

San Francisco's Academy Of Sciences



VISUAL TRAVEL TOURS

Maps Show You Where... We Show You Why!

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Tour Summary

One night in 1853, only three years after California became a state, seven men assembled in a candle-lit room in San Francisco and founded the first scientific institution west of the Atlantic seaboard. The venerable Academy of Sciences was newly rebuilt in 2008: Bay Area residents and tourists alike enjoy this world-class museum, which is located in Golden Gate Park. Inside, visitors will marvel at the deepest coral reef aquarium in the world, a four-story tropical rainforest dome, a towering T-rex skeleton, a colony of African penguins, a fully-immersive digital planetarium, and the many other exciting venues, exhibits and animals to be discovered within the Academy.

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Inside the SF Academy





Reopened in October 2008, the California Academy of Sciences is centrally located on the Music Concourse. This is in the developed eastern portion of Golden Gate Park.



As we shall see, the new Academy is several museums in one. It features an underground aquarium, planetarium, natural history museum, 3-D theater and a

lecture hall. There are 2 restaurants, a gift shop, and a relaxing garden with an aviary.



For the best photographic light, try to come on a sunny day. The Living Roof exhibit and the rainforest dome will be much brighter and look better in your pictures.



Similar to other natural history museums, the Academy of Sciences displays planetary information along with an impressive array of aquatic and historic specimens. With recent cutting-edge renovations, the Academy promotes a harmonious existence between humans

and the earth, the cosmos above, and the oceans below.



Visitors are treated to a unique journey into the past, present, and future of the living world - a learning experience that will last a lifetime. We'll start the second chapter of this tour in the Steinhart Aquarium.



The Philippine Coral Reef is the world's deepest coral-reef tank. Visitors report that they feel like they're scuba diving, without having to wear tanks and a wetsuit!



In addition to the reef tank, the Academy also boasts 100 aquarium tanks filled with fish, reptiles, amphibians, insects, and other invertebrates.



Another unique feature is the Rainforests of the World exhibit. Step inside the hot and humid world of living rainforest plants, frogs, butterflies, and free-flying birds!



Once inside the 4-story dome, take a walk up a ramp to the various levels of the rainforest canopy. Different animals and exhibits are found on each level.



Looking down 3 stories into the glass tunnel underneath the rainforest lagoon can give the faint-at-heart the sensation of vertigo!



The elevator at the top of the rainforest dome takes the visitor down to the aquarium, to walk through the same glass tunnel.



In the spirit of continual learning, the Academy offers many educational and interactive exhibits. These get children and adults alike excited about science and the natural world.



When the staff drops live fish into the penguin tank, the hungry aquatic birds quickly dive in to catch their lunch. We'll fill you in on feeding times during the tour.



The Natural History Museum features live and preserved animals, primarily from Africa.



Finally, your visit to the Academy helps keep the research going and the museum open. The Academy's mission statement is "to explore, explain, and protect the natural world."

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