Places to See in San Mateo County

Allied Arts Guild

Created in 1929 as a unique historical garden and shopping area that is a showplace for artisans and was designed after the famous Alhambra and Generalife gardens of Granada, Spain. It is an enchanting complex of shops, gardens and artists' studios nestled in a quiet corner of a lovely Menlo Park residential community. www.alliedartsguild.org



Ano Nuevo State Reserve

Site of the largest mainland-breeding colony in the world for the northern elephant seal. Elephant seals, sea lions, and other marine mammals come ashore to rest, mate, and give birth in the sand dunes or on the beaches and offshore islands. It is a unique and unforgettable natural spectacle that hundreds of thousands of people come to witness each year. People who hope to see the seals during the winter breeding season are urged to get their reservations early. www.parks.ca.gov



Broadway by the Bay

Top-quality community theater productions in San Mateo. Classic theater at its best. www.bbbay.org

Burlingame Museum of Pez Memorabilia

An icon of American pop culture, over 550 unique Pez dispensers have been produced since 1950, and the Burlingame museum is the only place in the world to see all of them. Tuesday-Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. www.burlingamepezmuseum.com



Domenico Wines

Pouring award-winning wines in a comfortable yet elegant setting. Dramatic 24-foot bar in a stylish Tasting Room that can accommodate up to 200 guests for special events and tours. In addition to the traditional California style of wines on the tasting menu, unique Italian varietals such as Aglianico, Sangiovese, Barbera, Malvasia Bianca, and Nebbiolo are also offered. www.domenicowines.com



Farmers Markets (see Page 5)

Filoli Estate

Located 30 miles south of San Francisco on the eastern slope of the Coast Range, the 654-acre Filoli estate contains as its central portion a historic house and 16 acres of formal gardens. Occupied from 1917-1936 as a private residence. Filoli was then donated to the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1975. www.filoli.org



Fox Theatre

Built in 1928 as a vaudeville and movie house, the theatre is an ideal venue for concerts, movies, receptions, product launches, meetings, private and corporate parties. Three floors of event space with a combined capacity of over 1,400 are available, separately or in combination. www.foxdream.com



GoKart Racer

An exciting, new indoor kart-racing center in Burlingame where high-caliber racing machines can be driven at speeds up to 35 mph. It is a thrilling and challenging activity designed for family fun and group events. www.gokartracer.com



Half Moon Bay Kayak

Kayak among seals, birds, and marine life in protected Pillar Point Harbor or the wild waters of the open Pacific. Rentals, tours, instruction, and corporate programs, for novices or experts are offered. The fleet includes sit-on-top, surf, and traditional closed deck; single, double, triple, and quad kayaks. www.hmbkayak.com



Harley Farms

Farmstead dairy producing award winning fresh French style goat cheese, hand made and hand packed. 220 American Alpine goats roam on the 9 acre farm and produce over 500 kids each Spring. Tours available. www.harleyfarms.com



Hillbarn Theatre

Community theatre presenting top-notch entertainment since 1941. The sixth oldest continuously operating amateur theater company in the nation. www.hillbarntheatre.org

Hiller Aviation Museum

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. www.hiller.org



Huli Cat Sportfishing & Charter

Enjoy salmon, tuna or rock cod fishing, nature trips to see birds and mammals at the Farallon Islands, or watch the California Gray Whales continue their migration off shore from December through April. Entertain friends or associates on a harbor cruise in the evening. www.hulicat.com



Japanese Tea Garden

The Japanese Tea Garden, located in San Mateo's Central Park, is considered one of the finest tea gardens in California. Nagao Sakurai, landscape architect of the Imperial Palace of Tokyo, designed the stunning garden. Graced with a granite pagoda, a teahouse, lanterns, and bamboo groves, this peaceful retreat features seasonal blooms and rare plants that touch the shore of the large central Koi pond.



Kohl Mansion

This rare brick estate with its exquisite gardens and ponds has been the host of countless social gatherings since 1914. The mansion is open year-round for wedding receptions, concerts, dinners and corporate events. www.kohl-mansion.com



La Nebbia Winery

The Half Moon Bay winery has been in business for more than 25 years. It features award-winning wines, gourmet food products, private events, custom wine labeling, a scenic picnic area and Bocce Ball courts. Approximately 16 miles from the bayside. www.lanebbiawinery.com

Little Fox

Enjoy dance concerts or listening performances by premier electric and acoustic artists from all over the world. Roots, jazz, blues, folk, funk, jam band, bluegrass and world music are presented in this comfortable and elegant world-class venue. www.foxdream.com

Malibu Grand Prix

Family entertainment center includes three courses of miniature golf, grand prix, turbo go-karts, bumper boats, batting cages, game room, and pizza parlor. www.malibugrandprix.com

Martins Beach

Bring the family for a visit to this private beach. Secluded area with surfing. A general store offers food and beverages.

Museum of San Carlos History

In a rebuilt firehouse, the Museum contains artifacts from the Indian and Spanish eras, the 1888 Train Depot and early San Carlos life. It also houses Engine One, a restored 1927 Seagrave Fire Engine, a rare collection of Sorcha Boru pottery, and memorabilia from San Carlos High School. www.sancarloshistorymusuem.org

Norm's Market

Specializing for over 70 years in country-style Italian artichoke breads, garlic breads, and now offering a new line of gourmet salsas, sauces, spreads, appetizers and marinades. Enjoy a unique selection California Wine, cheese and more.

www.arcangeligrocery.com

Peninsula Museum of Art

Four exhibitions a year plus special events are featured in the Museum's "starter home". National thematic competitions alternate with curated exhibits of regional artists. Docent tours may be scheduled. www.peninsulamuseum.org

Phipps Country Store and Farm

Offers fruit picking, picnic tables, gourmet herb room, farm animals, aviaries and country store. www.phippscountry.com

Point Montara Lighthouse

Picturesque 1875 light station served as a naval training base during WW II. www.parks.ca.gov

Pigeon Point Lighthouse

One of the tallest lighthouses in the U.S. Built in 1872 following a string of shipwrecks. www.parks.ca.gov





Ralston Hall

A National Historical Landmark, Ralston Hall was built in the 1860's as the country estate of William Chapman Ralston. The majestic home is an opulent Italian villa. It features a magnificent ballroom, delightful parlors, a picturesque opera box gallery and is nestled in a beautiful garden setting. Rental of Ralston Hall includes use of the historic first floor, outside garden, upstairs bride's room and opera box gallery for photographs. www.ralstonhall.com



San Mateo County History Museum

Features exhibits depicting the history of the Peninsula through the times of the Ohlone Indians, the Spanish explorers, the ranchos, pioneer logging, agriculture, dairy farms, whaling, and the Victorian era of great estates. Visit the "Journey to Work" exhibit, chronicling the history of the commute from stagecoaches to the automobile. Largest stained glass dome in a public building on entire West Coast. Newly restored Courtroom A with its own 1910 stained glass dome. www.historysmc.org



Sanchez Adobe

Sanchez Adobe is a living-history site that was occupied from prehistoric Indian times until it became a historic landmark in 1953. The old adobe home on the site, a fine example of authentic Monterey architecture and furnished with period pieces, is the oldest building in San Mateo County. www.historysmc.org



Savvy Cellar Wines

One of the Peninsula's newest wine bars and wine shop. Try dozens of wines by the glass, and buy a bottle or two of your favorites on the way home. All wines are rated 90 points or higher by leading wine critics, and bottles sell for \$39 or less. www.savvycellar.com



Sunset Magazine

The classic adobe style building, designed by famed Western Architect Cliff May, is surrounded by 15 acres of gardens that reflect the diverse geography found in the West - from a cactus garden representing the Baja, to the totem poles of the Pacific Northwest, and everything in between. When you arrive at the headquarters, Sunset's hand-hewn doors open to a grand lobby filled with historic memorabilia tracking the 108 year old publication as well as current awards, books and special issues being published. Self-guided tours of the gardens are offered during the week. www.sunset.com

Thomas Fogarty Winery and Vineyard

One of the Peninsula's most respected wineries, the mountain top setting has sweeping views of the San Francisco Bay Area. Accommodating up to 220 guests, the winery is an intimate, elegant, and relaxing setting for memorable events. Located approximately 29 miles from the bayside, offering spectacular views and award-winning wine tasting and tours. www.fogartywinery.com



Vinyl Room

Contemporary lounge with live DJs, dance floor, weekly events, cocktails, and a spacious room filled with custom-made furniture, unique artwork, and candles to create a cozy atmosphere. www.vinyl-room.com

Woodside Store

Dr. Robert Tripp's store, built in 1854, is a relic of the early timber operations in California. An early center of the logging community, the store also served as a post office and San Mateo County's first library. www.historysmc.org



Farmers Markets www.pcfma.com

Belmont (El Camino & O'Neill St. May-Nov, Sundays, 9am-1pm)

Burlingame (Park Rd @ Burlingame Ave, May-Nov, Sundays, 9am-1pm) www.burlingamechamber.org

Daly City (Serramonte Center, year round, Thursdays 9am-1pm and Saturdays 10am-2pm)

Half Moon Bay (Shoreline Station, Hwy 1 at Kelly Ave.; May-Nov, Saturdays, 9 am-1pm) www.coastsidefarmersmarket.org

Millbrae (Broadway btwn Victoria & La Cruz, year round, Saturdays 8am-1pm) www.millbrae.com

Menlo Park (Crane & Chestnut, year round, Sunday 9:30am-1:30pm)

Pacifica (Rockaway Beach Blvd. & Old County Rd; May-Nov., Wednesdays 2:30-6:30) www.coastsidefarmersmarket.org

Redwood City (Kaiser Permanente, 1150 Veterans Blvd., year round, Wednesday 10am-2pm)

San Carlos (Laurel btwn Cherry & Olive, May-Sept, Thursdays 4-8 pm) www.sancarloschamber.org

San Mateo (194 W. 25th Avenue, May-October, Tuesdays 3:30–7:00pm)

San Mateo (College of San Mateo, 1700 W. Hillsdale Blvd., year round, Wed. & Sat. 9 am-1pm)

South San Francisco (Orange Memorial Park, May-October, Saturdays 9am-1pm)

South San Francisco (Kaiser Permanente, 1200 El Camino Real, year round, Tuesdays 10am–2pm)

Visit the "San Mateo County: As Fresh as it Gets" website for additional information: www.freshasitgets.com

Member Attractions Outside San Mateo County

Blue & Gold Fleet (San Francisco)

Experience the thrilling history of the San Francisco Bay with all the sound and glory it deserves. Spend an hour on the water with Captain Nemo and his crew reliving 150 years of the celebrated San Francisco coast. There's no better way to experience unobstructed views of sensational skylines in every direction. It's a great vantage point for snapping pictures or simply reflecting on the vast beauty of the San Francisco Bay. Along the way, you'll be entertained with historical, fun narration and factual tidbits. www.blueandgoldfleet.com



Ferry Building Line (San Francisco)

Enjoy audio tours on Architecture, Native American, and Natural History, in one 90-minute cruise. Guests can listen to one tour throughout, alternate between all three or simply take in the amazing scenery of San Francisco Bay. Cruise along the waterfront, past the San Francisco Giants ballpark, the Bay Bridge, Treasure Island, Alcatraz Island, Yerba Buena Island and the San Francisco skyline. www.ferrybuildingline.com



PIER 39 (San Francisco)

There is something for everyone at PIER 39, San Francisco's #1 Attraction, a festival marketplace with more than 110 stores, 13 bay view restaurants, and variety of fun-filled attractions for all ages including, splashy sea lions, street performers and live daily entertainment. www.PIER39.com



Red and White Fleet (San Francisco)

San Francisco's original sightseeing tradition since 1892 offers water, land and air tours. A one-hour Golden Gate Bay Cruise offers breathtaking views of the Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz and San Francisco with educational commentary in eight languages. The two-hour California Sunset Cruise provides spectacular sunset views of San Francisco, Angel Island, Tiburon, Sausalito, and the Golden Gate Bridge. More sightseeing opportunities are available. www.redandwhite.com



San Francisco Giants (San Francisco)

The National League baseball team plays at AT&T Park, a classic urban ballpark with an old-time feel and all the amenities of modern ballparks. Enjoy breathtaking views, a wide variety of food, and an 80-foot Coca-Cola bottle with playground slides. April-September. www.sfgiants.com



Teatro ZinZanni (San Francisco)

Set along San Francisco's historic waterfront, Teatro ZinZanni is a bewitching evening of European cabaret and cirque, divas and madmen, spectacle and sensuality with live music and a gourmet five-course dinner. http://love.zinzanni.org



The Urban Safari (San Francisco)

Treks to see famous movie sites, distinctive Victorians, murals and architecture, ethnic-themed tours, spiritual safaris, forays into San Francisco's celebrated past, adult jaunts, nightlight, drinking and eating excursions. Chose from dozens of pre-planned routes or custom-design your own. www.theurbansafari.com

Computer History Museum (Mountain View)

The world's largest and most significant collection of educational, entertaining, and inspiring materials related to the history of computing, including hardware, software, documentation, ephemera, and media. With international collecting efforts spanning four decades, the Museum seeks to preserve a comprehensive view of computing history, one that includes the machines, the software, the business and competitive environments, personal recollections, and the social implications of humankind's most important invention, the computer. Three exhibits ("Visible Storage," "Mastering the Game: A History of Computer Chess" and "Innovation in the Valley") are free to the public on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays from 1:00-4:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Docent-led tours are also available. www.computerhistory.org

Napa Valley Wine Train (Napa)

Scenic year-round gourmet excursions daily aboard lavishly restored Pullman Dining, Lounge & Vista Dome Cars for lunch, dinner or champagne brunch with three different styles of restaurants and 15 package options. www.winetrain.com



USS Hornet Museum (Alameda)

This National Historical Landmark is one of the most decorated ships in naval history (it participated in WWII and the Apollo 11 manned moon mission). Explore an authentically restored aircraft carrier and get a close-up look at classic naval aircraft. Exhibits also include the West Coast's largest display of Apollo moon mission artifacts. In addition to being a museum, the ship is available for corporate entertaining, trade shows, dances, dinners, and youth overnights. www.uss-hornet.org



USS Potomac (Oakland)

This National Historic Landmark is a Coast Guard certified, fully seaworthy vessel and regularly cruises on San Francisco Bay. Docent-led dockside tours (mid-January through mid-December) are 45 minutes and include a 15-minute video shown in the Potomac Visitor Center. Enjoy a two-hour narrated History Cruise on San Francisco Bay (May through November) with knowledgeable docents to take you on a guided tour of the ship while underway. In addition to special events, the USS Potomac is available for limited private charter. www.usspotomac.org



Winchester Mystery House (San Jose)

The beautiful but bizarre estate of Sarah Winchester, the Winchester rifle heiress, offers tours of 110 of its 160 rooms and six acres of beautifully manicured gardens, the Historical Firearms and Antique Products Museums. www.winchestermysteryhouse.com



For additional information on the above venues, contact the San Mateo County Convention and Visitors Bureau at (650) 348-7600 or check our website at www.visitsanmateocounty.com.