



Marin County & the Bay Area

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Chez Panisse (p145)
- ➔ Sushi Ran (p119)
- ➔ Lake Chalet (p135)
- ➔ Duarte's Tavern (p159)
- ➔ Ippuku (p145)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ HI Pigeon Point Lighthouse Hostel (p159)
- ➔ Cavallo Point (p117)
- ➔ Mountain Home Inn (p123)
- ➔ Hotel Shattuck Plaza (p145)

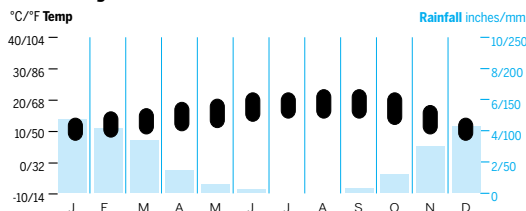
Why Go?

The region surrounding San Francisco encompasses a bonanza of natural vistas and wildlife. Cross the Golden Gate Bridge to Marin and visit wizened ancient redwoods body-blocking the sun and herds of elegant tule elk prancing along the bluffs of Tomales Bay. Gray whales show some fluke off the cape of wind-scoured Point Reyes, and hawks surf the skies in the pristine hills of the Marin Headlands.

On the cutting edge of intellectual thought, Stanford University and the University of California at Berkeley draw academics and students from around the world. The city of Berkeley sparked the locavore food movement and continues to be on the forefront of environmental and left-leaning political causes. South of San Francisco, Hwy 1 traces miles of undeveloped coastline and sandy pocket beaches.

When to Go

Berkeley



Dec–Mar
Elephant seal pupping season and the peak of gray whale migrations.

Mar–Apr Wildflowers hit their peak on trails throughout the region.

Jun–Sep Farmers markets overflow with sweet seasonal fruit.



Marin County & the Bay Area Highlights

- 1 Gazing up at the majestic redwood canopy at **Muir Woods National Monument** (p125).
- 2 Cavorting with elk and gray whales at the **Point Reyes National Seashore** (p129).
- 3 Touring the beach-cove coastline along **Hwy 1** from Pacifica to Santa Cruz.
- 4 Feasting your way through the delectable **Gourmet Ghetto** (p142) in Berkeley.
- 5 Kayaking **Tomales Bay** (p129) amid harbor seals and splendid shorelines.
- 6 Hiking or cycling the perimeter of panoramic **Angel Island** (p120).
- 7 Spying on the elephant seals at **Año Nuevo State Reserve** (p159).
- 8 Cooling off with a cannonball splash at blissful **Bass Lake** (p127).
- 9 Heading to Oakland's **Chabot Space & Science Center** (p134) to marvel at the stars.