



FACT SHEET | Presidio Visitor Experience

The Presidio Trust, along with its partners, the National Park Service and the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, have guided the Presidio through an ambitious post-to-park transformation. What was once an unwelcoming military base is now open to a diverse public as the world's largest national park in an urban area, and home to a vibrant community of more than 3,000 residents and more than 200 businesses. The Presidio hosts daily cultural, recreational and educational events and activities, inviting the local community and visitors from around the world to explore and connect with the rich and varied history of the site and its abundant nature and wildlife.

Fast Facts

- The Presidio was established as a national park site in 1994 and is managed by the Presidio Trust in partnership with the National Park Service and Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy
- The park spans 1,491 acres and includes 991 acres of open space
- The Presidio features 24-miles of hiking and biking trails and eight scenic overlooks
- Of the 870 structures in the Presidio, 470 are on the National Registry of Historic Places — more than two-thirds of which have been fully or partially rehabilitated for public use
- A full calendar of free public programs are offered throughout the year, including live music and dance, talks, films and family craft days at the Presidio Officers' Club
- The Presidio's Rob Hill Campground — the only overnight campground in the city — welcomes nearly 16,000 campers annually
- The Presidio has a free public shuttle system, PresidiGo, that connects with major transit hubs and also offers service around the park
- The Presidio Golf Course is a nationally recognized 18-hole course with a driving range, practice area and full-service restaurant
- The Presidio Trust is a federal executive agency created to preserve and protect the Presidio, while also making it financially self-sufficient by 2013, a goal that has been achieved.
- The Presidio Trust funds Presidio operations and capital projects in large part from revenue earned from leasing its 800 buildings.

WHAT TO DO AND SEE

Art & Entertainment

- **Presidio Officers' Club:** San Francisco's most historic building is now a cultural destination. Free public programs include live music and dance performances, weekly talks on historical and current events, book clubs, cooking demonstrations, and creative craft days for families every weekend. See the full calendar of events at presidio.gov.
- **Art of Andy Goldsworthy:** The Presidio is home to the largest collection of British artist Andy Goldsworthy's public works in North America. Inspired by the Presidio's interplay of built

environment and wild open spaces, Goldsworthy created four installations in the park between 2008 and 2014. *Spire*, *Wood Line*, *Tree Fall*, and *Earth Wall* can be visited individually or explored together via a three-mile hike.

- **Walt Disney Family Museum:** This nonprofit museum celebrates the life and work of the pioneering animator and filmmaker. Inside a rehabilitated Montgomery Street barrack, built in 1895, visitors are taken on a journey through Disney's fascinating life. The permanent galleries offer deep insight into his creative risks, failures, and triumphs thanks to personal artifacts, including the first-known drawing of Mickey Mouse.
- **Main Parade Ground:** The former Army training site is now an expansive, inviting lawn in the heart of the Presidio, between Montgomery, Lincoln, Graham, and Sheridan Streets. Framed by rows of historic buildings and boasting magnificent San Francisco Bay views, the Main Parade is the perfect space for picnics and lawn games. It's also a hot spot for events, like stargazing parties, kite festivals and the weekly Off the Grid Picnic at the Presidio and Twilight at the Presidio from April through October.
- **Arion Press:** One of the last remaining fine-press printers in the U.S., Arion Press creates hand-made, limited edition books using traditional letterpress and binding techniques, using lead type from their own foundry. The gallery is open to the public on weekdays. Tours are held weekly and require a reservation. Call (415) 668-2548.
- **China Brotsky Art Gallery:** The China Brotsky Gallery is located in a windowed corridor within the Thoreau Center for Sustainability, a 12-building complex that provides affordable work spaces for non-profits. Open to visitors on weekdays, the free exhibitions are dedicated to environmentally themed work.
- **Temporary art installations:** The Presidio Trust regularly partners with Bay Area art organizations to bring temporary installations to the park. Check presidio.gov for upcoming exhibitions.

History

- **Heritage Gallery:** Located in the Presidio Officers' Club, the 4,000-square-foot Heritage Gallery features interpretive exhibits that walk visitors through the Presidio's role in shaping California and serving the nation.
- **Archaeology dig sites & lab:** The Trust manages 30 archaeological areas within the Presidio that date from Native Ohlone settlements through the occupation of the Army. Excavation around the original El Presidio de San Francisco fort has revealed artifacts and features dating to the Spanish, Mexican, and American occupations of the area. Visitors are invited to tour the Presidio Archaeology Lab every Wednesday.
- **San Francisco National Cemetery:** Occupying 30 hillside acres in the Presidio, this was the first national cemetery on the west coast. Approximately 30,000 Americans are interned here, including Civil War generals, Medal of Honor recipients, Buffalo Soldiers, and a Union spy.
- **Pet Cemetery:** An "unofficial" cemetery honoring the companions who faithfully served the military families who lived in the Presidio. The cemetery is currently protected by fencing but will open again when Presidio Parkway road construction is complete.
- **Battery Chamberlin:** Built near Baker Beach in 1904, Battery Chamberlin holds the last 6-inch "disappearing gun" of its type on the west coast. Demonstrations are typically held on the first Saturday and Sunday of each month.
- **Fort Point National Historic Site:** A military and architectural gem, Fort Point defended the San Francisco Bay following California's Gold Rush through World War II. It became a National Historic

Site in 1970, and is open to visitors Friday through Sunday. Admission and programs are free, and there is a small bookstore on site.

- **World War II Memorial:** Also known as the West Coast Memorial to the Missing, it was built in the late 1950s to honor those who lost their lives in the Pacific during World War II.
- **Park Archives and Records Center:** Housed in a former calvary stable, the Park Archives and Records Center provides public access to more than five million documents, historic images, artifacts, objects, and other records associated with the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. It's open to the public for research two days a week. Call (415) 561-2808.
- **El Polín Spring:** This natural spring feeds the Presidio's largest watershed, and was used by native Ohlone, Spanish and Mexican colonial families, and the U.S. Army. Restoration brought the stream back above ground and restored native plant communities. Today El Polín Spring is haven for birds (and birdwatchers) and is used as an "outdoor classroom," where archaeological evidence of the site's past is still being uncovered.
- **Museum of the Society of California Pioneers:** Housed in one of the historic Montgomery Street barracks, the museum showcases the collection of the Society, which was founded in 1850. Rotating exhibits document the founding and early history of California.
- **MIS Historic Learning Center:** This site was the original home of the Fourth Army Intelligence School, which secretly trained Japanese American soldiers as military linguists during World War II. It now houses an interactive learning center that pays tribute to these soldiers and the Japanese American experience. Open Saturday and Sunday, noon to 5 pm. \$10 entrance fee, under 12 free.

Kids & Families

- **Creative Family Fun:** Families are invited to get creative every Saturday and Sunday with art projects that riff on the Presidio's storied history and natural beauty. All materials, instruction and inspiration are provided.
- **Kids on Trails:** Self-guided tours are available to help children explore the history and nature of the Presidio. The El Polín Spring Discovery interactive game heightens the senses to the sights and sounds of the ancient Presidio. A treasure map reveals the birds, streams, plants and hidden stories found within the park's largest watershed.
- **Playgrounds and open space:** Julius Kahn and Mountain Lake Playground (currently undergoing renovation) are the most well-known playgrounds in the park. There are several more tucked in around residential neighborhoods, including the gated Amatury Park playground where Park Blvd meets Washington Blvd. The wide expanses for grass at Main Parade Ground and Crissy Field are popular spots for outdoor games.
- **Indoor recreation:** The Presidio's public-serving tenants offer visitors a wide range of indoor sports and learning opportunities. Businesses offering kid-focused programming include the Walt Disney Family Museum, Greater Farallones Marine Sanctuary Visitor Center, House of Air, Planet Granite, Presidio Dance Theatre, It's Yoga Kids, La Petite Baleen, Presidio Bowling Center, Crissy Field Center, and the Presidio YMCA.
- **Free programming:** The Trust and its tenant community partners offer free programs throughout the year, including a monthly family movie night, stargazing parties on the Main Parade Ground, bike riding lessons with YBike, kite festival and seasonal events like the annual holiday tree lighting. See the full calendar of events at presidio.gov.

Nature, Recreation & Wellness

- **Trails and overlooks:** With 24 miles of routes and eight overlooks and vistas, there are twelve multiuse trails at varying levels of difficulty. Visit Presidio.gov or the printed Presidio Visitor Guide for a trail map.
- **Tennessee Hollow Watershed/El Polín Spring:** El Polín Spring, within the Tennessee Hollow Watershed is where you can view archeological finds, learn about San Francisco's first inhabitants and experience an entire watershed—from springs to the bay—in an afternoon hike. This was San Francisco's first suburb, and Lover's Lane the first trail connecting the Presidio to Mission Dolores—starts here. Highlights: Ecology Trail, Julius Kahn Playground, Andy Goldsworthy's Wood Line and Spire, Lover's Lane and Inspiration Point.
- **Mountain Lake:** Mountain Lake is one of the few remaining natural lakes in San Francisco. The lake and surrounding park are popular destinations for visitors. The area is noteworthy because Captain Juan Bautista de Anza and his scouting party camped here in 1776 when they arrived to establish a Spanish fort at the Golden Gate. Highlights: Juan Bautista Anza trail, Lobos Creek Valley Overlook, playground, tennis courts, basketball court, birdwatching and volunteer opportunities.
- **Crissy Field:** When the post became a national park, the restoration of Crissy Field, led by the National Park Service and Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, was the first major transformation. Today, nature lovers flock to Crissy Marsh, a birdwatching hot-spot. Locals and visitors alike run, stroll, and cycle along the Bay Trail to the iconic Golden Gate Bridge. And the former airplane hangars and warehouses are home to recreational uses from a rock climbing gym to a trampoline house.
- **Picnic Areas:** Picnic throughout the Presidio and take in vistas of the Golden Gate. There are four formal picnic areas with benches, tables, grills, and restrooms: Baker Beach, Crissy Field, El Polín Spring and Immigrant Point. The grassy Main Post Parade Ground is also a great place to gather and play.
- **Beaches:** Enjoy the sandy shorelines at Baker Beach and Marshall's Beach in the western Presidio and along the northern waterfront of Crissy Field.
- **Golf:** Presidio Golf Course is renowned for its spectacular forest setting and challenging play. Once restricted to military officers and private club members, today the 18-hole course is open to the public, along with a driving range, full service restaurant, and a pro shop.
- **Birdwatching:** The Presidio is a haven for birds due to its diverse habitats from a tidal marsh to a cypress forest. Approximately 300 species of birds have been sighted in the Presidio, and more than 60 are known to breed here. Popular birdwatching locations include El Polín Spring and the Crissy Field marsh.
- **Presidio Nursery:** Community members and visitors are invited to volunteer at the Presidio Nursery, which grows, plants and cares for the native plants used for restoration projects around the park. View the calendar of volunteer opportunities at presidio.gov.
- **Indoor recreation:** Presidio tenants offer visitors a wide range of indoor activities including a trampoline park, rock-climbing gym, swimming, gymnasium facilities and a bowling center. There are several fitness centers offering pilates, circuit training and traditional athletic facilities. Businesses include House of Air, Planet Granite, Presidio Bowling Center, Presidio YMCA, A Body of Work, and SF Crossfit.
- **Wellness:** A former munitions warehouse was transformed into SenSpa, a tranquil day spa offering massage, body treatments and facials. Drop-in group yoga classes are available at A Body of Work studio and the Planet Granite climbing gym.

Overnight stays

- **Presidio Inn:** The historic Georgian Revival-style Inn at the Presidio offers 22 spacious accommodations in the rehabilitated Pershing Hall, once home to U.S. Army bachelor officers. The neighboring Victorian-style Funston House offers an additional 4 guest rooms and can be rented as a whole.
- **Rob Hill Campground:** Situated on a bluff above Baker Beach, Presidio's overnight camping facility, Rob Hill Campground, is open from April to October. Sites can be reserved for groups of up to 30 people.

Retail & Dining

- **The Commissary:** Spanish-influenced California cuisine is driven by sustainable, locally-sourced ingredients. This signature restaurant is offered by the Presidio Trust and award-winning chef Traci Des Jardins, in partnership with Bon Appétit Management Company. Open for dinner Mon-Sat.
- **Arguello:** Located inside the Presidio Officers' Club, Arguello features Mexican cuisine and a contemporary bar serving craft cocktails. As with Commissary, Arguello is offered by the Presidio Trust and chef Traci Des Jardins. Serving lunch, dinner and weekend brunch.
- **TRANSIT:** This casual eatery in the Presidio Transit Center serves dine-in or takeaway breakfast and lunch, Monday through Friday. Menu includes pizza, salads, sandwiches, as well as coffee, soft drinks, beer and wine. Ready-made picnic fare available on Saturdays.
- **Presidio Café:** Located at the Presidio Golf Course, Presidio Cafe offers a seasonal menu, full bar, and golf course views. Breakfast and lunch are served Monday to Friday, and a brunch menu on Saturday and Sunday; a limited bar menu is offered late afternoons.
- **Golf Course General Store:** A snack bar at the crossroads of holes 5, 11, and 16 of the Presidio Golf Course offers hot dogs, packaged snacks, beer and other beverages. During warmer months, fresh-grilled sausages, burgers, and tri-tip are on the menu. Open to all.
- **Warming Hut:** At the west end of Crissy Field, the Warming Hut offers snacks, sandwiches, and drinks, as well as a wide selection of park gear and eco-friendly merchandise.
- **Beach Hut Café:** Offering sandwiches, salads, soup, and snacks to go on the east end of Crissy Field, adjacent to the Marina. Indoor and outdoor seating offers views of the bridge and bay. The cafe is currently being remodeled and expected to reopen in spring of 2016.
- **Roundhouse Café:** Offering counter service in the iconic art-deco circular building at the southern end of the Golden Gate Bridge. Menu includes locally sourced American classics like clam chowder, hot dogs and apple pie.
- **Golden Gate Bridge Pavilion:** The first on-site center dedicated to telling the stories of the Golden Gate Bridge, the Pavilion welcomes visitors, provides orientation and information services, houses exhibits, and offers high-quality commemorative and interpretive merchandise.
- **Presidio Social Club:** Located just inside the Lombard Gate in historic barracks, the Presidio Social Club features a classic Northern California vibe, attentive service, and a seasonal menu of San Francisco staples and artfully crafted cocktails. Open daily for lunch and dinner.
- **Sessions:** Offering craft beer and new American dishes, this gastropub is conveniently located just inside the pedestrian gate at Chestnut Street, in the Letterman Digital Arts Center. Open daily for lunch and dinner.
- **Presidio Bowling Center:** The walk-up bar and grill inside the Bowling Center offers burgers,

sandwiches, salads, wings, curly fries, corn dogs and other pub favorites. The full bar offers 50 types of beer and 19 wines. Open daily.

- **Presidio Palms Cafe:** Brought to you by the team behind the Presidio Social Club Restaurant, the Presidio Palms Café serves a seasonal Californian menu Monday through Friday at the San Francisco Film Centre.
- **Walt Disney Family Museum Cafe and Gift Shop:** The museum gift shop offers a selection of books and collectibles that celebrate Walt Disney and the Disney artists who pioneered the film, television, and Disney Parks. Museum admission not required. Closed Tuesdays.
- **Starbucks:** Located in the Letterman Digital Arts Center, this scenic Starbucks features floor-to-ceiling windows, comfy chairs, and free Wi-Fi. The outdoor patio overlooks a landscaped 17-acre meadow designed by the late award-winning landscape architect Lawrence Halprin.
- **Sports Basement:** A favorite of families and sports enthusiasts, Sports Basement offers everything needed for indoor and outdoor sporting activities. They also rent equipment for skiing, biking and camping.
- **Roaring Mouse:** Situated along Crissy Field's popular bike path, this shop sells and repairs all types of bikes for kids and adults.

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