

in-room | cityguide 2009

SHOPPING · DINING · CULTURE · SIGHTSEEING · GETAWAYS
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THE POWELL-HYDE CABLE CAR LINE LEADS TO FISHERMAN'S WHARF.

A TASTE OF SAN FRANCISCO

With one day to explore, follow us to San Francisco's classic destinations.

BY TALIA SALEM AND LORRAINE SANDERS

8 A.M. Start South of Market in the Mint Plaza. Hop in line at **BLUE BOTTLE COFFEE**, a café with a Japanese siphon bar and a cult-like status among locals. Order up the single origin-siphon coffee combo with your choice of waffles or oatmeal.

8:30 A.M. With caffeine in your veins, stroll down Mission Street to Fourth Street to **YERBA BUENA GARDENS**. Wander along the walkway through this urban oasis to the Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial. Slip behind the 50-foot waterfall for a moment of reflection before heading back out into the park.

9 A.M. Hoof it to the **POWELL CABLE CAR** turnaround at Powell and Market Streets. Queue up for the Powell-Hyde line. Once on the car, hold on tight for the ride over Nob Hill towards Fisherman's Wharf.

9:30 A.M. Ready your camera as you approach **LOMBARD STREET**, home to the curving switchbacks responsible for this steep stretch's reputation as the "crookedest street" in the city. Continue on to the cable car's final stop at Hyde and Beach Streets.

10 A.M. Bid adieu to the clanging cable car and prepare to spend the rest of the morning exploring **FISHERMAN'S WHARF**. Directly across from the Powell-Hyde line's final stop sits the Buena Vista Café. Known as the birthplace of Irish coffee, the visitor-friendly spot serves some 2,000 cups of the steaming, spiked beverage each day. Take an hour or so to explore the shops and sights at **GHIRARDELLI SQUARE**.

11 A.M. Amble down Jefferson Street towards **PIER 39**. Along the way, make a stop at a stand to sample fresh Dungeness crab, a local delicacy, and admire the sweeping views of Alcatraz and the Golden Gate Bridge. There, between perusing the shops and attractions like the Aquarium of the Bay, take a few minutes to watch the antics of the resident sea lions basking on wooden platforms on the pier's western flank.

12:30 P.M. When your stomach signals lunch hour, partake of more seafood at some of the Wharf's water-view eateries or board the F Train toward downtown. Exit at the Ferry Terminal stop and refuel at the **FERRY BUILDING MARKETPLACE** in one of its dining options—including farm-fresh food available at the farmers' market on Tuesdays and Saturdays and the Ferry Building Marketplace shops every day of the week.

2 P.M. Next up, head to **UNION SQUARE** for a dose of retail therapy in some of the best stores fashion has to offer. Be sure to venture onto Maiden Lane or Sutter Street to see some of the one-of-a-kind boutiques that make this a world-class shopping destination.

5 P.M. Stroll over to the intersection of Grant Avenue and Bush Street where you'll find the elaborate lion gate marking the entrance to San Francisco's **CHINATOWN**. Thought to be the largest enclave of its kind in the United States, walking the streets here is like visiting a foreign city within a city.

6 P.M. Make your way back to the hotel to rest and get ready for dinner.

8 P.M. Enjoy dinner at **TADICH GRILL**, the city's oldest restaurant. They've been in operation since 1849, and they serve some of the best sourdough and cioppino in the city.

10 P.M. When it's time to end the day in San Francisco, there's no better place than the **TOP OF THE MARK**. Along with 360-degree views, this cocktail lounge atop Nob Hill's InterContinental Mark Hopkins Hotel impresses with a martini menu featuring more than 100 variations.