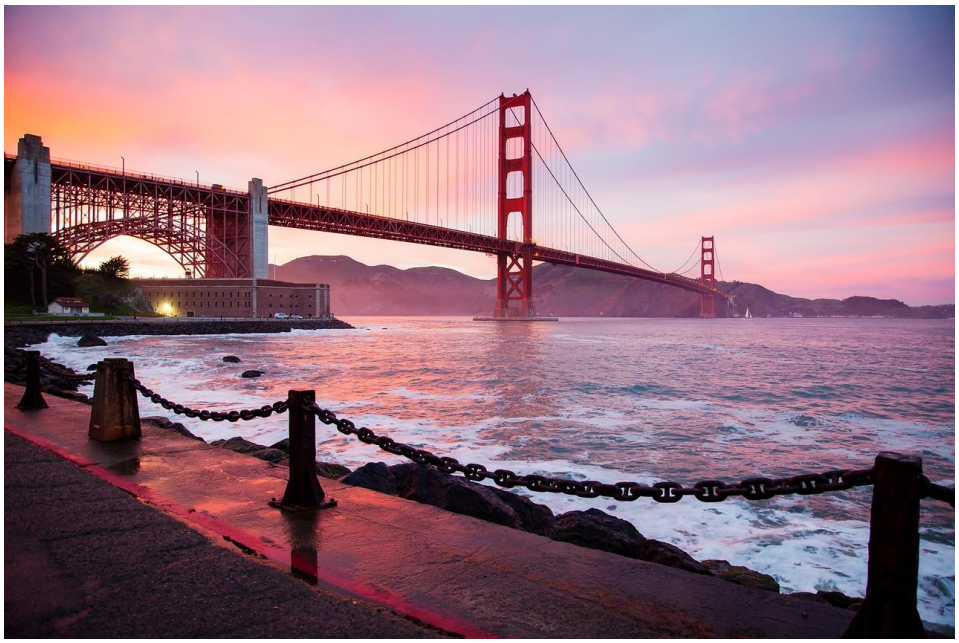
San Francisco Field Trip – Autumn at the Bay
September 28 to October 1, 2026



Contents

Introduction 2

Pre-Meeting 3

Itinaray of Group Activities 3

Transportation to Get Around the City 5

What and Where to Photography San Franisco 6

Camera Equipment 11

Other Gear 12

Terrain of the Area 12

Weather 12

Safety in Numbers 13

Tides, Sunrise, and Sunset Table 13

Group and Individual Shooting Locations 17

Introduction

What/Why: San Francisco and the surrounding areas were made for a photographic creativity. It offers the power of the sea, stunning coastlines, historic/modern architecture, street stories, beautiful parks, people from around the world, and the list goes on. Believe we all have some wonderful photographic opportunities.

The city does come with some challenges in terms of getting around and safety. The committee has strived to put together photo outings for groups. But we also understand we need creative freedom to do things individually.

Where: San Francisco "The Bay"

When: September 28 (check in) to October 1 (check out).

Where to stay:

- We are recommending Seal Rock Inn at 545 Point Lobos Ave. San Francisco. It is close to the sea and easy to drive to Golden Gate Park as well as other coast and bridge viewing points. Motel does serve food (breakfast, lunch, dinner).
- Make reservation at Seal Rock Inn – A San Francisco ocean-front motor inn or by phone 888-732-5762 Rooms start at $219 and go up to $294 (plus taxes/fees). Deposit required, 100% refund of deposit if cancelled 72 hours prior to arrival date.

- If you wish to make other arrangements suggest using standard sites like Booking.com or Hotel.com

Please let us know which hotel you are staying in case you need a ride or assistance.

Pre-Meeting

Please plan to meet up on **August 26 from 9:00 to 11:30am,** at Orchard Creek, Multi-Purpose Room.

We will be covering the following:

- Field Trip Packet. This will cover group itinerary, photo locations, examples, what to bring, Foodie recommendations, transportation, etc. Packets will be distributed prior to meeting via email.
- Group Activities, who will be doing what. Coordinate and pair up folks with common interest.
- Confirming itinerary and any changes.
- Public transportation and car-pooling in the city and to outer areas.
- Sharing contact information.
- Photographing approaches: Night photography and Architecture Photography
- Q/A

Itinaray of Group Activities

Monday (9/28)

Assuming, folks will leave Sun City at different times and will stop at different places to take photographs prior to meeting up.

- 3:00pm to 4:00pm – Check into hotel.
- 4:30pm - Meet for dinner. Park Chalet, is in Golden Gate Park (GGP), near coast. 1000 Great Hwy, San Francisco, Park Chalet
- 5:45pm – Sunset at the beaches between Baker's Beach and Golden Gate Bridge Rooftop View. Sunset is at 6:57pm

Tuesday (9/29)

- Day in the City, take Muni towards piers or other areas you wish to visit. Visit/shoot the iconic areas, cable cars, Coit, Lombard, China Town, etc.
- Interested in murals, SF has a lot. This map provides locations. https://findmasa.com/view/map#f351f1a1
- 5:00pm – Meet for dinner Perry's Embarcadero near Ferry Terminal building. 155 Steuart Street Perry's San Francisco
- 6:30 – Sunset and evening shoot at and around the Ferry terminal building, great views of Bay Bridge, etc. Sunset is at 6:56pm.
- Some folks may want to do Sunset Cruise at 6:30. Two leave of the cruises, see section below "Sunset Cruise Options."

Wednesday (9/30)

Multiple parallel activities, ideally in groups but you can go independently as well.

- 5:00am – Marin Headlands sunrise shoot (sunrise is 7am, assuming commute traffic to get across the GG Bridge and find location). After, continue to see Headland's area for coastal views, old military installations, Point Bonita lighthouse. In the afternoon, head over to GGP.
- 7:30am – Golden Gate Park autumn color shoot. Japanese Tea Garden opens at 9am. The Botanical Garden opens at 7:30am, and all other spaces open at 5am. There is a free shuttle service in the park to get around.
- Spend more time back in the city areas to capture the iconic places and views.

The following we advise doing as a Group since it's at night and may need to do car-pooling.

- 5:00pm – Dinner, Dalida Restaurant in the Presidio. Dalida | Mediterranean Restaurant in San Francisco, CA
- 6:30pm – Palace of Fine Arts, Golden Hour/Night shoot
- 7:30/8:00pm – Crissy Field Night shoot

Optional – For those not interested in the Group activity, you might consider a Sunset Cruise tour. See options below.

Thursday (10/1)

Depart for home, but one last group activity.

- Check out of hotel, by 11:00am
- 5:45am - Sunrise at Fort Point National Historic Site. Sunrise is at 7:06am
- 10:00am - Fort Point National Historic Site in San Francisco is open Thursday through Monday, 10:00 AM–5:00 PM, with roof access closing at 4:30 PM. NO entry fee.

For folks who want to sleep in a little:

- 8:30am – breakfast at Sea Rock Inn Restaurant.
- 10:00am - Fort Point National Historic Site in San Francisco is open Thursday through Monday, 10:00 AM–5:00 PM, with roof access closing at 4:30 PM. NO entry fee.

Heading Home

- Drive home – Direct.

Or

- Indirect drive home – Visit Filoli Gardens in Woodside. Recommend being there at opening,10:00am Filoli | Historic House & Garden | Filoli

Sunset Cruise options.

We are not doing this as a group. However, for those wishing to get a sunrise from one of the ferries here are three options. More information will be provided in Field Trip Packet. Folks wanting to go together, we can discuss at a pre-meeting.

- 6:30pm - Sunset Cruise – use of Muni Ferry, leave from Sausalito to San Francico. (Clipper pass can be used here). Fee - $ for seniors. Use Clipper card.
    - Departs at 6:30pm from Sausalito to SF Ferry Terminal, arrives at 7:15pm (Sunset is at 6:57pm). Route Schedule | Golden Gate

- 6:30pm - Blue and Gold leave from piers 41, 1.5-hour tour. Fee is $38/person. Sunset Cruise | Blue & Gold Fleet Inc

- 6:30pm - San Francisco Red & White Fleet leaves from pier 43.5, 2-hour. Fee is $58/person. California Sunset Cruise | Red and White Fleet | San Francisco

Planned Dinners:

- 9/28/26_4:30pm - Dinner at Park Chalet, 1000 Great Highway SF. Park Chalet
- 9/29/26_5:00pm - Dinner at Perry's Embarcadero 155 Steuart St, SF. Perry's San Francisco
- 9/30/26_5:00pm – Dinner at Dalida Restaurant in the Presidio 101 Montgomery Street, Suite 100, Dalida | Mediterranean Restaurant in San Francisco, CA

If you plan to join the one or all of the group dinner(s) please let Stephanie Huntingdale know at smccoubrey@sbcglobal.net Appreciate notification by Sept 4th so we can book reservations.

Transportation to Get Around the City

One of the best ways to get around the city is public Muni transportation using a **Clipper Pass** which covers the Muni buses, rail, Bart, Ferries. For more information - Home | Clipper

When you purchase you can either put it into your Apple or Google Wallet (you'll need to download an app for your smartphone) or get a Muni plastic card**. If you choose the plastic card option, please order soon.** Mary says it can take a while (3 to 5 weeks). Instruction to order either - Get Card | Clipper

With this pass, you must set up an account and put money into the account. When using a transport mode, you put your smartphone or plastic card by a reader, and it deducts the amount from your account.

The below map provides the routes and locations you will have access to If you are staying at the Seal Rock Inn Hotel, you can catch the Muni bus across the street. Using Route 38R it will take you down to the Ferry Terminal Building, Piers, etc. If you are not staying at the Seal Rock Inn, before booking your hotel check to see you'll have access to the Muni. We have a PDF's of the map we will send and handout at the pre-meeting.

[What's the best way to experience San Francisco? This Muni bus has it all]

Car-Pooling In/Around the City

If you head to places in the city the Muni bus service accommodates most locations. However, if you are interested in getting to some of locations like Marin Headlands, Beaches at sunset, Crissy Field/Palace of Fine Arts at night we will discuss car-pooling at the pre-meeting. Car-pooling maybe the more convenient way. But build in commute times.

What and Where to Photography San Franisco

There is no shortage of places, things, and environments to photography in San Franisco (SF). The following are a collection of lists and links to various things that provide insight into things you might want to photography.

Suggest starting with the general articles that focus on locations around the city. The rest of the section is categorized into themes (landscape, seascape, architecture, etc.).

General articles about locations for photography.
San Francisco Bay Area Street Photography | Facebook
Photographing San Francisco - Guide to the Best Photo Spots
16 San Francisco Photography Spots: Locations, Galleries and Guide
Best Photography Spots in San Francisco (15 Spots, 2026)
20 Best Photo Spots in San Francisco (2026 Guide)
23 Best Photo Locations in San Francisco (with map) (2023) | The Whole World Is A Playground
https://ihitthebutton.com/san-francisco-instagram-spots/
Best Photography Spots in San Francisco (15 Spots, 2026)

Landscape / Cityscape / Seascape

- Land's End area. Coastal trail along edge of bluff, views of Marine Headlands. Lands End - Golden Gate National Recreation Area (U.S. National Park Service)
- Bakers Beach. Beautiful beach with view of Golden Gate Bridge. Baker Beach - Presidio of San Francisco (U.S. National Park Service)
- San Bruno Mountain State Park. Bay, and south city area overview. San Bruno Mountain State & County Park | County of San Mateo, CA
- Potrero Hill. Night or day photo opportunity looking over SF. **https://thetouristchecklist.com/potrero-hill/** **Explore Potrero Hill, SF's quaint and scenic neighborhood**
- Embarcadero waterfront. Bay Bridge, various old waterfront buildings. Ferry Building, artwork, and monuments, food courts, boats, sea lions, souvenir shops, Pier 14. The Embarcadero photo spot, San Francisco Experience San Francisco's Vibrant Waterfront: The Ferry Building & Embarcadero – Lucky Tuk Tuk Private Tours
- Market Street. Street seen, cable cars, street cars, building facades, monuments, etc. Historic Market Street: Path Of Gold Tour- San Francisco City Guides
- North Beach. Washington Square, Saint Peter and Paul Church, Coit Tower, Pioneer Park, Filbert Steps and Greenwich Steps on east side of Telegraph Hill (beautiful gardens and homes). North Beach: Top 11 things to do in San Francisco's Little Italy neighborhood - My California Travels 25 Things To Do In SF's North Beach - Secret San Francisco
- Fisherman's Wharf. Sea Lion viewing area at Pier 39., Pier 43 Ferry Arch, Sky star Wheel at Fisherman's Wharf. The 2026 Best Things to Do in Fisherman's Wharf San Francisco List
- Marina Green. Boat harbors and Saint Francis Yacht Club, The Wave Organ, Fort Mason landscape, and bay views. Marina Green | San Francisco Recreation and Parks, CA
- Sutro Baths Photographing San Francisco - Guide to the Best Photo Spots

- China Town. Street seen and lots of color. Chinatown San Francisco - The largest chinatown outside of Asia photographer's guide to chinatown sf — kelsey schmidt 10 Ways To Spend A Memorable Day In San Francisco's Chinatown
- Macondray Lane between Jones and Taylor St,s. Quaint lanes run through a city block with quaint homes and gardens. Macondray Lane - Taylor Street to Jones Street - San Francisco Stairways Macondray Lane-San Francisco City Walk
- Salesforce Transbay Joint Powers Authority Roof Garden. Several block long garden and parkway. Salesforce Transit Center | Transbay Joint Powers Authority Gardens in the Sky: Salesforce Transit Center and Rooftop Park Tour- San Francisco City Guides
- Russian Hill. Lombard Street between Lombard and Leavenworth St's.. (Crocked street). Russian Hill Neighborhood Guide - CrawlSF Russian Hill Walking Tour & Map - Self-Guided San Francisco Walk
- Twin Peaks. Bay area overview. Twin Peaks - Best Photo Spots
- Mount Sutro Open Space Reserve. Forested open park setting. Mount Sutro Open Space Reserve, San Francisco, CA - California Beaches Sutro Stewards | Trail Map
- Golden Gate Park. San Francisco Botanical Garden, California Academy of Sciences, Japanese Tea Garden, Conservatory of Flowers, Queen Wilhelmina Garden & Dutch Windmill, Blue Heron Lake & Strawberry Hill Island.
    - Pictures of Golden Gate Park San Francisco: The Photographer's Guide - Finenaturalist.blog
    - Golden Gate Park Photography Guide: Iconic & Hidden Photo Spots - Finenaturalist.blog
- Mission Bay area. Chase Center (Warrior's home), Oracle Park (Giants home), new city and old industrial buildings, etc. Perfect Day in Mission Bay | SF.gov A Local's Guide to Photography Spots in Mission Bay, San Francisco
- 49-mile Scenic Drive route through the city. Many other photo opportunities. https://www.sftodo.com/sanfrancisco/scenic-49-mile-drive/
- **Kirby Cove (off Hawk Hill). Kirby Cove—Everything You Need to Know!**

Architecture

- Mission of San Francisco de Asis. Old Mission
- Alamo Square Painted Ladies. Painted Ladies: History, Photos & Visitor Tips | San Francisco Travel
- Victorian houses on park. 16 Victorian Homes In SF That Are Straight Out Of A Fairytale
- Civic Plaza with many city government buildings. City Hall, Symphony Hall, Library, Opera House, State Office Building, Asian Art Museum, Superior Court Building, Civic Auditorium. Civic Center Plaza - SF Civic Center

- Presidio area. Main Post Greens, and Post buildings, ponds, and forest. Welcome to the Presidio National Park Site (San Francisco)
- Palace of Fine Arts and grounds. HOME - Palace of Fine Arts
- Fort Point Historical site. View of Golden Gate Bridge and bay waters. Fort Point National Historic Site (U.S. National Park Service)
- Golden Gate Bridge overlook at towel plaza area. Overlooks in Presidio, progressing west through tunnel different views of the bridge, batteries, Golden Gate, etc. in the area. Golden Gate Overlook | Golden Gate Bridge Views | The Presidio (San Francisco)
- Moscone Center. Roof gardens, artwork, carousal, stairs, night opportunity photos. San Francisco's Premier Convention Center | Moscone Center
- Fort Funston, Nike Missile Stir SF-59L and Observation Point. Hang gliders flight area. Fort Funston - Golden Gate National Recreation Area (U.S. National Park Service) Nike Missile Site - Golden Gate National Recreation Area (U.S. National Park Service) Nike Missile Site SF-59 Launcher, Fort Funston / Mount San Bruno California
- Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Assumption. Cathedral of St. Mary - San Francisco, CA
- Grace Cathedral. Grace Cathedral
- Mazza Castle, Pacifica The Sam Mazza Foundation |

Museums

- Cable Car Museum. San Francisco Cable Car Museum
- Hyde Street Pier Historic Ship Museum. Visit Hyde Street Pier and the Historic Ships (U.S. National Park Service)
- The International Art Museum of America International Art Museum of America - San Francisco
- Randall Museum Randall Museum of Science, Nature and the Arts
- Art House SF Art House SF - a San Francisco art gallery

Parks / Amusement / Art / Gardens

- San Francisco Zoo. Home Page - San Francisco Zoo & Gardens
- Mission District Murals. San Francisco's Mission District Murals: Explorer's Guide & Map
- Conservatory of Flowers Gardens of Golden Gate Park: Official
- Legion of Honor Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco | de Young and Legion of Honor
- San Francisco Botanical Garden San Francisco Botanical Garden | Hours, Tickets & Info | GGGP

- Chomp! Carnivorous Plants at the Conservatory of Flowers Gardens of Golden Gate Park: Official
- Dahlia Dell at Golden Gate Park The Dahlia Dell, Dahlia Society of California

SF Skyline from Rooftops

- **343 Sansome Rooftop Deck**. Hidden gem 15th-floor terrace with stunning views of the Transamerica Pyramid and surrounding financial district, offering benches and a quiet, open-air, public space. Open 9am to 5pm. 343 Sansome St Fl 15. 343 Sansome Rooftop Deck - Google Maps
- **Salesforce Park.** Elevated 5.4-acre public park featuring a curved walking trail, lush gardens, and panoramic views of the surrounding skyscrapers, 70 feet above the street. 6am to 8pm. 425 Mission St. Salesforce Park - Google Maps
- **POPOS (Public Rooftop Garden).** Tranquil 11th-floor garden offering 360-degree views in the heart of the city, accessible to the public via 1 Kearny or 23 Geary. 10am to 5pm. 1 Kearny St. POPOS (Public Rooftop Garden) - Google Maps
- **Shelby's Rooftop (bar).** 12th-floor SoMa bar and restaurant atop the Canopy by Hilton, featuring panoramic views of **Oracle Park and the Bay Bridge**. 250 4th St, San Francisco. 6:30 AM–1:45 PM, 3 PM–12 AM. 250 4th St. Shelby's Rooftop - Google Maps
- **The View Lounge (bar).** Chic 39th-floor bar in the Marriott Marquis with iconic, sweeping 360-degree views through floor-to-ceiling windows. 4pm to 12am. 780 Mission St. **The View Lounge - Google Maps**
- **KAIYŌ Rooftop (bar).** 12th-floor Peruvian bar in SoMa offering dramatic, unobstructed views of the downtown skyline and the Bay Bridge. 4pm to 11pm. 701 3rd St 12th Floor. KAIYŌ Rooftop - Google Maps

We encourage you to do your own research as well, lots of things out there to read. Reminders and Suggestions:

1) Leverage the Time of day (light), cloud coverage, sunrise, sunsets, and surroundings.
2) Turn-around, sunrise/sunset could create some interesting things behind you.
3) Pick a point of interest, the "star" of your story. Use close-up to capture it.
4) Use leading lines to guide audience.
5) Try showing down movement like water using ND filters. On Smartphones there are applications specifically for slow motion.
6) Shutter speed can vary a photograph a lot. Try things.
7) Manual mode, sometimes you need to control it all for the perfect shot.
8) Use Multiple exposures to improve lighting.
9) Panorama shooting, using a tripod take overlapping photos of a subjects to increase detail and coverage.

10) Be aware of the environment (tide levels, sun location, etc.), they all play into a photo.
11) Foregrounds can play a key role in your photo. Provides an anchor and provides audience a sense of depth.
12) Smartphone, consider using a tripod. Know how to set-up manual control on your smartphone to control exposure.
13) For night shooting, recommend using a tripod and remote release.

Camera Equipment

DSLR, Mirrorless.

- We are near the ocean and saltwater. Wipe your stuff down.
- All lenses should be available to you (wide, close-up, medium, telephoto).
- Filters – ND for slow effects and reducing harsh light (day and night).
- If your shooting in black/white use color filters to bring out the black, white and grays.
- Extra batteries for the camera.
- Flash unit.
- Indiscrete pack or camera bag
- Tripod and remote release. It can be windy, have something to weigh down the tripod.
- Laptop and portable external drive or flash drive. This is for those that want to save their photos from the day off your flash card and onto external memory.

Smart Phones (SP)

- Bring a portable battery, when out all day you will need.
- Charging cord.
- Lightweight tripod and SP mount.
- Applications that specialize in long exposure or operate your SP in manual mode. You want to get an app that supports the following:
    - Full manual controls (ISO, shutter, focus, WB)
    - RAW capture (ProRAW on Pro models, DNG on others)
    - Focus assists (peaking, magnification, histograms)
    - Long exposure & night photography

    iPhone
    - Slow Shutter Cam App (best for motion blur) Slow Shutter Cam App - App Store
    - Halida Mark III Halide — The best pro camera for iPhone and iPad
    - Blackmagic Camera (free)

    Android
    - Camera FV-5 Lite
    - Open Camera

    - ProShot

- Have a back-up storage or upload to cloud. Services for photo storage in cloud are offered by: Google Photos, iCloud, Amazon Photos, OneDrive, Dropbox, and Flickr.
- If you have an Amazon account, you can upload photos from SP to Amazon cloud. It's part of your membership fee. You do need to load an application on your phone. Amazon Photos: Photo & Video App - App Store

Other Gear

- Flashlights, headlamps, or other lighting gear if you're planning to participate in the early morning/evening/night photo shoots.
- Walking sticks, portable chairs, or other supports.
- First aid kit, sunglasses and hats, sunscreen.
- **Check your phone to see if it has emergency call out capabilities. Apple has SOS.**
- Clothing – you're at or near the ocean. Dress in layers.
- Have rain wear available.
- Walking/hiking shoes or boots with good support and grip.

Terrain of the Area

- Coastal areas mostly are dirt trails. Depending on location some have paved access. Ground can be uneven. Walking sticks encouraged. Better to be safe.
- There are cliffs and drop-offs, staying on the trails.
- City environment at come shooting locations. Hard pavement but watch for uneven surfaces.
- Steep hills

Weather

We have been reading about Super El Nino's conditions. The anticipated impacts of the "Super" El Niño will reach Northern California starting in **late fall 2026**, with the most significant weather effects, including the potential for atmospheric rivers and above-normal rainfall, expected to peak between **November 2026 and January 2027**.

NOAA forecasters indicate an 81% chance that the developing El Niño will become one of the strongest on record. For Northern California, a "Super El Niño" typically brings a

wetter-than-average winter, doubling normal precipitation and increasing the risk of damaging flooding, heavy snowfall, and dangerous coastal surf.

Key Impacts and Risks for Northern California:

- Heavy Rainfall & Flooding: Severe atmospheric river storms historically hit the region during strong El Niño years, posing significant flood and landslide threats to vulnerable watersheds.
- Elevated Snowpack: The jet stream tends to dip further south, often leading to above-average snowfall in the Sierra Nevada.
- Coastal Impacts: Sea levels along the California coast are expected to rise temporarily by six inches, increasing the risk of high-tide flooding in the Bay Area.
- Elevated Temperatures: In addition to wet winters, overall temperatures are trending warmer, prolonging heat waves even before the stormier patterns kick in.

We will continue to monitor developments. If weather becomes a major issue will need to consider canceling the field trip or turning more to "inside" photography.

Safety in Numbers

- Try to have a partner or be in a group. We have expensive camera equipment so some folks will make targets of us. By being together it reduces this risk. Added benefit is we can learn/share when together.
- Keep valuable out of sight.
- Never show "cash" in public.
- Be aware of your environment. Watch out for someone trying to "distract" you. Or bumping into you (pickpocket.
- Use electronic "trackers" in your bag(s).

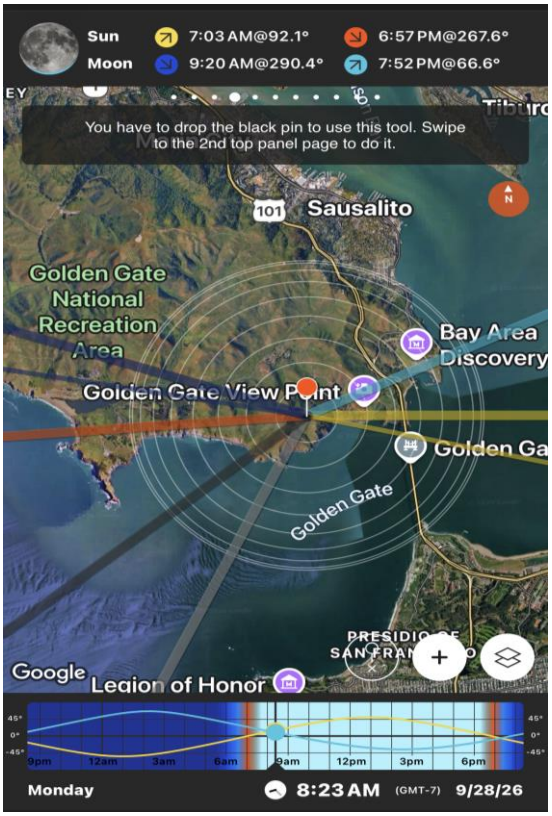
Tides, Sunrise, and Sunset Table

- The level of the tide will impact where you go and what you'll be able to photography.
- The following provides tides, sunrise, and sunset times.

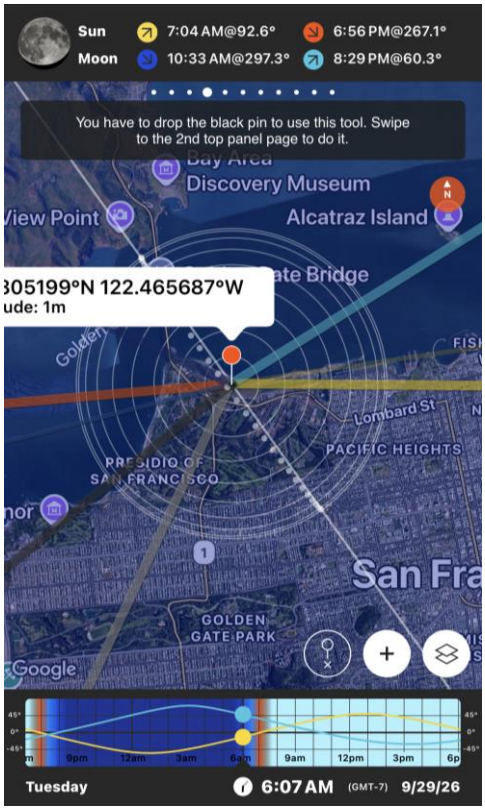
Sept	27 *Sun*	High 12:34 AM (5.56 m)	Low 6:06 AM (1.17 m)	High 12:37 PM (6.2 m)	Low 6:41 PM (0.28 m)	**Sunrise**	**Sunset**	**Moonset**	**Moonrise**
	28 *Mon*	High 1:24 AM (5.33 m)	Low 6:41 AM (1.61 m)	High 1:08 PM (6.38 m)	Low 7:24 PM (-0.08 m)	7:03am	6:57pm	9:20am	7:52pm
	29 *Tue*	High 2:20 AM (5.05 m)	Low 7:18 AM (2.11 m)	High 1:43 PM (6.47 m)	Low 8:11 PM (-0.28 m)	7:04am	6:56pm	10:30am	8:29pm
	30 *Wed*	High 3:23 AM (4.76 m)	Low 8:01 AM (2.6 m)	High 2:24 PM (6.45 m)	Low 9:05 PM (-0.33 m)	7:05am	6:54pm	11:47am	9:15pm
Oct	01 *Thu*	High 4:35 AM (4.54 m)	Low 8:53 AM (3.05 m)	High 3:14 PM (6.32 m)	Low 10:07 PM (-0.24 m)	7:06am	6:53pm	12:59pm	10:10pm
	02 *Fri*	High 5:58 AM (4.48 m)	Low 10:03 AM (3.38 m)	High 4:14 PM (6.13 m)	Low 11:20 PM (-0.13 m)	7:07am	6:51pm	2:03pm	11:16pm
	03 *Sat*	High 7:18 AM (4.63 m)	Low 11:31 AM (3.45 m)	High 5:25 PM (5.95 m)					
	04 *Sun*	Low 12:38 AM (-0.07 m)	High 8:21 AM (4.91 m)	Low 12:58 PM (3.21 m)	High 6:42 PM (5.85 m)				

Photo Pills Sunrise (Yellow Line) and Sunset (Orange Line) positions from different locations.

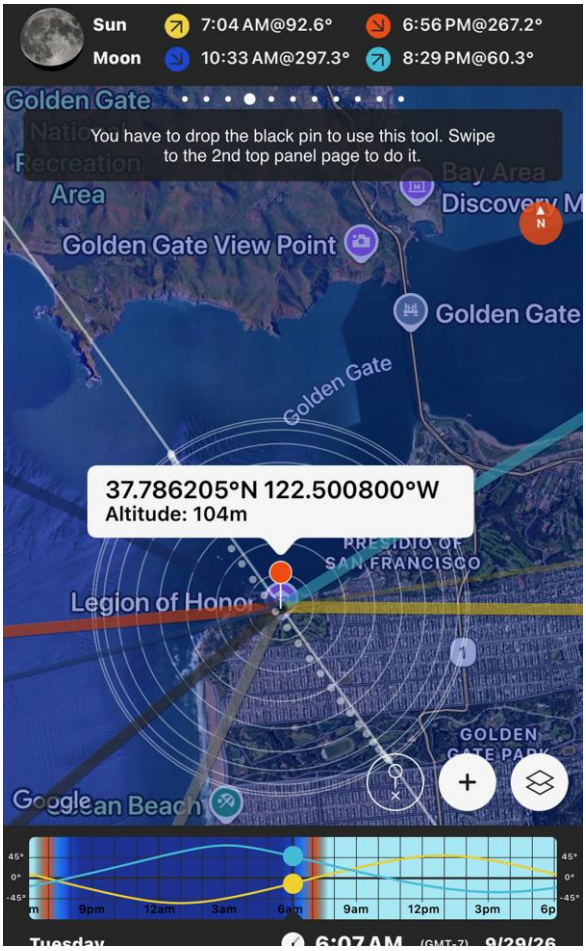
Marin Headlands **Christy Field Area**

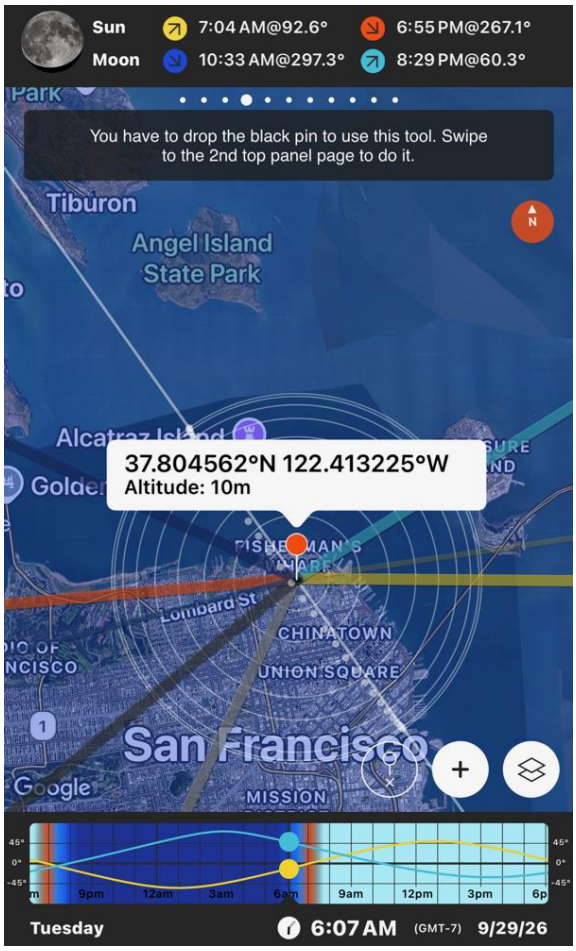


Beaches Near Seal Rock Inn



Downtown



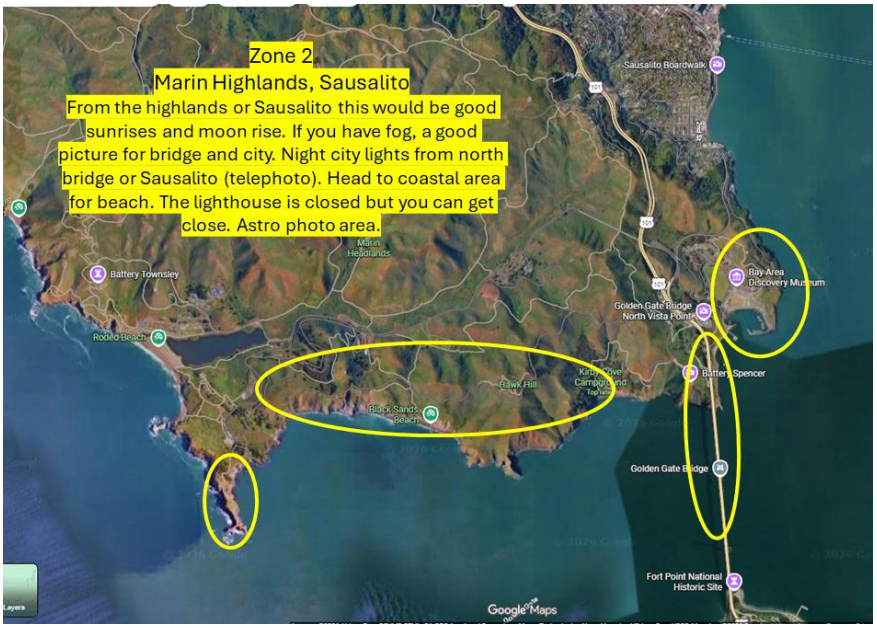


If you have a specific location in mind and would like to see the directions of sunrise and sunset email Jim. He will run the location in Photo Pill and send it to you.

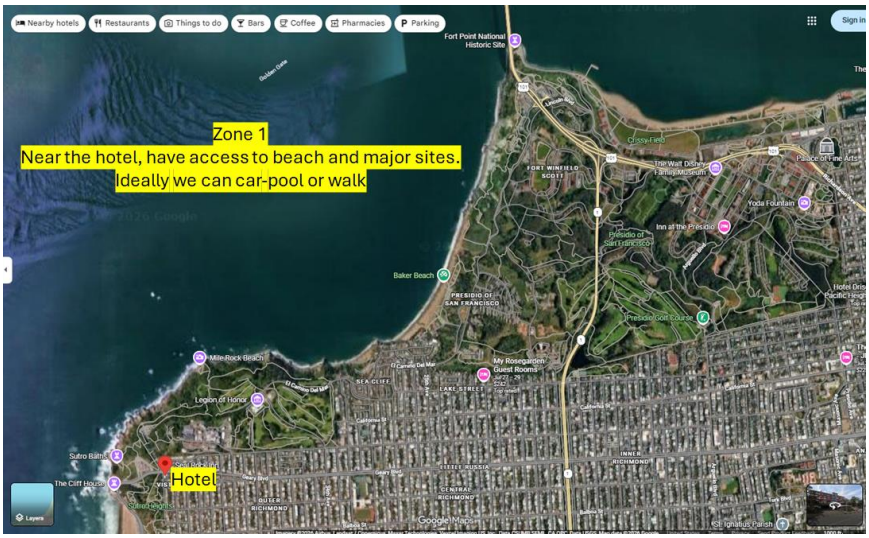
Group and Individual Shooting Locations

The following are group shooting locations. We will carpool to these places at destinated times.

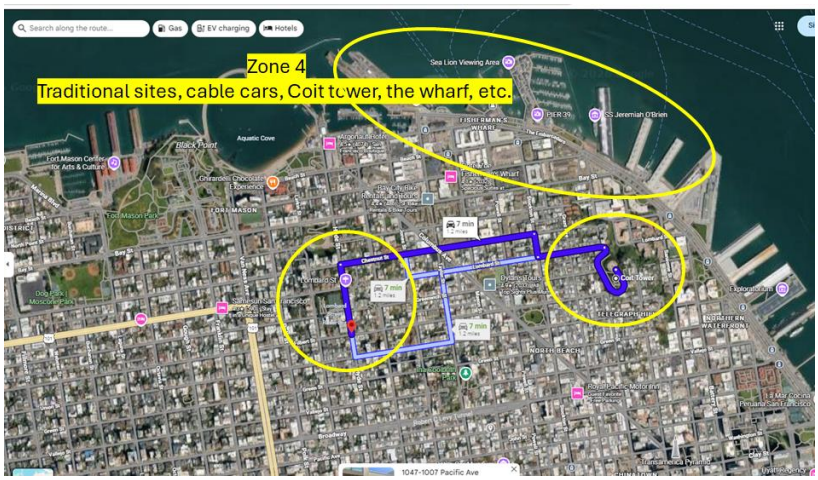
1. **Sunrise at the Marin Headlands/Walk on the Golden Gate/Sausalito.**



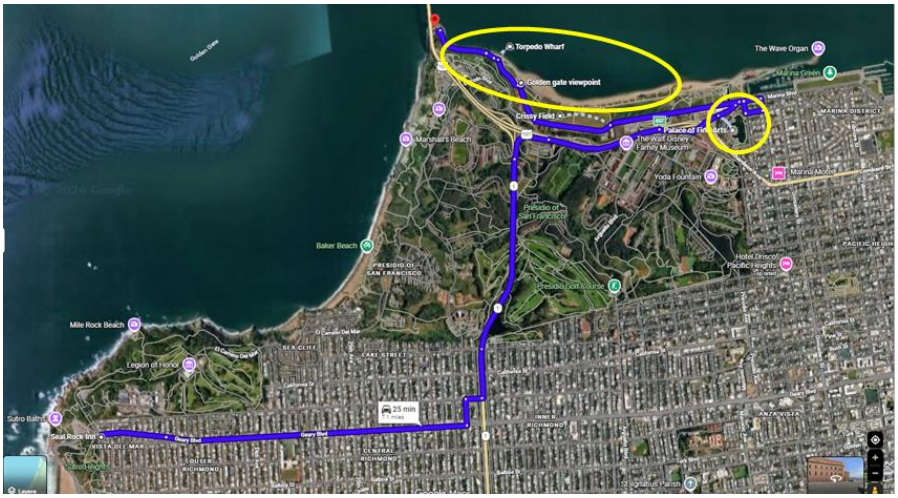
2. **Sunsets at the beach(s)**
   a. Walk/ride along the stretch of coast from Sutro Baths to the South end of GG Bridge



3. **Down-town swing (Wharfs, Cable Car Hill, Coit Tower, China Town)**
    a. Exclusive trolley ride
    b. Lunch in China Town
    c. California Street, using the cable car tracks and descending sightlines toward the Bay Bridge to build layered city compositions.
    d. North Beach Area, before sunrise in the North Beach area, photographing classic San Francisco city icons including the Transamerica Pyramid and surrounding architecture. This session focuses on alignment, framing, and working with urban scale in low light.
    e. Or a Morning on Lombard Street getting lower viewpoint, working with the famous switchbacks, leading lines, and layered city background to build strong compositions.



4. **Night shooting tour at the Palace of Fine Arts and Christy Field**
    a. Dinner before the shoot



5. Golden Gate Park Autumn capture.

a. Where Can You Find the Best Fall Colors?

i. **The Japanese Tea Garden**: This area is renowned for its serene beauty and vibrant maples. Entry fee: Reg $16, Senior $7. Buy online. [Hours & Admissions - Gardens of Golden Gate Park]

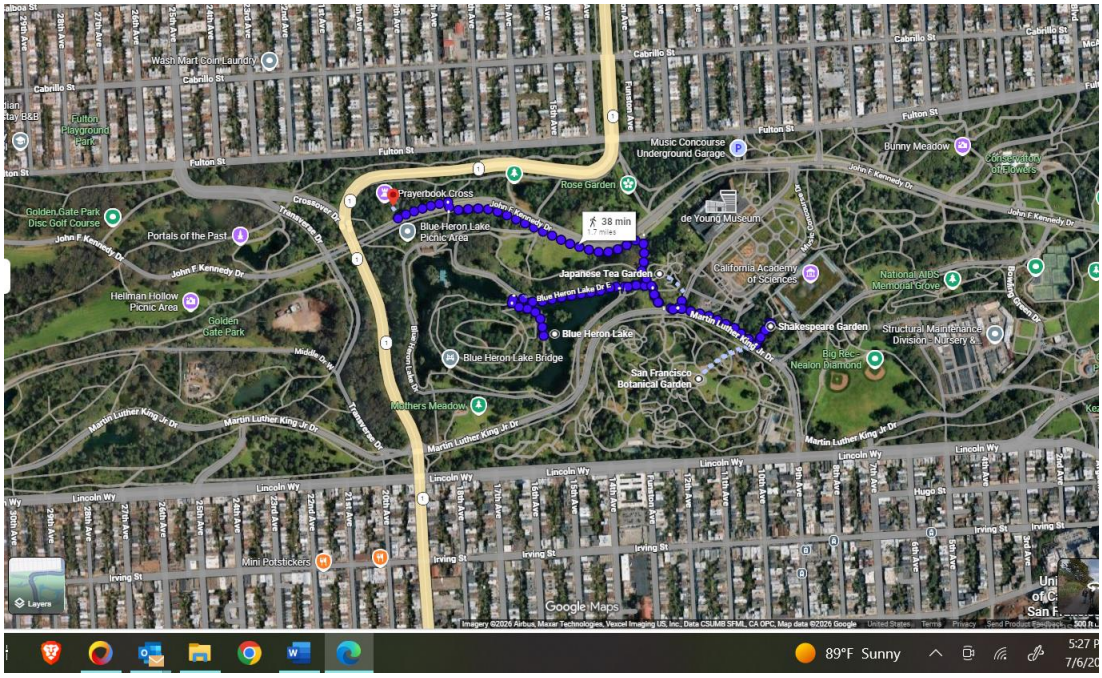
ii. **The Botanical Garden**: Offers a diverse range of trees and plants that change colors, providing a picturesque setting. Entry Fee: Reg $15, Senior $7

iii. **Stow Lake**: Surrounded by trees, the reflections in the water enhance the fall experience.

iv. **Shakespeare Garden**: A quieter spot with a variety of colorful foliage.

[Can you see fall colors in Golden Gate Park?]

[Discover Golden Gate Park | San Francisco Recreation and Parks, CA]



6. Sunset Cruise

[San Francisco Bay Sunset or City Lights Sightseeing Cruise 2026 - BOOK NOW]

Bypass the line and head directly to the gate with your prebooked tickets for this San Francisco Bay sightseeing cruise. This sunset cruise takes you across the bay with outstanding views of the city skyline, Golden Gate Bridge, the San Francisco Bay Bridge, and Alcatraz Island. Relax while background music sets the tone. Watch the sunset or select a city lights cruise during winter months.

- Soak up views of the skyline, Alcatraz, Golden Gate Bridge from the water.

- Sail below the Golden Gate Bridge and Bay Bridge for unique perspectives.
- Save time and bypass tickets lines by prebooking.
- Onboard amenities include restroom and cozy bar for refreshments.
- Make your way to the pier at Fisherman's Wharf in time for your chosen departure time (depending on the season). Listen to relaxing background music and watch the sights pass by on San Francisco Bay.

$58/person, 2 hours.
Pick-up Location: San Francisco Cruises (Red and White Fleet) Pier 43 1/2, San Francisco, CA 94133, USA
San Francisco Sunset Cruise 2026 - BOOK NOW
This 90-minute cruise set to music will take you from PIER 39 and passes by San Francisco icons, such as the famous California Sea Lions and the Golden Gate Bridge.

As the sun sets on the San Francisco Bay and the lights come up in the city, you'll continue to take in the many sights while you go by Angel Island, Sausalito, Tiburon, and the world famous Alcatraz Island. There is no better seat on the Bay to see one of the most beautiful cities in the world turn on its lights.

If the timing doesn't work, select from one of our other amazing cruise options available during the day!

Don’t miss this breathtaking experience from the best seats on the Bay!

Read more about - San Francisco Sunset Cruise

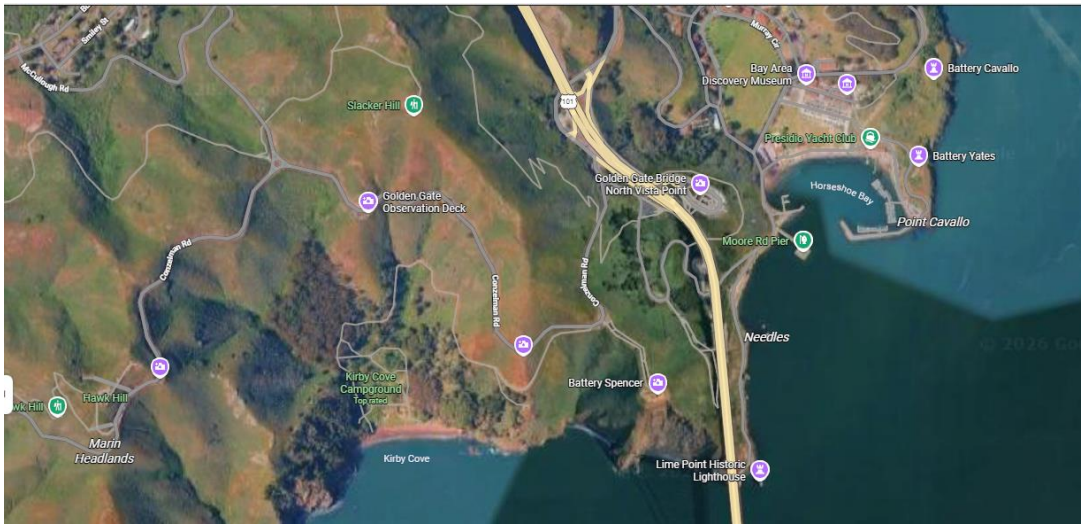
Price - $39/each. Duration: 1.5 hours.

Pick-up Location: **Blue & Gold Fleet Pier 41, San Francisco, CA 94133, USA**

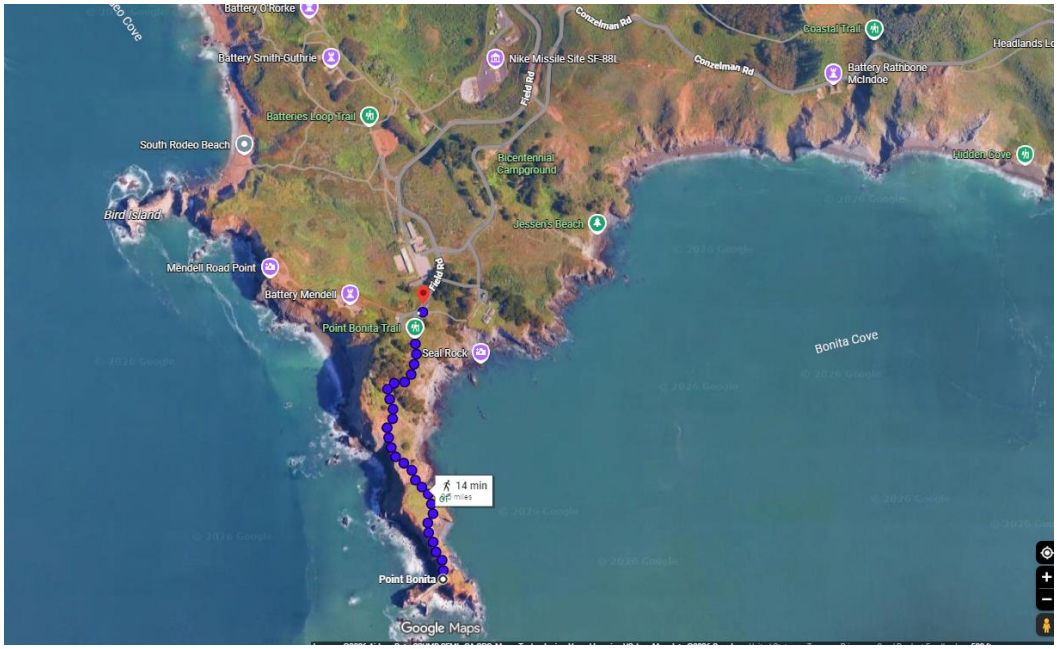
7. Marin Headlands

a. Many locations to stop and shoot. Drive along Bunker Road, Field Road, Mitchel Road.
b. On the Marin Headland, close to the bridge:
    i. Battery Spencer (Very close to the bridge)
    ii. Battery Ridge (good night shooting location of bridge lighted up and traffic)
    iii. Golden Gate Viewpoint (close-up of bridge)
    iv. Golden Gate Observation Deck (good panorama
    v. Sausalito side, drive Marina Road. Battery Yates, Battery Cavallo, Moore Rd Pier, and the breaker walk-way.
    vi. To get photos of Lime Point Historic Lighthouse, you can walk out to the area via a Moore road, but you cannot access the lighthouse.

Found using Moore Rd Pier is a good location to shoot from. Bring a telephoto if you have.



c. Use Field Road to access several sites on the way to the Point Bonita Lighthouse.
    i. Access to the lighthouse is closed but you should be able to take photos of the lighthouse. **Half mile walk from parking to the Lighthouse.**
    ii. Battery Mendell (view of coast and bridge)
    iii. Battery Alexander (view of bridge)
    iv. Battery O'Rorke (view of coastline, sunset)
    v. Nike Missile Site SF-88L (see missile site, open Thursday, Friday, Saturday 12 to 3pm. Call before visiting to confirm if it is open. +1415-331-1453



d. Use Conzelman Road which takes you along the Northern side of bay entrance.
    i. Battery Rathbone McIndoe (cliffs, GG Bridge, coast)
    ii. Headlands Lookout

e. Use Mitchell Road to access the Coastal Trail and visit:
    i. Tennessee Point Labyrinth (Coastline)
    ii. Fort Cronkhite
    iii. Rodeo Beach Coastal Trailhead
    iv. The Marine Mammal Center

f.

g. The Point Bonita Lighthouse is closed. See this site for details.

h. [Point Bonita Lighthouse - Golden Gate National Recreation Area (U.S. National Park Service)]

8. Walking the Bridge

For those that have never walked the bridge it might be a good time to try.

[Visiting the Bridge - Bridge | Golden Gate]

[Exhibits | Golden Gate]

9. The Cable Cars

Attached is the route of the cable cars. To capture that iconic photo of a cable car cresting a steep hill with the **Bay Bridge** in the background, head to the intersection of **California Street and Mason Street** on Nob Hill.

Here are the specific details to help you get the shot:

- **Location:** The northeast corner of **California St. and Mason St.** (just up the hill from the Westin St. Francis hotel).
- **Setup:** Stand in the middle of the street inside the red cable car lane, facing east.
- **Lens & Angle:** Use a telephoto or zoom lens (e.g., 3x or 4x zoom) to compress the distance, which makes the steep hills look dramatic and stacks the cable car against the distant Bay Bridge.
- **Safety First:** Cable cars pass about every 14 minutes and travel at 9 mph. Stay on the sidewalk, wait for a gap in traffic, and step into the center lane for a quick 5 to 10 seconds to snap your photo before moving safely out of the way.

However, with the different routes, use your creative view and create a NEW perspective.

10. Mission District Murals.

Charlie Schuman, a member who once resided in the Mission Districts speaks highly of the type of mural of the area. Have attached some links showing locations and examples.

- The Guide to **San Francisco's Mission District Murals**
  https://www.sftravel.com/article/guide-to-san-franciscos-mission-district-murals
- **San Francisco Murals & Street Art**
  https://findmasa.com/city/san-francisco
- **The Best Street Art in San Francisco: Mission District Art Walk**

https://www.dotsonamap.net/san-francisco-street-art/

- Mission District Mural Walk Self Guided Tour
https://www.viator.com/tours/San-Francisco/Mission-District-Mural-Walk-Self-Guided-Tour/d651-304471P227

11. Filoli Garden Stop while Heading Home.

We do not have a group event planned for a visit to Filoli located south of San Fransico at 86 Cañada Road Woodside. Tickets are required. Gates open at 10am, suggest that being the best time with lesser crowds.

Filoli | Historic House & Garden | Filoli