

S.F. Bay Area Family Activities

If there was ever an AAG meeting for the whole family, this is it. San Francisco offers something for everyone in your family, from babies to grandparents.

cars for no additional fare. Pick up a MUNI Map while you're there – it's great for finding your way around town. Finally, check out free walking tours available from City Guides www.sfcityguides.org before you leave home

Preparing for your Visit

You won't need a car and you'll have lots of trouble parking if you've got one. For out-of-town outings, look into short-term rentals including Zipcars <http://www.zipcar.com>. For getting around town, MUNI (the Municipal Railway) is best. A weekly MUNI Fast Pass available at a modest cost (\$15 adult/\$10 child) from the Visitor Information Center on Market Street at Powell lets you ride buses, trolleys, MUNI subway lines and cable

Walking Tours

Chinatown isn't far from the conference hotel. Grant Avenue's small shops offer intriguing and inexpensive goods. Turn left on Jackson Street from Grant and loop through Exquisite Supernatural to admire all kinds of paper items to burn in temples for your ancestors' benefit: paper money, cell phones, jewelry, toothbrushes and more. Turn left on Ross Alley halfway up the street to visit Golden Gate Fortune Cookie Factory (hot samples are free; fresh fortune cookies are \$3 a bag.) One block further, turn onto Stockton Street, the Chinese shopping street;



CREDIT: JACK HOLLINGSWORTH

Family-oriented activities abound in San Francisco.

Continued on page 6

markets sell shark fins and live turtles, and there are great bakeries. If you're still hungry, try lunch at Gold Mountain (644 Broadway, between Grant and Stockton.) Servers roll dim sum carts to your table and you select items to try. After lunch, visit the Tien Hou Taoist Temple on the fourth floor at 125 Waverly Street. Push the buzzer to enter one of the city's oldest temples.

Coit Tower and the Filbert Street Steps are accessible via the #39 MUNI bus. The tower offers great views of the Bay and great 1930's murals. Down the road a few feet from Coit Tower, turn east (right) down the Filbert Street steps and descend to Sansome Street, past lovely gardens and charming Victorian homes. You may see wild parrots! Stop at the bottom for coffee and cookies at Levis Strauss Plaza or a meal at Fog City Diner.

Crissy Field <http://www.crissyfield.org> affords a gorgeous promenade along reclaimed wetlands of the San Francisco Marina. Watch wind surfers and ducks, or admire the Golden Gate Bridge as you walk west to Fort Point <http://www.nps.gov/fopo>, a civil war fort right under the bridge (open Friday through Sunday.) After visiting the fort, climb up the steps to walk on (or even across) the Golden Gate Bridge.

Great Streets to Walk Down

Clement Street between Arguello and 10th Avenue in the Richmond District is San Francisco's new Chinatown. Besides the great restaurants, food stores and cookware shops, check out Green Apple Books and Music, a used book and music store that's open late. Posted reviews by employees will lead you to some great reading and listening.

24th Street between Folsom Street and York Street is the Mission District is the heart of the city's Hispanic community. Don't miss the murals on Balmy Alley, and be sure to stop at one (or more) of the taquerias.

Upper Grant Avenue between Filbert and Broadway in North Beach showcases what's left of the Beatnik era: small stores, good pizza. A bit south across Broadway, find City

Lights, an independent bookstore founded by Lawrence Ferlinghetti. Nearby Columbus Avenue between Greenwich and Broadway in North Beach is the heart of the old Italian neighborhood. Have a cappuccino.

Teenagers especially love Haight Street, in the vicinity of Ashbury, where myriad shops offer 1960s memorabilia, music, t-shirts and other fascinating paraphernalia. Haight-Ashbury was famous as the hub of hippie counter-culture in the 1960s.

Via Cable Car and Ferry

The California Street cable car line is the steepest ride and passes through Chinatown. If you get off at Grace Cathedral at the top of the hill, the Cable Car Museum is a short walk away at 1201 Mason Street. Cable car fare is \$5, or ride free with your Fast Pass.

Alcatraz is managed by the National Park Service. Book your tour well in advance at <http://www.alcatrazcruises.com>. The ferry ride is a wonderful expedition in its own right; the tour of The Rock will fascinate kids young and old. Paths are steep, so wear sturdy walking shoes. The ferry dock is between Pier 39 and Fisherman's Wharf, tourist meccas that few San Franciscans visit. Do check out the San Francisco Maritime National Historic Park <http://www.nps.gov/safr> and nearby Ghirardelli Square, a former chocolate factory with shops and restaurants.

Angel Island State Park is another great ferry trip. A cruise over and back from Pier 41 showcases great views of San Francisco Bay; if you can spend time on the island, rent a bike there or bring a picnic. Book tickets in advance at <http://blueandgoldfleet.com>.

Amusements

Yerba Buena Gardens is a short walk east from Union Square and offers lots of cool activities. The hands-on arts and technology museum ZEUM <http://www.zeum.org> appeals most to grade-school kids. Its two floors of exhibits and activities focus on ani-

mation, video production, sound production, performance and visual arts. Close by are a carousel, a skating rink and the Metreon, where virtual bowling at Portal 1 Arcade is a hit with teens and young adults. (It's hard to explain it; just try it.) The Metreon complex has 16 movie theaters and the world's largest IMAX screen. The Museum of Modern Art <http://www.sfmoma.org>, open daily except Wednesdays, will feature an exhibit on Picasso and American Art during the conference. Right next door are the California Historical Society Bookstore, with a good selection including walking tour books, and Museum of the African Diaspora <http://www.moadsf.org> will feature an exhibit entitled Slavery in Human History. The California Academy of Sciences aquarium occupies temporary quarters nearby.



CREDIT: TOM BROSS

San Francisco's Zeum is a hands-on art and technology studio where young people can create their own audio, video, and animation projects.

Another great destination is Golden Gate Park. Enjoy free swing dancing lessons at Lindy in the Park on Sundays 11-2; it's on JFK Drive between 8th and 10th Avenues, or in the nearby band shell if it's raining. The de Young Museum <http://www.thinker.org>, open Tuesday through Sunday, specializes in American art and art of the native Americas, Africa, and Pacific. Be sure to take the elevator to the top of the tower for panoramic views of the park and city; the museum café is a delicious choice for lunch. Hobbyists sail model boats on Spreckles Lake on Sunday mornings. The Japanese Tea Garden has a challenging circular bridge for kids to

Continued on page 7

climb and a teahouse for parents; next door at Stow Lake you can rent a paddle boat or a very slow motor boat.

The Exploratorium <http://www.exploratorium.edu> in the Palace of Fine Arts near the Golden Gate Bridge is an amazing hands-on science museum with hundreds of exhibits to touch, look through, pick up, and tinker with. It's open Tuesday through Sunday.

The San Francisco Zoo <http://www.sfzoo.org> is in the often-foggy southwestern corner of the city. It's open every day and is accessible by the Muni L Taraval outbound line. It's a fun destination if you don't have a good zoo in your home town.

No list of San Francisco amusements would be complete without mentioning AT&T Park, home of the San Francisco Giants. Ballpark tours are offered daily at 10:30am and 12:30pm, except if there's a day game. The Giants will be in town April 18-22. For tickets, go to <http://sanfrancisco.giants.mlb.com>. There are no

bad seats, although the outfield bleachers can be awfully chilly at night. Ballpark food is quite good, but pricey. For die-hard American League fans, the Oakland Athletics play across the Bay at McAfee Coliseum, where the A's will host the Angels April 17 and 18. For details, visit <http://oakland.athletics.mlb.com>.

For Foodies

The Ferry Building at the foot of Market Street is a great place to have breakfast, especially on Saturdays when the plaza hosts a farmers market. Pick up bacon and egg baguettes from the Hayes Street Grill booth, and coffee, bakery goods and organic produce elsewhere. A number of specialty housewares stores are fun for gourmets; their companions can enjoy the breathtaking views from the waterfront or check out the social scene. On Saturdays, City Guides offers a free 45-minute tour beginning at noon at the main entrance. Kids who grow restless might enjoy a wet walk through the

Vaillancourt Fountain across the street afterwards, or a ride up the glass elevators in the Hyatt Regency Hotel. If it's a beautiful day, you might even want to walk southward along the Embarcadero toward AT&T Park.

...and a Sunday Celebration Not to be Missed

Glide Memorial Church <http://www.glide.org> is right next to our conference hotel at 333 Ellis. Glide Celebrations take place every Sunday at 9:00am and 11:00am and last about an hour and a half. The services feature a hundred-member ensemble and a full congregation clapping, swaying, and blasting out jazz, blues, spirituals or gospel. The jubilant sounds of transformation would rock most geographers. ■

We hope you enjoy your visit!

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