

Welcome to San Francisco!

I had the privilege of living in San Francisco from July–September 2016, then again from August 2017 – May 2019.

Here's a scrappy list of my favourite places. Have the most amazing time.

–Maddy

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My favourite “touristy” things to do:

- Chinatown -- walk around, eat cheap dim sum from Good Mong Kok bakery
- Coit Tower -- the view is fab, and it's a great walk around North Beach, walk down the 200 steps to the Embarcadero
- City Lights bookstore in Little Italy
- Bike across the Golden Gate Bridge to Sausalito, have a late lunch or early dinner off the main strip ([this little pizza place is divine](#)), and take the ferry back to the ferry building
- Visit the sea lions at Pier 39

Underrated – *totally underrated!*

- Exploratorium -- so much fun and totally underrated
- Hike up Bernal Heights hill to watch the sunset -- less people, more local, similar dope views, plus there's a swing at the top
- Walk along the Embarcadero or grab the F streetcar along to the wharf
- Balmy Alley for graffiti -- there's a lot of Mexican and latin history painted on those walls
- Wander around South Park (original VC area of SF)
- Presidio / Land's End

On par – *things that are roughly as great as they're made out to be, expectations on par*

- 16th Avenue Steps (beautiful and ig-worthy)
- Palace of Fine Arts = beautiful
- Lombard Street + Ghirardelli Square = I always do these at the same time because they're close together
- Cable Cars! Once you get past the touristy turnaround areas
- SF MoMA
- Sightglass -- great coffee, great atmosphere, overhear lots of VC meetings with founders, an SF staple, ig-worth, no internet, great for meetings
- Philz -- go to the original location at 24th + Folsom in south Mission area
- Bum around the Mission -- meander up or down Valencia, stop into cute shops
- Ferry Building -- it's a hotspot for tourists, but is actually a great place to walk around, and there's a great Saturday morning farmers market.
- Hayes Valley

This list was developed in September 2019, based on my experiences up to May 2019.

- Alamo Square for the Painted Ladies
- Dog Eared Books + Alley Cat Books

Overrated – *if you really want to do it, go ahead, just know there are better things to do above*

- Watch the sunset from Twin Peaks (the classic sunset spot and people drive up)
- Haight Ashbury

Of course, FOOD

Battle of the burritos – everyone has their favourite burrito, but it's generally a toss-up between:

- El Farolito -- 24th + Mission // 24th + Folsom
- La Taqueria -- 26th + Mission
- Pancho Villa Taqueria -- 16th + Mission
- Taqueria Cancun -- 30th + Mission // 6th + Market

More food stuff:

- Jelly Donut -- a small family-owned business. Owns Tim Hortons or Dunkin' anyway. Try the cruller. If the grandma is there, she'll probably throw in 2-3 extra donuts if you're nice. Leave a good tip. *Permanently closed according to Google, and I am SO SAD :(*
- If you're in need of a vegan donut, head down the street to [Dynamo Donuts](#).
- For great asian food, head to the Sunset + Richmond -- [House of Pancakes](#) (hand pulled noodles), [Yuanbao Jiaozi](#) (dumplings), [San Tung](#) (peking duck), [Chili House SF](#). Honestly, you can't go wrong by simply taking to Google Maps and choosing the highest rated thing near you. Keep in mind many places are cash-only. Expect to wait 30–60 minutes at most places during lunch/dinner rush.
- [Samovar](#) for chai tea with almond milk
- Mijita (mexican) or Hog Island (oysters!) in the ferry building
- Dosa (Indian), limon rotisserie (Latin America), [Hawker Fare](#) (thai) in the Mission + always new restaurants turning over there
- PIZZA -- [Tony's slice house](#) or Golden Boy for a quick slice, Tony's sit-down for a meal (I've never actually sat down here but I hear it's the best)
- Isa for ramen
- Chinatown restaurant -- feed a family for \$20 at [Yee's](#)
- [Blondie's](#) -- the martinis are strong, cheap, and the music is loud.
- [Yamo](#) -- 6 seats at the bar. Worth the wait for cheap burmese food. Hole-in-the-wall. Cash only.
- [Cha Cha Cha](#) -- GREAT bar that's the centerpiece of this place. Come for the pitchers of margs, stay for the guac and the tipsy vibes.