The “heart of the Presidio” is the center of the visitor experience, featuring history, museums, events, restaurants, art, and culture.

1 PRESIDIO VISITOR CENTER
The Presidio Visitor Center (see p. 5) is the place to begin your national park adventure. Newly opened in 2017, this is the “front door” to the Presidio experience. It offers friendly staff and volunteers, engaging exhibits, maps, videos, retail items, and all the information you need to plan an amazing day. 210 Lincoln Boulevard; open daily 10 am to 5 pm

5 SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA PIONEERS
Established in 1850, the Society of California Pioneers is dedicated to the study and enjoyment of California art, history, and culture. Its museum showcases diaries, maps, artworks, and historical items. Special exhibitions document the early history of California. 101 Montgomery Street; open Wednesdays to Sundays from 10 am to 5 pm; a suggested donation of $5 supports education programs; www.californiapioneers.org

6 ANDY GOLDSWORTHY’S TREE FALL
Andy Goldsworthy’s Tree Fall (see p. 22) is located inside a Civil War-era building that once housed Army gunpowder. The artwork is made up of a tree branch suspended from the domed roof and covered with clay that has dried and cracked in an organic pattern. 95 Anza Avenue; only open for drop-in docent-led tours weekends from 10 am to 4 pm; also open weekdays by appointment (415-561-2767); made possible by the FOR-SITE Foundation

7 PRESIDIO CHAPEL + INTERFAITH CENTER
All are welcome at the Interfaith Center. It’s located at the Presidio Chapel, built by the Army in the 1930s for Protestant services. On select Sundays from 11:30 am to 1 pm, drop in for a docent-led tour and learn about the fresco painted by a protégé of Diego Rivera, stained glass windows created by Willemina Ogterop, and a refurbished sacred space with banners featuring park wildlife. 130 Fisher Loop; www.interfaith-presidio.org

3 THE WALT DISNEY FAMILY MUSEUM

4 KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL

8 SAN FRANCISCO NATIONAL CEMETERY

2 PRESIDIO OFFICERS’ CLUB
Once the site of Letterman General Hospital, today this campus houses Lucasfilm Ltd., Industrial Light and Magic, and LucasArts. Visitors flock to see the life-sized bronze statue of Yoda and to walk on the public meadow designed by the late landscape architect Lawrence Halprin. The Lucasfilm lobby, open to the public during business hours, features props, memorabilia, costumes, and a life-sized Darth Vader statue.

One Letterman Drive

Occupying 29 hillside acres, this beautiful site overlooking the Golden Gate was the first national cemetery on the west coast. Approximately 30,000 soldiers, family members, and notable figures are buried here, including Civil War generals, Medal of Honor recipients, Buffalo Soldiers, and a Union spy. Periodic docent-led tours are offered.

1 Lincoln Boulevard; open daily from 6 am to 6 pm

One of the first organizations in the Presidio after it became a national park, Tides turned a cluster of former Army hospital buildings into a non-profit haven. Even the walls provide a public service here as rotating exhibitions from the center’s two art galleries can be found in the light-filled halls, reflecting a focus on the environment and social justice.

1012 Torney Avenue; open weekdays 9 am to 5 pm; www.tides.org

During the Korean War, 50,000 Americans and one million Koreans lost their lives. This memorial, built by the Korean War Memorial Foundation and the Presidio Trust, honors those who served and sacrificed. The memorial is accessible from the Presidio Promenade.

Located just outside the entrance to San Francisco National Cemetery

Take a journey through the pioneering animator’s fascinating life at this interactive museum. Disney’s creative risks, failures, and triumphs are revealed through exhibitions and artifacts, including the first-known drawing of Mickey Mouse and a large model of Disneyland. A museum café is open to all.

104 Montgomery Street; open Wednesdays to Mondays; www.waltdisney.org

The Presidio Officers’ Club – San Francisco’s most historic building and the park’s oldest structure – is the park’s center for culture, food, and family fun (see p. 5). Explore an interactive museum that tells the story of the Presidio’s past and present. Enjoy free live music, talks, films, kid crafts, and archaeology tours. Or experience Arguello, a Mexican restaurant by chef Traci Des Jardins.

50 Moraga Avenue; open Tuesdays to Sundays

The Presidio Visitor Center

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With breathtaking bay views, walking trails, beaches, picnic areas, and wild open spaces, this is a recreational paradise and a place to discover important stories about history and nature.

**11 GOLDEN GATE PROMENADE / BAY TRAIL**
The 4.3-mile multi-use Golden Gate Promenade/Bay Trail stretches along the San Francisco Bay shoreline, offering front-row views of the city skyline, the Marin Headlands, and the Golden Gate Bridge. This route connects many of Crissy Field’s popular destinations, from East Beach to the West Bluff Picnic Area and beyond.

**15 GRASS AIRFIELD**
This expansive meadow is a great spot for an informal picnic, to toss a ball around with the kids, or to relax and take in the Golden Gate Bridge views.

**16 MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE 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 museum and learning center that pays tribute to these soldiers and the Japanese American experience.

Open weekends, noon to 5 pm; $10 entrance fee - under 12 free; [www.njahs.org/640](http://www.njahs.org/640)

**17 GREATER FARALLONES NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY VISITOR CENTER**
This visitor center is a great place for kids and families to learn about the Farallon Islands, a wildlife refuge located 27 miles west of the Golden Gate. Here you’ll find a silky sea otter pelt, serrated sharks teeth, a blue whale baleen, and a tank filled with local creatures. Family programs are offered on select weekends; visit the website for details.

Open Wednesdays to Sundays; [http://farallones.noaa.gov/visit](http://farallones.noaa.gov/visit)

**18 RECREATIONAL DESTINATIONS**

**19 WEST BLUFF PICNIC AREA**
This expansive meadow is a great spot for an informal picnic, to toss a ball around with the kids, or to relax and take in the Golden Gate Bridge views.

**20 CRISSEY FIELD OVERLOOK**
This expansive meadow is a great spot for an informal picnic, to toss a ball around with the kids, or to relax and take in the Golden Gate Bridge views.

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12 EAST BEACH
A favorite spot for families and kitesurfers alike, East Beach is a wonderful place to relax, play in the waves, make a sandcastle, and enjoy Golden Gate views. Picnic tables and restrooms are located onsite.

13 CRISSEY MARSH
The fresh water that flows through the Presidio’s largest watershed ultimately meets the salty waters of San Francisco Bay at Crissy Marsh. This is an incredible place for birdwatching – more than 100 species stop here as they travel along the Pacific Flyway. Visit to soak in nature, views, and fresh air.

14 SPORTS BASEMENT BIKE RENTALS
Sports Basement is the perfect spot to rent a bike, grab a snack, or purchase gear for hiking, running, swimming, birdwatching, and more. Located in a former Army commissary, Sports Basement offers weekly community events like group runs, yoga classes, and bicycle maintenance clinics.

610 Mason Street; open daily; www.sportsbasement.com

16 RECREATIONAL DESTINATIONS
Former airplane hangars and warehouses have been creatively reimagined for a variety of recreational uses. Jump on a trampoline at House of Air; tackle the climbing wall at Planet Granite; take the kids to a swim class at La Petite Baleen; swing for the bleachers at Batter’s Box SF; and check out the bikes at Roaring Mouse Cycles.

18 WEST BLUFF PICNIC AREA
The West Bluff Picnic Area features large picnic tables, barbeque pits, and incredible views of San Francisco Bay and the Golden Gate Bridge. It is located near the beach and Torpedo Wharf.

CRISSY MARSH
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15 CRISSEY FIELD OVERLOOK
Crissy Field Overlook offers a panoramic view of the Presidio’s northern shoreline, including San Francisco Bay, Alcatraz, Angel Island, and Crissy Field. Its plaza features benches that invite you to relax and enjoy the vista. The overlook is accessible from the Presidio Promenade.

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610 Mason Street; open daily; www.sportsbasement.com
Get a taste of the great outdoors and experience natural areas, the Presidio forest, trails, and creeks.

25 INSPIRATION POINT OVERLOOK
Take in a panoramic view of San Francisco Bay, Alcatraz, and Angel Island from Inspiration Point. Perched above Tennessee Hollow, the park’s largest watershed, visitors can glimpse rare serpentine grasslands, historic homes, and eucalyptus canopies from this vantage point. Access to Inspiration Point is from the Ecology Trail near the Arguello Gate.

26 NATIONAL CEMETERY OVERLOOK
Situated above San Francisco National Cemetery, this overlook is a tranquil place to contemplate the meaning of service and sacrifice. This vantage point offers breathtaking views of the Golden Gate Bridge, the Marin Headlands, and San Francisco Bay. Access is from the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

27 MOUNTAIN LAKE + MOUNTAIN LAKE PARK
Mountain Lake is where Spanish Lieutenant Colonel Juan Bautista de Anza and his scouting party camped in 1776 when they first arrived to establish the Presidio. Thanks to an ongoing restoration, Mountain Lake is a beautiful place for picnicking, birdwatching, strolling along a trail, or spotting a recently reintroduced western pond turtle. Adjacent to the lake is Mountain Lake Park, a City of San Francisco-operated site with a new playground.

21 ANDY GOLDSWORTHY’S SPIRE + WOOD LINE
These sculptures explore the rejuvenation of the Presidio’s historic forest, first planted by the U.S. Army beginning in the 1880s (see p. 22). They are composed of materials found onsite and invite visitors to see the park in a new way.

Spire is located along the Bay Area Ridge Trail; Wood Line is located just west of Lovers’ Lane.

Get a taste of the great outdoors and experience natural areas, the Presidio forest, trails, and creeks.
Lovers’ Lane
Nature lovers, art lovers, and history lovers will find something to gush about on Lovers’ Lane, an enchanting 0.6-mile trail that connects the Presidio Gate to the Main Post. The oldest footpath through the Presidio, Lovers’ Lane was established in the 18th century as a shortcut used by Spanish soldiers to get from the Presidio to Mission Dolores. Today, it offers views of Andy Goldsworthy’s Wood Line (see p. 22), the forest, historic homes, and more.

Lobos Creek Valley
Lobos Creek Valley offers a unique immersion in a restored dune habitat where Lobos Creek, the park’s fresh water source, flows year-round. By walking on a meandering boardwalk through the dunes, visitors can immerse themselves in a landscape that once covered one third of San Francisco. Educational signage and a self-guided story are available onsite.

Immigrant Point Overlook
For spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean, the Marin Headlands, and (on a clear day) Point Reyes National Seashore, head to this overlook located along the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail. This breathtaking spot is dedicated to all those who have made the journey through the Golden Gate to make a new life in the United States.

Rob Hill Campground
Located above Baker Beach and nestled in the Presidio forest, Rob Hill is the perfect escape for groups and families. It offers group (30-person) campsites featuring a campfire circle, a barbecue grill, and picnic tables. The camping season typically runs April through October. To make a reservation, visit www.presidio.gov/places/rob-hill-campground.

El Polín Spring
El Polín Spring is located at the heart of the Presidio’s largest watershed, Tennessee Hollow. Thanks to restoration efforts, the stream has been brought back above ground and efforts are ongoing to restore native plant communities. Today it is a wonderful place for birdwatching, picnicking, and learning about some of the area’s earliest residents. El Polín features interpretive signs in English and Spanish. It is located at the south end of MacArthur Avenue and off of the Ecology Trail.

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Lobos Creek offers a unique immersion in a restored dune habitat where Lobos Creek, the park’s fresh water source, flows year-round. By walking on a meandering boardwalk through the dunes, visitors can immerse themselves in a landscape that once covered one third of San Francisco. Educational signage and a self-guided story are available onsite.

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Enjoy panoramic Pacific Ocean views, learn how the Presidio once served as “defender of the gate,” relax on the beach, or walk across the iconic Golden Gate Bridge.
Torpedo Wharf offers a view of the San Francisco skyline and the Golden Gate Bridge. It was built in 1864 to support the construction of Fort Point. The wharf is popular for fishing; no license is required. The West Bluff Picnic Area and Warming Hut are located nearby.

The Presidio

Torpedo Wharf

Battery East

Coast Guard Pier

Battery Saffold

Battery Dynamite

Battery Crosby

Battery Cranston

Battery Lancaster

Battery Marcus

Battery Boutelle

Battery Howe-Wagner

WW II MEMORIAL TO THE MISSING

Cavalry Stables

Officer’s Row

Battery West

Battery Blaney

Battery Sherwood

Battery Chamberlin

Battery McKinnon-Stotsenberg

PILOTS’ ROW

Battery Godfrey

SPIRESPIRE WOODLINE WOODLINE

SAN FRANCISCO BAY

From these vantage points, you can see the Pacific Ocean, the Marin Headlands, and the Golden Gate Bridge. Bikers, hikers, and runners love to rest here while taking in the gorgeous vista. The overlooks are along the California Coastal Trail, the Bay Area Ridge Trail, and the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail.

The California Coastal Trail is a 1,200-mile, multi-use route stretching along the Pacific coastline from Mexico to Oregon. The 2.7-mile Presidio segment starts at the 25th Avenue Gate near Baker Beach, traces the rocky coastal bluffs, and ends at the iconic Golden Gate Bridge. The trail boasts grand ocean views and the most access points to the Presidio’s historic gun batteries, including Battery Chamberlin.

The one-mile stretch of Baker Beach is the perfect spot to catch some rays, make a sandcastle, or enjoy a striking sunset. Nature lovers can glimpse sea stars at low tide, grey-green serpentine rock formations, and native wildflowers that bloom year-round on the nearby dunes. Barbeque pits and picnic tables are available. Venture onto the rugged Batteries to Bluffs Trail to connect to nearby Marshall’s Beach (see #34).

This short (0.7-mile) but inspirational trail traces a majestic route along the Presidio’s wild western bluffs. Stretching from just south of the Golden Gate Bridge to Battery Crosby, the trail offers spectacular coastal panoramas, views of the Golden Gate, and a safe descent to Marshall’s Beach. Watch for dolphins and whales, see native dune plants and wildflowers, and glimpse butterflies and birds.

Built at Baker Beach in 1904, Battery Chamberlin houses a 50-ton, six-inch diameter “disappearing gun.” On the first full weekend of each month, the National Park Service offers public demonstrations of how this gun was once loaded and aimed. A small sea coast defense museum is located inside the battery’s underground cartridge room. Free.

Located against a backdrop of Monterey pine and cypress trees, this gently curved wall of California granite bears the names of 412 servicemen who were lost or buried at sea in U.S. Pacific waters between 1941 and 1945.

A military and architectural gem, Fort Point defended San Francisco Bay following California’s Gold Rush through World War II. It became a National Historic Site in 1970. Today, Fort Point is a wonderful place to experience history and Golden Gate views. Frequent tours are offered. A bookstore is onsite. It is located at the end of Marine Drive. Hours vary seasonally.

This beloved café and park store run by the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy is the spot for a bite to eat or to find unique and locally made gifts, park gear, books, and kids items. Enjoy casual and healthy food and drinks at outdoor picnic tables or at indoor seating. Open daily.

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