

What to Do Around Town and Beyond

GETTING AROUND

Look at a map and get familiar with a few of the freeways

- Highway 280 is the main freeway that runs from San Jose through Cupertino (DeAnza exit is Apple's campus) and up to San Francisco.
- Highway 101 runs north from San Jose to San Francisco also.
- Highway 85 connects 280 and 101.

Note to navigators: roads around here change names randomly and without warning. Steven's Creek suddenly becomes San Carlos for example. It can get confusing so we recommend using mapquest directions for getting around.

Lunch around Bubb 8

Bombay Oven (Indian)

Vivi's (Falafel)

Panera Bread (sandwiches and salads)

Baja Fresh (Mexican)

Chipotle (de Anza)

Ariake (Sushi boat)

Sushi & bento place on Stevens Creek near post office

Dinner

Gordon Biersch (Micro Brewery)

33 E San Fernando St., San Jose, CA 408-294-6785

Excellent beers and pub food. This is a local chain and all the places are great for a group. And try the garlic fries.

Henry's Hi-Life

301 W. Saint John St, San Jose

An authentic barbecue smokehouse and a San Jose institution. The portions are huge. It is not cheap, but it's the best barbecue in the whole state. It's next to the HP Pavilion, so you may not want to go if there is a Sharks game.

Blue Rock Shoot

14523 Big Basin Way (Hwy 9), Saratoga, CA 408-872-0309

Downtown Saratoga is great. There are lots of restaurants and shops. It's a quick drive up De Anza, which turns into Saratoga Ave, which turns into Big Basin Way. Blue Rock is a casual, old-time California bar & restaurant. They usually have some live music.

La Fondue

14510 Big Basin Way #3, Saratoga, CA 408-867-3332

Also in downtown Saratoga, this is a really fun place for groups. Previous groups have enjoyed going here, but it's very pricey so you'll probably need to supplement your per diem with your own cash.



Santana Row

Steven's Creek and Winchester St. (Across from Valley Fair Mall)

There are 18 restaurants in here ranging from cheap to expensive.

Ariake

5190 Stevens Creek Blvd Ste Santa Clara (408) 249-8383

Good, cheap, quick sushi. Sit at the counter and grab what you want off the sushi boats as they pass by. Also, they have a very friendly staff.

Blowfish Sushi to Die For

335 Santana Row 408-345-3848

Pricier sushi, but great quality in a fun environment with lots to do after dinner.

Kubota Restaurant

593 N. Fifth St, San Jose 408-279-8440

San Jose has a good Japantown. Kubota is one of the more famous sushi places there. But there are many others to choose from as well.

DINNER IN A DIFFERENT NEIGHBORHOOD

Willow Glen, San Jose

Take Hwy 280 South to the Bird exit. Turn right onto Bird and follow it for a mile or so. Turn Right on to Willow Street. Take that for a few blocks and turn Left on Lincoln and park anywhere. There are a dozen or so places to eat on Lincoln. All of the Mexican restaurants are great. We like Puerto Azul. Try the Chavelas beer cocktail and the shrimp cocktail.

University Avenue area, Palo Alto

Take Hwy 101 north to the University exit. Turn left onto University and follow it for a couple of miles. University Ave turns into a bustling retail area with tons of restaurants and shops. This is the neighborhood of Stanford University and the location of the Palo Alto Apple Store. Lots and lots to do here. There are chains and independents, ethnic food, sushi, safe and familiar fare, there's something for everyone here. We recommend Pluto's, Old Pro, Andale, and Gordon Biersch to name a few.

Food Shopping

Safeway

5146 Stevens Creek Blvd, San Jose

1600 Saratoga Road, San Jose

The most common grocery store in the area. There are dozens of them.



Whole Foods

20830 Stevens Creek Blvd, Cupertino 408-257-7000

Right down the street from Bubb 8.

Other Shopping

Valley Fair Mall

2855 Steven's Creek Blvd at the corner of Winchester

This is the closest big shopping mall and the closest Apple Store.

Santana Row

Right across the street from Valley Fair Mall. Tons of shops.

Target

20745 Steven's Creek Blvd, Cupertino

See the descriptions in the daytrips & weekend trips for more shopping options.

Other Stuff To Do

San Jose Downtown

Downtown is packed with nightclubs, museums, dancing, restaurants, etc. Check one of the local resources for more info.

Movie Theaters

There are a few theaters around the Valley Fair Mall/Santana Row area.

Winchester Mystery House - www.winchestermysteryhouse.com

The heiress to the Winchester firearms fortune thought the spirits of people killed by Winchester guns were coming back to get her. So she built an elaborate ghost house to keep them away. The house is right down the street from Santana Row on Winchester.

Local Resources

www.sanjose.com

www.metroactive.com

www.sfbayshop.com

SF Bay Guardian Newspaper www.sfbg.com

SF Weekly www.sfweekly.com



DAYTRIPS/WEEKEND TRIPS

San Francisco

No trip to the area is complete without a visit to “the city,” as it’s known around these parts (never “frisco”). There are lots of easy ways to get there.

- Driving – Highway 280 or Highway 101 take you right into the city.
- CalTrain – Drops you off in the South of Market neighborhood with connections to the Muni system of trains and busses www.caltrain.com . Take the N Judah to Market Street. It will drop you off right near the Apple Store on Stockton.
- BART – A commuter train that connects to Cal Train and will put you right on Market Street. NOTE: The SF Apple Store is at the Powell Street BART Station. www.bart.gov

Getting Around in The City:

- Driving – Can be challenging. Parking is hard to come by and the hills are no joke. Expect to pay between \$15 and \$30 to park in a city or private lot. Definitely expect to get towed if you park illegally.
- MUNI – SF’s bus and street-car system. A good way to get around. www.sfmuni.com
- Cabs – The easiest and quickest way to get around but they are expensive and not always easy to hail.
- Walking – once in the area you want to explore walking is easy.

We recommend driving to the Bart station in Colma or Daily City. There is ample parking and the stations are right off of Hwy 280. Take BART to Powell St. station. The train ride is quick and puts you on Market Street where you can catch a street-car, cab or bus to anywhere in the city.

WHERE TO GO:

San Francisco

The city is divided into dozens of neighborhoods called districts. Each district has a distinct personality and culture. They are in effect, little cities within the city. They are all walkable. You could spend a whole day in any one of them. Here are the more popular, visitor-friendly districts and what they offer. We’ve noted the main intersection in each area so you can find it on a map or give instructions to a cabbie.

Union Square/Market Street: (Powell St. Bart station, Market & Powell Streets)

Upscale shopping, hotels and restaurants. This is where the Apple Store is located. Don’t miss the Ferry Building at the end of Market Street, it houses the best gourmet food markets in the area. (Note: Union Square borders a neighborhood called The Tenderloin, which is not recommended, especially at night.)



The Castro: (Market & Castro Streets)

World-famous gay & lesbian neighborhood. Great shopping, restaurants and bars. A very fun neighborhood no matter what your interests are.

The Mission: (16th St & Valencia)

The City's biggest Latin neighborhood. There are wonderful restaurants and good shopping up and down the streets. Expect an eclectic mix of artists, immigrants and long-time locals here. But it can be dodgy at night.

South of Market: (Mission & 3rd Streets)

This warehouse district is now home to museums, restaurants and work/live lofts. In the 90's this area earned the nickname, "multi-media gulch" for all the dotcom and web design companies that moved in. This was ground-zero for the dotcom boom, bust and recent rebirth. SF/MOMA is worth seeing. And if you hang out at the bars and coffee shops, you'll probably strike up a conversation with a pre-i.p.o., multi-media entrepreneur.

Chinatown: (Grant & California)

Running up Grant Street, this is the iconic Chinatown crowded with food, souvenir shops, Chinese chotchkeys, remedies, and more, and more, and more. And more. And you can spend the whole day there playing "guess that smell" with your friends.

North Beach: (Columbus & Broadway)

Home of the original counter culture movement in 50s and 60s. This is where Jack Kerouac, Lenny Bruce, Allen Ginsberg and the Beatnicks cut their teeth. Most of their influence is gone today, replaced by strip clubs. But you can still groove on their flavor at City Lights bookshop on Columbus St. Then stroll up Columbus into the heart of the city's Little Italy. This area has more restaurants than you can handle. There are wonderful Italian coffee houses, pastry shops, delis, etc. Check out Molinari's Deli for a traditional Italian deli lunch. You can't really go wrong with any of them. A few places are tourist traps though, but you can spot them by looking for people wearing cheesy "San Francisco" sweatshirts they bought at Pier 39. Speaking of which...

Fisherman's Wharf & Pier 39:

If you must see the old "Barbary Coast", in all its "reconstituted-for-mass-consumption" glory, just know that it is 100% tourists. Locals wouldn't be caught dead here. But you can get the ferry to Alcatraz from here, and that is totally worth it. Food is expensive and average to poor quality. If you are in this area and need to eat, try Scoma's. That's the one place that's still authentic, and they have pretty darn good seafood.

Haight Ashbury: (Haight & Ashbury Streets, duh)

Hippie headquarters. Today it still retains much of the same vibe, even if the original hippies are all real estate millionaires in wine country now. Really great secondhand stores, record stores, places to eat and fun people watching. For creative types like you, this is a good bet. After dark this area can be a little dodgy, so bring your nun-chucks and don't go alone.



Marina (Chestnut & Fillmore) & Cow Hollow: (Union & Fillmore)

Trendy, hip neighborhoods with great restaurants & shops. Check out Rose's Café, Beltenut, and Yoshida-Ya on Union St. Some of the most stunning views of the GG Bridge are from here at "Marina Green." Also, this area is home to the Palace of Fine Arts, one of the city's signature landmarks. Just ask someone on the street how to get there.

Japantown: (Fillmore and Geary)

An indoor mall-style facility with great sushi restaurants, Japanese goods and a theater. Also check out the Boom Boom Room across the street, it is the blues club founded by the late John Lee Hooker www.boombooblues.com.

Golden Gate Park

Check out the M.H. de Young museum, which just reopened after a huge renovation. It's one of the world's top museums. The rest of the park is filled with paths and parks. On Sundays they close off the main roads for bikes and roller blades.

Berkeley

Take 880 north to the University exit. Berkeley is about an hour north from Cupertino. It is home to the University of California at Berkeley (a.k.a. Cal), which feeds the city with a distinct counter-culture vibe. The city cultivates its hippy roots and remains true to the free-speech ideals that made Berkeley famous in the 60's. A stroll up and down Telegraph Avenue is a truly unique, Northern California experience. This street is packed with some of the best music stores, book stores, alternative stores, funky restaurants and so on. If you need your vegan fix, used bongos, or a hemp iPod case, this is where to get it. Check out www.telegraphshop.com for details on how to get there and what to expect.

Santa Cruz & Monterey Bay

Take 280 to 880 South. 880 turns into Highway 17, which dead ends in Santa Cruz.

Santa Cruz is about 45 minutes from Cupertino. A classic California beach town with world class surfing. The tourist scene is at the Beach Boardwalk, but it's worth a visit. The Boardwalk is a turn of the century amusement park with a carousel and roller coaster, which are both national landmarks (www.beachboardwalk.com). The beach scene is great on a sunny day. Also check out the Pacific Garden Mall. It's an outdoor shopping district where the locals hang out. Just ask anyone on the street how to get there. There are many great restaurants here and a good music scene. Check out the Catalyst (www.catalystclub.com) for shows.

From Santa Cruz, Monterey is about another hour down Highway 1. Monterey is too far to do as a day trip, so plan on getting a room. The Monterey Bay Aquarium is arguably the premier aquarium in the world (www.mbayaq.org). There is a lot to do in Monterey, but it can be touristy in places. The golfing is world class with Spanish Bay, Pebble Beach and dozens of other courses in the area (www.golfmonterey.org).

Note: The drive to Santa Cruz on Highway 17 is a very curvy mountain road that can be dangerous at night or in bad weather.



Wine Country

Napa and Sonoma Valley are about two hours north from Cupertino. Check online for regional guides, there is so much to do up there. Every kind of wine tasting and dining experience you can imagine, spas, mud baths, hiking, biking, etc. If you want recommendations, ask one of us and we'll be glad to help.

Yosemite

Yosemite is about a 5-hour drive from here. Technically, it is possible to go for a long weekend. But accommodations are hard to come by last minute. Check out www.yosemitepark.com for info.

ACTIVITIES

Museums

Tech Museum – www.thetech.org

In Downtown San Jose. An interactive museum dedicated to the history of technology and Silicon Valley.

www.thinker.org is a great website on fine arts in San Francisco. Yes, it's named that because the famous statue, The Thinker, is here. Don't miss the new M.H. de Young Museum.

SF/MOMA www.sfmoma.org

This is the area's best modern art museum. The permanent collection is worth seeing on its own, but check the website for the exhibits. And the building is completely cool too.

Sports

There are 6 professional sports teams in the area. Check their respective websites for schedules and tickets. Also, check craigslist.com for people selling tickets.

- MLB San Francisco Giants – The area's must-see stadium. A great place to catch a game and see baseballs hit into the bay. Hint: Most games sell out but the right field wall is a see-through fence open to the public. You can stand in right field and watch the game for free.
- MLB Oakland A's – Bart takes you right there. Tickets are easy to get.
- NFL Oakland Raiders – Same stadium as the A's. Games never sell out.
- NFL San Francisco 49ers – You have to drive to get there.
- NBA Golden State Warriors – In Oakland, right next to the football stadium.
- NHL San Jose Sharks – Downtown SJ. The closest place to see a game.



Hiking

There are lots of mountains and trails around here. If you are looking for an outdoor adventure, check out www.bahiker.com. There are lots of great hikes through the redwood forests or along the beach cliffs. Some of our favorite spots are Big Basin State Park (the closest hiking to Cupertino), San Andreas Reservoir (30 minutes north up Hwy 280), Muir Woods, Mt. Tamalpais and the Marin Headlands (all just north of the Golden Gate Bridge).

Surfing

If you are into surfing, you are in the right area. You can rent gear in Santa Cruz. Call around to some of the local surf shops for recommendations on where to go. Steamer's Lane in Santa Cruz is one of the best surf spots in the world. Mavericks is in the area too (if you don't know what Mavericks is, you can't surf it). Stinson Beach is north of San Francisco and has sweet waves too. It's all cold water surfing, so plan on renting a wet suit.

