

# Golden Gate Park & the Avenues

THE RICHMOND | THE SUNSET

## Neighborhood Top Five

**1 Golden Gate Park** (p195) Doing what comes naturally: skipping, lolling or lindy-hopping through America's most outlandish stretch of urban wilderness, and racing bison toward the Pacific Ocean.

**2 de Young Museum** (p196) Following Andy Goldsworthy's sidewalk fault

lines to discover groundbreaking global art from Oceania to South Africa, Afghanistan to Alaska.

**3 California Academy of Sciences** (p196) Enjoying sunsets on the wildflower-topped roof and wild nights at kids-only Academy sleepovers and 21-plus NightLife events.

**4 Coastal Trail** (p205) Glimpsing seals, sunsets and shipwrecks along San Francisco's wild waterfront walk.

**5 Ocean Beach** (p199) Numbing your toes in the Pacific and expanding your horizons to Asia over bonfires in artist-designed fire pits.



For more detail of this area see Map p318 →

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Hear that echo across Golden Gate Park? It's probably a concert – and quite possibly a free one. Opera divas, indie acts, bluegrass greats and hip-hop heavies take turns rocking SF gratis, from the wintry days of June through golden October afternoons. Most concerts are held in Sharon Meadow or Polo Fields at weekends; for upcoming events, consult the park calendar at [www.golden-gate-park.com](http://www.golden-gate-park.com).



### Best for Urban Wildlife

- Golden Gate Park (p195)
- Fort Funston (p199)
- Ocean Beach (p199)
- California Academy of Sciences (p196)



### Best Places to Eat

- Wako (p201)
- Dragon Beaux (p200)
- Outerlands (p202)
- Spruce (p201)
- Cinderella Russian Bakery (p200)

For reviews, see p200 ➡



### Best Places to Drink

- Plough & Stars (p203)
- Trad'r Sam (p202)
- Trouble Coffee (p202)
- Tommy's Mexican Restaurant (p202)
- Beach Chalet (p202)

For reviews, see p202 ➡

## Explore: Golden Gate Park & the Avenues

Civilization is overrated, with its traffic jams and office blocks – but once you reach the Conservatory of Flowers (p197) in Golden Gate Park, that's all behind you. Hang out with blue butterflies in the rainforest dome at the California Academy of Sciences (p196), or globe-trot from Oceanic masks to James Turrell light installations in the worldly arts exhibits of the de Young Museum (p196). Enjoy a moment of Zen and green tea in the Japanese Tea Garden (p197), then summit Strawberry Hill for views past Stow Lake to the Pacific as red-tailed hawks swoop past.

Wander to San Francisco Botanical Garden (p197) for respite in the redwood grove before hopping the N streetcar all the way to Ocean Beach (p199). Stroll the 4-mile stretch of sand to the Richmond for decadent sushi at Wako (p201) and dangerous Hurricanes at Trad'r Sam (p202), or stay put in the Sunset for surf-shopping at Mollusk (p204) and organic Cali comfort food at Outerlands (p202). With food and fog like this, you must be in heaven.

## Local Life

➤ **Foggy days** Stay warm with Trouble Coffee (p202), matinees at Balboa Theatre (p203), noir-movie fedoras at Paul's Hat Works (p204), and sultry rainforest strolls inside the California Academy of Sciences (p196) and the Conservatory of Flowers (p197).

➤ **Goose bumps, guaranteed** Get delicious chills with bare feet on Ocean Beach (p199), eerily lifelike masks at the de Young Museum (p196), cliff's-edge views along the Coastal Trail (p205) and steep concrete slides at the Children's Playground (p197).

➤ **Out-there art outposts** Outlandishness is an SF way of life; take in the scene with Park Life (p203) art openings, original '60s Pop Art at Legion of Honor (p198) and gnarly surf photography at Mollusk (p204).

## Getting There & Away

➤ **Bus** Buses 1, 31 and 38 run from downtown through the Richmond, while 7 and 6 head from downtown to the Sunset. Buses 5 and 21 skirt the northern edge of Golden Gate Park, while north-south buses 28, 29 and 44 cut across the park. Bus 2 covers Clement St, 33 connects to the Haight and Castro, and 18 spans the Great Hwy.

➤ **Streetcar** The N line runs from downtown through the Sunset to Ocean Beach.