

LET'S GO

ADVENTURE

10 Amazing Day Trips From San Francisco

ONE TRIP WONDER GUIDES

When you're done exploring San Francisco's 7x7 square miles of museums, parks, attractions, and eclectic neighborhoods, hit the road to these further-afield finds that deliver California Dreamin' all day.



01

Muir Woods

This 558-acre forest is home to some of the planet's tallest old-growth redwood trees. The park offers easy and challenging hikes, as well as places to sit and bask in the beauty of the gentle giants. Note: Parking must be reserved ahead.

02

Point Reyes & Tomales Bay

You could easily spend a week exploring West Marin County, but a day is just as soul-quenching. Pick up trail maps and go for an easy (or more rigorous) hike along the coastal cliffs. Grab lunch in old-timey towns like Marshall, Point Reyes Station, and Inverness (oysters are a must), and try some watersports in the bay. Nick's Cove is an institution for overnight stays.

WWW.POINTREYES.ORG

03

Filoli Estate & Garden

Filoli feels like a world away, yet it's less than an hour's drive south of the city. Tour the 54,000+ square-foot mansion and 16 acres of gardens surrounded by hundreds of acres of nature. There's also a café, daily talks, and fun seasonal events throughout the year.

WWW.FILOLI.ORG

04

Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk

Nostalgic fun awaits, as does food, arcade games, and retro rides, including two National Historic Landmarks: the Giant Dipper Roller Coaster and the Looff Carousel, just 75 miles south of San Francisco. Overnight at Dream Inn, a beachfront hotel with private balconies and oceanfront dining. Or stay in colorful and quaint Capitola Village, just six miles from the boardwalk.

05

Napa Valley

Ninety minutes north of San Francisco, you'll find the world-famous wine region. Amidst the rolling hills and vines are more tasting rooms than you could possibly conquer in a day, from fancy-pants wineries to mom-and-pop shops. Book ahead at your favorites, or sample some in Downtown Napa.

WWW.VISITNAPAVALLEY.COM

06 Petaluma

The historic town hums with antique shops, indie boutiques, breweries, and farm-to-table dining less than an hour from the Golden Gate Bridge. Drop into Costeaux for coffee and French pastries, then burn it off with a kayak adventure down the Petaluma River. Rent one at The Floathouse. Or head over to Helen Putnam Regional Park in the rolling hills just southwest of town for hiking on 6 miles of scenic trails.

WWW.VISITPETALUMA.COM



10 Stinson Beach

Stinson's wide sandy beach is popular on warm days, but seaside Zen can be found any time of year, even when Karl The Fog shows up. Grab breakfast or lunch at Parkside Café, whose onsite bakery makes daily pastries and bread, then take a barefoot walk to dip your feet in the Pacific.

07 Half Moon Bay

This small coastal town is about 30 miles south and a great place to go for lunch at Sam's Chowder House or a stroll down Main Street with historical sites and cute cafés.

WWW.VISITHALFMOONBAY.ORG



08

Sausalito

A quick drive over the Golden Gate Bridge or a ferry from downtown San Francisco lands you in this waterfront village where the amazing bay and city views are unparalleled. Bridgeway is lined with restaurants, shops, and galleries. Make a day of it, or just go for lunch. You can also rent kayaks at SeaTrek or take a walking tour.

09

Carmel & Big Sur

This might be pushing it for day-trip status given the 2.5-hour trip, but the pinch-me gorgeousness makes up for it. Carmel-by-the-Sea is chockablock with galleries, shops, cafes, and boutique hotels. On the way to Big Sur, admire the Golden State's best scenery along the iconic Highway 1. For a leg stretch with a side of pure WOW, Garrapata State Park is just off the road and has easy coastal strolls.

WWW.SEEMONTEREY.COM



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