

Summer In The City By The Bay



San Francisco is a city bursting with iconic sights and experiences for Kiwi travellers complemented by an ever-changing line-up of events and new reasons to visit the area.

Along with the well-known must sees such as the Golden Gate Bridge,

Best Cheap Eats

San Francisco has a huge range dining options for all tastes and budgets.

For clients looking for some cheap and cheerful locals' options, the S&T Hong Kong Seafood's dim sum and shrimp noodle roll have a cult following. For Mexican fare recommend Taqueria Cancun and Taquiera El Farolita for monster sized burritos until 0400.

Meanwhile, Old Jerusalem offers pita breads, chicken shwarmas and enormous mezze platters. Tony's Coal-Fired Pizza & Slicehouse is the place to go for pizza lovers (the New York meat lovers or California veggie re popular options).

For those looking to spice it up, Ler Ros offers authentic Thai dishes, while Z & Y restaurant in China Town has spicy Szechuan dishes.

To end the night suggest clients head to Mission Pie for fresh in season fruit pies, says San Francisco Travel.

Alcatraz, Fisherman's Wharf and the likes the city is also home to enchanting precincts from China Town, the North Beach Italian Quarter and the infamous Haight and Ashbury.

For culture vultures, museums range from the Walt Disney Family Museum through to the California Academy of Sciences. The latter offers an aquarium, planetarium, and natural history museum all under one living roof (and on a Thu night offers an adults-only experience complete with live music, cocktails, and a different theme each week).

Frequent visitor HA's Rusty Williss describes the city as a feast for the senses and says dining in SFO is an attraction in itself. Williss recommends a visit to the Ferry Terminal Market Place, where clients can mix with the locals and choose from a huge array of food options- including a farmer's market.

Fisherman's Wharf is a great destination for tourists, he says, famed for its fresher-than-fresh seafood and seafood chowder served in sourdough. It's also where the ferry to Alcatraz departs, although Williss urges agents to pre-book clients on the Alcatraz trip to avoid disappointment given that tickets often sell out.

Bike The Bridge

No visit to SFO is complete without taking in the Golden Gate Bridge, one of the seven modern wonders of the world. Visitors can sail under it, take in vistas from a far or even bike over it. 'Biking the Bridge' is a bucket list experience for many, and the advent of e-bikes now means it's an option open for a much wider audience. Operators including Blazing Saddles offer bike rental and self-guided tours. There vantage points along the way and Williss recommends biking across the bridge and down to the seaside town of Sausalito before catching the ferry back to the city. For details, CLICK HERE.



Beyond SFO

HA operates services to seven gateways in California, and has reported an increase in demand for open jaw tickets from this market. Tahoe is said to be a popular option. Clients can self-drive from SFO, across the Golden Gate Bridge and through Marin County, Sonoma and Sausalito. Napa Valley is next and on to old town Sacramento through to Placerville. Then it's onto the Sierras for scenic views of Eldorado National Forest before reaching South Lake Tahoe. Recommended activities for those in the Tahoe area include hiking, the outdoor concerts, Emerald Bay State Park, a cruise on the MS Dixie II or a drive around the lake on Highway 89.

HA Has The Bay Covered

Hawaiian Airlines has 'The Bay Area' covered, operating daily direct flights between Honolulu and the area's four key ports of Oakland, San Jose, Sacramento and San Francisco.

For clients looking to visit the Napa Valley, book them direct to or from SMF and/or OAK, advises HA. "These are the closest ports to the region, with a bonus that the smaller airports make the arrival and departure that much more seamless, and relaxed-which always reflects well on a thoughtful agent," says HA's Rusty Williss.

OAK is recommended as a great alternative entry point to the region, as it's much quieter than the major SFO hub. Plus, says Williss, a taxi trip from OAK to downtown SFO is much the same cost as one from SFO to the downtown area.

SJC is billed as a great option for those heading to the Monterey Peninsula or to play golf in one of the many golf courses in the area.

At the same time, major hub SFO is great for families. There is a kids entertainment room, and for the mindful, there's a yoga room for you to relax ahead of your flight.

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