

San Francisco's Golden Gate Park



VISUAL TRAVEL TOURS

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

Table of Contents

[Cover](#)

[Tour Summary](#)

[San Francisco's Famous Golden Gate Park](#)

[Tips](#)

[Chapter 1 - The Academy of Sciences](#)

[Chapter 2 - The de Young Museum](#)

[Chapter 3 - The Gardens & Lakes](#)

[Chapter 4 - Playgrounds & Sport Activities](#)

[Maps](#)

[Author Biography](#)

[Publisher](#)

Tour Summary

City residents and tourists alike enjoy the world-class museums, the lakes, bridges, waterfalls, trails, gardens, sporting areas and public art of Golden Gate Park, all located within an area 3.5 miles long and a half mile wide. Park superintendent John McLaren (1887-1943) developed the park to be a gradual transition from the busy, cultural, ornamental East End to a more tranquil, wild, and natural West End. This layout plan still exists, interspersed with athletic fields, playgrounds, clubhouses, and just about every kind of garden imaginable. Indeed, the Golden Gate Park is the consummate urban playground, with diversions for everyone!

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

San Francisco's Famous Golden Gate Park





At the easternmost periphery of Golden Gate Park, beginning at the panhandle, a 19th-century goddess statue presides over a platform dedicated to President William McKinley. The panhandle is a mile long and

Golden Gate Park is another 2.5 miles in length, extending to the shores of the Pacific Ocean.



Housed within a single structure with many nooks and crannies to explore, the newly rebuilt Academy of Sciences offers several museums in one. Pictured here is the Rainforest Dome and the surface of the California Coast Environment Aquarium.



Gaze into the world's deepest coral reef tank, where hundreds of tropical fish glide through the water as if in their natural habitat in the Philippines.



From the “Living Roof” of the Academy, recently rebuilt and newly reopened, the world-class de Young Museum comes into view.



The de Young Museum showcases an impressive collection of 20th-century and African art, as well as textiles, Art of the Americas, and many special exhibits. The grand central gallery features large-scale works on a rotating basis.



Modern and contemporary art pieces are centrally featured, with both world-famous and up-and-coming artists displayed in the permanent collection.



Adjacent to the de Young Museum is the Japanese Tea Garden, conceived and constructed by famed Japanese landscape designer, Makoto Hagiwara. The Tea Garden is perhaps the most visited of the many gardens in Golden Gate Park.



Home to thousands of rare and tropical plants, the Conservatory of Flowers is a historic 19th-century Victorian glass greenhouse.



The Strybing Arboretum features expansive botanical gardens, including beautiful Mediterranean-climate flora. The 70 acres of outdoor gardens exhibit plants from 6 continents.



Golden Gate Park is famous for its abundance of attractive natural settings. Although this cascading waterfall happens to be artificial, it creates an overwhelmingly real effect.



Water and land meet on this pathway around Strawberry Hill. Stow Lake, the largest in the park, encircles the hill, where you can climb to the highest point in the area.



There are a dozen lakes in Golden Gate Park: some are rather obscure, promoting natural growth and supporting abundant wildlife.



Across the street from Spreckels Lake, the "buffalo paddock" is a large, fenced-in pen that is home to half a dozen American bison.



The San Francisco Model Yacht Club House is the perfect place for miniature boat enthusiasts to gather. Across the street is Spreckels Lake, where they operate their craft.



This is a park for all seasons. The famous 100-year-old cypress tree at the eastern entrance is decorated with festive lights during the holiday season.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)