

PARKS AND RECREATION

Generously provided and well distributed are 127 public recreation and park units covering 4,043 acres. The areas in the city account for about one-eighth of the available land area.

About 80 playgrounds and recreation centers are individually supervised. Included in these facilities are outdoor and indoor swimming pools, tennis courts, regulation baseball and softball diamonds, golf courses, putting greens, bowling greens, yacht harbor, and a family mountain camp (200 acres, approximately 180 miles from San Francisco at elevation 4,500 feet).

Golden Gate Park, notably one of the finest parks in the world, comprising 1,017 acres with many thousands of different kinds of trees, shrubs and plants, contains an aquarium, a museum, the Morrison Planetarium, the California Academy of Sciences, the Japanese Tea Garden, and many unusual attractions. The Fleishhacker Playfield, fronting on the Pacific Ocean, contains one of the largest outdoor swimming pools in the world, and the San Francisco Zoological Gardens are close by.

SOCIAL FEATURES

San Francisco, because of its various ethnic groups, is a cosmopolitan city, which it was at a very young age in its history. Today its flavor has remained universal; its neighborhoods, variety of restaurants, foreign-language newspapers, street names, arts and craft shops, book stores, and even its schools, are clues to the Old World—both East and West—and the traditions of great cultures of the past.

Chinatown, of course, is famed as the largest Chinese settlement existing outside of Asia itself. The North Beach section is populated by Italian-Americans of all classifications; the Mission District by Irish intermixed with Spanish, Mexican and Anglo-Saxons. Many other nationality groups, including Russians, Germans, French, Greeks, Armenians, Syrians, Turks, and Canadians, among them, came to settle in San Francisco. The Japanese, primary link to the destiny of the Pacific Coast in its ties with the Far East, are centered around Post and Buchanan streets.

The city long has been a center for the performing and designing arts. Nearly 100 art galleries and over ten "Little Theatre" groups are located here.

Art Galleries—Three major public art galleries and several semi-public galleries offer exhibits and collections of national and international fame.

Museums and Art Galleries:

California Palace of the Legion of Honor
De Young Memorial Museum
San Francisco Museum of Art
Pioneer Hall
Josephine Randall Junior Museum
San Francisco Maritime Museum
History Room of the Wells-Fargo Bank
California State Division of Mines—Geology Museum
Morrison Planetarium
Mid-summer Music Festival
San Francisco Symphony and Pop Concerts
Bank Concerts—Golden Gate Park
Civic Light Opera Association Series
San Francisco Opera, and Spring Opera

Library—The main public library is located in the Civic Center. There are 26 branches (one for business), and one bookmobile. This system has over 840,000 volumes. In addition to the public libraries, there are nearly 100 private and special libraries, including technical and institutional. There are also numerous circulating libraries.

Annual Events—

Grand National Livestock Exposition, Horse Show and Rodeo
San Francisco International Film Festival
Chinese New Year's Celebration
Chinese "Double Ten" Parade and Celebration
Columbus Day Celebration
Shrine East-West Football Game
Hearst Regatta—Sailing
Far Western Swimming and Diving Championships
National Collegiate Athletic Association Regional Basketball Tourney
Golden Gloves Boxing Tourney
Ice Follies
San Francisco Flower Shop
San Francisco Home Show
Golden West Antique Show
Golden Gate Kennel Club Dog Show
Golden West Cat Show

Bay Area Science Fair
Fisherman's Fiesta
North Beach Street Fair and Art Show
Maiden Lane Festival
Union Square Fashion Show
London Week

Participant Sports—

Tennis
Golf
Swimming
Fishing, Deep-sea
Sailing
Skating, Ice and Roller
Hiking

Spectator Sports—

Baseball: San Francisco Giants, Oakland Athletics
Football: San Francisco '49ers, Oakland Raiders, and colleges
Hockey: Oakland Seals
Basketball: San Francisco Warriors, Oakland Oaks, University of San Francisco, San Francisco State College, University of California, Stanford University.
Horse Racing (San Bruno, San Mateo, and El Cerrito)
Soccer—Oakland Clippers
Polo
Yacht Races
Roller Derby

HISTORY

Discovery

San Francisco owes its discovery and much of its history to the daring and adventure-loving early Portuguese, English and Spanish explorers. The romance of those early days clings to the city and lends charm to its atmosphere even today.

Though San Francisco's heritage is rightly credited to the Spanish, more than two centuries before Portola's arrival, Juan Rodrigues Cabrillo in 1542 discovered the Farallon Islands (now a part of San Francisco); next, Sir Francis Drake, famed English explorer, passed by the Golden Gate and in 1579 discovered Drake's Bay, a few miles north of San Francisco, where the first church service in the English language on the Pacific Coast was held.

In 1769, Don Gaspar de Portola and his little band of adventurers were the first to glimpse the bay from the nearby hills on the south. Six years later the ship "San Carlos," in command of Don Juan Manuel Ayala, sailed through the Golden Gate to cast the first anchor in the bay. More than a century before, in 1603, Vizcaino visited what is now the Gulf of the Farallons and mapped it as Bahía de Puerto de San Francisco. This is the first time the name San Francisco appeared on record in connection with the vicinity of San Francisco.

Early Beginnings

The settlement of what is now San Francisco was just being founded by the Spaniards when the Liberty Bell pealed the birth of this nation. First Spaniards, then Russians, then Americans came and lived to enjoy life and to rule.

The site for the Presidio of San Francisco was selected on March 28, 1776, by Colonel Juan Bautista de Anza, and on March 29, the site for the mission, Mission San Francisco de Asia (Dolores)—a combination of Mission, Morrish and Corinthian architecture. While from the beginning the mission was called San Francisco, the settlement at the cove under Telegraph Hill was known as Yerba Buena.

For many centuries; history records, traders sought to reach the Orient through a western route. San Francisco was the westerly outpost in the days of sailing vessels. Growing in stature, the city has become one of the world's great distribution centers.

First Elections

Democratic self-government of the bureaucratic sort decreed by the Mexican Republic came to Yerba Buena (later named San Francisco) before the town itself arrived. Citizens of the Partido (civil district) of San Francisco, on Governor Jose Figueroa's orders, assembled at the Presidio on Dec. 7, 1834 to choose electors for the Ayuntamiento (district council). On the following Sunday, Don Francisco de Harvo was elected to the district council as Alcalde for the projected pueblo of Yerba Buena.