

Hiller Aviation Museum

www.hiller.org

[601 Skyway](#)
[San Carlos, CA 94070-2702](#)

(650) 654-0200

Review: The Hiller Aviation Institute is dedicated to the dreams of flight – looking back into aviation’s history while exploring its future. The experience is educational and entertaining casting new light onto the technical innovations. Before you leave, you'll be transformed from visitor to explorer.

The Jelly Belly Factory

<http://www.jellybelly.com/>

[One Jelly Belly Lane](#)
[Fairfield, CA](#)

(800) 953-5592

Review: Jelly Belly certainly knows their market: children. From the moment you enter the factory driveway (located at the appropriately named One Jelly Bean Lane), you are surrounded by a kaleidoscope of colorful jelly beans: a huge inflatable bean welcomes you, costumed beans walk around greeting you, and enormous portrait mosaics (rendered in beans) are framed on every wall. To arrive at the tour pickup location, you must first walk through the kid-friendly Jelly Belly café, where bean-shaped pizzas and hamburgers are for sale. A free forty-five minute walking tour is also available, and of course, free tastes of all fifty flavors are available at the shop at the end of the tour.

Fisherman’s Wharf

<http://www.fishermanswharf.org/>

(415) 674-7503

[#2 Al Scoma Way at Pier 47](#)
[San Francisco, CA 94133](#)

Review: With over 125 members representing the hotels, restaurants, attractions, retail stores, tour operators and service providers of Fisherman's Wharf, the Association provides community leadership that keeps the Wharf's history alive and its future secured.

Ghirardelli Square

<http://www.ghirardellisq.com/>

[900 North Point Street](#)
[San Francisco, CA 94109-1180](#)

(415) 775-5500

Review: Ghirardelli Square was originally a chocolate factory established by Domenico Ghirardelli. The chocolate manufacturing operation was sold in the 1960s. Unique shops and restaurants were created within the old factory combining the latest in retailing and fine cuisine with the flavor of old San Francisco, but they didn't leave out the chocolate!. Ghirardelli Square delights visitors with its lively retail mix, while maintaining Ghirardelli's tradition as a trendsetter for the rest of the world. It continues to serve as a model for restoration complexes throughout the country such as Faneuil Hall Marketplace in Boston and Baltimore's Harborplace.

Pier 39

<http://www.pier39.com/index.cfm>

415.705.5500

[PIER 39](#)
[Beach Street & The Embarcadero](#)
[San Francisco, CA 94133](#)

Review: Pier 39, San Francisco's Premier Bay Attraction, is a festive shopping mecca featuring 110 specialty shops and 12 full-service restaurants serving seafood, California cuisine, and casual fare with beautiful Bay views. At Pier 39 the picturesque scenery captures Alcatraz, the Golden Gate and Bay Bridges, Fisherman's Wharf and city skyline. Pier 39's two-level design with lush landscaping is a must-see on San Francisco's historic waterfront. There's a multitude of fun for everyone with attractions and live entertainment to amuse all ages.

Exploratorium

www.exploratorium.edu

[3601 Lyon Street](#)
[San Francisco, CA 94123](#)

(415) 561-0360

Review: Housed within the walls of San Francisco's Palace of Fine Arts, the Exploratorium is a collage of hundreds of science, art, and human perception exhibits. The Exploratorium is a leader in the movement to promote museums as informal education centers.

[Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose](#)

www.cdm.org

[180 Woz Way](#)
[San Jose, CA 95110](#)

(408) 298-5437

Review: Visit Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose where you can expect to test, crank, listen, prod and tinker. One of the largest museums of its kind in the nation, CDM's 150 interactive exhibits lead visitors to explore, understand and enjoy the world in which they live. The Tech museum (see below) is less than four blocks away)

[The Tech Museum](#)

www.thetech.org

[201 South Market Street](#)
[San Jose, CA 95113-2008](#)

(408) 294-8324

Review: The Tech has become a landmark for visitors seeking a glimpse of the most inventive place on Earth and a showcase of the latest blockbuster exhibits, high-tech gizmos and wondrous gadgets that continue to define Silicon Valley. The Tech Museum does this through content and programs featuring "The Spirit of Silicon Valley" inspiring people, inventions and mind-set that continues to make this region the leading source of science and technology innovation.

[Napa Valley Wine Train](#)

www.winetrain.com

[1275 McKinstry Street](#)
[Napa, CA 94559](#)

(707) 253-2111

Review: The Napa Valley Wine Train provides a relaxing three hour journey along the thirty six mile round-trip between the historic town of Napa through one of the world's most famous wine valleys to the quaint village of St. Helena and back. Guests aboard the Wine Train enjoy the option of a freshly prepared lunch or dinner as they view the vineyards and wineries from any of the vintage 1915-1917 Pullman Dining, Lounge or the 1947 Vista Dome rail cars which have been lavishly restored.

[Monterey Bay Aquarium](#)

www.montereybayaquarium.org

[886 Cannery Row](#)
[Monterey, CA 93940-1085](#)

(831) 648-4888

Review: This post reflects a visit to the Monterey Aquarium on Jan. 1, 2010. The exhibits are updated frequently; visit the website for the most recent details. The Sea Horse exhibit is new, and well worth the visit. Also, the tropical fish are a delight for a digital camera buff. The Sea Otter feeding time at 3:30 pm was an opportunity to see them up close. Wait closer to 4 pm to see them at sea level after viewing them at first from the 1st floor tank below. Crowd thins by then. As to tips of visiting: purchase tickets online, and either get the ticket printed from online receipt, or select the "will call" option from online purchase. Will-call works just fine. When you arrive, you give them your name, and 5 minutes later you are in. Saves what appeared 45 minutes waiting in line to buy tickets (weekend/summer). A great time overall. Highly recommended. Very educational. Kid friendly. OK cafeteria inside the aquarium, or eat at one of the many family-friendly restaurants further down Cannery Row or on one of the many close-by side streets in Monterey.