

Golden Gate Park & the Avenues

THE RICHMOND | THE SUNSET

Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 Doing what comes naturally in **Golden Gate Park** (p202): skipping, lolling or lindy-hopping through America's most outlandish stretch of urban wilderness, and racing the buffalo towards the Pacific Ocean.
- 2 Following Andy Goldsworthy's sidewalk fault lines to groundbreaking art inside the **MH de Young Museum** (p203).
- 3 Enjoying sunsets on the wildflower-topped roof and wild nights at **California Academy of Sciences** (p203).
- 4 Numbing toes in the Pacific and expanding horizons to Asia at **Ocean Beach** (p206).
- 5 Catching end-of-the-world views and glimpses of Sutor Sam the river otter at **Sutro Baths** (p205).



For more detail of this area, see Map p342 →

Explore Golden Gate Park & the Avenues

Civilization is overrated, with its traffic jams and office blocks – but once you reach the Conservatory of Flowers (p204) in Golden Gate Park, that's all behind you. Hang out with blue butterflies in the rainforest dome at the California Academy of Sciences (p203), or globe-trot from Egyptian goddesses to James Turrell light installations in the worldly arts exhibits of the MH de Young Museum (p203). Enjoy a moment of Zen and green tea in the Japanese Tea Garden (p204), then summit Strawberry Hill for views past Stow Lake (p204) to the Pacific as red-tailed hawks swoop past.

Wander to San Francisco Botanical Garden (p204) for respite in the redwood grove before hopping the N streetcar all the way to Ocean Beach (p206). Stroll the 4-mile stretch of sand to the Richmond for dinner at Aziza (p210) and tequila school at Tommy's Mexican Restaurant (p211), or stay put in the Sunset for surf-shopping at Mollusk (p213) and dinner at Outerlands (p211). With food and fog like this, you must be in heaven.

Local Life

♦ **Foggy days** Stay warm with Trouble Coffee (p212), hoodies from Mollusk (p213), matinees at Balboa Theatre (p213), and rainforest strolls inside the California Academy of Sciences (p203) and Conservatory of Flowers (p204).

♦ **Goose bumps, guaranteed** Get delicious chills with bare feet on Ocean Beach (p206), eerily lifelike ceremonial masks at MH de Young Museum (p203), cliff's-edge views along the Coastal Trail (p205) and ice-cream cocktails at Trad'r Sam (p212).

♦ **Outposts of cool** Outlandishness is a way of life at Park Life (p213) art openings, Hollow (p212) art-installation coffee breaks and musical interludes in the garden at General Store (p213).

Getting There & Away

♦ **Bus** Numbers 1, 31 and 38 run from Downtown through the Richmond, while 71 and 6 head from Downtown to the Sunset. Buses 5 and 21 skirt the north edge of Golden Gate Park, while north-south buses 28, 29 and 44 cut across the park. Number 2 covers Clement St, 33 connects to the Haight and Castro, and 18 spans the Great Highway.

♦ **Streetcar** The N line runs from Downtown through the Sunset to Ocean Beach.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Hear that echo across Golden Gate Park? It's probably a concert and very likely 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 on weekends; for upcoming events, consult the park calendar at www.golden-gate-park.com.

Best Places to Eat

- ♦ Aziza (p210)
- ♦ Outerlands (p211)
- ♦ Kabuto (p207)
- ♦ Spruce (p210)
- ♦ Thanh Long (p211)

For reviews, see p207 →

Best Places to Drink

- ♦ Tommy's Mexican Restaurant (p211)
- ♦ Beach Chalet (p212)
- ♦ Trouble Coffee (p212)
- ♦ Hollow (p212)
- ♦ Plough & Stars (p213)

For reviews, see p211 →

Best Urban Wildlife Sightings

- ♦ Bison in Golden Gate Park (p202)
- ♦ Bank swallows at Fort Funston (p206)
- ♦ Penguins at California Academy of Sciences (p203)

For reviews, see p205 →