



San Francisco, CA



San Francisco, California, is located on the northern end of the San Francisco Peninsula, and was originally founded in 1776 as a fort and a mission by Spanish colonists who named the mission for St. Francis of Assisi. Annexed by the United States in 1846, San Francisco grew quickly because of the discovery of gold in California in 1848.

Many art museums are located in San Francisco, including the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, comprised of the de Young and the California Palace of the Legion of Honor; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Asian Art Museum—Chong-Moon Lee Center for Asian Art and Culture; Cartoon Art Museum; SFO Museum at the San Francisco International Airport; and the Meridian Gallery. The San Francisco Museum and Historical Society, San Francisco Cable Car Museum, Wells Fargo History Museum, the San Francisco Fire Department Museum, Society of California Pioneers, and the Virtual Museum of the City of San Francisco educate visitors on the city's rich history. Other museums include the Exploratorium, California Academy of Sciences, Children's Creativity Museum, Randall Museum, San Francisco Center for the Book, Contemporary Jewish Museum, and Museum of the African Diaspora.

The oldest intact building in the city is the Misión San Francisco de Asís, also known as Mission Dolores. The Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz Island, Coit Tower, and Westerfield House are other local attractions.

The San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Center's 5 facilities are home to opera, symphony, modern and classical dance, theater, recitals, plays, and lectures. Other performance venues in the city include the new SF Jazz Center; Nourse Auditorium; Bill Graham Civic Auditorium; SHN Curran, Golden Gate and Orpheum Theatres; CounterPULSE Theater; ODC Theater, Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts; and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Downtown San Francisco is one of the city's 89 neighborhoods and offers condominium residences, as do the nearby Van Ness/Civic Center, Financial District, Telegraph Hill, and North Waterfront neighborhoods. Russian Hill and Nob Hill feature single-family homes as well as condominiums.

The Lakeshore neighborhood around Lake Merced was developed as a "model community," and offers single-family homes, apartments, and townhouses. Located on Mount Davidson, the city's highest hill, are neighborhoods comprised of single-family homes. The Sherwood Forest neighborhood contains streets named after places in Robin Hood. Westwood Highlands was built to resemble an English village. One-story homes dominate Outer Parkside, which was built in the 1930s and 1940s. Buena Vista Park homes are primarily single-family Edwardians and Victorians, with a few contemporary residences among them. The St. Francis Wood neighborhood was inspired by the City Beautiful movement; homes feature classical designs, views, and harmony with the surrounding environment. Midtown Terrace is located on the western slope of Twin Peaks and was designed in 1957 as a planned community with single-family detached homes. Haight-Ashbury, Mission Dolores, Noe Valley, and North Panhandle contain many Victorian and Edwardian homes, multiunit apartment buildings, and condominiums. Streets in Alamo Square and Pacific Heights neighborhoods are lined with some of the city's finest examples of Victorian architecture.

PARKS AND RECREATION

San Francisco has 210 city parks and 25 recreation centers, 6 public golf courses, 9 swimming pools, tennis and basketball courts, baseball and soccer fields, playgrounds, 35 community gardens, and 28 off-leash dog areas.

Golden Gate Park features the de Young Museum, California Academy

of Sciences, Conservatory of Flowers, Barbro Osher Sculpture Garden, Shakespeare Garden, National AIDS Memorial Grove, San Francisco Botanical Garden, Bison Paddock, Japanese Tea Garden, playgrounds, lakes, trails, and monuments.

The Golden Gate National Recreation Area, which includes Alcatraz, Crissy Field, Muir Woods, and the Presidio, is 1 of 2 national parks located in San Francisco. Once a military post, the Presidio now offers tours of historic military ruins, artillery batteries, and the National Cemetery. The San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park has a large collection of floating historic ships and a Visitor Center. Both parks offer views of the Golden Gate Bridge, Marin Headlands, and the Pacific Ocean.

Lake Merced is a large freshwater lake that is popular with boaters, hikers, bicyclists, and birdwatchers.

San Francisco Zoo and the Aquarium of the Bay are other local attractions.

Professional sports teams are the San Francisco 49ers (football), the San Francisco Giants (baseball), and the San Francisco Bulls (hockey).

EDUCATION

The San Francisco Unified School District educates over 55,000 students in 74 elementary and K-8 schools, 12 middle schools, 15 senior high schools (including 2 continuation schools and an independent study school), and 11 active charter schools.

Higher education is available at San Francisco State University, which offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs. The University of San Francisco is a Catholic university that offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs. The University of California, San Francisco, is dedicated exclusively to the health sciences and has schools of dentistry, medicine, nursing, and pharmacy. The Academy of Art University offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs in art and design. Everest College and Heald College focus on career-training.

City College of San Francisco is a community college with 9 campuses.

HEALTH CARE

San Francisco is served by 11 hospital facilities with more than 3,500 licensed acute care beds. The city is also home to the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center, long-term acute care facilities, and rehabilitation hospitals.

CITY STATS

2011

City Population	812,826
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	4,391,037
Per Capita Personal Income, San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA, MSA	\$61,395