

Modesto's The Best Of the Bay Area

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The best place to spend an afternoon or even your life: The Exploratorium*

The best food deals by the Exploratorium:

- Across from Crissy Field there is a cafeteria where all the seats face the bay. Best deal for about three dollars. Grilled cheese this comes with a small bag of carrots and a glass of apple juice. This place is run by the park system
- Bistro Baker street. Small friendly inexpensive French (freedom) restaurant.

The best short trail within 10 miles of SF: Tennessee Valley in Marin**

Best food deals close to Tennessee Valley

- In Sausalito there is a Mexican/Indian restaurant called Avatar. They consider themselves a confusion restaurant. A mix of Indian and Mexican. Their Chutney enchiladas are to die for. Ashok is one of the owners, knows his beers . Let him select the beers for you

Other things in Mill Valley

- In Mill Valley you will think you have arrived stumbled onto a Hollywood set. It's worth a few hours.
- They have the Bay area's Best used record store. And a wonderful Italian restaurant called D'Angelos. This a beautiful restaurant with reasonable delicious food. If you are lucky you might see Sean Penn or Peter Coyote.

The most romantic neighborhood: North Beach

Great eating places in North Beach:

- Mario's on Columbus and Union has the best eggplant foccacia sandwiches this side of Milano. Kiddie corner across the park is a foccacia bakery, **Amazing!**
- Across from the bakery next to the church is Mamas. One of the best breakfast you will ever have. Long line and no credit cards are accepted. About a half a block west of Mario's a few feet north of Union is a San Francisco institution The Washington Park Bar and Grill "Wash Bag" Good local Jazz great atmosphere.

The best place to view 4th of July fireworks and one of the best views in SF: The Back Patio of the Art Institute

- The best street to stroll on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon.
- Hayes starting on Franklin walking about six blocks west

- Eating establishments in this area abound. Take your pick: Italian, Brazilian, German, Belgian, French, Mexican, Chicago hot dogs , Chicago pizza, Soul Food, Crepes, and the best wine bar in SF

Best place to drink a beer by the bay: The Ramp on Mariposa and 3rd

The best Aquarium: The Monterey Aquarium

- My favorite restaurant by the aquarium is Peppers in Pacific Grove
- Good wine margaritas

The best tea garden: The Japanese Tea Garden in Golden Gate Park

- Places to eat also abound here. My personal favorite is Yummas. This is a carry out Mediterranean food owned by the nicest Palestinians ever. They started in another wonderful place called...
- Truly Mediterranean. They had the reputation for the best falafels in SF. Yummas is better.

Best Jazz: Yoshi's in Oakland

- Japanese food at Yoshi's is ok but if you eat there you will be guaranteed better seats for the concert. Yoshi's could be the best venue for world class jazz

Best Art Deco: The old post Office at one Rincon Center ***

Best WPA murals: Coit Tower and One Rincon Center

Best City Murals: The Mission

Best and only ball park: Pac Bell ****

Best one hour coastal day trip: Point Reyes and Inverness *****

If you have a little cash you will find The Olema Inn one of the most romantic places ever for dinner.

Best Slicker Side: Park on Beaver Street one block west of Castro

Best street in San Francisco: Dolores St. and Belvedere between 17th and Parnassus

Best thing to do in San Francisco during the summer: Take Jazz ferries on Friday afternoons

Best place to hang in the downtown area: The Yerba Buena Center

The least best place downtown: The Metreon

Best place to see good movies: The Embarcadero Center

- This is a wonderful place for a matinee. The urban architecture is sublime. If you come here right before sunset you will be treated to a sublime light show. There are plenty of eating establishments and parking is validated so you can enjoy the experience.

Best Beach going south: Pomponio and Pescadero

- I saw the green flash at Pomponios. You can't swim here, because the water is too cold, but if it was warmer it would be like smellA. In the town of Pescadero there is a Portuguese restaurant, Duarte's. Their specialty is artichoke soup, yum.

Best White Sand Beach: Beach across Assilomar in Monterey

- Next to the beach is a restaurant called The Fisherman's Wife. Good fish.

Best maze in the city: Maze in front of Grace Cathedral

- About a block away from the church you will find one of favorite restaurants in the city. Great atmosphere, friendly people, and wonderful Italian food

Best place to find Japanese Culture: Japan Town

Best place to see a California Mission: San Luis Obispo

Best Coast line the area: The coast between Jenner and Mendocino

Best Restaurant Block in SF: Connecticut and 18th

- The best meal I had this year was on this block at Chez Papa. Expensive, but worth it. The owners of this restaurant, just opened Baraka, a French tapas restaurant that shames the highly regarded Delphina's
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- Forget the Exploratorium cafeteria

** No dogs allowed, so you don't have to watch your step

*** There is a wonderful Exploratorium fountain in this building

**** Not the best fans

***** Take the Mucus Lucas Valley route

