



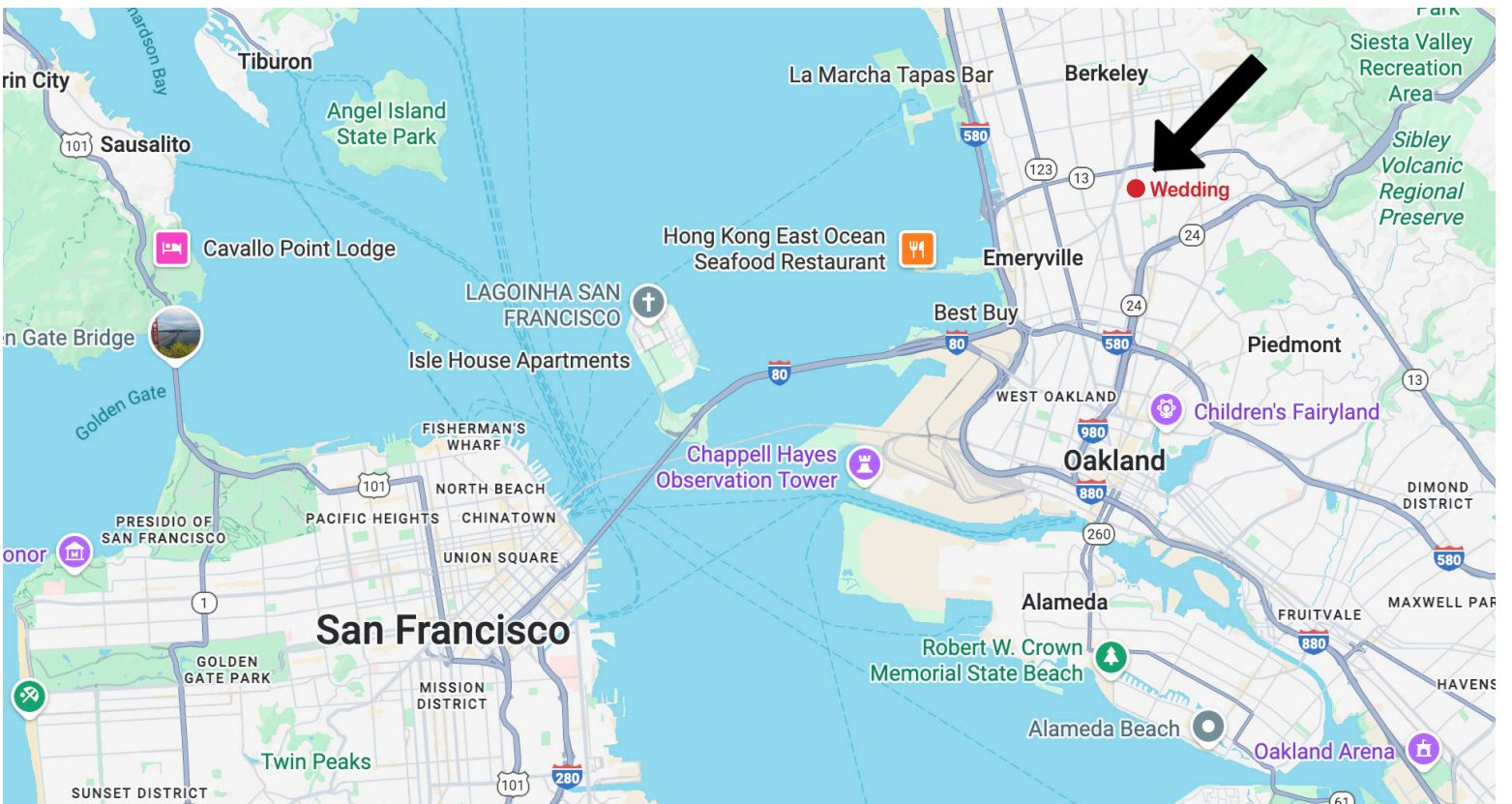
# Travel Guide



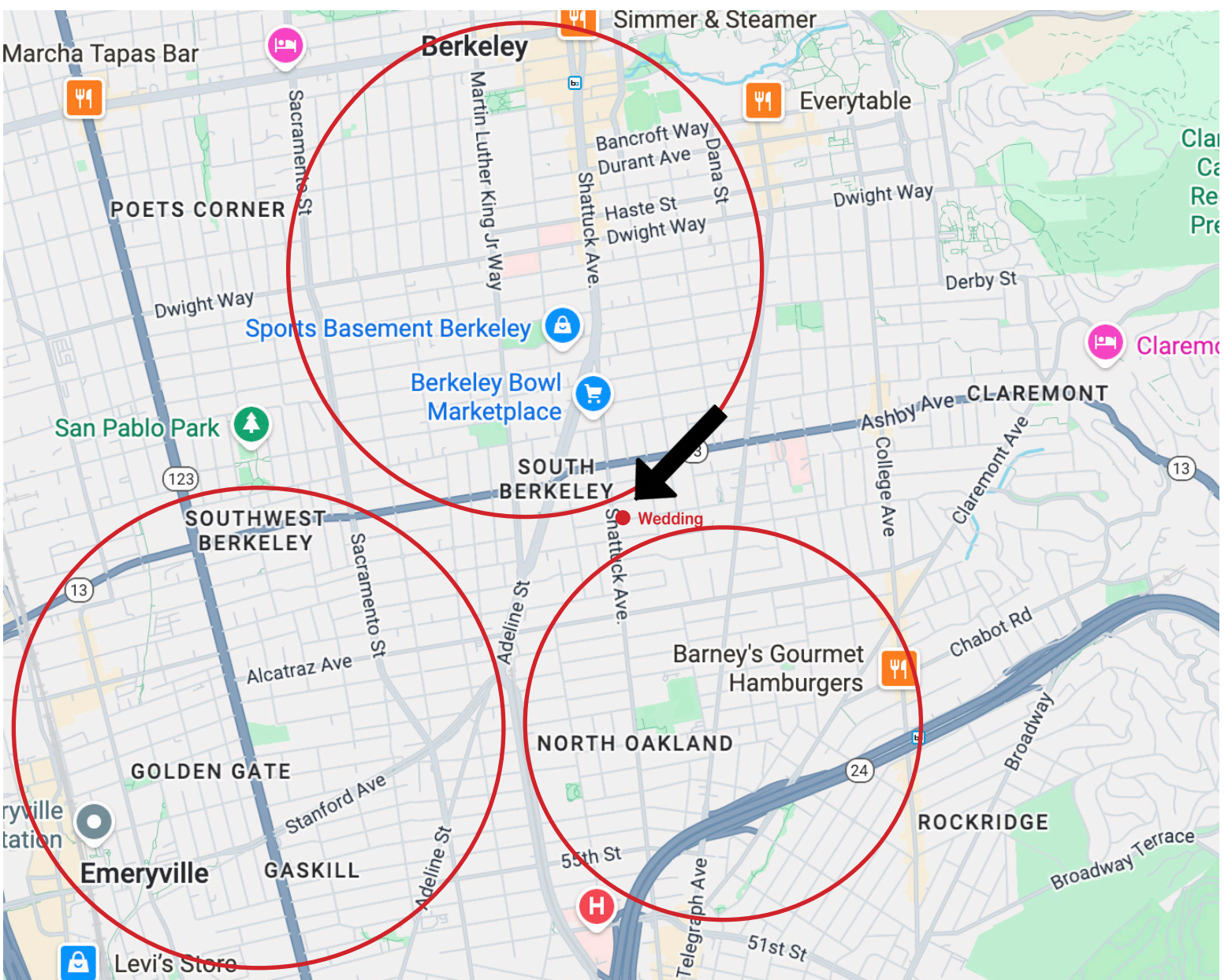
First of all, thank you so much for considering traveling all this way to celebrate with us! We know it's a lot to ask of you, and we aren't taking it for granted. We're so excited about the idea of having you here, and we hope you are too.

**This is a short guide to help you with your trip.**  
For any specific questions, please feel free to write to us.

# 1. Lodging

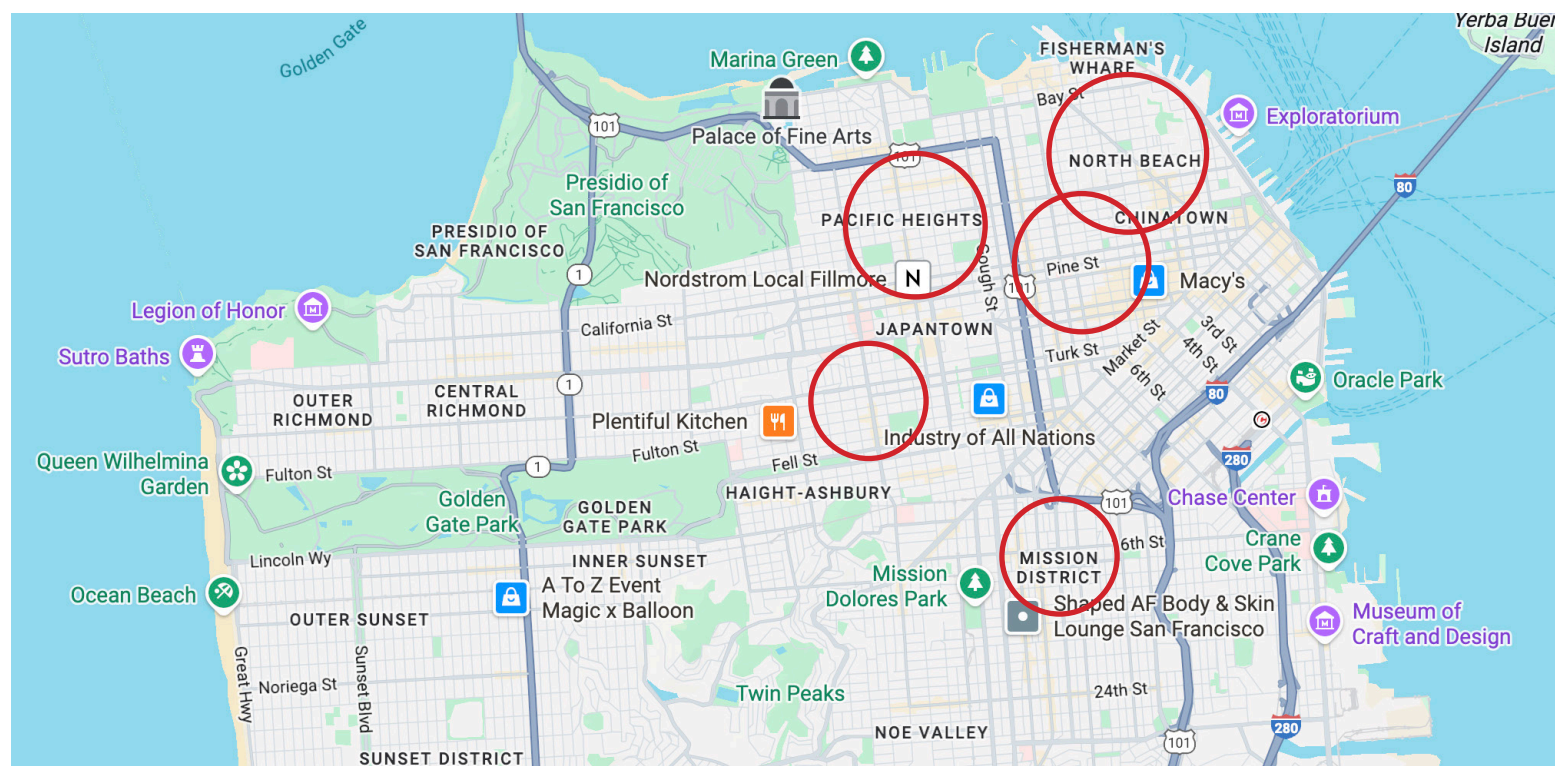


Our wedding will be in the southern part of Berkeley, right on the border with the city of Oakland (red dot on the map).



If your priority is to stay close to the wedding venue, we recommend looking for accommodation in any of the areas circled above: South/Southwest Berkeley, Downtown Berkeley, North Oakland/Fairview/Elmwood (this is where we live), and Emeryville (where most hotels are located).

If, on the other hand, you plan to stay in the area longer to enjoy a well-deserved vacation, you might want to find accommodation in San Francisco, where there are more tourist attractions, cool neighborhoods, and must-see places to visit. Recommended neighborhoods to stay in San Francisco include: Western Addition, Pacific Heights, Union Square (where most of the hotels are located), North Beach, and The Mission (Latino district).



### Considerations:

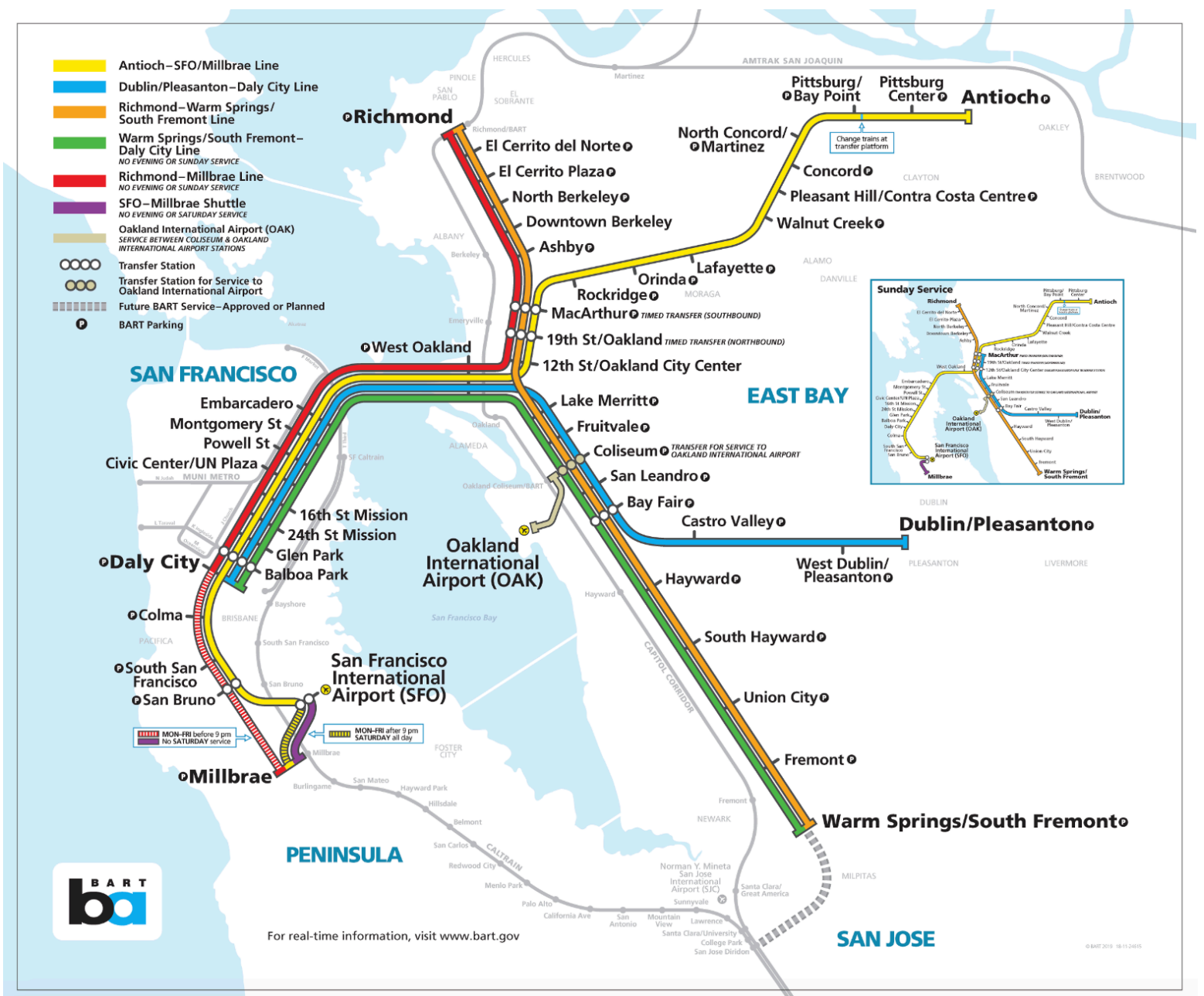
- The SF Bay Area is, as a whole, one of the most expensive parts of the country, if not the most expensive. We're sorry! That being said, the East Bay is slightly cheaper than SF on the whole, for both food and lodging, but has less to offer for tourists and is less well connected by transit.
- We generally recommend booking an Airbnb over hotel rooms, mainly to have more flexibility and save on meals. Eating out in this area is expensive, so buying groceries for breakfast/lunch/dinner at the supermarket can significantly reduce costs.
- If you stay in San Francisco, it's a good idea to stay near a BART station to facilitate transportation to the other side of the bay (BART map on the next page).

**Important note:** Because August marks the start of the school year, Berkeley will fill up with students who come to study at the school. It's common for the parents of first-year students to “drop off” their children at the university and help them set up their dorm rooms before the semester begins. Therefore, we recommend booking accommodation before students receive their acceptance letters in late March 2026.

## 2. Transportation

### Main means of transport in the Bay Area:

- Bus (“[MUNI](#)” in San Francisco / “[AC Transit](#)” in the East Bay): \$2.50-\$2.85 per trip. Frequency isn't the best, be patient!
- [Bay Area Rapid Transit \(BART\)](#): The main way to travel from San Francisco to the East Bay and vice versa - see map below. Service stops at midnight. La Peña is closest to Ashby station.
- [Cable cars](#): More than anything, they are a tourist attraction. Only available in San Francisco. They're cute and fun!
- [Ferry](#): It isn't the fastest or the most practical option, but on a sunny day it can be a cheap and beautiful bay tour.
- Scooters / bikes: just like everywhere else, you can rent these off the street using different apps like Lyft.
- Car: Whether you use Uber/Lyft or rent a car, consider the following:
  - Finding parking in San Francisco is a challenge; you should add about 15 minutes to your travel time if you want to arrive at your destination on time.
  - Car break-ins happen, more so for cars with out-of-state plates (i.e. rented). To be safe, plan around never leaving anything in the car, especially things you can't lose.





To use any public transportation (bus, BART, cable car, or ferry), you need a **Clipper card**. You can buy a physical card at the airport (or at any BART station), but the easiest way is to have it on your phone using a Wallet app (whether Apple, Google, or Samsung). With this, you'll be able to tap your way through the system easily.

### Travel times and distances:

- **From San Francisco to the East Bay and vice versa:**
  - By public transit (Bus + BART): 25-50 minutes, depending on the exact origin and destination addresses. From Monday to Friday there is usually a train every 10-15 minutes, with more frequency around rush hour. All other times it can be every 20-30 minutes. It's best to plan your trip in advance, or simply be prepared to wait!
  - By car: 20-60 minutes depending on traffic. The bridge has an \$8.50 toll (which you only pay going from the East Bay to SF). Anticipate morning traffic going into the city and evening traffic coming out. Other than that, always check the travel time before you leave!
  - By ferry (an adventure!): 25-minute trip across the bay, not including transportation to and from the respective ports. This is not an efficient mode of transport, but it can be a beautiful ride. The ferry has indoor and outdoor space, a small bar with snacks, and a lot of space for bikes.
- **From the airport (SFO) to San Francisco or the East Bay:**

You can get anywhere from the airport by taking BART; just follow the signs that say "BART" or "Garage G - BART Station." The trip will cost you \$10-\$12.

[This guide offers more details to plan your trip.](#)
- **From the airport (OAK) to San Francisco or the East Bay:**

OAK is connected to BART via a "connector" train. It will drop you off directly onto the Coliseum Station platform, from which you can get to anywhere on the BART system.

### 3. What To Do

**Typical Tourist Attractions:** If you search for “San Francisco Bay Area” on Google, you’ll find a ton of “typical” tourist attractions, which are all valid depending on your preferences! Attractions of note include Alcatraz, the Golden Gate Bridge (beautiful, stunning, a must-see, my favorite bridge ever), Pier 39 (lots of food, souvenir shops, and tourists, obviously), Lombard Street (a little zigzag street with flowers, overrated in our opinion), and Muir Woods (a very nice and easy-to-navigate park accessible by car, but you have to reserve in advance. Other equally beautiful parks are free or almost free – see options in the list below).

#### **Our recommendations:**



The New Parkway Theater



Fairyland



Golden Gate Bridge

#### **Activities:**

- East Bay:

- “Friday Nights” at the [OMCA](#). Very entertaining and family-friendly. Live music, food trucks, a bar, and DJ (FREE).
- Get an incredible view of the bay from Shorebird Park, the Emeryville Marina, or from the hills at Lawrence Hall of Science or the Mormon Temple (FREE).
- Picnic at [Lake Merritt](#). Just go to Trader Joes in the Grand Lake neighborhood to get some snacks, and walk over to the lake to take in the sun (FREE - the lake, not the snacks).
- Walk through Mountain View Cemetery. It’s a nice open space with beautiful views, open to the public Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday (FREE).
- [BAMPFA](#). Art and film in one place. Located in Downtown Berkeley and very close to BART.
- Saturday morning Farmers Market near Grand Lake Theater
- Go to an [Oakland Ballers](#) game. This is the current substitute for not having the A’s any more. It’s a really fun

unique vibe, and family friendly.

- If you want a unique movie experience, [The New Parkway](#) is your place. It's a small theater (two screens) with food to take into the screenings, reusable everything, and living room couch seating.
- [Kids] [Chabot Space & Science Center](#): Museum of science centered on Astronomy.
- [Kids] [Lawrence Hall of Science](#): More general science museum, somewhat interactive, situated above Berkeley with a beautiful view.
- [Kids] [Children's Fairyland](#): A fairytale themed park probably best for young kids. An inspiration for Disney way back in the day!
- San Francisco:
  - Walk along the Embarcadero to the Palace of Fine Arts. A very pretty waterfront walk! (FREE).
  - Go to a concert in the "[Golden Gate Park Bandshell](#)" Fridays and Sundays up to 7-8pm (FREE).
  - Cross the Golden Gate Bridge on bike to Sausalito, and return via ferry (or the other way around). A beautiful, incredibly unique, and mostly chill bike ride (getting up to the elevation of the bridge is the only "hill" part).
  - Visit the [SFMoma](#) and/or [de Young](#) art museums, both iconic and always with interesting exhibitions.
  - Go to a Giants game. While undoubtedly an expensive experience, it's probably one of the coolest ballparks in the country, with bay views, unique food, and occasionally beautiful summer days.
  - [Kids] [Exploratorium](#): An interactive and immersive science museum that's actually entertaining for all ages 5+. Expensive but unique and memorable.

**Food:** Food is one of the best parts of living in the Bay Area, but it can be expensive. Expect a cheap adult entree to be \$15.

- East Bay:
  - [Homerom](#): The answer to "what if there was a restaurant, but just mac and cheese?". We share one mac and cheese flight as a meal, it's delicious!
  - [Los Moles](#): Mexican food, with traditional mole specialty. We suggest the Sunday buffet! A good way to set yourself up for a nap.

- [Aburaya](#): Japanese fusion, with vegan options and absolutely dank fried chicken options.
- [Brenda's](#): Southern comfort food (think a chicken, biscuit, and beans plate). They have several locations, all delicious!
- [Mezzo](#): Partially responsible for showing Evan that salads can be good. They're expensive, but one salad is enough to be a meal for both of us.
- [C.R.E.A.M. \(Cookies Rule Everything Around Me\)](#): A cookie and ice cream place that does ice cream sandwiches (ask for it in a cup). Close to Mezzo if that was too healthy.
- [Dream Fluff Donuts](#): Perhaps Evan's favorite. A counter service donut place with solid diner options too.
- [Addis](#) or [Barcote](#): Ethiopian food, which is pretty common in North Oakland. Can be spicy, but full of flavor!
- [Spices 3](#): Szechuan Chinese food in downtown Oakland.
- [La Marcha Tapas Bar](#): An expensive but definitely memorable Tapas bar in West Berkeley.
- [Cholita Linda](#): A mostly Mexican counter-service place with some really good options.

### San Francisco:

- Eddie's Cafe: Classic diner style. Solid, fast, and cheap.
- [Señor Sisig](#): Very popular Mexican+Philipino fusion
- [Salt and Straw](#): Consu's favorite ice cream place in the city, with multiple locations. Try the salted caramel!
- [Dumpling Home](#): Dumpling overload in Hayes Valley.
- OK, the truth is that there are a LOT of great food options in the city. You can visit and smell your way around these neighborhoods and find something good: The Mission, Divisadero, China Town, Japan Town, Little Italy.



Homerom



Mezzo



Brenda's

### **Bars:**

- [East Bay](#):

- [The Avenue](#): Dive bar with year-round Halloween decor
- White Horse Inn: A chill queer bar that also has some high energy dance and karaoke nights.
- [Kingfish Pub & Café](#): A nice dive bar next to the Temescal neighborhood with outdoor space to enjoy in the summer. Free popcorn to enjoy with your beer!
- [Cafe Van Kleef](#): Another bar with eclectic decoration, that will squeeze fresh grapefruit for your Greyhound.
- [Bar Shiru](#): Practically next to Cafe Van Kleef, a Japanese jazz bar with a higher-end vibe and long cocktail list.
- Telegraph Beer Garden, aka [Beeryland](#): In the uptown neighborhood, chill outdoor space to enjoy beer and food.
- In general if you like beer, Oakland and Alameda have a lot of good breweries. Just search for them, and you'll find lots of tasting room options.
- San Francisco:
  - [The Sycamore](#): A cute cozy bar in the mission close to BART, with actually quite a selection.
  - [Zeitgeist](#): A dive bar with a punk vibe that also has food. Lots of outdoor space for the occasional nice summer day.
  - [Fly Bar](#): Dive bar on Divisadero street, close to a lot of stuff. Chill vibe with pool and Monday bingo. It's where we had our first date! We go back for each anniversary. The nacho plate from the "small plates" section is in fact a large meal.

## Parks:

- East Bay:
  - [Lake Temescal](#): A more removed and usually quiet picnic experience than Lake Merritt, but you can only drive, with \$5 parking inside, free parking on the street just outside.
  - [Lake Merritt](#): A lake ringed with park in the center of Oakland. Will be alive on beautiful summer days. Paid parking around the lake, free if you park in a neighborhood.
  - [Reinhardt Redwood Regional Park](#): A very closeby park that will actually give you a taste of classic Northern California redwood forest. Good for trails hiking (FREE).

## San Francisco:

- [Golden Gate Park](#): You can't miss it. An enormous park spanning through half the city to Ocean Beach. There are museums, botanical gardens, buffalos, and space in which to enjoy a summer day. (Free, paid entry museums etc)

- [Presidio](#): In the northwest corner of the city you can enjoy large open space and get views of the bay and bridge. (Free)
- [Lands End Trail](#): A beautiful coastal trail, worth the hike.
- Mission Dolores Park: A big city park in the heart of the Mission District. Has city views and lots of local visitors on any sunny day! Tip: Don't try to drive here on weekends.
- Alamo Square: A lovely little park near Divisadero street Home to the "Painted Ladies".



Golden Gate Park



"Painted ladies" in Alamo Square

## Book Stores:

- [East Bay](#):
  - [Moe's Books](#): An iconic bookstore in Berkeley, with large sections focused on more academic subjects.
  - [Pegasus Books](#): Cute bookstore with locations in Berkeley and Oakland. Also has little gifts, and local author sections.
  - [Walden Pond Books](#): In the lakeshore neighborhood, with lots of social science and also a rare books collection.
- [San Francisco](#):
  - [Dog Eared Books](#): A cute store that always has good deals.
  - [Medicine for Nightmares](#): A book store, art gallery, event venue, and activist space, all in one!
  - [City Lights Bookstore](#): Book store known for its relationship to several iconic 20th century authors and poets.

## Day Trips:

- [Half Moon Bay](#): *1-1.5 hours south by car.* A small town vibe on the coast. You could come out of your way on a nice day to get a special lunch and plan to spend time on the beach (keep in mind that the water is perennially frigid). The drive itself can also be quite pretty.
- [Sausalito](#): *30-40 minutes north.* A small town on just to the

north of SF on the other side of the bridge. You can get there easily by ferry. This is a popular destination for locals and tourists alike! Bougie, expensive, but pretty.

- [Limantour Beach](#): *1.5-2 hours north by car*. A huge wild beach, much less busy on hot days than others in the area. You can make it really special by packing up some food and drinks for a picnic. You will drive through parts of the North Bay and Point Reyes to get a taste of some California landscapes too. Plan to get there early, because by about 4-5pm the fog and wind usually rolls in.
- [Russian River](#): *1.5-2 hours north by car*. If you want a more woodsy experience, you can go north to chill by a river and take a dip. This is a really popular day trip on hot days, so think about doing it during the week if you can.
- [Santa Cruz](#): *1.5-2 hours south by car*. A city with a small-town vibe by the ocean. It has a boardwalk with rollercoasters and other attractions, and of course a beach. You will drive through the Santa Cruz mountains and can even take detours to see some beautiful forest.
- [Monterey/Carmel by the Sea](#): *2.5 hours south by car*. Monterey is a unique town on the seaside by Monterey Bay. It has a world-class [aquarium](#), a [wharf](#) with some great seafood, and is in general very walkable. It's close to Carmel-by-the-Sea, and you can go only a little out of your way to also enjoy [17-mile drive](#), which is a toll road with access to some of the most iconic California coastline.



Russian River



Limantour Beach

Thanks again! We love you and are counting the days until August 22! –Consuelo & Evan