# San Francisco Guide

## Geography

Surrounded on three sides by the Pacific Ocean and San Francisco Bay, San Francisco’s compact 46 square miles crowd the tip of the San Francisco Peninsula.

## Population

“The City” has a population of 723,959; nevertheless, it looms large in the imagination as the hub of the Greater Bay Area.

The nation’s fifth largest metropolitan region registers a population of 6 million and hosts over 13 million visitors, conventioneers and business travelers each year.

## Weather

San Francisco is blessed with a temperate marine climate and enjoys mild weather year-round. Temperatures seldom rise above 70 degrees or fall below 40 degrees. Morning and evening fogs roll in during the summer months but rarely persist. Visitors are most comfortable with a light jacket or coat. An all-weather coat will take the chill off cool evenings. Lightweight summer clothes are seldom practical in San Francisco.

## Phone Facts

Dial 911 to get help fast in any emergency. An operator will connect you to the police, fire department or ambulance.

The area code for San Francisco is 415. The 510 area code encompasses all of Alameda and Contra Costa counties in the East Bay, including the communities of Oakland and Berkeley. For dialing outside the area code, callers must dial 1 plus the appropriate area code and seven-digit number.

# Getting Around

## Driving Regulations

Valid licenses from Western nations authorize their owners to drive in California without further licensing for one year. Persons from other countries must possess a current International Driver License.

### Curb Your Wheels

There is only one way to rest easy with your car parked on San Francisco’s roller coaster hills. Curb your wheels. Turn the tires toward the street when facing uphill, and toward the curb when facing downhill, to effectively use the curb as a block. Even the best brakes sometimes give in to our famous grade, thus this practice is law in San Francisco.

### Colored Curbing

Colored curbing indicates reserved parking zones: *Red* means no stopping or parking. *Yellow* means half-hour limit loading vehicles with commercial plates only. *Yellow and Black* mean half-hour loading limit for trucks with commercial plates only. *Green, Yellow and Black* mean taxi zone. *Blue* means reserved for vehicles marked with a California issued disabled placard or plate. *Green* means ten-minute limit for all vehicles. *White* means five-minute limit, effective during the adjacent business’ hours of operation.

## Public Transit

Cable cars operate along three routes:

Powell-Hyde line begins at Powell and Market Streets and terminates at Victorian Park near the Maritime Museum and Aquatic Park.

Powell-Mason line also begins at Powell and Market but ends at Bay and Taylor near Fisherman’s Wharf.

California Street line runs from California and Market Streets to Van Ness Avenue.

Buses are numbered with destinations marked on the front. Pole signs, street markings, or yellow bands on adjacent utility poles mark stops.

Muni Metro Streetcars operate underground downtown and on the streets in the outer neighborhoods. Five lines are involved: J (Church), K (Ingleside), L (Taraval), M (Ocean View) and N (Judah).

Owl Service buses serve major transit corridors from 1 to 5 a.m.

Fares. Free transfers are valid for two changes of vehicle in any direction within two hours. Muni Passports are available for one day ($6), three days ($10) or seven days ($15) and are valid on all Muni regularly scheduled service, including cable cars, and for a reduced fare to ball games at Candlestick Park. Passports are sold at the San Francisco Visitor Information Center, lower level, Hallidie Plaza, Powell and Market Streets; TIX Bay Area, Stockton Street on Union Square, and Muni, 949 Presidio, Room 239.

Bay Area Rapid Transit. The 71-mile BART system links San Francisco stations with Daly City to the south and 25 East Bay stations. Trains operate Monday-Friday 4 a.m. to midnight, Saturday 6 a.m. to midnight, and Sunday 8 a.m. to midnight.

AC Transit. AC Transit operates the bus service to Treasure Island, communities in the East Bay and other cities in Alameda and Contra Costa counties via the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge.

Golden Gate Transit. This bus service links San Francisco to Marin and Sonoma counties via the Golden Gate Bridge. Patrons may travel as far north as Santa Rosa or the city of Sonoma, in the heart of wine country. Buses depart every half-hour and hour from the Transbay Terminal.

SanTrans. The San Mateo County Transit District provides bus service between San Francisco and Palo Alto, with service to San Francisco International Airport and communities along the Peninsula.

## Car Rental

A number of agencies offer car rental service in San Francisco. No rates are quoted because the make and model of the vehicle, length of rental time, days of the week and the amount of service rendered determine rental charges. Check the telephone directory for agencies.

## Taxis

Taxi fares in San Francisco are approximately $1.70 for the first mile and $1.80 for each additional mile.

## Air

Airport. Just 14 miles south of the City, San Francisco International Airport is the fifth busiest in the United States, seventh in the world. Fifty major scheduled carriers serve the airport.

## Rail

Amtrak. Daily service is provided north to Portland and Seattle and south to Los Angeles and San Diego. Daily service is also provided to Merced/Yosemite, Fresno and San Joaquin Valley points. Service from San Francisco to Sacramento is provided three times daily. Shuttle buses transport passengers between depots in Emeryville and Oakland, and the Ferry Building and Cal Train station in San Francisco.

CalTrain. The terminal is located at Fourth and Townsend Streets. Operating trains daily and holidays from San Francisco to San Jose, with limited service to Gilroy. Weekday shuttle buses run from the terminal to the Financial District during peak commute periods.