

SF/Greater Bay Area AANHPI Historic Sites



List of San Francisco/Greater Bay Area AANHPI Historical Sites

**Please note: This list is non-exhaustive! AANHPI communities have extensive histories in Northern California.*

Interested in engaging more deeply with AANHPI communities in the San Francisco Bay Area? We've compiled a list of cultural heritage districts, historic sites, and other significant locations that you can visit to learn more about rich histories of AANHPI and allied organizing, resistance, and joy in San Francisco and beyond.

RSVPs for tours of Chinese Hospital and International Hotel (I-Hotel) are now closed.

International Hotel Maniltown Center (868 Kearny Street, San Francisco CA 94108) has FREE Gallery Hours from 1-6 PM Wed, Thurs, Sat, and Sun, and 2-6 PM on Fri! [More info here!](#)

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Angel Island / Angel Island Immigration Station

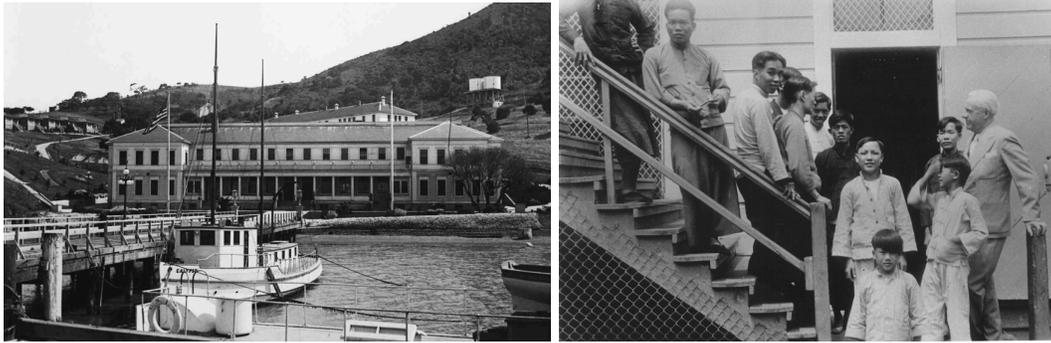


Photo credits: Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation

From 1910 to 1940, the Angel Island Immigration Station served as a major entry point on the West Coast. However, unlike Ellis Island, it largely functioned as a detention and exclusion center for Asian migrants, especially Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Filipino, and South Asian people. Many migrants were detained for weeks to years under harsh conditions shaped by racist immigration laws such as the Chinese Exclusion Act. People are able to visit the former immigration station and view the poetry that migrants carved onto barrack walls that convey various messages of hope, resilience, fear, and regret.

Learn more:

View barrack wall poetry for free: <https://www.aiisf.org/finder>
[U.S. Immigration Station, Angel Island \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#)
[Immigrant Voices - Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation](#)

Chinatown



Photo credits: Rethinking The Future

San Francisco's Chinatown is the oldest Chinatown in North America and one of the most significant centers of Chinese American history. Founded in the mid-1800s by immigrants drawn by the Gold Rush and railroad labor, it became a vital refuge amid intense anti-Chinese racism and exclusion. Chinatown has long been a site of resilience, surviving anti-Asian laws, violence, and displacement while also serving as the birthplace of labor organizing, tenant and housing struggles, and immigrant rights movements led by Chinese workers and community members. Today, Chinatown remains a historic and culturally distinct San Francisco neighborhood, home to institutions, organizations, and clinics built on the legacies of resilient Chinese immigrants and generations of community activism.

Learn more:

[History of San Francisco and the Chinatown - Rethinking The Future](#)

[History of San Francisco's Chinatown - History.com](#)

[The Story of Chinatown - PBS](#)

Chinese Hospital

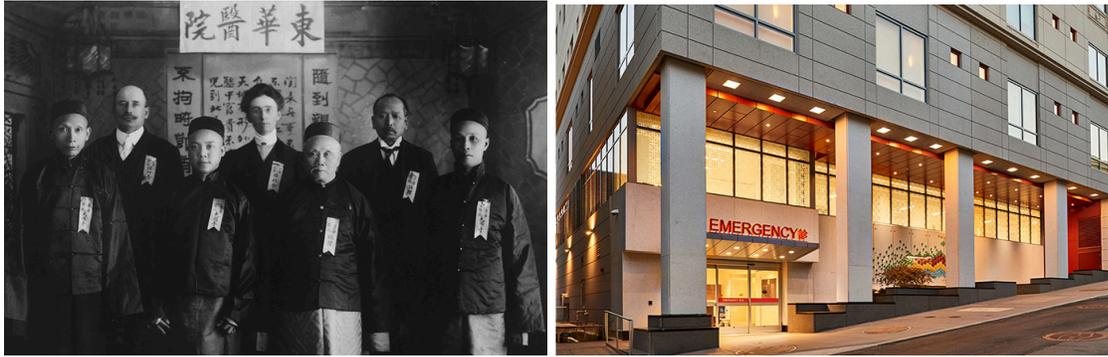


Photo credits: Chinese Hospital

Chinese Hospital has served the local underserved Chinese community for over a hundred years. Its roots stem from the Tung Wah Dispensary, established in 1899 to care for Chinese folks denied healthcare due to racism and discrimination resulting from the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. Officially established in 1925, Chinese Hospital is in its 126th year of serving the Chinatown community as a community-owned, not-for-profit organization delivering culturally responsive, high-quality health care.

Learn more:

[History - Chinese Hospital](#)

International Hotel (I-Hotel)



Photo credits: i-hotel-sf.org

The International Hotel (I-Hotel) was a low-income single-room-occupancy residence in San Francisco's Manilatown, which sat on the border of Chinatown. San Francisco's "urban renewal" projects in the Financial District led to 150 Filipino and Chinese older adult tenants of I-Hotel beginning their 9-year-long anti-eviction campaign on November 27, 1968. Despite united protests from people across backgrounds and identities alongside the tenants of I-Hotel, on August 4, 1977 a 3000-person blockade was cleared by 400 San Francisco riot police to forcefully evict 197 tenants. Today, the International Hotel Manilatown Center building, completed in 2005 with 104 units of senior housing above, now occupies the site and commemorates the legacies of I-Hotel residents and activists who fought for housing rights and justice.

Learn more:

[International Hotel Manilatown Center - Manilatown Heritage Foundation](#)

[Film - The Fall of the I-Hotel](#)

[Film - The Rise of the I-Hotel \(*FREE!!\)](#)

[History | The I-Hotel - San Francisco](#)

SOMA Pilipinas - San Francisco's Filipino Cultural Heritage District



Photo credits: SOMA Pilipinas

Officially recognized as SF's Filipino Cultural Heritage District in 2016, the South of Market neighborhood is home to a Filipino community with rich history. Between 2006 and 2016, however, gentrification and displacement cut the neighborhood's Filipino population in half. Today, SOMA Pilipinas remains a celebration of Filipino identity through artistic landmarks, neighborhood services, and local business development. Many Filipino and allied community organizations and advocates continue to fight for tenant and immigrant rights, while working to preserve the legacy of Filipinos in San Francisco.

Learn more:

[SOMA Pilipinas Website](#)

[Filipino Legacy in the South of Market - SF Heritage](#)

Japantown - San Francisco's Japanese Cultural Heritage District



Photo credits: Japantown Cultural District

San Francisco's Japantown is the oldest and largest of three remaining Japantowns in the United States, and is a central site of Japanese American history. Established in the early 1900s, it grew as a cultural and economic hub for Japanese immigrants and their families. During World War II, Japantown was devastated by the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans, leaving homes and businesses behind. After the war, community members returned and rebuilt, transforming Japantown into a place of remembrance, resilience, and organizing that continues to preserve Japanese American culture and advocate for civil rights and redress.

Learn more:

[Japantown Cultural District](#)

[SF Japantown Website](#)

Visitacion Valley and Sunnydale - San Francisco's Pacific Islander Cultural District



Photo credits: Pacific Islander Cultural District

SF's Pacific Islander Cultural District officially launched in May 2025, located in the Sunnydale and Visitacion Valley neighborhoods. Visitacion Valley has been home to the Pacific Islander community since the early 1900s, with migration patterns influenced by colonization, military and religious recruitment, and job-seeking. Today, many Pacific Islander community activists and organizations seek to reclaim and uplift their neighborhood and remain committed to upholding the legacy of Pacific Islanders in San Francisco.

[Learn more:](#)

[Pacific Islander Cultural District Website](#)

[San Francisco to unveil Pacific Islander Cultural District - NBC Bay Area](#)

[Out and About: Visitacion Valley - San Francisco Heritage](#)

Additional Historical Sites

Alcatraz Island



Photo credits: National Park Service

Alcatraz Island is a historic site most commonly known as a former maximum-security prison. However, Alcatraz Island also holds deep significance as a powerful symbol of Indigenous resistance and land sovereignty. The largest group of Native prisoners occurred in 1895 when 19 Moqui Hopi tribe members were arrested and incarcerated at Alcatraz Island. From 1969-1971, the island was occupied by Indians of All Tribes (IOAT), a grassroots group of Native activists who drew international attention to ongoing Native displacement and a demand for the return of Indigenous land.

Learn more:

[PBS Film: The Occupation of Alcatraz Island](#)

[We Hold the Rock - Alcatraz Island \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#)

[Welcome to Indian Land Exhibit - Alcatraz Island \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#)

[A Longer Look at Native History and Alcatraz Island at the 50th Anniversary of the Indians of All Tribes Occupation](#)

Mission District/Calle 24 Latino Cultural District



Photo credits: Calle 24 and Mission Local

The Mission District is the original homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone People. In 1776, Spanish priests founded Mission San Francisco de Asís (Mission Dolores) to colonize and Christianize local Native People into Spanish colonial society.

In the late 1930s, the Mission's Latine population grew as many moved in after being displaced from Bay Bridge construction projects. By 1970, almost half of the Mission's population was Latine. In the 1970s, thousands of Central American migrants and refugees arrived in the Mission, creating the vibrant and beautiful Latine community seen there today that draws upon Salvadoran, Honduran, Nicaraguan, Guatemalan, and more Latine roots.

Today, many community organizations and local community advocates are fighting against gentrification and evictions in the Mission. There has been a drastic decrease in the number of Latine residents, who have been displaced by wealthier young professionals and businesses.

Calle 24 began in 1999 by local community members as a grassroots organization that preserves, enhances, and advocates for the Mission's Latine community. Calle 24 is in the center of the Mission District, running along a tree-lined street called "El Corazón de la Misión" (The Heart of the Mission) that is home to a number of unique Latine and local-owned businesses and stores.

Learn more:

[About Us | Calle 24](#)

[The Mission District - California Migration Museum](#)

[A Changing Mission - San Francisco Chronicle](#)

[Balmy Alley Website](#)

Bayview-Hunters Point



Photo credits: Capital B News

Bayview-Hunters Point and the Fillmore District have historically been home to San Francisco's Black community, beginning when the World War II wartime economy drew Black workers from the South. This migration led to the Fillmore being known as the "Harlem of the West." However, redlining, urban renewal, and other racist practices have displaced most Black residents from these neighborhoods. Today, Bayview-Hunters Point remains one of the 20 largest Black neighborhoods in the United States. The community has also endured a long history of industrial pollution, as the U.S. Navy used local shipyards to repurpose warships for nuclear testing, leaving behind environmental toxins that continue to affect residents. Despite these challenges, Bayview-Hunters Point is a site of resilience and activism, where community members and organizations have long fought for housing justice, civil rights, environmental protections, and economic opportunity.

Learn more:

[The Last Black Neighborhood in San Francisco - Capital B News](#)

[Bayview Hunters Point – Anti-Eviction Mapping Project](#)

[The Big Five of Bayview: Unsung Housing Heroes](#)

[Bay Area Air District: Pollution and Prejudice in Bayview Hunters Point Film](#)

Tenderloin - San Francisco Community Health Center



Photo credits: San Francisco Community Health Center

The San Francisco Community Health Center, formerly the Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center, was founded in 1996 in response to the 1980s HIV/AIDS crisis. They have served as a safety-net for the AAPI LGBTQ+ community, transgender community, unhoused community, people who use substances, and people with mental health needs for decades. The San Francisco Community Health Center has many programs that evolve with the needs of the AAPI community, and they remain an integral part of the Tenderloin and Little Saigon community in San Francisco.

Learn more:

[History – San Francisco Community Health Center](#)

[API LGBTQ Programs – San Francisco Community Health Center](#)

Napa Valley



Photo credits: Napa County Historical Society

California's Napa Valley is known as one of the most famous wine-growing regions in the world, however little is known about the wine industry in this region being built using Chinese (im)migrant laborers in the 1800s. Despite their essential role in building the Napa Valley economy, these laborers were unable to become citizens and largely confined to local Chinatowns they created themselves. Many of the stone walls, wine caves, and other structures that Chinese laborers built are still in existence today.

Learn more:

[The Chinese in Napa Valley - Napa County Historical Society](#)

[Hidden history of Napa's Chinese workers remembered - Chinadaily.com.cn](#)