

# BEACON GRAND

A UNION SQUARE HOTEL

450 Powell Street, Union Square, San Francisco, CA 94102 \* 415-392-7755 \* [Beacongrand.com](http://Beacongrand.com)

## The Out & About Guide



*Below are all LGBTQ owned...*

- ✚ **Lobby Bar** (Castro): New, sultry cocktail bar and restaurant in the heart of the Castro.
- ✚ **Twin Peaks Tavern** (Castro): Gay bar serving classic cocktails & beers on tap, also boasts vintage furniture & big glass windows; first gay bar in the Bay Area.
- ✚ **Noe Café** (Noe Valley): Pastries & light bites served in a cozy coffee shop that has outdoor seating & a casual vibe.
- ✚ **Farmhouse Kitchen** (Mission): Thai eatery for classic curries & noodles, plus rarer street foods in an airy, rustic-chic space.
- ✚ **Oasis** (SoMa): Sprawling gay nightspot in a former bathhouse featuring cabaret & drag shows, DJs & dance parties.
- ✚ **Haum Yoga** (Mission): A welcoming space for intentional practice offering classes, meditation, workshops, and training.
- ✚ **GLBT Historical Society Museum**: Main exhibit covering over one hundred years of Bay Area's GLBT history, plus special programming.

**June is Pride Month & Pride Weekend is the last weekend in June every year**



**Beacon Grand, A Union Square Hotel lights up its 21<sup>st</sup> floor in honor of Pride**

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The Castro is the most well-known gay neighborhood in San Francisco. Nestled at the end of San Francisco's famous Market Street and below Sutro Tower, The Castro is considered a hub of the LGBTQ community. Historically, it was ground zero for a lot of a highly charged political turmoil in the 1960s and 1970s. The Castro is probably best-recognized for LGBTQ activism that occurred following the assassination of openly gay San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk in 1978. Today, it has a bar dedicated to Harvey Milk with a mural on the side of the building and is a vibrant and stylish neighborhood, with plenty of coffee shops and restaurants. It is also home to The Castro, an iconic, vintage theater where you can watch a double feature on a lazy Sunday afternoon.



SoMa is an artsy district that's packed with art spaces, loft apartments, design studios, independent bookstores and several popular LGBTQ bars and nightclubs. Although SoMa is the working district of San Francisco and home to large tech firms, it is also home to a thriving LGBTQ scene. These include bars like Aunt Charlie's Lounge and SF-Eagle. There is never a dull moment in SoMa — if bars are not your thing, you can also check out garden festivals, yoga classes, coffee shops or Union Square for some shopping. Because this San Francisco neighborhood is so expansive, it offers a bevy of cultural attractions, including the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA), the Contemporary Jewish Museum and Museum of the African Diaspora.

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[the Mission](#) has a distinct flavor of Latin culture and is a popular spot among members of the LGBTQ community. The neighborhood prides itself on diversity, and many hipsters, artists and LGBTQ people rent San Francisco apartments in this neighborhood. Although the gay area has gentrified in recent years, it is still packed with cafes, used bookstores, Gallery, and thrift shops. The Mission is best known for its incredible options for ethnic foods, including Mr. Pollo, Dancing Yak or Papalote.



The Haight is what someone from out of town would picture San Francisco to look like — with an eclectic mix of vintage shops, bookstores, dive bars and colorful Victorian homes lining the streets. Flower power, free love and world peace are general themes in this area that borders Golden Gate Park. Shopping is also a popular activity to do in the [Haight-Ashbury District](#), where you'll find plenty of vintage clothing stores, music shops and cute cafes serving up fresh coffee or brunch.

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### Everyone's Favorites:



Union Square is a 2.6-acre public plaza bordered by Geary, Powell, Post and Stockton Streets in downtown San Francisco. "Union Square" also refers to the central shopping, hotel, and theater district that surrounds the plaza for several blocks. The area got its name because it was once used to support for the Union Army during the American Civil War, earning its designation as a Historical Landmark. Today, this one-block plaza and surrounding area is one of the largest collections of department stores, upscale boutiques, gift shops, art galleries, and beauty salons in the United States, making Union Square a major tourist destination and a well-known gathering place.



The Chinatown centered on Grant Avenue and Stockton Street in San Francisco is the oldest Chinatown in North America and one of the largest Chinese enclaves outside Asia. It is also the oldest and largest of the four notable Chinese enclaves within San Francisco. Since its establishment in 1848, it has been important and influential in the history and culture of ethnic Chinese immigrants in North America. Chinatown is an enclave that has retained its own customs, languages, places of worship, social clubs, and identity. There are two hospitals, several parks and squares, numerous churches, a post office, and other infrastructure. Recent immigrants, many of whom are elderly, opt to live in Chinatown because of the availability of affordable housing and their familiarity with the culture. San Francisco's Chinatown is also renowned as a major tourist attraction, drawing more visitors annually than the Golden Gate Bridge.

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Alcatraz Island is a small island 1.25 miles offshore from San Francisco. The island was developed in the mid-19th century with facilities for a lighthouse, a military fortification, and a military prison. In 1934, the island was converted into a federal prison, Alcatraz Federal Penitentiary. The strong currents around the island and cold-water temperatures made escape nearly impossible. The prisoners that did manage to escape were never found. It was said by the prison that they drowned but no bodies ever turned up anywhere. The prison became one of the most notorious in American history.



The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art is a modern and contemporary art museum located in San Francisco. A nonprofit organization, SFMOMA holds an internationally recognized collection of modern and contemporary art, and was the first museum on the West Coast devoted solely to 20th-century art. The museum's current collection includes over 33,000 works of painting, sculpture, photography, architecture, design, and media arts, and moving into the 21st century. The collection is displayed in 170,000 square feet of exhibition space, making the museum one of the largest in the United States overall, and one of the largest in the world for modern and contemporary art.

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Coit Tower is a 210-foot tower in the Telegraph Hill neighborhood of San Francisco, offering panoramic views over the city and the bay. The tower, in the city's Pioneer Park, was built between 1932 and 1933 using Lillie Hitchcock Coit's bequest to beautify the city of San Francisco. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on January 29, 2008. Also known as the Coit Memorial Tower, it was dedicated to the volunteer firemen who had died in San Francisco's five major fires.



Golden Gate Park, located in San Francisco, is a large urban park consisting of 1,017 acres of public grounds. It is administered by the San Francisco Recreation & Parks Department, which began in 1871 to oversee the development of the Park. Configured as a rectangle, it is similar in shape to but 20 percent larger than Central Park in New York City, to which it is often compared. It is over three miles long east to west, and about half a mile north to south. With 24 million visitors annually, Golden Gate is the third most-visited city park in the United States after Central Park and the Lincoln Memorial.

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Pier 39 is a shopping center and popular tourist attraction built on a pier in San Francisco. At Pier 39, there are shops, restaurants, a video arcade, street performances, the Aquarium of the Bay, virtual 3D rides, and views of California sea lions hauled out on docks on Piers marina. The pier is located at the edge of the Fisherman's Wharf district and is close to North Beach, Chinatown, and the Embarcadero. The area is easily accessible with the historic F Market streetcars.



Fisherman's Wharf is a neighborhood and popular tourist attraction in San Francisco. It roughly encompasses the northern waterfront area of San Francisco from Ghirardelli Square or Van Ness Avenue east to Pier 35 or Kearny Street. The F Market streetcar runs through the area, the Powell-Hyde cable car line runs to Aquatic Park, at the edge of Fisherman's Wharf, and the Powell-Mason cable car line runs a few blocks away.

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Ghirardelli Square is a landmark public square with shops and restaurants in the Marina area of San Francisco. A portion of the area was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982 as Pioneer Woolen Mills and D. Ghirardelli Company. The square once featured over 40 specialty shops and restaurants. Some original shops and restaurants still occupy the square.



The Palace of Fine Arts is a monumental structure located in the Marina District of San Francisco, originally constructed for the 1915 Panama–Pacific International Exposition to exhibit works of art. Completely rebuilt from 1964 to 1974, it is the only structure from the exposition that survives on site. The most prominent building of the complex, a 162-foot-high open rotunda, is enclosed by a lagoon on one side and adjoins a large, curved exhibition center on the other side, separated from the lagoon by colonnades. As of 2019, the exhibition center is used as a venue for events such as weddings or trade fairs. Conceived to evoke a decaying ruin of ancient Rome.

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Lands End is a park in San Francisco within the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. It is a rocky and windswept shoreline, situated between the Sutro District and Lincoln Park and abutting Fort Miley Military Reservation. A memorial to USS San Francisco stands in the park. Numerous hiking trails follow the former railbeds of the Ferries and Cliff House Railway along the cliffs and to the shore. The most-traveled trail in Lands End is the Coastal Trail. A spur trail takes users to Mile Rock Point and Mile Rock Beach, which offer views of the Golden Gate. Additionally, Lands End contains the ruins of the Sutro Baths. Other historic sites include numerous shipwrecks, which are visible at low tides.



**The Golden Gate Bridge** spans the Golden Gate, the one-mile-wide strait connecting San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean. The structure links the U.S. city of San Francisco, California—the northern tip of the San Francisco Peninsula—to Marin County, carrying both U.S. Route 101 and California State Route 1 across the strait. It also carries pedestrian and bicycle traffic and is designated as part of U.S. Bicycle Route 95. Declared one of the Wonders of the Modern World by the American Society of Civil Engineers, the bridge is one of the most internationally recognized symbols of San Francisco and California.

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Lombard Street is an east–west street in San Francisco, that is famous for a steep, one-block section with eight hairpin turns. Stretching from The Presidio east to The Embarcadero, most of the street's western segment is a major thoroughfare designated as part of U.S. Route 101. The famous one-block section, claimed to be "the crookedest street in the world", is located along the eastern segment in the Russian Hill neighborhood. It is a major tourist attraction, receiving around two million visitors per year and up to 17,000 per day on busy summer weekends.



North Beach is a neighborhood in the northeast of San Francisco adjacent to Chinatown, the Financial District, and Russian Hill. The neighborhood is San Francisco's "Little Italy" and has historically been home to a large Italian American population, largely from Northern Italy. It still has many Italian restaurants, though many other ethnic groups currently live in the neighborhood. It was also the historic center of the beatnik subculture and has become one of San Francisco's main nightlife districts.

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The Sutro Baths was a large, privately owned public saltwater swimming pool complex in the Lands End area of the Outer Richmond District in western San Francisco. Built in 1894, the Sutro Baths was located north of Ocean Beach, Seal Rocks, and west of Sutro Heights Park. The structure burned down to its concrete foundation in June 1966; its ruins are located in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and the Sutro Historic District.



Muir Woods National Monument is a United States National Monument managed by the National Park Service, named after naturalist John Muir. It is located on Mount Tamalpais near the Pacific coast, in southwestern Marin County, Cali. It is part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and is 12 miles north of San Francisco. It protects 554 acres, of which 240 acres are old growth coast redwood forests, one of a few such stands remaining in the San Francisco Bay Area.

It is hard to pick what is the best in the city with so many favorites. So much to see.

We at Beacon Grand, A Union Square Hotel, cannot wait to host you in San Francisco!