

# The Marina, Fisherman's Wharf & the Piers

THE MARINA | COW HOLLOW | FISHERMAN'S WHARF | THE PIERS | PRESIDIO

## Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 Golden Gate Bridge** (p54) Strolling across just after the fog clears, revealing magnificent views of downtown San Francisco with sailboats plying the waves below.
- 2 Alcatraz** (p72) Feeling cold winds blow and imagining the misery of prison life.
- 3 Pier 39** (p57) Giggling at the shenanigans of braying and barking sea lions.
- 4 Union St** (p70) Poking into hidden courtyards and discovering indie boutiques.
- 5 Musée Mécanique** (p58) Marveling at 19th-century arcade games.



For more detail of this area see Maps p289, p290, p291 and p292 ➔

## Explore: the Marina, Fisherman's Wharf & the Piers

Fisherman's Wharf is the epicenter of tourism in San Francisco; the few remaining fishermen moor their boats around Pier 47. Locals don't usually visit the Wharf because it's entirely geared to tourists. Budget two hours to a half-day maximum. Weekends it gets packed by early afternoon: come first thing in the morning to avoid crowds. Summertime fog usually clears by midday (if it clears at all), so visit the Golden Gate Bridge during early afternoon – but be warned that the afternoon fog blows in around 4pm. Carry a jacket and don't wear shorts, unless you're here during a rare heat wave (locals spot the tourists by their short pants). Most people walk further than they anticipate: wear comfortable shoes and sunscreen. Cow Hollow and the Marina have good boutique-shopping strips, bars and restaurants. Explore them later in the day, after working hours but while the shops are still open, when the busy sidewalks provide a glimpse of the fancy-pants Marina crowd.

## Local Life

- ➔ **Nature walks** San Franciscans love the outdoors – joggers and dog walkers flock to the waterfront trails at Crissy Field and to the hills of the Presidio for wooded trails and site-specific art installations.
- ➔ **Barhopping** The Marina District bars on Fillmore St, from Union St to Chestnut St, are ground zero for party-girl sorority sisters and the varsity jocks who love them. Not all locals approve.
- ➔ **City views** For dramatic views of Fisherman's Wharf and the San Francisco skyline – and a break from the crowds – hop on a ferry at Pier 41.

## Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Streetcar** Historic F Market streetcars run along Market St, then up the Embarcadero waterfront to Fisherman's Wharf.
- ➔ **Cable car** The Powell-Hyde and Powell-Mason lines run up Powell St to the Wharf; the Mason line is quicker, but the hills are better on the Hyde line.
- ➔ **Bus** Major routes to the Wharf and/or the Marina from downtown include the 19, 30, 47 and 49.
- ➔ **Car** At the Wharf, there are parking garages at Pier 39 and Ghirardelli Sq (enter on Beach St, between Larkin and Polk Sts). At the Marina, there's parking at Crissy Field and Fort Mason. The Presidio is the only place where it's easy – and free – to park.
- ➔ **Ferry** Ferries (p72) run from the Wharf and Ferry Building to Angel Island, Sausalito, Tiburon and Vallejo.

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

To escape the crowds, head west of Ghirardelli Sq. First, make your way on foot or by bike to Aquatic Park, then cut west along the waterfront path, through Fort Mason to Marina Green. Aim for the bobbing masts of the yacht club along Marina Blvd, stopping to explore the piers but keeping your eye on the prize: the Golden Gate Bridge.

## Best Waterfront Vistas

- ➔ Golden Gate Bridge (p54)
- ➔ Warming Hut (p64)
- ➔ Crissy Field (p55)
- ➔ Aquatic Park (p59)
- ➔ Pier 39 (p57)

## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Gary Danko (p68)
- ➔ In-N-Out Burger (p65)
- ➔ Off the Grid (p62)
- ➔ Greens (p65)

For reviews, see p62 ➔

## Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Interval Bar & Cafe (p69)
- ➔ Buena Vista Cafe (p69)
- ➔ Gold Dust Lounge (p69)
- ➔ Pier 23 (p69)
- ➔ West Coast Wine & Cheese (p69)

For reviews, see p68 ➔