

LOCAL FOR A DAY

Want to get a slice of local life by just hanging out, skipping the sightseeing? These experiences will let you pretend you're a San Franciscan, without a whopping rent check.

Shop the Ferry Plaza Farmers' Market

Roll out of bed and make your way to the Ferry Building—preferably on a Saturday—to join locals and celebrity chefs on a taste bud-driven raid. Out front, farmer run stands showcase the Bay Area's finest organic, free-range, low-food-mile goods. The indoor stalls will keep your mouth watering with artisanal cheeses, chocolates, and luscious pastries. Snag some takeaway food plus some perfectly ripe fruit for a picnic.

Stretch Your Legs in the Presidio

Spend a few hours wandering around this former military base at the foot of the Golden Gate Bridge. The park is redeveloping the old military buildings, along with ball fields and other rec areas. Join people walking their dogs on the wooded hiking trails, or amble the paths along the sand of Crissy Field, then get in line for a cocoa at the Warming Hut.

Hang Out in Hayes Valley

Long beloved of artsy, cutting-edge locals, this quarter of cool cafés and high-design boutiques is either coming into its own or getting too big for its britches, depending on whom you ask. The renovation of Octavia Boulevard, one of this neighborhood's main arteries, makes Hayes Valley even busier. Grab a coffee from local cult microroasters Blue Bottle Coffee and check out the latest temporary art installation in Patricia's Green, the petite community park.

Find a Quiet Beach

Leave the beach near Fisherman's Wharf far behind and seek out these two instead. Breezy Baker Beach, tucked against the cliffs just south of the Golden Gate Bridge, is known for its bridge and ocean views—and its nudists, those hardy souls. A bit farther south, nestled in ultra pricey Seacliff, is China Beach, a smaller, more secluded spot that's never crowded.

Linger Over Breakfast

Notoriously food-centric San Franciscans are big on the most important meal of the day. The lines at popular breakfast places can be just as long as those at the hottest nightspots. Some longtime favorites include:

- **Mama's** tried-and-true diner, where the line forms early (*E1701 Stockton St., at Filbert St., North Beach P415/362–6421*).
- **Kate's Kitchen**, where heaping plates of Southern-inspired fare take the edge off a hairy-tongued Lower Haight morning after (*E471 Haight St., near Fillmore St., Lower Haight P415/626–3984*).
- **Ella's**, where oatmeal and chicken hash are served alongside gussied-up standbys like brandied French toast (*E500 Presidio Ave., at California St., Pacific Heights P415/441–5669*).

Nurse a Coffee

Spend a few hours in the right independent café or coffeehouse and you'll feel like you're in a neighborhood living room. Come for a jolt of java, sometimes a reasonably priced meal, and usually Wi-Fi. Stay all afternoon—nobody minds—and you'll see the best reflection of a microcommunity.