

# A TOURISTS GUIDE TO SAN FRANCISCO

Most tourists come to San Francisco and act... well, like tourists. Thinking it is California, they dress in shorts, but have to quickly buy an overpriced SF sweatshirt from Pier 39 to keep warm. They go to the same places only to find more tourists. This guide was created to show you the real San Francisco most tourists do not see.

## Best Ice Cream Parlors:

1. Swenson's  
1999 Hyde at Union  
(415) 775-6818  
freezing and scooping its own homey, high-quality ice creams for over half a century.
2. Tango Gelato  
2015 Fillmore at Pine  
(415) 346-3692  
American gelato isn't quite so narcotic as the stuff in the old country, but the gelato at Tango comes dangerously close.
3. Bombay Ice Creamery  
552 Valencia at 16th Street  
(415) 431-1103  
Sampling one of their house-made kulfi is like enjoying the spices of Indian cuisine in frozen form.
4. Mitchell's Ice Cream  
688 San Jose at 29th Street  
(415) 648-2300  
Open since 1953, famous for its culinary exotic, flavors with langka, macapuno, ube, buko, guava, mango, and avocado.

## Best Bookstores:

1. Green Apple Books & Music  
506 Clement at Sixth Avenue  
(415) 387-2272  
Treasure trove with city's biggest selection with stacks titled "Don't Call It Frisco" or "Ahem... Sex". Open until 11:30 p.m.
2. Argonaut Book Shop  
786 Sutter at Jones  
(415) 474-9067  
Specializes in history of California, its walls filled with art redolent of a bygone era. Also where Jimmy Stewart researched SF's spooky past in Vertigo.
3. Alexander Book Company  
50 Second at Market  
(415) 495-2992  
The ideal community bookstore. They donate books to local schools, support a variety of good causes, and host nonprofit community events.
4. Dog Eared Books  
900 Valencia at 20th Street  
(415) 282-1901  
The rare and trashy and everything in between with jolly abandon. The well-lit, armchair-equipped setting is ideal for rainy-day browsing.

## Amoeba Music

1855 Haight at Stanyan  
(415) 831-1200  
Shelves of new & used goodies and super knowledgeable staff have made the place internationally renowned.

Tosca  
242 Columbus at Broadway  
(415) 986-9651  
Opened in 1919, Tosca invented the house cappuccino when Prohibition began a year later. A delicious concoction of steamed milk, chocolate and brandy. Order two, period.

Lovejoy's  
1351 Church Street  
(415) 648-5895  
British tearoom with a Victorian flair.

## COORDINATES

### Head to these intersections:

24th & Church (Noe)  
Fillmore & Pine (Pac Heights)  
16th & Valencia (Mission)  
Cole & Waller (Cole)  
Union & Montgomery (Telegraph)  
Chestnut & Scott (Marina)  
Polk & Broadway (Russian Hill)  
2nd & South Park (Rincon)  
16th & Church (Castro)  
15th & Noriega (West Portal)  
Belden Alley & Bush (Downtown)

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This guide came about from a growing dissatisfaction in watching tourists miss the best parts of the city. Rather than visiting each suggestion, you are to open your eyes to the people around you. This guide is free, and is meant for sharing. If you have suggestions, please send them to [guide@organicarchitect.com](mailto:guide@organicarchitect.com).

## Bix (Best Martini)

56 Gold at Montgomery  
(415) 433-6300  
the city's pre-eminent supper club, with an art deco setting that's the perfect backdrop.

Habana (Best Mojito)  
2080 Van Ness at Pacific  
(415) 567-7606

Absinthe  
398 Hayes at Gough  
(415) 551-1590  
Though named for the Green Fairy, the place offers delicious house specialties that are considerably more complex.

## AsiaSF

201 Ninth Street at Howard  
(415) 255-2742 - Res. req'd  
a feast for all your senses. Watch as the walls change color as you feast on Cal-Asian cuisine while your gender-bending waitress jumps on the bar and performs for the crowd. The ultimate SF experience.

## Tibetan Bell Ceremony

3895 18th at Sanchez  
(415) 621-8135  
Close your eyes for this mind-blowing experience of celestial sounds with Tibetan instruments. Call for showtimes.

## Ferry Building & Farmers Market

open Sat: 8-2 & Tues: 10-2  
1 Market Street at Embarcadero  
Opened in 1898, the point of arrival for everyone until the 1930s. 240-foot clock tower was modeled after 12th century Seville Cathedral.

The Grove Fillmore  
2016 Fillmore Street at Pine  
Popular meeting spot for Pac Heights locals, great place to hang out & people watch. Cozy decor is perfect for playing a game of scrabble with a new friend.

## 111 Minna Gallery

111 Minna Street at Second  
Half art gallery, half hip nightclub, a unique atmosphere in which to enjoy art, music, drinks, & meeting people.

Red Vic Movie House  
1727 Haight Street at Cole  
(415) 668-8999  
Owned & operated by film lovers. An eclectic selection of films with sofa-seating and organic treats. Get the parmesan popcorn in the bowl.

## Mama's On Washington Square

1701 Stockton at Filbert  
(415) 362-6421  
Our favorite place for brunch, but bring a book for the wait.

## Xanadu Gallery: A Local Taste of Frank Lloyd Wright

140 Maiden Lane at Union Square  
(415) 392-9999  
Our own little Guggenheim. Step through arched entrance into a cream-colored room that twists up like a smaller version of everyone's best-loved museum. Designed in 1948 at the same time the Master was designing the famous big brother.

The Sutro Baths at Sunset  
100 yards north of Cliff House  
Point Lobos & Great Highway,  
Elaborate Victorian amusement palace, built in 1896, featured 6 heated indoor pools fed by fresh ocean water. Closed in 1952, burned in 1966, leaving behind our very own Baths of Caracalla.

## Imperial Tea Court

1411 Powell at Broadway  
(415) 788-6080  
quiet, wood-paneled venue is a soothing getaway spot. The ceremonial manner forces you to slow down, to relax. 32 varieties of tea to choose from.

## G Bar

488 Presidio at California  
(415) 409-4227  
Hip bar with the coolest fireplace to sip the martinis.