



Speaking

B1

At the tourist information office in San Francisco

Student A:

You have read this advertisement in a newspaper and decided to buy a ticket to go to San Francisco.

'San Francisco is a magical city: built on 48 hills and surrounded by water, it offers breathtaking views at every point. Climb on the world-famous cable cars and enjoy the vistas. Stroll through tranquil Golden Gate Park, which (surprise!) is bigger than Central Park. Visit one of its interesting museums: learn more about science at the Exploratorium on the ocean or at the California Academy of Science; enjoy some Californian and world art at the De Young Museum, or some European art at the Legion of Honor.

Are you just looking for some fun? We've got you covered! Pier39 has all the attractions you need to spend a day in the sunshine, admiring sea lions and tasting the famous San Francisco clam chowder at Boudin bakery.

Are you a sporty type? No worries, you have plenty to do here! Rent a bike and enjoy the ride while going from one end of the Golden Gate Bridge to the other. Or why don't you take some surf lessons in the Bay? And for those of you who like walking, brace yourselves: San Francisco has all the steep hills you need to keep in shape.

No vacation would be complete without a taste of the local cuisine! Enjoy the delicious California King Crab, or indulge in a chocolate ice-cream at the Ghirardelli factory...'

Have you ever gone to a tourist information office when you are in a new city? Think about the possible questions you may want to ask the employee there.

- What...????
- Where...????
- How... - How much...????
- When...????
- Is / Are...????



Student B:

You work at the tourist information office. Read the leaflet with all the useful information about the city, and be prepared to answer your partner's questions.

SAN FRANCISCO: THE CITY BY THE BAY

The Weather

San Francisco's weather is changeable because it is surrounded on all sides (save one) by the ocean and the bay. As a result, the weather can be difficult for visitors to predict. Fog City is characterised by majestic skies, layers of white fog and brilliant sunsets. Even in the warmest months, San Francisco visitors should always bring a light jacket, jeans, light sweaters, long-sleeve shirts and close-toed shoes, which make up the typical San Franciscan's wardrobe, with the occasional short skirt (with a heavy jacket) and sandals in the 'summer' months.

What to do

With its flat waterfront, steep hills and mild weather, it is perfect for getting exercise in the fresh sea air. Whether you prefer an easy stroll or an aerobic challenge, the 'City by the Bay' has the ideal terrain for a walk along the shoreline or a bicycle ride over the Golden Gate Bridge. Both pedestrians, including wheelchair users, and cyclists can go on the sidewalks of the bridge during daylight hours but roller blades, skateboards and roller skates are not permitted. There are vista points on both the north and south sides of the bridge with parking lots. Go kayaking or surfing and swimming in the bay.
Bike Rental San Francisco: Bike & View: open daily from 9AM.

What to see

The Golden Gate Bridge from San Francisco to Marin County is 1.7 miles long. Orange was selected as the colour of the bridge because it provides visibility in the fog for passing ships and also because it is a colour that suits the bridge's setting and the surrounding land area.

Fisherman's Wharf is one of the most popular attractions. You can find hundreds of amazing sea lions, the local sea mammals, gathered on the docks beside Pier39 eating and relaxing in the sun. Their numbers vary, depending on the time of year, but their distinct barking can always be heard from blocks away.

The Cable Cars. San Francisco is one of few places in the world where people can ride on a national historic landmark. San Francisco's cable cars still operate the same way as they did in 1873, when Andrew S. Hallidie opened the first car route down Clay Street. Two of the three cable car lines stop in Fisherman's Wharf. The fare is \$4.

Victorian houses on Alamo Square are one of the most photographed locations in San Francisco. Victorian houses are back-dropped by downtown skyscrapers, providing a stunning contrast. The grassy square is ideal for a midday break. The area includes several bed and breakfast inns. Many Victorian homes, known as Painted Ladies, have several unique features, such as balconies and large porches. For many people, the best time for a photograph is when the sun is setting in the west, casting a sunset glow over these houses and Alamo Square. To get there, take bus #68 going South and get off at Alamo square.

San Francisco has world-class museums. From European art at the Legion of Honor, to the newly-opened Museum of Modern Art and the always beautiful De Young inside Golden Gate Park, a tourist is spoilt for choice. If you have children, be sure to take them to the Exploratorium to have fun with science experiments!



Legion of Honor: open 7 days a week, 9AM-5PM. Ticket is \$20. Free on first Thu of the month.
Museum of Modern Art: open Tue-Sun, 9AM-7PM. Ticket is \$15. Free on first Sun of the month.
De Young: open Sun-Fri, 9AM-7PM. Ticket is \$15, \$2 for access to the tower (beautiful views of the city). Free admission if you come at 9 on Wed.
Exploratorium: open 7 days a week, 9AM-5PM. Ticket is \$20 for adults, \$10 for children. Free on the first Monday of the month. Happy hour on the balcony every Thursday at 6PM.

Where and what to eat

In Fisherman's Wharf, a food lover's heaven, you can eat fresh Dungeness crab served steaming hot at outdoor stands or in a variety of gourmet recipes at the Wharf's many seafood restaurants. You must also try the famous clam chowder, served in a bowl made of San Francisco's sourdough bread.

In Ghirardelli Square the annual Chocolate Festival is held in September. This event is free and open to the public. It is on the West side of Fisherman's Wharf, two blocks east of Van Ness Avenue.