



The Big Picture

Panoramic views of San Francisco Bay can be seen at every turn along the trail. For thousands of years, people have gazed out across these waters and looked at the landscape. What do you think the view was like 50 years ago? 500 years ago? What will it be like 50 years from now?



Yerba Buena Island

The U.S. Coast Guard and the City of San Francisco occupy this island, which used to be a base for the U.S. Navy.

San Francisco

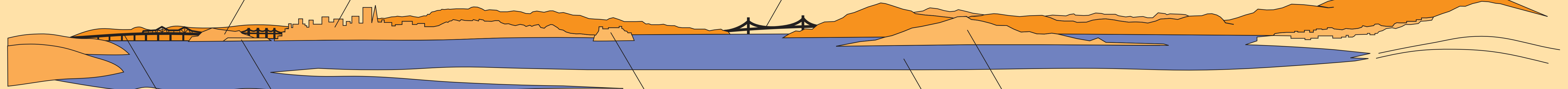
Established in 1848 during the gold rush with 25,000 inhabitants, it is now home to more than 750,000 people. Built on a peninsula, it is considered one of the most beautiful cities in the world.

Golden Gate Bridge

This famous bridge is 1.8 miles long and was completed in 1937. It connects San Francisco with Marin County, and was the longest single-span bridge in the world for 27 years.

Mount Tamalpais

2,400 feet high, this mountain is known as a major Marin County landmark. It has spectacular views, and miles of hiking and biking trails. Some think the outline of the mountain looks like a sleeping woman.



The Bay Bridge

The first bridge was completed in 1936 and is over 8 miles long. It connects San Francisco to the East Bay, and passes through Yerba Buena Island.

Treasure Island

This 500 acre island was built to house the 1939 international exhibition and to celebrate the opening of the Bay Bridge and the Golden Gate Bridge. Once a base for the U.S. Navy, it is now owned by the City of San Francisco.

Alcatraz

Occupied by troops and 100 cannons in 1853, it was a military prison in 1861, and became a federal penitentiary for hardened criminals in 1933. It was abandoned in 1963, and was occupied by Native Americans from 1969 to 1971. The island has been managed by the Golden Gate National Recreation Area since 1972.

Brooks Island

This island was inhabited by people for thousands of years. The Brooks Island Regional Shoreline is now a preserve and a bird sanctuary. Its three miles of trails are open to visitors by reservation only.

San Francisco Bay

Over 40% of California's rainfall eventually ends up in San Francisco Bay. Melted snow and rain water from the Sierra Nevada Mountains flow into the San Joaquin and Sacramento Rivers. The two rivers meet at the delta, where they continue their descent into the Bay.



The Pt. Isabel to Miller/Knox trail is part of the San Francisco Bay Trail, a hiking and bicycling trail system that extends around San Francisco Bay.