

Updated 9/26/09

Neighborhoods of San Francisco Field Trip

10/9/09: Friday PM

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM Blue Angels performing as part of San Francisco's Fleet Week festivities. For more details, Google "san francisco fleet week." They also perform on Saturday and Sunday at the same time. This is just an FYI for anyone interested in showing up early.

10/10/09: Saturday AM

8:30 AM Meet in front of the new De Young Museum in Golden Gate Park.

Parking: Parking is sometimes available along the nearby park drives, but parking in the Music Concourse Parking Facility is encouraged. The entry is at Fulton and 10th Avenue. Google "de young museum parking" for more detailed information. The rate is \$3.00 an hour on weekends. Photograph the architecture of the De Young, the exciting new Academy of Sciences, the Japanese Tea Garden, and the nearby Conservatory. Interesting landscape plants and architectural details abound. Admission fees will apply for entry into buildings, but there are lots of photo ops from the outside. A great view can be had from the tower in the new DeYoung if you do go in. And there are always lots of people shots in and out of the buildings.

Directions to South Sea Village Seafood Restaurant: From the Park, take Ninth Avenue a block or two south to Irving, go right to 1420 Irving. Street parking should be fairly easy.

11:30 PM Lunch at South Sea Seafood Village, one of San Francisco's most highly regarded Dim Sum restaurants, at 1420 Irving Street. We'll be joined by two of my Chinese-American friends who can help us order and can answer questions about the less familiar options.

Directions: Continue on Irving to 19th Avenue and turn right. Take 19th through Golden Gate Park and continue on to Clement Street which is between Geary and California. Turn right at California and go back a block (otherwise you will end up on the Golden Gate Bridge.)

1:30 PM Photograph Clement Street.

Clement Street is a lively and authentic center of Chinese-American life in San Francisco. Photograph the mix of cultures with Chinese stores in Victorian buildings next to Irish bars (like The Bitter End), shoppers about their daily business, exotic fruits and vegetables on display along the sidewalk, signs, picture menus in windows, reflections, and more. The most colorful part of Clement Street runs from Fourth Avenue to Twelfth Avenue, with the middle section offering the highest concentration of colorful offerings. In my experience, shoppers are either friendly and courteous to photographers or are totally focused on their errands and oblivious to camera-toting visitors.

Parking: You can often find parking on the streets that cross Clement. The meters stop a half block away from the busy shopping street. There is public parking with meters off Eighth between Clement and Geary and behind Walgreens at Ninth and Clement.

Directions to Park Chow: Head back on 19th Avenue to Irving. To go left on Irving, go past it a block and then make three right turns. (There are no left turn options on 19th Avenue.) Continue to Ninth Avenue and look for parking. This will be a challenge. Park Chow is on Ninth Avenue between Lincoln and Irving. Our table may be upstairs, so tell the waiter or bartender you are with Padre Trails and they should be able to direct you.

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5:00 PM Dinner at Park Chow near Golden Gate Park. Park Chow is my favorite neighborhood restaurant. The food is good and very satisfying, it is friendly, casual and unpretentious, and the prices are very reasonable for the quality. Be sure to try the ginger cake with pumpkin ice cream and caramel sauce.

Directions to Marin Headlands Parking Area: Head back to 19th Avenue, turn right and continue on to the Golden Gate Bridge. Cross the Bridge and exit at the parking area on the Marin side. Bridge toll for the return trip is \$5.00.

7:00 PM Night views of the City from the Marin Headlands.

10/11/09: Sunday AM

8:30 AM or earlier - Twin Peaks.

For a terrific view of the City. Photo ops highly variable depending on the weather and the amount of fog. Clear skies can make for less interesting pictures, even here. So hope for some interesting clouds, etc. I've seen phenomenal black and white photos taken from Twin Peaks in stormy weather.

If Twin Peaks is totally fogged in or if we have additional time, options include:

Street photography on Haight Street.

The SF MOMA for a look at the Richard Avedon exhibit. Parking at the Fifth and Mission garage. SF MOMA opens at 11:00 AM.

An early start at Balmy Alley in the Mission (below)

Head down from Twin Peaks. Head to your left on Market/Portola Street. (You may have to go right until you can turn around, but I think there is a stop light at the bottom of the Twin Peaks drive where it reaches Market/Portola that lets you turn left. In a short distance (like a block or three), you will come to Clipper on your right. Head down Clipper to the Mission District and keep going until you reach Mission Street.

11:30 AM Lunch at La Taqueria, 2889 Mission Street near 25th.

1:00 PM Meet at Balmy Alley in the Mission District.

Balmy Alley is a block-long outdoor mural gallery off 24th Street between Harrison and Treat. The murals are painted on the back sides and garage doors of the buildings along the alley. They are filled with life, color and energy. To photograph: Details of the murals, passersby against the colorful backgrounds, some sneakers thrown over a power line, etc.

There are murals and graffiti scattered throughout the Mission, and driving around a bit should reveal interesting opportunities. The stores and restaurants on 24th Street and Mission Street also afford opportunities.

Caution: The Mission is one of SF's edgier neighborhoods. Pay attention to your surroundings, don't venture off alone with an expensive camera in your hands, and enjoy the energy of a colorful and lively part of San Francisco.

3:00 PM The Blue Angels perform from 3:00 until 4:00 as part of the Fleet Week celebrations. We may be able to watch them from Twin Peaks if we get there early, but we won't be the only people with that idea so we should get there by at least 2:00 if we want to go for it.

4:00 PM or as desired. Return to Monterey

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GENERAL

For an early start, make hotel reservations for Friday and Saturday nights. Prices are more reasonable around the Airport. (Personally, I like the Quality Inn on Airport Boulevard for a good level of accommodations at a reasonable price. The complimentary breakfast includes hot make-your-own waffles and lets you get an early start out the door.

To enjoy San Francisco by car, remember the four P's

Patience

Parking

Pedestrians

Patience.

Parking is always an issue, so car pooling is advisable. Large vans are prohibited in some neighborhoods, so SUV's or smaller are recommended. Pay attention to street signs and meters - tickets are expensive. Parking should be easier in the neighborhoods on the weekends because the street cleaning and two-hour limits generally won't apply. And bring LOTS of quarters! When you have to park at a meter, the rate can be \$3.00 an hour. Often you will be able to find free street parking, but be prepared.

Pedestrian safety became a big issue in San Francisco several years ago. Be sure to stop for people using the yellow-striped crosswalks. Tickets will be issued.

And the greatest of these is ... **Patience**. Traffic can be heavy and slow moving at times. As everywhere, a little extra courtesy goes a long way.

Finally, carry a good San Francisco street map and a cell phone to help the club members stay in touch with one another. And expect that nothing will work out as we imagined.

Please contact me if you have questions, would like to ride with someone or take on passengers. (I can take a passenger or two or be a navigator.) And it would be very helpful to know if you plan to be there for lunch at South Sea Seafood Village and dinner on Saturday at Park Chow so I know how large a table to request in each case.

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