific Ocean, Golden Gate Park contains so many mini-universes and attractions you'll want to (literally) stop and smell the roses on several occasions. Die-hard nature lovers can check out the Rose Garden, the Conservatory of Flowers, or the famous Japanese Tea Garden, featuring a classic pagoda, cherry blossoms, and landscaping straight out of the Land of the Rising Sun. Golden Gate Park's natural highlight, however, is the San Francisco Botanical Garden, which features a horticultural trip around the world (don't miss the redwood grove and succulents section). Don't miss Golden Gate Park's two world-class museums, the California Academy of Sciences and the De Young Museum. Both were completely rebuilt in their original locations in the past decade, and are worth a visit for their architecture alone. The park is also the perfect place to get active. There are tons of walking paths, several public tennis courts, an affordable pitch and put nine-hole golf course, sport fields, and picnic grounds. You can even rent a boat and head out for a delightful



[http2007](http://http2007)

row on Stow Lake. Spring, summer, and fall bring a number of events to Golden Gate Park, including bluegrass, rock, and hip-hop concerts and Shakespeare in the Park performances. © NileGuide

**contact:**

<http://www.parksconservancy.org/visit/park-sites/ocean-beach.html>

**location:**

Great Highway  
San Francisco CA 94121

## 2 Ocean Beach

**DESCRIPTION:** The massive beach stretches the length of the city's Pacific Ocean frontage from Seal Rocks all the way down to Daly City. Popular with surfers, kite flyers and families, it's San Francisco's main city beach. Although it can often be foggy and/or windy, on sunny warm days it's a joy. Swimming isn't advisable, as currents and waves can be extremely rough. A trip to Ocean Beach at sunset, followed by dinner at Beach Chalet (make sure you have a pint of the beer they brew on site) is just about a perfect evening. Or, enjoy a bonfire on the beach after dark, per NPS regulations. © NileGuide



**contact:**

tel: +1 415 391 2000 (Tourist Information)  
<http://www.dform.com/projects/windmill/index.html>

**location:**

Kennedy Drive  
San Francisco CA 94117

## 3 Dutch Windmill

**DESCRIPTION:** Two windmills anchor the western end of Golden Gate Park. The restored 1902 Dutch Windmill once pumped 20,000 gallons of well water per hour to the reservoir on Strawberry Hill. With its heavy concrete bottom and wood-shingle arms and upper section, the windmill cuts quite the sturdy figure. It overlooks the equally photogenic Queen Wilhelmina Tulip Garden, which bursts into full bloom in early spring and late summer. The Murphy Windmill, on Martin Luther King Jr. Drive near the Great Highway, was the world's largest windmill when it was built in 1905 and also pumped water to the Strawberry Hill reservoir © NileGuide



**contact:**

tel: +1 415 561 4323 (Tourist Information)  
<http://www.sutrobaths.com/>

**location:**

Point Lobos Ave.  
San Francisco CA 94121

## 4 Sutro Bath Ruins

**DESCRIPTION:** Dr. Adolph Sutro built the baths in the late 1800s to provide a diversion for local families. The four pools were housed under a giant glass dome, with room for 25,000 swimmers and spectators, as well as Dr. Sutro's collection of artifacts. Ruined by fire and earthquake, the foundations are still around for daring people to explore. Fog adds to the surreal quality of the ruins. © NileGuide



courtesy of the cliffhouseproject

**contact:**  
tel: (415) 661-6140

**location:**  
4001 Judah  
San Francisco CA 94122

## 5 Outerlands

**DESCRIPTION:** The Outer Sunset is blessed with a collection of cozy cafes and lunch spots, and Outerlands in Ocean Beach epitomizes the artsy neighborhood with its' delicious, ever-changing seasonal menu and quirky atmosphere. Think: your best friend, driftwood tables and quality beer in mismatched wine glasses and jam jars. Be sure to place your order at the counter, food and drinks are delivered to your table by the genuinely friendly staff. A relatively small dining room ensures a line out the door for brunch, but outside seating lessens the wait and allows diners to enjoy items such as the Moroccan french toast, made with house baked organic levain bread, and fresh squeezed mimosas on those precious sunny San Francisco days. Nightfall transforms the restaurant into an intimate date or small group gathering spot. Medium sized portions like the blue cheese souffle with apples, fennel and bacon or the creamy seafood bisque are excellent to share and can be paired nicely with Outerlands sustainable wine and beer selection. Superb vegan soup options are always included and under no circumstances brave the late night salty breeze without dessert, especially the carrot cardamom cake with rose caramel. © SFJess



Outerlands

**contact:**  
tel: 4153868439  
fax: +1 415 386 4125  
<http://www.parkchalet.com>

**location:**  
1000 Great Hwy.  
San Francisco CA 94121

## 6 Park Chalet

**DESCRIPTION:** Housed within The Beach Chalet Brewery & Restaurant, The Park Chalet is a garden restaurant offering open air dining, an inviting stone fireplace, fully retractable glass doors, a glass ceiling and an unmatched indoor/outdoor atmosphere. NEW: Weekend BBQ! Every weekend on the Lawn at the Park Chalet from 12pm-5pm there will be an outdoor BBQ serving up Burgers and Sandwiches! Go to /bbq/ for more details! Every Sunday from 10am-3pm the Park Chalet serves their Recovery Brunch Buffet featuring Prime Rib, Eggs Benedict and Bloody Marys. Go to [www.beachchalet.com/recover](http://www.beachchalet.com/recover) for details. © OpenTable



wcities

**contact:**  
[http://sanfrancisco.citysearch.com/profile/41610080/san\\_francisco\\_ca/bistro\\_at\\_the\\_cliff\\_house.html](http://sanfrancisco.citysearch.com/profile/41610080/san_francisco_ca/bistro_at_the_cliff_house.html)

**location:**  
1090 Point Lobos Ave  
San Francisco CA 94121

## 7 Cliff House

**DESCRIPTION: In Short**  
Inside the Cliff House Bistro sits a grand old wooden bar that welcomes visitor and local alike to its airy, bright atmosphere. Enjoy gorgeous views over a couple of reasonably priced but tiny cocktails, such as the Orange Julius-like Ramos Fizz, the piquant, citrusy Bloody Mary, hot coffee drinks, or one of a dozen martinis or top-shelf scotch sniffers.



citysearch

**contact:**  
tel: (415) 682-4732  
<http://www.troublecoffee.com/>

**location:**  
4033 Judah Street  
San Francisco CA 94122

**8** **Trouble Coffee Co**

**DESCRIPTION:** Trouble Coffee is a coffee shop you will experience and wish that your local coffee shop was this friendly, warm, and authentic. The coffee is amazing, the people are great, and the cinnamon sugar toast is to die for. They have three things on the menu: coffee, coconuts, and toast. It is simple, laid back, and nothing but the best. They are really into the community aspect of the coffee shop, so take your time rolling through. Grab a seat at the bar or on a mini chair outside, draw on the chalkboard wall, and stay awhile. From the driftwood bar to the antique wall of collectibles the owners have gathered throughout their life journey, this spot will make you feel all warm and toasty inside. © nattyatnat



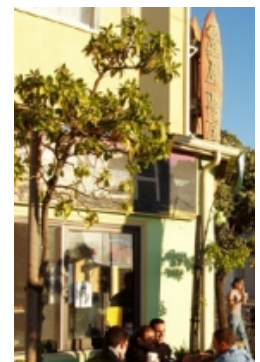
**contact:**  
tel: (415) 665 5282  
<http://www.javabeachcafe.com/>

**location:**  
1396 La Playa Street  
San Francisco CA  
94122-1019

**hours:**  
5:30a-11p M-F, 6a-11p Sat-Sun

**9** **Java Beach Cafe**

**DESCRIPTION:** Less boisterous than the nearby Beach Chalet and more low-key than the Cliff House halfway up a hill to the north, this is a snug place to sip some java and warm up after a stroll on always windy, usually chilly Ocean Beach. The decor has an appropriately nautical air, perfect for the avid surfers who make this their post-ride hangout. The food, served up by personable types who seem to be surfers themselves when off duty, is the usual mix of sandwiches, soups and pastries—all tasty, none expensive. It's a great place take a break and enjoy the view of a horizon that goes on forever. © wcities.com



**contact:**  
tel: (415) 863-3330  
<http://legionofhonor.famsf.org/>

**location:**  
Lincoln Park  
San Francisco CA 94121

**A** **California Palace of the Legion of Honor**

**OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:**  
The collection of Rodins is an instant hit, but look deeper for some impressive 19th century American art.

**DESCRIPTION:** This museum houses more than 87,000 paintings, sculptures, decorative arts, and tapestries. Some pieces date back 4,000 years. The main floor is dedicated to the museum's permanent collection, much of which features the works of Rodin. European and ancient art are also on display. The lower garden level features temporary exhibitions, ranging from Andy Warhol to Francis Bacon. Take a break in the museum cafe, which features light snacks and has outdoor seating. The gift shop, though small, has a nice selection of postcards, books, posters, jewelry, and some reproductions from this and other fine arts museums. © wcities.com



# San Francisco Snapshot

## Local Info

Sun and fog, grandeur and blight, hipsters and suits, relaxed and industrious... San Francisco's juxtapositions are infinite. Arguably the most beautiful city in the United States, the city by the bay is also the most un-American city, in attitude as well as looks. Old Victorian homes blend with modern, shiny skyscrapers, and the skyline is neither wholly gray concrete nor red brick like its East Coast sister cities.

The second most densely populated city in the U.S., San Francisco is more akin to Europe than to America. The city has 63 miles of bike lanes within its seven-by-seven square miles, with some 40,000 residents cycling to work every day. On Sundays in the spring and summer, some streets are closed to car traffic and open to the public for biking, rollerblading, and just hanging out. Plazas attract farmer's markets, protests, and coffee-sipping denizens. San Francisco has always been iconoclastic, from the early Gold Rush Days, to the 1967 Summer of Love, to the legalization (and subsequent prohibition) of same-sex marriage, a movement which pushed five other states to do the same. Flanked on the east and west side by its beloved bridges, the metropolis could be easily perched next to the Mediterranean Sea. It's no wonder it attracts the third-highest number of foreign visitors in the U.S. each year.

San Francisco isn't so much a city as a collection of neighborhoods, each with its own character and micro-climate, which is why the city can have sun, fog and drizzle at the same time on the same day. In all, there are 27 distinct neighborhoods with dozens of sub-neighborhoods that mesh together like puzzle pieces.

Often only a block or two separates one from the other, one world from the next. The Tenderloin, San Francisco's skid row, borders sparkling and tourist-ridden Union Square; the modish Mission lies side by side with stroller-central Noe Valley; gritty Polk Gulch rubs rich Russian Hill; overlooked Western Addition nuzzles posh Pac Heights; blue-collar Chinatown kisses the corporate Financial District.

The characters who inhabit these communities are a paradox as well – Jimmy Choos pound the pavement

alongside friendly bums, and white-collar workers take the same bus as fuzzy boot-clad street performers. To label San Francisco's citizens as eclectic is an understatement. It's also an understatement to call them "unique." Don't be surprised if you find yourself amongst an impromptu pillow fight along the Embarcadero, a naked bike parade up Market Street, or a flash dance party on public transit.

Despite the stereotype, California does not a hot, sunny destination make. Most visitors underestimate the fog's chill, which is felt most strongly between 4-8pm, after which the wind tends to calm down. San Franciscans are a practical bunch; you'll rarely see a local without a spare scarf, hat, or long sleeves. They also shy away from wintry black and gray wardrobes; color plays a huge part in street fashion, and nobody looks twice if somebody dons a purple velvet suit while walking their dog or if a bride wears red instead of white to her wedding. San Franciscans also know that when it's hot, you take advantage of it, whether it's in November, March, or May. Beach days and mild nights do happen, but they are few and far between, and they are rarely enjoyed in the summer.

San Francisco boasts festivals nearly every weekend, from the largest Chinese New Year's Parade outside of China, to Pride, the oldest of the world's gay pride parades. Much of the population turns out for the annual Bay to Breakers run as well as the three-day Outside Lands concert in Golden Gate Park, both of which make San Francisco a party destination on par with New Orleans, Berlin, Austin, and Miami. Chances are high that you'll be in town for some event like the Stern Grove free concerts, Cinco de Mayo, Treasure Island Music festival, Carnaval, Fillmore Street Jazz festival, or the dozens of film festivals which descend upon the most cultured of cities yearly. Don't forget the Haight Street, Folsom Street, Union Street, North Beach, and Japantown neighborhood street fairs. And the list goes on...

Yet, even with endless fun at their fingertips, San Franciscans are a diligent bunch. It's no coincidence that the city is home to online powerhouses Twitter, Craigslist, Zynga, and Yelp, and only a few miles away you'll find Paypal, Google, and Facebook. San Francisco seems to be

experiencing a second boom to the dot-com era with hundreds of tech start-ups invading SOMA, Potrero Hill, and the blighted 5th street and Market corridor (Twitter recently got a tax break for moving here versus retreating to blander Silicon Valley).

Since the first dotcom boom in 2000, newfound wealth has made an obvious impression on the city. Old SOMA warehouses have turned into condos; decrepit Dogpatch industrial spaces have been transformed into airy live/work lofts; and just wait until 2017, when the "Grand Central Station of the West" opens. The new Transbay Transit Center project will add three 1,200 foot skyscrapers and 10 additional towers to the San Francisco skyline. Lest we forget, the highly anticipated eastern span of the Bay Bridge, with its single self-supporting suspension tower, is slated to finally open in 2013.

To some, all of this development has meant San Francisco has lost its counter culture character. Ridiculously high rents have driven many of the "hippies" out. Those that remain are finding it less hospitable. The Haight-Ashbury neighborhood has been populated with vagabonds ever since the Summer of Love and business owners are finally taking a stand against their loitering. The controversial Sit/Lie Law, which bans sitting or lying on sidewalks between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m., was just passed by voters.

Next to its cable cars and hills (you'll never forget your first ride over the crest of Nob Hill) San Francisco is known as epicurean heaven. Boasting around 3,600 restaurants, San Francisco has fantastic ethnic cuisine—sushi, Vietnamese, Thai, and Chinese, to name just a few. The large Hispanic population contributes dozens of popular taquerias; most are concentrated in the Mission district. The birth of California cuisine, pioneered by Alice Waters of the world famous Chez Panisse, turned the entire country on to fresh, local ingredients, a movement which is reflected across the board in San Francisco eateries like Zuni Café, Range, Michael Mina, and newcomer Prospect.

San Francisco's stunning beauty and easy access to nature make it a paradise for outdoor-lovers. There are over 50 city, state, and federal parks within the city itself, including the crown jewel: Golden Gate Park. Gorgeous golden beaches are mere

## San Francisco Snapshot continued

minutes from downtown, mountain biking was born in the Marin hills just north of the Golden Gate Bridge, and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area covers close to 75,000 acres, including 59 miles of bay and ocean shoreline.

You won't find that kind of space in any other major American city. More

community-focused than Los Angeles, milder than Boston, more relaxed than New York, more focused than Miami, San Francisco is a destination of dreamers and achievers- people don't just talk the talk, they put their plans into action and aren't afraid to fail. Just look at the San Francisco Giants- even a baseball team

deemed "a bunch of rag tag misfits" can pull off a World Series championship...just sayin'. It's obvious San Franciscans love their city, and when you visit, you probably will too.

© NileGuide