

The Telegraph

48 hours in . . . San Francisco, an insider guide to The City by the Bay

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By Laura Chubb



San Francisco is known for its cable cars and steep hills. Credit: Garry Riddsdale

Where big tech meets bohemian life

From the first days of the Gold Rush, to the hippie movement and then the startups of mass disruption today, San Francisco is the land of pioneers. There's something about that enigmatic fog and those endless panoramas of ocean and green hills, that keeps drawing dreamers and radicals. SF (never 'San Fran') is always changing the way the world thinks, be that about gay rights, the sharing economy, or a 'locavore' diet.

Though a tiny city – only seven miles by seven miles – its influence is as wide as its appeal is diverse. Within 24 hours, you could hike a coastal path with Silicon Valley billionaires; bargain in Chinatown's lantern-strung streets; and chow down on cheap tacos in the Latin-flavoured Mission District, where palms sway outside Art Deco movie palaces. Throw in a surplus of major landmarks – the Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz island, cable cars, Lombard Street – and you've got a solid argument that this isn't just the States' best-looking city. It's simply the best.

Hot right now...

Laura Chubb, our resident expert, offers her top tips on the hottest places to eat, drink and stay this season.

Stay

The long-awaited [Lodge at the Presidio](#) (105 Montgomery St.; 00 1 415 561 1234) has opened inside The Presidio National Park, making it the closest hotel to the Golden Gate Bridge. Now's the time to soak in this smart boutique's views, before the summer fog settles in. Double rooms from \$314 (£241).

- [The best hotels in San Francisco](#)



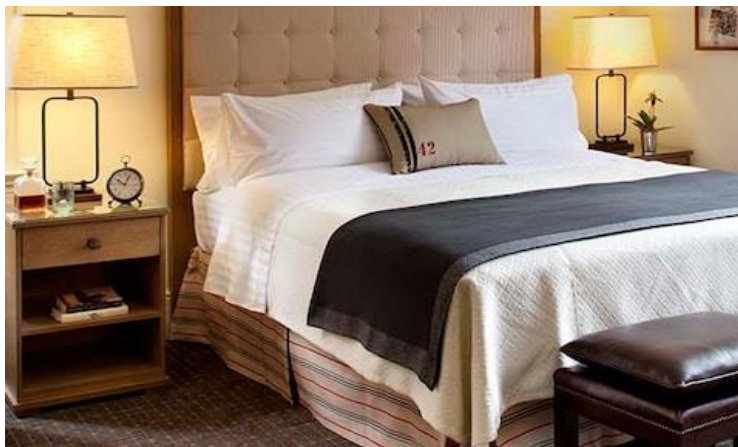
Lodge at the Presidio is the closest hotel to the famous Golden Gate Bridge.

Where to stay...

Boutique Bolthole

Located in the heart of San Francisco's spectacular national park is the [Inn at The Presidio](#), a unique boutique hotel converted from historic lodgings. Though only five miles from downtown, it offers a peaceful retreat among forest, with partial views of the Golden Gate Bridge.

Doubles from \$350 (£250). 42 Moraga Ave.; 00 1 415 800 7356



The Inn at The Presidio was formerly the residence for unmarried officers.

Insider tip| Hotels



Staying at [Lodge at the Presidio?](#) Ask for room 118: the views from this Standard King's window are just as good as the in-demand View Kings rooms.