

SUMMER 2010

Cheap Living...

OPIA's Guide to Affordable Housing, Transportation,
Food, and Fun in Major Cities for HLS Students
Spending a Summer Working in the Public Interest

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San Francisco

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Congratulations! You've gotten a great public interest internship. You're ready for the challenges and rewards of your job, but are you ready to move to, navigate, and enjoy a new city on a modest salary?

It can be difficult to live cheaply in some of the world's most expensive (and exciting) cities, so OPIA and the 1L Public Interest Section Representatives have put together a guide to give you a few tips on how to get by (and have fun) on a public interest salary. We'll tell you how to find safe, inexpensive housing, get around in the city, eat out or in, hang out, and explore the city's cultural offerings. This is our 15th edition of *Cheap Living*.

In compiling these guides, we relied on numerous sources: our own experiences, law school career service offices, newspapers, the Internet, and especially Harvard Law School students. The information in *Cheap Living* is meant to be

helpful, not authoritative. No doubt, we have missed some stellar bargains. By listing a feature in the guide, we do not mean to endorse it, other than to say that a student like you has mentioned it as a great deal. *Cheap Living* remains a work in progress.

A very special thanks to all of the 1L Section Reps who researched and wrote this year's *Cheap Living Guides*. Even in the midst of exams, the Auction, Ames, and everything else that consumes 1L year, they made time to make sure that their classmates get the most out of their public interest summer internship experience. Have a wonderful summer!

- Kirsten Bermingham, OPIA Program Coordinator

**The SF Guide was updated by 1L section representatives Nicholas Heimbach and Betny Townsend.*

Welcome to San Francisco and the Bay Area!

HOUSING

An online resource that you probably already know about is www.craigslist.org. It was started in San Francisco and has hundreds of listings posted daily by individual landowners and renters, a separate sublet section, temporary rentals section, and apartment rental section can help you find a home for the summer. Virtually everyone in San Francisco has found something on craigslist, whether it's their apartment, their couch or their Friday night date.

Housing prices have dropped, a bit, since the Silicon Valley boom. The average two-bedroom apartment on the market in San Francisco rented for \$2,300. However, it is possible even for out-of-towners to find a deal. You should consider living outside of San Francisco – particularly Berkeley and Oakland, both of which are easily reachable by public transportation (the BART train makes the trans-bay commute faster than from some of the neighborhoods in SF!)

Vacant apartment sublets are not scarce. Expect prices for shares to range from \$700-\$1,200 per month. Each of the following **roommate and apartment services** provides a list of available shares according to sharers' smoking preference, neatness, price range, age, etc. Some provide listings of vacant apartments as well. The number of summer sublets each lists varies; toward the end of April and in the first few days of May, call and ask each to run a search for you so you can decide whether forking over the cash will be worth your while. Check out UC Berkeley's campus paper (www.dailycal.org) for possible sublets. If you can't find a furnished unit, there is a good chance you can pick up most of what you need on the curb. Residential neighborhoods in the city are known for putting out couches, futons, and pretty much anything else you can imagine for the first person who can carry it home.

RENTALS AND SUBLETS

Craigslist (www.craigslist.com) Rumor has it the Holy Grail was posted here once.

My Apartment Map (http://www.myapartmentmap.com/rentaldata/ca/san_francisco/) Great way to get a sense of how neighborhoods compare price-wise.

Metro Rent (415-563-RENT, 2021 Fillmore Street, www.metrorent.com) Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm. Offers "tailored rental help" \$45/45 days for shared rental information. Many San Franciscans claim that this is where they found their housing in a decidedly difficult market.

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sf4rent (www.sf4rent.com) Claims that they are the lowest fee rental service in the Bay Area and at a \$20/90 days rate, they're not far off. Strictly an Internet service, the web savvy can find hundreds of listings - and "if you're not happy with the service, you don't pay."

Hastings College of the Law ((415) 557-0985) rents unfurnished apartments in their McAllister towers month-to-month during June and July. Hastings is very close to city, state, and federal government buildings. Walking, the Financial District is about 15 minutes away, and the Hall of Justice (D.A.) is 25 minutes away. Most of the units remain vacant for the summer, so this can be a good last-minute choice. Rent is approximately \$750/month. Utilities (except telephone) and use of the fitness center are included, and there is a laundry machine in the building.

The Fillmore Center ((415) 921-1969) offers housing with free weight room in a high-rise apartment building in the Western Addition. On the plus side, it is easy to arrange, and they run shuttles to downtown. Rates run from \$1250/month or more for an unfurnished studio to over \$2000 for two or three bedroom apartments.

The National Lawyers Guild (a progressive bar association) has a summer housing swap for student Guild members who have jobs and internships in other cities. The NLG national office ((212) 679-5100, www.nlg.org, nlgno@nlg.org) is in New York. The Massachusetts office ((617) 227-7335, nlgmass@igc.org) is at 14 Beacon St. #407 in Boston. The San Francisco NLG office ((415) 285-5067, nlgssf@igc.org) is at 558 Capp Street, San Francisco, 94110. NLG membership is \$15 for law students.

Newspaper sources for apartments and shares include the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *Bay Guardian*, the *S.F. Weekly*, the *Noe Valley Voice*. However, their listings are not extensive and often not up-to-date. A couple of web sites have listings. UCSF maintains the most useful at www.cas.ucsf.edu/cho. UC Hastings has a great off-campus living guide with rental information, San Francisco city-scape information, and an all-around guide to living in the Bay Area at www.uchastings.edu/site_files/Housing/OffCampusHousingGuide.pdf.

If you are in San Francisco and searching, check out bulletin boards in the neighborhoods: laundromats, supermarkets, and cafes are good sources. While searching, you can stay at the many hostels in the area including **HI Hostel at Union Square** (downtown at 312 Mason St., between O'Farrell and Geary (415) 788-5604). From about \$20 per night for a bed in the mixed dorm to \$70 per night for a private twin. Reservations are generally recommended 4-5 weeks in advance. If it is full, you can stay at the more out-of-the-way **HI Hostel at Fort Mason**, in the Marina at Fort Mason Building 240 ((415) 771-7277). \$22-\$29/person. Check out all of the hostels information at www.norcalhostels.org, as well as Hostels.com and Hostelword.com.

SAN FRANCISCO NEIGHBORHOODS

Any San Franciscan will tell you: the City is all about its neighborhoods, and even short-term residents often develop a fierce loyalty to theirs. Immigrant cultures thrive alongside fifth-generation families, and students, artists, and professionals have staked out every part of the city.



Living on a budget requires trade-offs. One of the most significant is the decision whether to keep a car (see transportation section). The transportation system in San Francisco is pretty great, as long as you don't mind getting on a bus or two. Given the amazing day trips just a few short miles away, a car can be a great asset. However, not only must a car be supported: it must be **parked**. Additionally, driving in San Francisco, as in most large, crowded cities, can be quite exasperating. Perfect your ability to make left turns on reds. Note: All rents here are based on per-room share price.

Living in the right neighborhood can make all the difference, here are a few profiles on spots that will make your experience a memorable and truly "San Francisco" one:

Hayes Valley/NoPa/USF This area gives you an amazing residential feeling, with small shops and amazing restaurants nearby and several parks just blocks away. It is currently undergoing a wave of gentrification (you can decide whether that is a good or bad thing) which juxtaposes a

lot of the elements that make San Francisco unique. The only downside is that you will most likely have to take a bus to work. Upside – you can live next door to the Full House house!

If you can't or don't want to maintain a car, the following neighborhoods promise the best combination of barely reasonable rents and proximity to downtown via BART or trolleys (See p. 6, BART, Bay Area Rapid Transit; www.bart.gov):

Cole Valley/Inner Sunset. Sandwiched between Golden Gate Park and some of the most scenic forested hills in the City, Cole Valley is the home of UCSF, with the attendant inexpensive restaurants, coffee shops, and street life. Best of all, the N Judah line runs downtown. West of Cole Valley, the Inner Sunset (bordered by Golden Gate Park on the north and Kirkham on the south, and 12th Avenue on the west) is less busy, with better parking and a slightly longer trip downtown on the N. Rents average around \$900 in Cole Valley, decreasing as you move west.

Noe Valley (say NO-ee) is a fun but pricey neighborhood. Now that married young couples and their toddlers have moved in in full force, rents are higher. But they're on to something. The old community feel is still strong, and almost every home is a beautiful Victorian. Dogs and kids cavort around Dolores Park, and 24th Street buzzes with neighborhood stores and restaurants. The J Church MUNI Metro line (The MUNI is a light rail/subway combo, much like the Green Line T in Boston.) runs downtown, and some parts of the neighborhood are close to BART. Parking is difficult but not impossible. Rents average about \$1,000 for studios.

East of Guerrero St., Noe Valley eases into the **Outer Mission**, a transitional bohemian neighborhood packed with twenty-somethings and working families. BART runs downtown in 4 minutes from the station at 24th St. and Mission St. Rents average about \$900. The **Castro** district, also called Eureka Valley, is most famous for being the gay epicenter of San Francisco. As beautiful and friendly as Noe Valley over the hill, the Castro is even closer to downtown — just ride any bus or trolley up Market Street. Close to Market Street, parking is impossible; it improves slightly up the hill to the south. North of Market, the Castro eases into **Duboce Triangle** (bordered on the north by Duboce St.), which has much the same architecture and feel. Rents average about \$1,000.

The following neighborhoods are a little farther from downtown, in the same general price range as the above neighborhoods.

The **Haight-Ashbury** isn't what is used to be: at its eponymous corner, a Ben & Jerry's faces The Gap, and suburban kids ply the streets for change. However, the Victorians where Janis Joplin, the Dead, and Jefferson Airplane lived are beautiful, and up the hill along Ashbury you'll find the fictional Party of Five house. MUNI runs downtown in about 20 minutes. Parking can be difficult in the commercial area near Haight Street. Rents average about \$1,000. That said, you can't beat the proximity to Golden Gate Park.

The **Lower Haight**, bounded by Haight-Ashbury, the Western Addition, the Castro, and Duboce Triangle, is funkier and more bohemian than Haight-Ashbury. Many streetcar and bus lines converge near the neighborhood, providing easy access to the entire city.

South of Market's industrial look is being replaced by loft housing and its location near downtown, the financial district, and numerous bars and restaurants is ideal for young professionals. Note: it is getting more expensive because of SBC Park.

BERKELEY AND OAKLAND

Oakland is a great city with several BART stations in funky residential neighborhoods, perfect for a cheap housing option with a short commute. Lake Merritt and Piedmont are particularly nice neighborhoods with diverse communities, plenty of restaurant and nightlife options, and easy access to "The City."

Berkeley offers some great cheap housing options and an important advantage: Berkeley culture. Its lively college town atmosphere, may, in fact, remind you of Cambridge – only more liberal and with better weather. You do have to factor in transportation costs, which could run you \$5 per day to downtown SF

UC Berkeley Student Housing Office-CalRentals ((510) 642-3642) will arrange renting and subletting of student off-campus housing. Information about pricing will be available in late April. A good last-minute option, but it goes pretty fast. www.calrentals.housing.berkeley.edu will get you the rental information that you need.

The University Students Cooperative Association (2424 Ridge Rd., Berkeley, CA 94709, (510) 848-1936) offers summer housing in cooperative houses and apartment complexes from mid-May to mid-August. Single rooms are usually available in houses. Co-op housing ran around \$400-\$650 per month last year. Houses require approximately five hours of work per week (cleaning, etc.). Call for an application in April; some rooms may still be available come May. Most houses are a 15-minute walk away from BART, which reaches downtown San Francisco in 12 to 20 minutes.

Fraternities at Cal offer housing for the summer also. The list of fraternities renting rooms changes every summer; call the Office of Student Activities ((510) 642-5171) for the latest information. Past students report that Delta Kappa Epsilon (2302 Piedmont Avenue) and Sigma Chi (2345 College Ave.) are nice. Some sororities also rent out rooms. Call the Office of Student Activities for information as Alpha Phi and Gamma Phi Beta have rented rooms in the past.

Other housing options in Berkeley and Oakland may save a few dollars over San Francisco. Check the *Daily Californian* or the *East Bay Express*. Many **cafes**, including **Cafe Milano** (on Telegraph Ave. near Bancroft), and **Sproul Plaza** (on the Berkeley campus) post information about sublets. There are a few neighborhoods that combine a slight degree of affordability with

proximity to BART, including the area around the **Rockridge** station. Scout the neighborhood for sublet listings.

If you get stuck while you're looking for a permanent place, **UC Berkeley Conference Services** ((510) 642-4444) offers rooms in the student residence halls (dorms) from June 1 to August 19, 2008. Check the website for pricing (www.housing.berkeley.edu/conference/summervis/).

TRANSPORTATION

BART

The best way to get around the East Bay Area is by **BART**. (Bay Area Rapid Transit; www.bart.gov has schedule, fare, and map information. Transit Info. Center: San Francisco/Daly City (415) 989-2278; South San Francisco (650) 992-2278). BART is a commuter rail line connecting the East Bay with San Francisco. Within the City, BART has eight stops; four are downtown and two are in the Mission (at 16th St. and at 24th St.); two more are in the southwestern neighborhoods of Glen Park and Balboa Park. Trains generally run every 15 to 20 minutes (first trains run at around 4:15 a.m. on weekdays and 6:00 a.m. on weekends; last trains leave downtown midnight-12:30am; generally, the first south-bound trains leave a half-hour or so later than the north-bound times listed here).

Fares are based on distance traveled (round-trip to Downtown Berkeley from Civic Center about \$7.30, shorter rides are cheaper). BART tickets act like debit cards with stored value, and monthly or yearly passes are not available due to the mileage-based formula for fare. EZ Rider Cards are available at a BART value of \$48 but costing only \$45. Such cards are reusable as opposed to traditional paper tickets. A BART Blue High Value Ticket is available for \$45 (again at a BART value of \$48) or at the price of \$60 for \$64 worth of fare. A **BART Plus** ticket (\$43-\$76 per half-month) comes with stored BART value (ranging from \$15 to \$50, respectively), and permits unlimited travel on MUNI (San Francisco) and SamTrans (Peninsula). BART can take you to or from San Francisco International Airport (SFO) or Oakland International Airport (OAK). Note that BART does not allow you to travel to the South Bay (Palo Alto, San Jose, etc.).

MUNI

San Francisco's Municipal Railway, which includes light rail (Muni Metro), the bus system, and the world-famous cable cars. www.sfmta.com

Within San Francisco, **MUNI** buses, streetcars, and the Metro ((415) 701-2311, www.sfmuni.com; \$2 exact change, 1 transfer within 90 minutes (in some cases you have up to 2 hours) take riders from just about every neighborhood to downtown. Coverage between neighborhoods outside downtown is less thorough. City residents are often disappointed with the buses' speed and reliability; MUNI streetcars (and the Metro) are speedier and more dependable. Among the neighborhoods with **streetcar** links to downtown are Noe Valley and

the Castro (J Church) and Cole Valley and the Sunset (N Judah). The historical streetcars that run on Market Street between downtown and the Castro (F Market) are slow and not entirely comfortable during rush hour, but riding in a restored trolley from the 1920s is still a pretty neat experience. During the summer MUNI occasionally brings out the special F Market cars, such as the open-top Blackpool resort model. The famous cable cars that run between downtown, the Marina, and North Beach are more expensive (\$5.00) than the buses and streetcars and are usually crowded with tourists. They may be used for commuting, but the bus is often a better option. About a dozen of MUNI's lines run through the night (midnight-6am). Once the Metro subway system has shut down each day (stations close at 1am every morning), Metro Owl bus service approximately duplicate the subway lines.

A MUNI **Monthly Adult "A" Fast Pass** (\$70) permits unlimited travel on MUNI (buses, streetcars, and cable cars) and between BART stations within San Francisco. A MUNI **Monthly Adult "M" Fast Pass** (\$60) permits unlimited travel on MUNI vehicles only. Passes are available throughout the City (downtown, purchase one at the cable car turnaround at Powell and Market every day (8am to 8pm) and online at https://www.sfvisitor.org/cgi-bin/webc.exe/st_prod.html?p_prodid=161, among other places.) Also check grocery stores and check-cashers in every neighborhood). Before purchasing a Pass (or other transit pass), check with your employer's Human Resources department; many employers offer a commuter subsidy. MUNI **Passports** are available for unlimited rides on MUNI, including cable cars, for 1, 3, or 7 *consecutive* days (for \$13, \$20, \$26, respectively). MUNI Passports are good on MUNI only, and not accepted on BART or other transportation options. **Single-Ride Ticket Booklets** are also available, though not at a reduced rate (booklets of 10 cost \$20).

REGIONAL BUSES

AC Transit (www.actransit.org; 511 (toll free); single ticket: \$2; 10-ride ticket: \$20; 31 day ticket: \$80) buses ply the East Bay. They cross the Bay to the Transbay Terminal just south of Market (\$4). AC Transit buses can also connect you to San Mateo (via the Line M TransBay Express) or Palo Alto (via the Dumbarton Express) in the Peninsula. You can use these services to connect to the Caltrain (see below). **Golden Gate Transit** (www.goldengate.org; 511 toll free or (415) 455-2000) connects the North Bay with the City for \$3.45-9.25, depending on the distance. Fare is determined by length of your trip and the number of fare zones crossed (a complete listing of fares is available at Golden Gate Transit's website). To get around the Peninsula, try **SamTrans** buses (www.samtrans.com; from local area codes (800) 660-4287, from other area codes (510) 817-1717). Fares range from \$2 to \$5 to take you all around the Peninsula and to take you from Peninsula cities (Palo Alto, Menlo Park, etc.) to San Francisco. You can also use SamTrans to connect from the Hillsdale Caltrain station to Half Moon Bay, a very nice beach.

CALTRAIN

The **Caltrain** (www.caltrain.com; from local area codes (800) 660-4287, from other area codes (510) 817-1717) connects the Peninsula and the South Bay with the City, reaching Palo Alto and all the way to San Jose and points further south. Tickets cost \$2.50-11.25 one-way depending on how many zones (how far) you travel. In San Francisco, Caltrain stops far from downtown at

4th St. and Townsend; use MUNI (there's a stop near the Caltrain station) to connect to downtown, or take the 25-minute walk. Call to inquire about bicycle-friendly trains. Caltrain is the only good way to reach those South Bay destinations. You can also use Caltrain to get to SFO by taking the train to the Milbrae station and then taking the shuttle train (operated by BART) for \$4 to SFO.

AIRPORT SHUTTLES

San Francisco International Airport (SFO) connects to the City, the East Bay, and the Peninsula via door-to-door shuttles. There is no need to reserve one for your trip from the airport; airport personnel will direct you to the proper platform on the upper level center island, where stops are frequent. From there, any shuttle that says it can take you to your destination should be fine. **Super Shuttle** (www.supershuttle.com; (415) 558-8500), for instance, can take you door-to-door from any Bay Area airport (SFO, SJC, OAK) to practically any location in the Bay Area, including the South and East Bays. As mentioned, no reservation is needed when leaving from SFO, but you might want to make one if you want to be picked up from OAK or SJC. Prices will vary depending on your destination.

SFO is a 20- to 35-minute drive south from San Francisco, so plan accordingly. It is easily accessible by BART as the train goes directly to the airport. Oakland Airport, smaller than San Francisco's, is easily accessible via BART. Stop at the Airport/Coliseum stop and then take an AirBART bus (\$3; every 10 minutes) to the terminal.

TAXIS

Although they're not "cheap" and so maybe they don't belong in this guide, if you get really stuck you might be happy to be able to call a taxi. Try **DeSoto Cab** ((415) 970-1300) or **Veteran's Cab** ((415) 552-1300) if you're in a fix. Unlike in many big cities, in San Francisco it can be very hard to flag a cab on the street—you might want to save yourself some time and just call. Fares start at \$3.10 and typically cost about \$2.25 per mile traveled.

FOOD

San Francisco is a food lover's paradise, with legendary Latin American, Asian, Italian and California cuisine. Though you'll find amazing food throughout San Francisco, different types of ethnic and specialty restaurants are concentrated in various neighborhoods such as: **Mission District** (Latin American, particularly Mexican), **Chinatown**, **North Beach** (Italian) and **Fisherman's Wharf** (seafood, of course!). The Bay Area is also the perfect place for vegetarians. Almost every restaurant will have vegetarian options, including all of those described here. Below is a listing of some of the better bargains in town. It is organized by area of the city (though not every neighborhood is covered) so you can find something good and inexpensive whether you are headed to Golden Gate Park or to catch a movie downtown.

The Mission

The first word on cheap eating in San Francisco is *taqueria*. Taquerias serving up delicious, filling, fast and cheap (\$3-5) burritos can be found throughout the city but particularly in this neighborhood. Standouts include: **Taqueria Cancun** (2288 Mission St., (415) 252-9560; 3211 Mission, (415) 550-1414), **Pancho Villa** (3071 16th St. near Valencia, (415) 864-8840) **El Toro** (598 Valencia, at 17th St., (415) 431-3351) and **Papalote** (3409 24th Street at Valencia, (415) 970-8815).

Another staple of the Mission district are the numerous tapas restaurants in and around Valencia Street. These range in price from inexpensive (**Picaro** at 3120 16th St. near Valencia, (415) 431-4089) to moderate (**Ramblas** at 557 Valencia St., (415) 565-0207) to pricey (**Andalu**, a wine bar as well as a restaurant serving “small plates,” at 3198 16th St., (415) 621-2211).

The Mission also offers tons of other inexpensive dining options. **Ti Couz**, (3108 16th, at Valencia, (415) 252-7373), serves amazing crepes. **Herbivore** (983 Valencia at 21st St., (415) 826-5657, with another location in the Haight area at 531 Divisadero, (415) 885-7133)) offers really fresh and tasty vegan meals from sandwiches to pan-fried noodles to homemade baked goods. If you are in the mood for some delicious pan-Arabic food, be sure to visit **Amira** (590 Valencia St., between 16th and 17th, (415) 621-6213) and try their sweet Moroccan *pastillas*, which are pastries filled with chicken, eggs, almonds, and cinnamon. Don't miss the extremely cheap and incredibly delicious Pakistani food at **Pakwan** (3182 16th St. at Guerrero, (415) 255-2440). **Tartine** (600 Guerrero St. at 18th, (415) 487-2600) may be the Mission's most delicious treat. Good luck finding a table on Saturday and Sunday mornings, but it's definitely worth a trip for their legendary French pastries and pressed sandwiches. If you can't get a table at Tartine, try heading up the block to **Dolores Park Café** (501 Dolores St. at 18th, (415) 621-2936) for slightly-less-butter-laden but equally delicious goodies, including omelets, smoothies, bagel sandwiches, and lunch fare. Outdoor tables looking onto Dolores Park are a plus. Still hungry? Cross the street for the best ice cream in the world at **Bi Rite Creamery** where you can satisfy your craving for honey lavender ice cream atop a scoop of balsamic strawberry. (3692 18th Street at Dolores, (415) 626-5600)

Chinatown

In Chinatown, **House of Nanking** (919 Kearny St., between Jackson and Columbus Sts., (415) 421-1429) is a perennial tourist favorite. The House of Nanking line has gotten a little shorter since the restaurant expanded, and waiters make it more bearable by selling you Tsing-tao beer while you wait. Once inside, patrons gladly endure rude service and an assembly-line atmosphere in exchange for some of the best Shanghai cuisine in town. Dinner will cost about \$11, including a beer. **Chef Jia's** menu contains many dishes under \$10 and the staff takes you seriously when you ask them to make it “spicy” (925 Kearny St. at Jackson, (415) 398-1626). Meanwhile, the extremely cheap and really yummy Chinese bakeries make a walk around Chinatown completely rewarding. A big lunch of various dumplings, rolls or buns can easily cost only a few dollars.

North Beach

If you are in the mood for Italian cuisine, North Beach is well worth some exploration. Around \$6 will buy you a great Italian lunch at **Bocce Cafe** (478 Green St., at Grant Ave., (415) 981-2044). If the weather permits, sit in the garden area. **L'Osteria del Forno** (519 Columbus Ave., between Green and Union, (415) 982-1124) is a casual yet romantic place to go for delicious pastas, sandwiches and pizzas. **The Stinking Rose** (325 Columbus Ave., between Vallejo and Broadway, (415) 781-7673) serves Italian food with extra garlic; the motto there is “We season our garlic with food.” However, if you are worried about garlic breath, you can order the tasty “vampire fare” lasagna. For a non-Italian option try **Helmand Restaurant** (430 Broadway, between Kearny and Montgomery, (415) 362-0641) which offers Afghan cuisine in a lovely atmosphere.

For legendary Italian pizza, you can go to **Tommaso's** (1042 Kearny St., between Broadway and Pacific, (415) 398-9696), though some believe **North Beach Pizza** (locations citywide) offers the best pizza in town. But anyone will tell you that if you *really* want the good stuff, you have to cross the Bay Bridge and visit one of **Zachary's** two locations (5801 College Ave. in Oakland, just one block North of the Rockridge Bart Station, (510) 655-6385; or 1853 Solano Ave. in Berkeley, (510) 525-5950).

Downtown

There are innumerable places to get a reasonable lunch downtown. For a quick bite, try the sandwiches and desserts at **Specialty's** and **Lee's** (each has locations all over downtown, including Kearney St. between Bush and Pine Sts., Battery St., at Bush and Market Sts.; Spear St., between Mission and Howard Sts.; New Montgomery between Mission and Howard). **Café Madeleine** is also a great lunch option for soups, salads, sandwiches, and deserts (300 California St., at Battery St., (415) 362-3332).

At dinnertime, finding inexpensive food in this area can be more difficult. The restaurants in the Union Square shopping area cater to tourists and other Downtown restaurants aim to draw in businesspeople. After a day of shopping or browsing though, you can get great vegetarian Vietnamese food at **Golden Era Vegetarian Restaurant** (572 O'Farrell St., (415) 673-3136). Though this is in the seedier Tenderloin area, it is only a short walk from Union Square and the food and staff are great. At **Shalimar**, you will find Pakistani cuisine at its finest even if the décor is not. (532 Jones St., (415) 928-0333). **Osha Thai Noodle Café** (696 Geary St., (415) 673-2368) is open late and serves up heaping plates of pad thai and other hearty dishes. **Tu Lan** is a San Francisco legend: sketchy, dirt cheap, and praised by Julia Child. Get the imperial rolls to go. (8th Street at Stevenson, (415) 626-0927).

Not to be missed is the **Farmer's Market** at the San Francisco Ferry Building (Tuesdays 10-2, Thursdays 4-8, Saturdays 8-2, Sundays 10-2). Fresh organic produce and artisan food abounds, as well as crepe stands, empanada booths, bakery tables, and more. The Ferry Building permanently houses gourmet food shops and multiple delicious restaurants as well. **Taylor's**

Automatic Refresher is a great lunch spot to grab an outdoor table on the Embarcadero and enjoy a high-end burger (1 Ferry Plaza, at Embarcadero, (866) 328-3663).

The Downtown / Tenderloin area arguably boasts the best brunch in the city at **Dottie's True Blue Café** (522 Jones St., at O'Farrell St., (415) 885-2767). Lines are long and seating is limited, but it's well worth the wait. Portions are huge, daily specials are imaginative, and the baked goods are not to be missed.

South-of-Market, a.k.a. SoMa

SoMa has great restaurants. Unfortunately, they tend to be among the City's most expensive. **Buca Di Beppo** is very close to the **Metreon**, a movie-theater/electronic-gear-shopping mecca, and serves up heaping plates of family-style Italian food. Go with a few friends before or after the movie (855 Howard St., (415) 543-7673). Splurging a bit on a California-Mediterranean lunch or brunch at **Restaurant Lulu** will be worth it (lunches start at \$8.75 for a sandwich). When you watch the chefs working at the wood-burning oven at the back of the restaurant, you'll know your food is prepared with great care (816 Folsom St., (415) 495-5775).

Nob Hill / Russian Hill

Several inexpensive to moderately priced restaurants are worth a visit in Nob and Russian Hills. **Za Gourmet Pizza** serves up delicious, enormous pizza by the slice with varied special toppings nightly. A slice and a glass of wine or beer can be a dinner on \$6 (1919 Hyde St., (415) 771-3100). Up the street from Za's is **Swensen's Ice Cream**, which has delicious homemade flavors (1999 Hyde St., (415) 775-6818). On the same block and across the street is delicious, moderately-priced tapas and free-flowing sangria at **Zarzuela** (2000 Hyde St., (415) 346-0800). Also visit **Nook**, a great coffeehouse and light brunch, lunch, or dinner spot (1500 Hyde St., (415) 447-4100). It's perfect for a meal and/or snack with a few friends or with a good book. On Polk Street, restaurants are slightly more expensive, but **Polkers Gourmet Burgers** for brunch or a burger is a well-known gem (2226 Polk St., (415) 885-1000). Also try the incredible bowls of coffee, French pastries, pressed sandwiches, and quiches at **La Boulange de Polk** (2308 Polk St., (415) 345-1107).

Fisherman's Wharf

Fisherman's wharf does have many seafood restaurants, including the fried boardwalk fare you may crave. But, be forewarned: it is a tourist nightmare. You might want to try to get your seafood elsewhere in the City and save the fish 'n chips for when you take visiting relatives and friends to the Wharf. If you do happen to be in the area, be sure to stop by **In-n-Out Burger** – it will make your trip worthwhile.

The Haight and The Castro

The Haight and the Castro are good places to explore two important, and related, San Francisco food phenomena: crepes and breakfast anytime. At **Squat & Gobble's** Haight and Castro locations you can order sweet and savory crepes for breakfast, lunch and dinner (as well as omelets, sandwiches and pastas) (1428 Haight Street between Ashbury and Masonic (415) 864-8484; 237 Fillmore between Haight and Waller, (415) 487-0551; and 3600 16th St. at Market and Noe, (415) 552-2125). **Bagdad Café** is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can choose from the full range of traditional American diner fare and more California health-conscious options such as tofu burgers and scrambles. And there's no more interesting crowd in the city than Bagdad's at 4 a.m. on a Sunday (2295 Market St., (415) 621-4434). Though they don't offer eggs all day, everyday, here are some other breakfast joints to consider. In the Lower Haight (i.e. the section of Haight Street closest to Downtown), **Kate's Kitchen** serves up very good Southern breakfast fare (471 Haight St. between Webster and Fillmore, (415) 626-3984), including hush puppies and grits. In the Upper Haight, the **Pork Store Cafe** (1451 Haight St. between Masonic and Ashbury, (415) 864-6981) offers a wide variety of good, inexpensive breakfast food including, but not limited to, pork.

In the Lower Haight you can also find the best and cutest Thai restaurant in San Francisco: **Thep Phanom** (400 Waller St., (415) 431-2526). While you wait for a table in this small, lively restaurant, you can head up to one of the numerous bars only a block away on Haight. On the same block as Thep Phanom, try **Indian Oven** for equally delicious Indian food (233 Fillmore St., (415) 626-1628). For very good Ethiopian food, friendly service, and a communal eating experience, visit **Axum Cafe** (698 Haight St., (415) 252-7912). And when only meat will do, a Chicago-style, German-style or one of the more sophisticated-varieties of sausages at the take-out only **Rosamunde Sausage Grill**, is sure to satisfy (545 Haight St., (415) 437-6851).

The funky Upper Haight has a panoply of restaurants catering to the relatively young and un-moneyed. Prepare for a fun atmosphere (including the occasional male belly dancer) but long wait at **Kan Zaman** (1793 Haight St., (415) 751-9656) or **Cha-Cha-Cha** (1801 Haight St., near Shrader (415) 386-7670). Kan Zaman serves up Middle Eastern food, hookahs, and live belly dancing on weekend nights while Cha-Cha-Cha is a crowded, loud restaurant with decent Caribbean food and better sangria. Inexpensive but hearty noodle bowls with good ambience can be found at **Citrus Club** (1790 Haight St., (415) 387-6366).

In The Castro, **La Mediterranee** offers a romantic atmosphere, reasonably priced wines and Mediterranean favorites such as dolmas, hummus and phyllo-dough specialties (288 Noe St., (415) 431-7210). **Chow** and its sister restaurant in the Inner Sunset, **Park Chow**, share an international menu and a friendly, relaxed atmosphere. Their pizzas and sandwiches are especially good (215 Church St. near Market, (415) 552-2469; Park Chow 1240 9th Ave., (415) 665-9912).

The (Inner) Sunset

Readily accessible by the MUNI N line, the 9th Avenue and Irving Street area is like a diverse and

giant food court: a dream for young professionals on a budget. **Arizmendi Bakery** (1331 9th Ave @ Irving, (415) 566-3117), a co-op is widely considered one of the best bakeries – try their specialty pizzas and scones. Also on 9th Ave are popular Thai restaurant **Marnee Thai** (1243 9th Ave @ Lincoln, (415) 731-9999) and California-style **Park Chow**, (1238 9th Ave @ Irving, (415) 665-9912), which has a great outdoor roof deck for the summer. Finally, both celebrated sushi restaurant **Ebisu** (1283 9th Ave., (415) 566-1770) and its more reasonably priced noodle-house cousin **Hotei** (1290 9th Ave (415) 753-6045) are on 9th Ave. Down Irving Street is **San Tung**, the best Northern Chinese restaurant in the city (1031 Irving St @ 11th, (415) 242-0828), where you should order the dry-fried chicken, dumplings, and jian-jian mien (black bean sauce noodles).

The Richmond

Though it's far from downtown and the “younger” neighborhoods, the Richmond is your best bet to get your hands on inexpensive Asian food of all kinds. At **Burma Super Star**, be sure to try the La Pat Doke (Tea Leaf Salad). Watching the waiter mix dried shrimp with such other ingredients as split peas and fried garlic is neat and the end result is surprisingly delicious (309 Clement St., between 4th & 5th, (415) 387-2147). Try going during the week or right when they open – Saturday night can be up to a two hour wait.

The Richmond has great sushi restaurants. At **Kitaro**, you'll find a crowd gathered for the fresh fish and low prices (5723 Geary Blvd., (415) 386-2777). The large number of Japanese clientele seem to confirm **Kabuto Sushi's** label as one of the best Japanese restaurants in San Francisco. Though not cheap, it is reasonable considering its caliber and because of its Richmond location, you won't have to wait long for a table (5121 Geary Blvd. at 15th Ave., (415) 752-5652). If you want similar quality closer to the action (or where you're living), you'll have to brave the crowds at **Ebisu** in the Inner Sunset (1283 9th Ave., (415) 566-1770).

Berkeley and Oakland

Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley is rather touristy, but it is also a great source of cheap restaurants. **Naan 'n' Curry** (2366 Telegraph Ave., (510) 841-6226), which has several other locations throughout the Bay, serves delicious Indian food at great prices. **Smart Alec's** (2355 Telegraph Ave., (510) 704-4000) is the place to go for healthy burgers and smoothies, and **Intermezzo** (2442 Telegraph Ave., (510) 849-4592) offers enormous salads.

Of course, there are the basics: **Giant Burger** is an Oakland staple, and, if you are new to California, you have to try **In-n-Out Burger**. Or try **Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers** (5819 College Ave in Oakland, (510) 601-0444, 1600 Shattuck Ave in Berkeley, (510) 849-2827, 3344 Steiner St, (415) 563-0307, and 4138 24th St. in SF, (415) 282-7770). For pizza, **Lanesplitter Pub** (4799 Telegraph Ave., (510) 653-5350) and **Zachary's Chicago Pizza** (5801 College Ave., (510) 655-6385) are local favorites, as is the one-kind-of-pizza-a-day **The Cheeseboard Pizza Collective** (1512 Shattuck, (510) 549-3055). **Top Dog** (2503 Hearst Ave., (510) 843-1241) serves gourmet hotdogs at several locations. But be sure to branch out! Try the gelato at **Gelateria Naia** (2106 Shattuck Ave., (510) 883-1568). **Everett and Jones** (www.eandjbbq.com)

has several barbecue locations throughout the East Bay, with the most famous one in Jack London Square, Oakland offering happy hours every Friday during the summer, with free ribs! Finally, for a Berkeley experience not to be missed, go to the **Wat Mongkolratanaram Buddhist Temple** on a Sunday morning for a crowded, communal, and blissful brunch. (1911 Russell St (510) 849-3419).

GROCERIES

While you can always shop at **Safeway, Albertson's or Trader Joe's** for your groceries, you should definitely take advantage of farmer's markets and low-cost produce stores to save money! Near downtown SF, go to the many small grocery stores along **Stockton Street** in **Chinatown** for low-cost, if sometimes unusual fruits and vegetables and enough kinds of Ramen to last you the summer. Along **Mission Street** in the Mission, there are several small grocery stores with reasonably priced produce. Also in the Mission is **Rainbow Grocery**, a crunchy-hippie co-op (1745 Folsom St., (415) 863-0621) where you can find many locally grown organic and vegan options, as well as a comprehensive bulletin board of events and housing opportunities. Finally, the Outer Sunset has numerous farmer's markets on **Irving Street** between 22nd and 26th. Whether you stop by **22nd & Irving, 23rd & Irving**, or the Asian behemoth **Sunset Super** (between 25th and 26th and includes a parking lot), you will find very affordable produce, as well as Asian goodies.

Cheap groceries are still more plentiful in the East Bay. **Berkeley Bowl** (2020 Oregon St., (510) 843-6929) is a staple in the community, and very accessible as it is right near the Ashby BART station. **Farmer Joe's** (3426 Fruitvale Ave., (510) 482-8899) recently opened a large grocery store in Oakland, which rivals Berkeley Bowl and Whole Foods in terms of its selection of organic and natural foods, but at significantly lower prices and smaller crowds. Every Saturday from 10am-2pm, the **Grand Lake Oakland Farmer's Market** sells local produce, honey, and "Oaklandish" apparel.

ENTERTAINMENT

Expect cool weather in San Francisco! The average high during the summer is 69; the average low is 46. Heavy fog blankets the area through most of the summer, though afternoons are usually sunny and warmer. The East Bay is warmer and sunnier, and the South Bay even more so. There is a lot to do outdoors in the Bay Area, and you can see most of the sights for free or for a token fee.

Essential to keeping up with all the amazing things there are to do in San Francisco will be two websites:

SF Funcheap: <http://sf.funcheap.com/> and SFist: www.sfist.com.

FAIRS AND FESTIVALS

Many special events take place in San Francisco every summer. The **Stern Grove San Francisco Midsummer Music Festival** (Sloat Blvd. at 19th Ave., (415) 252-6252, www.sterngrove.org) a free summer concert series, offers afternoons of symphony, jazz, pop music, and dance to an audience of picnickers. Concerts begin at 2 p.m. but try to get there two hours before the concert begins. Take MUNI 23, 28, K or M. The **Midsummer Mozart Festival** ((415) 627-9141, www.midsummermozart.org) starts at the end of July at the Palace of the Legion of Honor in SF and at other venues around the Bay Area. The **Fillmore Jazz Festival** ((800) 310-6563, www.fillmorejazzfestival.com/) offers music, gourmet food, wine, arts, and crafts. It will take place on July 3 and 4, 2010 on Fillmore St. between Eddy and Jackson, from 10am-6pm. Admission to all shows is free. The **North Beach Jazz Festival** (www.nbjazzfest.com) starts in North Beach at the end of July, and offers several free, outdoor shows in Washington Square Park.

The **San Francisco Pride Parade** ((415) 864-0831, www.sfpride.org) will take place on Market Street from June 26-27, and is the biggest party the city throws all year, complete with dancing, guest speakers, food, and drinks. In early August, the **Nihonmachi Street Fair** ((415) 771-9861, www.nihonmachistreetfair.org) is a great chance to check out Japanese arts and crafts, lion dancers, and traditional drummers in Japantown. The free **Shakespeare in the Park and Opera in the Park** events offer great entertainment at Golden Gate Park for no charge ((415) 558-0888, www.sfshakes.org). The **Haight-Ashbury Street Fair** and **North Beach Festival** are held in their respective neighborhoods in June (www.haightashburystreetfair.org, www.sresproductions.com/north_beach_festival.html). The Haight-Ashbury Street Fair will take place on Sunday, June 13, 2010 from 11am-5.30pm and the North Beach Festival will take place on Saturday and Sunday, June 19 and 20, 2010, from 10am-6pm. Admission to both events is free. In addition, the **Union Street Festival** is one of San Francisco's largest free events with an eco-urban theme and an eco-zone. The Union Street Festival will take place on Saturday and Sunday, June 5 and June 6, 2010, along Union Street in Cow Hollow, from 10am-6pm (www.unionstreetfestival.com).

SIGHTSEEING

Tour around the city for a donation of just a few dollars with **City Guides**. They have numerous walking tours scheduled all year which you can locate on their website (www.sfcityguides.org). You can enjoy panoramic views of the Bay Area from the landmark **Golden Gate Bridge**. Bus 28 will drop you off at the toll plaza. The walk across is 2 miles; bring warm clothes. As long as you are by the Bay, take the **Blue and Gold Fleet** ((415) 705-8200, www.blueandgoldfleet.com) to **Alcatraz Island**, the famous prison that once housed Al Capone, Machine Gun Kelly, and the Birdman. A round-trip ticket is \$24. Tickets sell out quickly, so buy them in advance or before 10 a.m. at Pier 39. You can also buy them over the phone or online with a credit card. The Blue and Gold Ferry also runs to **Sausalito**, a charming seaside town across the Bay that features artsy shops and boutiques, to **Angel's Island**, and to **Tiburon**. You also can venture to the **National Maritime National Historical Park** (Jefferson and Polk Sts., (415) 561-7100, www.maritime.org) with free guided tours at 3pm every day. Admission is free. The **Musée**

Mecanique (Pier 45, (415) 346-2000, www.museemecanique.com) is a quirky museum stuffed with antique carnival attractions. Admission is free, but bring a pocketful of change to play with all the gadgets. Shopping venues in the area include **Pier 39** ((415) 981-7437, www.pier39.com), the **Cannery** (www.thecannery.com), and **Ghirardelli Square** (900 N. Point St., (415) 775-5500, www.ghirardellisq.com), which is, of course, where Ghirardelli chocolate originated. If you are at Pier 39, be sure to take a glance at the dozens of sea lions who have taken up residence there. At the end of the pier is **Center Stage**, where performers will delight you with their magic, mimicry, and juggling.

Golden Gate Park (Park Headquarters: www.sfgov.org/site/recpark_page.asp?id=17796) is home to a number of lovely botanical gardens, including the **Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens** ((415) 661-1316, www.sfbotanicalgarden.org), the **Japanese Tea Garden** ((415) 666-3232, <http://japaneseteagardensf.com>), and the **Shakespeare Garden**. Also try the **Asian Art Museum** ((415) 581-3500, www.asianart.org) \$12 for adults, \$5 after 5pm on Thursdays, or free the first Sunday of each month, and the **M.H. de Young Memorial Museum** ((415) 750-3600, <http://www.famsf.org/deyoung>) for \$10 or free the first Tuesday of each month. Special exhibits are an additional fee. **The California Academy of Sciences** ((415) 379-8000, www.calacademy.org) newly remodeled to be the “greenest museum on earth,” houses an aquarium, planetarium, and natural history museum. Admission is more expensive than other museums (\$19.95 for students), but you can get in for free the third Wednesday of the month or on neighborhood free days by zip code. Both the de Young and the Academy of Sciences, located in Golden Gate Park, offer discounts for MUNI riders. For in-line skaters and cyclists, Sundays at the Park are a special treat because traffic is banned from park roads, allowing the city’s athletes to take full advantage of the entire park. Bikes are available for rent for about \$25 per day. There are also many athletic events that can be seen from the park on weekends: often skateboarding, inline skating, and even roller skating competitions are held and are free to the public.

Another museum definitely worth visiting is the highly-publicized **Museum of Modern Art** (151 3rd St., between Mission and Howard, (415) 357-4000, www.sfmoma.org). The museum, open until 8:45 pm Thursday nights (with half priced admission from 6:00pm-8:45pm) and closed on Wednesdays, costs \$9 for students with I.D., and is free the first Tuesday of each month. The **Presidio** (<http://www.nps.gov/prsf/index.htm>) offers nice walking and hiking on some of the most beautiful real estate in the city. Check this ex-military base out now before it is carved up by commercial developers. The **Exploratorium** (3601 Lyon St., (415) 561-0360, www.exploratorium.edu) is ranked by some as the best science museum in the country, which explains its \$12 student admission price. The Exploratorium is open Tuesday-Sunday, from 10am to 5pm. For the first Thursday of every month, the museum has a special program for adults called “After Dark”, which is a cutting-edge experience with cocktails. Also take in the beautiful ocean views and walk the trails of **Land’s End**, behind the Palace of the Legion of Honor. While the weather may be a little chilly for swimsuits or getting in the water most days, **Ocean Beach** and **Baker Beach** are two other popular beaches where people hang out. **China Beach** offers a more secluded beach experience near the ritzy Seacliff neighborhood.

Parks are a great place to hang out, relax, and people watch. Aside from exploring all the hidden corners of Golden Gate park, check out **Alamo Square Park** (Hayes & Steiner, home to the Painted Lady Victorian homes/ Full House houses), **Dolores Park** in the Mission (Dolores between 18th and 20th), **Crissy Field** (in the Marina), and **Buena Vista Park** (Haight & Central).

Do not miss a visit to San Francisco's famous gay neighborhood, the **Castro District**. Catch a movie at the **Castro Theatre** (429 Castro St., between Market and 18th St., (415) 621-6120, www.castrotheatre.com), visit **A Different Light** bookstore (489 Castro St., near 18th St., www.adllbooks.com), and stop by **Cafe Flore** (2298 Market St., at Noe St., www.cafeflore.com). For the **Cruisin' Castro** walking tour of Castro (www.cruisinthecastro.com, email cruisinthecastro@yahoo.com or call (415) 255-1821. Tours are given from 10 am-12pm, Monday-Friday and cost \$35.

Venture across the Golden Gate Bridge to the **Marin Headlands**, a nature preserve that features numerous hiking and biking trails, and to **Muir Woods**, home to a famous redwood grove. Further north, via the breathtaking coastal drive along Route 1, is **Stinson Beach** and the expansive and beautiful **Point Reyes National Seashore**.

Union Square (www.unionsquarshop.com) is great for shopping, since it has almost every store imaginable. **Davies Symphony Hall** (<http://www.sfsymphony.org>), the **War Memorial Opera House** ((415) 864-3330, <http://www.sfwmpac.org>), and the **Herbst Recital Hall** are all located nearby at **Civic Center**, the city's "Home of the Arts." Check out www.performances.org for great theater and venue information.

In **Chinatown**, visit the **Golden Gate Fortune Cookie Factory** (56 Ross Alley, between Grant and Stockton and Jackson and Washington Sts, (415) 781-3956) and the Chinese temples along **Waverly Place** (between Grant and Stockton Sts.). Located next door to Chinatown, **North Beach** is filled with Italian cafes, restaurants, and bookstores—but do not be surprised to find adult bookstores nearby. Visit **City Lights Bookstore** (261 Columbus Ave. at Broadway, (415) 362-8193, www.citylights.com), where beat poets Ginsberg and Ferlinghetti hung out, and **Washington Square**, off Columbus between Filbert and Union Streets.

In the **East Bay**, be sure to check out the Temescal neighborhood's monthly **Art Crawl**, the first Friday of every month. There are a few great factory tours for those fun sightseeing days, like the **Pyramid Alehouse** tour every day at 4:00 pm (901 Gilman St., (510) 528-9880, www.pyramidbrew.com) in Berkeley. The East Bay is full of beautiful parks, such as Joaquin Miller Park. Also be sure to stop by the Mormon Temple for the views of the Bay. **Chabot Science Center**, located in Oakland ((510) 336-7300, www.chabotspace.org), is a great place for stargazing, but much easier to get to by car than public transportation. Also accessible by car is **Tilden State Park**, in the hills above Berkeley, which features lovely hiking trails, a lake, and an old-fashioned carousel.

MOVIES

The biggest movie theater in San Francisco is also home to shopping and restaurants, along with high-tech arcades at the **Metreon** (101 4th St., at Mission, 1-800-METREON). The other two big movie houses are the **AMC 1000 Van Ness** (1000 Van Ness, at Geary, (888)262-4386 and **AMC Kabuki 8** (1881 Post St., at Fillmore). The Kabuki theater serves good food and alcohol. The **Red Victorian Movie House** (1727 Haight St., (415) 668-3994, www.redvicmoviehouse.com) in the Haight, and the **Castro Theatre** (Castro St. near Market, (415) 621-6120, www.thecastrotheatre.com) feature funky art films. **Landmark**, which has 17 locations throughout the Bay area, features independent and foreign films (www.landmarktheatres.com).

SPORTS

There are two baseball teams in the Bay Area: the **San Francisco Giants** (sanfrancisco.giants.mlb.com) and the **Oakland A's** (oakland.athletics.mlb.com). The Giants play at **AT&T Park** (formerly PacBell Park or SBC park), a waterfront stadium with great views of the Bay. However, tickets are generally expensive (starting at \$16) and many games sell out well in advance. The A's are a much cheaper and more available option. They play across the Bay at **McAfee Coliseum**, easily accessible via BART. Tickets start at \$9, and every Wednesday night home game draws huge crowds with \$2 upper level seats and \$2 hot dogs.

NIGHTLIFE

The major warehouse sized clubs are run by one group and you can sign up at www.sfclubs.com for the guest list to get in at a discounted price. Many are located downtown, in the Union Square area. Recommendations include the **Starlight Room**, a classy dance floor with a great view on top of the Sir Francis Drake Hotel (450 Powell St., at Sutter, (415) 395-8595, www.harrydenton.com), and **Ruby Skye** (420 Mason, at Geary, (415) 693-0777, www.rubyskye.com).

A fun area for bars and dancing for young professionals is the Marina, which offers many bars within just a few blocks of each other. Some popular places include **Matrix** (3138 Fillmore St, www.matrixfillmore.com, (415) 563-4180), **Circa** (2001 Chestnut St., www.circasf.com, (415) 351-0175), and **City Tavern** (3200 Fillmore St., www.themenupage.com/citytavern.html, (415) 567-0918). There are also some good happy hour specials in the area, especially on Taco Tuesdays--\$1 tacos and \$2 Coronas at **Blue Light** (1979 Union St., www.bluelightbarsf.com, (415) 922-9461) and \$2 tacos with 2-for-\$5 Coronas at **Nick's Crispy Tacos** (1500 Broadway St).

North Beach (and the Financial District nearby) is another popular destination, including the **Bubble Lounge** (714 Montgomery St., (415) 434-4204, www.bubblelounge.com/san-francisco),

the **Cigar Bar** (850 Montgomery St., (415) 398-0850 www.cigarbarandgrill.com), and **Kells Irish Restaurant and Bar** (530 Jackson St., (415) 955-1916, www.kellsirish.com/sfc).

In the Mission District, head to **El Valenciano** for great food and salsa dancing (1153 Valencia Street, near 23rd, (415) 826-9561), or **Elbo Room** (647 Valencia Street (415) 552-7788, www.elbo.com). The best salsa dancer can be found at **Café Cocomo** (650 Indiana St., at 20th, (415) 824-6910, www.cafecocomo.com). **Radio Habana/Café Valencia** (1199 Valencia at 23rd St., (415) 824-7659) is a bar/café with a great music playlist during the week, a swing band on Fridays, DJs on Saturdays, and live bluegrass on Sundays. There is no cover, and drinks and food run from \$2-7. For a late-night pizza alternative, head down Mission St. for late night **pupusas**, an inexpensive El Salvadoran meal, at many of the places still open after the bars close. Also be on the lookout for **Tamale Lady**, who shows up at many bars throughout the Mission, helping the party-weary ease their midnight munchies.

Slim's (www.slims-sf.com), the **Fillmore** (www.thefillmore.com) and the **Great American Music Hall** (www.musicallsf.com) are excellent places to see all sorts of live music acts, big and small. And if you like Blues, you can't miss **Lou's Pier 47** (300 Jefferson Street, (415) 771-0377, www.louspier47.com).

If dancing and music are not your thing, the numerous bars that cater to the twenty-somethings in and about San Francisco offer another means of escape. For two good Irish pubs within a few blocks of each other, go to **Pat O'Shea's Mad Hatter** (3848 Geary Blvd., at 3rd) or **Ireland's 32** (3920 Geary Blvd., at 4th, (415) 386-6173, www.irelands32.com). **Zeitgeist** (199 Valencia St., (415) 255-7505) is a great bar with a mix of hipsters, burnouts, artists, and older, wiser versions of the same. The home of the cheapest shots in San Francisco is **Fuse** which is also right in the North Beach, a great spot for going out day or night (493 Broadway, near Grant, (415) 788-2706). Downtown, go to **Johnny Foley's Irish House** (243 O'Farrell, at Powell, (415) 954-0777, www.johnnyfoleys.com). **Mad Dog in the Fog** (Haight between Steiner and Pierce, (415) 626-7279) is an excellent pub, with live music, trivia night competitions Tuesdays and Thursdays starting at 9pm, and British sports on TV all the time. The **Tonga Room** at the Fairmont Hotel is a funny tikki bar with a fake monsoon every 20 minutes (950 Mason St, (415) 772-5278). After happy hour at the Tonga Room (\$9.50 all you can eat buffet with a one-drink minimum on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays), ride the Fairmont's glass elevator to get a great view of the city.

Finally, there are a number of websites about San Francisco that you can search even before you arrive in the Golden State. Here's a sampling of some useful sites:

1. www.sfstation.com

This site has links to entertainment in the same fashion as boston.citysearch.com. Some interesting links to check out are the links to windsurfing schools and how to find a tennis partner.

2. http://www.roughguides.com/website/travel/destination/content/?titleid=100&cid=idb249237672_1109

This site maintains a section for nightlife, dining, entertainment, and accommodation. It provides easy links to other sites about San Francisco.

3. www.sanfrancisco.citysearch.com

This site has a comprehensive listing, complete with a rating system and editorial and user reviews, of all of the bars, restaurants, hotels, shopping, and services in San Francisco.

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR PUBLIC INTEREST JOB

AND SUMMER IN SAN FRANCISCO!