

What's New in San Francisco

Oct. 19, 2023 – We are pleased to present this guide as a San Francisco Travel Trade news update, offering updated information on various aspects of the city. Included are details on new tours and tour companies, recently introduced attractions, transportation updates, museum exhibitions, notable events and anniversaries scheduled for 2024, and a list of new and renovated hotels. This guide is a valuable resource for those seeking current information on the city's offerings.

NEW HOTELS

HOTELS CHECK-IN: Five hotels are launching this fall in San Francisco.

Set to debut Nov. 15 on the edge of the city's historic Jackson Square neighborhood is **The Jay.** Set to debut Nov. 15 on the edge of the city's historic Jackson Square neighborhood is Formerly the Le Méridien, the 360-room property has been renovated and rebranded.

Quadrupling down on San Francisco, Chicago-based Oxford Capital Group, LLC <u>announced</u> it would open four rebranded, refreshed and repositioned properties this fall. The first to open was **Hotel Fiona**, formerly The Carriage Inn. Located in SoMa, the historic boutique property with Victorian flair features renovated guestrooms and an updated arrival lobby.

With the arrival of <u>1 Hotel San Francisco</u>, the first city in the US to mandate composting finally gets an eco-focused stay. In keeping with the brand's ethos of sustainable luxury, materials are ethically sourced and single-use plastics are forbidden. Plus, you cannot beat the hotel's location—across the street from the Ferry Building and overlooking the Bay.

The 107-room <u>Hotel Julian</u> San Francisco, 152-room <u>SoMa House</u>, and 121-room <u>Hotel Garrett</u> are also slated to open in Q4.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Look at the SF Travel Events Calendar to see if your trip falls on a special event happening in San Francisco to participate in. Some unique events include San Francisco Pride, Fleet Week, Outside Lands Music Festival, Portola.

• Events in San Francisco

TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Fisherman's Wharf has tour bus loading and parking zones on **Powell, Beach, Mason, North Point, and Columbus Streets**. Tour buses can only park on Beach Street between Hyde and Jones Streets from 6:00 to 9:30 am. The City does not provide overnight tour bus parking. **The Mission Rock parking lot near AT&T Park** often has dedicated tour bus parking spaces

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available on a first-come, first-served basis. Please contact the SFMTA tour bus team at **tourbus@sfmta.com** with any questions.

NEW MUSEUM EXHIBIT

ENDS BY JANUARY 2024

San Francisco Sightseeing Bus Guide

Bus Loading and Parking Zones



Sightseeing vehicles can unload at these locations

Large sightseeing vehicles may not drive on these streets

Number	Attraction	Location	Description
1	Alamo Square	Fell St, north side, east of Pierce St	5-minute tour bus loading
2	AT&T Park	Terry Francois Blvd, across from Piers 48/50	Unlimited (incl. overnight) paid parking
3	Chinatown	Columbus Ave, east side, just north of Washington St	10-minute tour bus loading
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Civic Center	Fulton St, north side, between Hyde and Larkin Streets	15-minute tour bus loading
5	Fort Point	Fort Point	Parking (three spots)
6	Golden Gate Bridge	Golden Gate Bridge Plaza	Parking
7	Golden Gate Park	JFK Dr, north side, west of the Conservatory	Loading
8	Golden Gate Park	JFK Dr, south side, at Nancy Pelosi Dr	Loading
9	Golden Gate Park	Concourse Drive	Paid parking
10	Lands End	Lands End Overview parking lot	Parking (five spots)
11	Mission Dolores	Dolores St, west side, south of 16th St	20-minute tour bus loading
12	Palace of Fine Arts	Palace Drive, east side, north of Bay St	Loading
13	Presidio	Lincoln Boulevard at Crissy Field Overlook	Short-term parking
14	Presidio	Montgomery Street	Short-term parking
15	Presidio	Lincoln Boulevard at Battery East parking lot	Short-term parking
16	Presidio	Lincoln Boulevard at Langdon Court	Short-term parking
17	St. Mary's Cathedral	Geary Blvd, south side, west of Gough St and Gough St, west side, south of Geary Blvd	Loading
18	Treasure Island	Viewing area outside main gate	Parking
19	Twin Peaks	Christmas Tree Point	Parking
20	Union Square	Geary St, north side, between Grant Ave and Stockton St	10-minute tour bus loading
21	Union Square	Geary St, north side, east of Powell St	5-minute tour bus loading
22	Westfield	Jessie Street East, west side, north of Mission	Loading
23	Westfield	Jessie Street West, east side, north of Mission	Loading

WHAT ENDURES: The **Institute of Contemporary Art San Francisco** (ICA SF) debuted the largest solo museum exhibition of artist Patrick Martinez. On view through Jan. 7, **Ghost Land** features a major public art piece and large-scale sculptural installation. The exhibition highlights Martinez's "landscape" paintings—works that evoke the topography of personal, civic, and cultural loss, and includes a wall installation of his popular neon works. Also on view is **Out of Place** from Oakland-based painter Rupy C. Tut. Her exhibit follows

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"A GIANT LOVE LETTER": The only one of its kind at a major U.S. museum, the groundbreaking <u>The</u> <u>de Young Open</u> triennial community art exhibition features 883 works by artists residing in the Bay Area. The second edition of this free "salon style" exhibition spans nine mediums and explores the issues shaping life in the Bay Area and beyond. The 883 works were selected by a jury from 7,766 applications and are on view through Jan. 7.

RETROSPECTIVE: For its <u>30 Year Anniversary</u>, **111 Minna Galle**ry features the works of 40 artists and curators who have worked with 111 Minna Gallery since its inception. Curated by 111 Minna coowner David Scott Mabry, the exhibition features works by Sacha Eckes, Irene Hernandez-Feiks, Jay Howell, Micah LeBrun, Ron Turner and D Young V, among others. The show runs through Jan. 12.

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THE SAN FRANCISCO SOUND: *Retroblakesberg: The Music Never Stopped* offers a captivating visual narrative through photographs by Bay Area-based photographer Jay Blakesberg of legendary musicians, shedding light on the evolution of San Francisco's distinctive music culture and its far-reaching impact. The exhibition at the **Contemporary Jewish Museum** unites over 200 photographs and related memorabilia, all captured between 1978 and 2008. Icons such as the Grateful Dead, Joni Mitchell, Tracy Chapman, Neil Young, Soundgarden, and others are on view through Jan. 28.

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ENDS BY MAY 2024

RARE WORKS: Reuniting rare works from across the U.S. and Europe, **Botticelli Drawings**— presented exclusively at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco's **Legion of Honor** from Nov. 19 to Feb. 11 — is the first exhibition to explore the central role that drawing played in Botticelli's art and

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workshop practice. The exhibition unveils five newly attributed drawings alongside more than 60 works from 39 lending institutions. *Botticelli Drawings* features 27 drawings by the artist. The incredible rarity and fragility of these works preclude frequent travel, and many are leaving their lending institutions for the very first time in modern history solely for this exhibition.

MONSTER MASH: The Asian Art Museum's newest exhibition, <u>Takashi Murakami: Unfamiliar</u> <u>People — Swelling of Monsterized Human Ego</u>, showcases more than 75 works — including a dozen never-before-exhibited ones — and delivers Murakami's signature combination of fun, spectacle, and playful social commentary in his first-ever solo exhibition in the Bay Area. On view through Feb. 12, Murakami uses monsters as a lens to examine human behavior.

BOUNDARY DEFYING: SFMOMA will unveil *Wolfgang Tillmans: To Look Without Fear* on Nov 11. Curated by The Museum of Modern Art, New York, the exhibit is the most comprehensive of the artist's work to date. It encompasses Tillmans' iconic pieces in photography, video, and multimedia installations. Tillmans' inaugural solo exhibition in San Francisco is on view through March 3.

LOCAL LEGEND: 84-year-old contemporary painter and installation artist Joe Sam.'s works are on display at the **Museum of the African Diaspora** (MoAD) through March 3. His first solo exhibition in San Francisco, *Joe Sam.: Text Messages,* showcases 20 mixed media paintings from key series produced between 1985 and 2020. The works draw attention to Joe.'s experiments in text and abstraction, his activism, and his enduring love for the Bay Area.

The Exploratorium's acclaimed public project, *Middle Ground: Reconsidering Ourselves and Others*, landed last month in the heart of San Francisco's Civic Center Plaza. The free exhibition invites passersby of all ages to learn more about themselves and how they relate to the people around them as they interact with the exhibition and each other. The expanded Middle Ground includes 15 architectural-scale, interactive, and multimedia exhibits about topics such as stereotypes and biases, social influence, prosocial behavior, and social polarization. Visitors can interact with the exhibition's bright yellow activity towers through March 24.

ENDS BY OCTOBER 2024

CATS & DOGS: <u>Disney Cats & Dogs</u> is on view at **The Walt Disney Family Museum** through June 2. The exhibit features over 300 archival reproduction concept sketches, paintings, model sheets, animation drawings, posters, photographs, digital artworks, and final film sequences that highlight the true-to-life design and movements of Disney's speaking and non-verbal cats and dogs, including characters like Mickey Mouse's best pal Pluto, Lady and Tramp from Lady and the Tramp (1955), and Duchess from The Aristocats (1970).

VIRAL LOVE: Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama's dazzling psychedelic art installations are on view for the first time in the Bay Area at the **San Francisco Museum of Modern Art** (SFMOMA). With an extended run through Sept. 7, 2024, **Yayoi Kusama: Infinite Love** features two of the acclaimed artist's Infinity Mirror Rooms: *Dreaming of Earth's Sphericity, I Would Offer My Love* (2023) and *LOVE IS CALLING*, one of the largest and most immersive of such installations by the artist to date. In addition, Kusama's monumental sculpture *Aspiring to Pumpkin's Love, the Love in My Heart* (2023) pushes the polka-dotted pumpkin to new extremes, extending over 18 feet in length and more than 11 feet in height.

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NEW TOURS/ ATTRACTIONS

DESIGNATED DRIVER: Big Bus launched <u>Wine Country Tours</u> from San Francisco, offering six- or nine-hour tours for those wanting to explore the wine regions of Napa and Sonoma Valley. Tickets should be reserved 24 hours in advance.

ORIGAMI IN THE SKY: Paper Tree – The Origami Store recently partnered with Adobe to create a free cutting-edge augmented reality (AR) origami tour. Launched in September, visitors scan a QR code at Paper Tree to begin an immersive origami adventure on their smartphones. As they stroll along Japantown's Buchanan Street, colorful red and white envelopes appear to "float in the air." The user's proximity triggers an envelope to open, revealing a larger-than-life origami diorama. Using their smartphone, visitors can walk around the origami figures and inspect them from all angles to see the intricate folds made to create each piece. A pop-up display also shows the artist's name and which origami papers from Paper Tree were used in the work. A flock of gold origami cranes flutters across the sky once all the dioramas are revealed.

BUCKET LIST: Alcatraz, which celebrates its 50th anniversary as a National Park site in October, is ranked one of the world's 20 best bucket list destinations based on a study by travel company Kuoni. The notorious 22-acre island was a fort, a military prison, and a maximum-security federal penitentiary for 29 years, when it housed notorious inmates such as Al Capone and George "Machine Gun" Kelly before it was turned into a park site.

CHINATOWN HISTORY AND ART TOUR

Explore one of the largest Chinatowns outside of Asia and the oldest in North America, with **the Chinese Culture Center's Chinatown History & Art Tour**. (\$45 per person). The guided one-and-a-half-hour walking tour explores lived Asian American history and experiences. It encourages guests to "**immerse**" their senses at different art activation sites in the neighborhood and deepen their understanding of Chinatown's multifaceted social, cultural, and political evolution through narratives. The outing begins at the Chinese Culture Center's visual arts gallery and tours Chinatown streets and outdoor murals. (Location: 750 Kearny St., 3rd Floor | Chinatown)

THE STREETS OF SAN FRANCISCO

Visitors can dig deeper into the city's past on one of the <u>San Francisco Historical Society</u>. 90-minute walking tours (\$20 per person; children under age 13 free). The SFHS offers several tours, including a Barbary Coast Trail Tour exploring "ground zero" of early San Francisco and the Secrets and Stories of San Francisco's "Wall Street of the West." The walking tours begin at the SFHS Museum. (Location: 608 Commercial St. | Financial District)

THE STREETS OF SAN FRANCISCO As

SkyStar Ferris Wheel is relatively new, having opened in 2020 to celebrate the park's 150th birthday. It recently moved to Pier 39 right before the 2023 APEC. It's a nice way to check out Fisherman Wharfs and the immaculate views of the bay. The wheel is scheduled to be dismantled in 2025.

NEW SHOWS

SECOND CENTURY: For its 101st season, <u>San Francisco Opera</u> explores new stories, contemporary voices, and classic works. The 2023/2024 season includes premieres of three co-commissioned operas.

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OMAR, the 2023 Pulitzer Prize winner for Music by Grammy Award-winning artist Rhiannon Giddens and composer Michael Abels, brings its urgent, American story to the War Memorial Opera House from Nov. 5 to 21. From June 1 to 21, the Opera House will also host the American premiere of **INNOCENCE**, the final opera by the late Finnish composer Kaija Saariaho with libretto by Sofi Oksanen and dramaturgy and multilanguage translations by Aleksi Barrière.

DRAMA AND MORE DRAMA: <u>SF Broadway</u>, part of the **Ambassador Theatre Group**, has a busy fall and winter season scheduled. Upcoming shows include *DISNEY'S THE LION KING* (Nov. 22 through Dec. 30), *MAMMA MIA!* (Dec. 5 through Dec. 10), *Harper Lee's To Kill a Mockingbird* (Dec.12 through Dec. 17), *The Wiz* (Jan. 16 through Feb. 11), and *PAW Patrol Live!* "*Heroes United*" (March 9 through 10).

POP GOES THE SYMPHONY: Esa-Pekka Salonen's fourth season as Music Director at the San Francisco Symphony includes 12 Orchestral programs, four world premiere performances, SoundBox, continued partnerships with Peter Sellars and Alonzo King LINES Ballet, and a celebration of the spirit of California. During its impressive **2023/2024 SF Symphony Season**, SF Symphony is also partnering with several famous musical artists, including Ellie Goulding (Nov. 20) and Sting (Feb. 14 and 15).

ON POINT: San Francisco Ballet's 2024 Repertory Season, which runs from Jan. 25 to May 5, is filled with premieres, company firsts, and works rarely seen in the U.S. Curated by **Tamara Rojo**, the first woman to lead the company and SF Ballet's first new Artistic Director in nearly four decades, the season centers cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural collaborations, celebrates the artists and histories of San Francisco, and spotlights women's voices on stage and off. Programs include a cutting-edge commission led by music producer/DJ and composer Floating Points; world premiere commissions from female choreographers Aszure Barton and Arielle Smith, who, along with Annabelle Lopez Ochoa, will reimagine the myths of Pandora, Carmen, and Frida Kahlo; and two classic British ballets rarely seen by American audiences.

UPCOMING SPORT EVENTS

SAILGP: San Francisco once again hosts the **SailGP Grand Final** on **July 13-14, 2024**. More details to be released soon.

NBA: San Francisco Bay Area has been selected to host **NBA All-Star 2025**. The 74th NBA All-Star Game will take place at Chase Center, home of the Golden State Warriors, on Sunday, Feb. 16, 2025. NBA All-Star 2025 will mark the first time that the event has been held at Chase Center, which opened in 2019.

NFL: San Francisco Bay Area will host **Super Bowl LX in 2026**, an event that is expected to generate hundreds of millions of dollars in economic impact for the region. In partnership with the San Francisco 49ers, the Bay Area Host Committee and the City and County of San Francisco, San Francisco Travel worked collectively to bring NFL's biggest game back to the Bay Area exactly a decade after the region last hosted the marquee event in 2016.

FIFA: It was announced the selection of the San Francisco Bay Area as an official host community for the **2026 FIFA World Cup™** that will be played across Canada, Mexico and the United States.

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NEW GROUP FRIENDLY RESTAURANT/BAR SCENE

<u>Copra</u>, the stunning restaurant specializes in food from Kerala and the surrounding areas including Sri Lanka, which share many culinary similarities. Located at 1700 Fillmore Street, on the corner of Fillmore and Post streets near Japantown.

Jessica Sullivan and Laurel Robinson each have more than a decade of experience in the restaurant industry so it's no surprise diners are eagerly awaiting their permanent restaurant debut, **Poppy**, a brunch spot set to open in the Mission this September. *3100 18th Street, San Francisco*

Opening on October, **7 Adams** the much-anticipated new restaurant from the chef couple who put Marlena on the map, will open its doors in the former Gardenia's space this fall. For the new project, they've partnered with Hi Neighbor Hospitality Group (The Vault, Trestle, Mama, Madrigal) to deliver elegant and seasonal plates like semolina gnocchetti with golden tomato, saffron, and Thai basil and pistachio pavlova with Concord grape granita and caramelized white chocolate mousse. 1963 Sutter Street, San Francisco

Opening on November, **Il Parco** arrives at the Presidio this fall from Eduardo Rallo, also behind Colibri Mexican Bistro in the historic Officer's Club. Il Parco will be the restaurant's Italian American sister spot serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner seven days a week. Expect housemade focaccia, pistachio pesto, and mortadella pizza, and a full selection of cocktails, beer, and wine. 215 Lincoln Blvd #215, San Francisco

Three-Michelin-starred **Quince** closed its doors back in January in order for owners Michael and Lindsay Tusk to give the <u>20-year-old restaurant a well-deserved renovation</u>. They'll be ready to unveil the new digs this fall and plan to double-down on their focus on "the aesthetics and flavors of Fresh Run — the Bolinas farm where third-generation farmer Peter Martinelli grows produce exclusively for the Tusks' restaurants," according to a spokesperson. *470 Pacific Avenue, San Francisco*

Gao Viet Kitchen, the popular Vietnamese restaurant, opened its first San Francisco location in December 2022. The casual (no reservations) restaurant serves up street eats starters, main dishes, and noodle dishes like Filet Mignon Pho (\$19) and its Instagram-famous oversized Phozilla featuring a giant beef rib, filet mignon, butter brisket, tendon, 24-hour broth with spoons of marrow, and a 1.5-pound deshelled Maine lobster (\$95). (Location: 1900 Irving St. | Sunset District)

Hot on the heels of Good Good Culture Club's runaway success in 2022, Chef Ravi Kapur reopened his Hawaiian-inspired **Liholiho Yacht Club** in November in its original location. The redesigned venue boasts a fresh, bright design and new dishes and cocktails. (Location: 871 Sutter St. | Nob Hill)

The new <u>Blue Whale Restaurant & Lounge</u> from Michelin-starred Chef Ho Chee Boon is a sprawling, sleek venue in the Marina. Opened in October, the restaurant serves seasonal Asian cuisine. It features multiple dining areas, including a private dining lounge and a large open-air garden oasis tucked away in the backyard. Malaysian-born Boon introduces diners to favorite seasonal dishes and flavors inspired by his extensive travels and background. Blue Whale's menu includes delectables such as *Crab Meat Xiao Long Bao, Wasabi Crispy Tiger Prawns with Pineapple*, and *Baked Lobster with Buttermilk and Chili*. This is Chef Boon's second restaurant in San Francisco. He opened his elegant Cantonese restaurant, <u>Empress Boon</u>, in Chinatown in 2021.

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Chotto Matte SF is set to open in Union Square on Oct. 21. The rooftop restaurant will showcase Nikkei cuisine, the amalgamation of Japanese techniques and Peruvian ingredients. The new venue is Chotto Matte's first outpost on the West Coast. Signature menu highlights landing in San Francisco include the iconic Chotto Branzino Ceviche, Tentáculos de Pulpo, Sato Maki sushi and Pollo den Miso. The restaurant occupies the newly developed rooftop restaurant and wraparound terrace atop 100 Stockton St., affording stunning panoramic views of the city. The design is chic yet organic, with prominent Japanese lavastone and shou sugi ban wood.

<u>Corzetti</u>, from hitmaker Adriano Paganini's Back of the House, opened at Hotel G in San Francisco's Union Square in August. Highlighting coastal Ligurian cuisine, the seafood-forward menu features traditional dishes inspired by Paganini's memories of summers by the Ligurian Sea.

Michael Mina tapped Chef Shotaro "Sho" Kamio as consulting chef to collaborate on a new culinary experience at Pabu Izakaya, a Japanese izakaya-style restaurant. The new menu showcases small and shareable plates, larger entrees from the Charcoal Grill, and various rolls and hand rolls. New menu items include Mentaiko Pasta with spicy cod roe, shiso, nori and garlic ginger; Tamari Marinated Whole Squid with tempura tentacles, bonito flake and mentaiko aioli, and a new Temaki category showcasing tacoshaped hand rolls.

Laura and Sayat Ozyilmaz, the duo behind beloved pop-up Istanbul Modern, opened <u>Dalida</u> this summer to rave reviews. Located in the Presidio of San Francisco, the full-service restaurant showcases the warm hospitality, fresh ingredients, memorable flavors, and rich culture of the Eastern Mediterranean.

Ghirardelli celebrated the grand reopening of the Original Ghirardelli Chocolate & Ice Cream Shop in July following a six-month renovation. The store champions Ghirardelli's history as a U.S. chocolate pioneer and legacy in San Francisco since 1852. The new design features North America's largest flowing chocolate wall, the original 19-foot "G" from the historic marque Ghirardelli sign, a replica San Francisco cable car that doubles as a seating area, and antique chocolate-making equipment.

<u>Flour + Water Pizzeria</u> reopened in a new location in North Beach. Flour + Water co-chefs Thomas McNaughton and Ryan Pollnow are known for their commitment to meticulously crafted, Italian-influenced dishes. Here, they bring that same sensibility to all things pizza.

Opened in May, <u>Kiln</u>, a 3,400-square-foot, 34-seat fine-dining concept from Michelin-starred industry vets seeks out the finest quality ingredients from around the world. Kiln's concept is rooted in showcasing ingredients in their simplicity and using various techniques, such as preservation, fermentation, curing and open-fire cooking.

<u>Mattina</u>, the Cal-Italian-inspired all-day café in Pacific Heights by Chef Matthew Accarrino of SPQR, launched an 'Aperitivo' or 'Appi Hour' from 3 to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. The menu focuses on vermouth spritz-inspired drinks served with accompanying snacks such as fried stuffed olives, pickled vegetables, and local cheeses. Accarrino has sourced over 20 vermouth selections for 'Appi Hour.'

<u>Estiatorio Ornos</u>, a Michael Mina restaurant, introduced a cocktail menu inspired by the origins of the Greek world and their gods of creation. Conceptualized by Lead Bartender <u>Jose Luis Merino Calderon</u>, the

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menu is rooted in classic cocktails reimagined with Mediterranean flavors like citrus, elderflower, tamarind, and passionfruit. Also featured are Greek spirits like Mastiha, a cedar-like flavor from an evergreen tree native to the Mediterranean, and Greek vodka and brandy, including a house-made lambwashed rye.