San Francisco is often called “Everybody’s Favorite City,” a title earned by its scenic beauty, cultural attractions, diverse communities, and world-class cuisine. Measuring 49 square miles, this very walk-able city is dotted with numerous landmarks. A stroll of the city’s streets can lead to Union Square, the Italian-flavored North Beach, Fisherman’s Wharf, the Castro, Japantown, and the Mission District, with intriguing neighborhoods to explore at every turn.

When you think of San Francisco, what immediately comes to mind? The Golden Gate Bridge? Lombard Street? Alcatraz Island? All top picks for touring visitors, the list of other things to see and do far exceeds the time you may have in the city to explore. Consider some of these must-see and -do picks:

- **Discover PIER 39.** From amazing views and a sea of sea lions to chowder bread bowls and California wines, your visit to San Francisco starts at PIER 39. Located along the historic San Francisco Waterfront, PIER 39’s location provides the perfect backdrop for postcard views of the Golden Gate and Bay Bridges, Alcatraz, Angel Island and the famous City skyline.

- **Eat, eat, eat.** The San Francisco dining scene is one of the best in the country. From hearty comfort food to Michelin-starred fine dining, there are restaurants for every palate.

- **Stop by the California Academy of Sciences.** Home to an aquarium, planetarium, natural history museum, and world-class research and education programs, the California Academy of Sciences is one of San Francisco’s must-see destinations.

- **Take a Tour of the Farallon Islands.** Famous for the great whites who frequent their surrounding waters, the Farallon Islands are also called “California’s Galapagos.” Tours depart from PIER 39.

- **Make a stop in Chinatown.** Coined the historic heart of the city, inside the Dragon’s Gate of this neighborhood lies 24 blocks of hustle and bustle. Best explored on foot, you will find exotic shops, food markets, temples and small museums where you can buy herbal remedies, enjoy samples at a tea bar or order a “dim sum” lunch.

- **Explore the Presidio.** Formerly a military post, the Presidio is now a national park site and recreational paradise featuring spectacular vistas, beautiful trails, and historic and architectural treasures.

- **Hide-away in the Hayward Japanese Gardens.** Sometimes you just want to get away. The tiny but mighty Hayward gardens (California’s first Japanese gardens) provide the perfect place for serenity and calm.

- **Ride a ferry to Angel Island State Park.** Often referred to as the “Ellis Island of the West,” the Immigration Station originally opened in 1910 and closed in 1940 as the result of a fire. During that time more than one million individuals were processed through the center. Today, you can fill your visit with historical tours, hiking, biking, and a cute café by the water.

- **Trek to the top of Nob Hill.** Better yet, take a cable car! It’s no surprise that this neighborhood boasts perhaps the best view of San Francisco Bay, especially when observed from a California Street cable car. Once the home of the silver kings and railroad barons, the “nabobs,” Nob Hill’s noble tenants include grand hotels, Grace Cathedral, a replica of Notre Dame in Paris and the Cable Car Barn, where the cable cars are stored when not in service.

From grand, sweeping views to neighborhood color and character, from glimpses of history to world-class dining and shopping—San Francisco is home to a little bit of everything. Your exploration of this unique and diverse city begins in October. We look forward to seeing you there!