

The Mission, SoMa & Potrero Hill



Neighborhood Top Five

- ➊ Looking into the future at **SFMOMA** (p132), which has showcased cutting-edge photography and new media works since before they were even considered art. Groundbreaking stuff, literally: a half-billion-dollar expansion is under way to house world-class collections that have doubled in size since 1995.
- ➋ Seeing garage doors, billboards and storefronts transformed into canvases with over 400 **Mission murals** (p133).
- ➌ Watching puffer fish completely immersed in their roles inside the Fish Theater at **826 Valencia** (p135).
- ➍ Drinking up, getting down and acting out in hot and heavy **SoMa clubs** (p150).
- ➎ Tasting the nation's next culinary sensation at the wildly inventive, fanatically fresh **Mission restaurants** (p142).

Explore the Mission, SoMa & Potrero Hill

Get to know San Francisco from the inside out, from SFMOMA and SoMa galleries to mural-covered Mission alleys. Score a whole new look at Mission boutiques and count on Mission and Potrero Hill nonprofits for the ultimate SF souvenir: a new creative talent, discovered at a hands-on arts workshop or dance class. Book ahead for fusion fare at Benu or extravagant vegetables at Commonwealth, or trawl the Mission by day and SoMa by night for gourmet street food. Become the toast of SoMa clubs with moves that would cause scandals back home – ever since its bathhouse heyday in the 1970s, SoMa has highly encouraged outrageous behavior on the dance floor. Once you've watched the sun rise over SoMa freeway on-ramps outside EndUp, you're practically a local.

Local Life

- ➔ **DIY** Make a children's pop-up book at SF Center for the Book (p162), skate the bowl at Potrero del Sol/La Raza Skatepark (p161), upcycle office supplies into art at SCRAP (p158) and concoct edible perfumes at 18 Reasons (p161) and stories at 826 Valencia (p135).
- ➔ **Late-night munchies** Savor four-star bar fare at Bar Agricole (p150), graze gourmet food trucks outside Bloodhound (p150) or score tamales in the beer garden at Zeitgeist (p148).
- ➔ **Look the part** Define your own Mission hipster style with local designers at Mission Statement (p159), Nooworks (p158) and Dema (p159).

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Bus** In SoMa, the 30 and 45 lines run down 4th St from Union Square and the 14 runs through SoMa to the Mission District along Mission St. The 27 runs from Mission to Nob Hill via SoMa, the 47 runs along Harrison through SoMa and up Van Ness to Fisherman's Wharf, while the 19 runs up 8th and Polk Sts to the wharf. In the Mission, bus 49 follows Mission St and Van Ness Ave to the wharf, while the 33 links Potrero and the Mission to the Castro, the Haight and Golden Gate Park.
- ➔ **Streetcar** All of the Market St streetcars serve the upper part of SoMa. The N line heads south along the Embarcadero and connects SoMa to the Haight and Golden Gate Park. The T Muni line from Downtown via SoMa stops along 3rd St between 16th and 22nd, in Potrero's Dogpatch district. The J streetcar heads from Downtown through the Mission.
- ➔ **BART** Stations at 16th and 24th Sts serve the Mission.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

This is where almost all of SF's best nightlife is, and although you should be fine in the daytime, it's not always the safest area to walk alone at night. Recruit a friend and be alert in the Mission east of Valencia, in Potrero Hill below 18th St and in SoMa west of 5th St, especially around 6th St (aka Skid Row). Don't bring the bling – this isn't LA – and don't leave belongings unattended.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Benu (p146)
- ➔ La Taqueria (p142)
- ➔ Commonwealth (p143)
- ➔ Delfina (p143)
- ➔ Humphry Slocombe (p144)

For reviews, see p142 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Bar Agricole (p150)
- ➔ Zeitgeist (p148)
- ➔ Elixir (p148)
- ➔ Bloodhound (p150)
- ➔ Heart (p148)

For reviews, see p148 ➔

Best Reasons to Stay Up Late

- ➔ Pogoing at Bottom of the Hill (p156)
- ➔ GhettoDisco at EndUp (p151)
- ➔ Throwback Thursdays at Cat Club (p150)
- ➔ Dancing with drag queens at AsiaSF (p156)

For reviews, see p154 ➔