South of Market, also known as "SOMA," is more than two square miles of sleek nightclubs, fashionable restaurants, art hubs and the nation's most beautiful ballpark. Yerba Buena Gardens, "the largest concentration of art west of the Hudson River," is an oasis in the heart of the city. Moscone Center and more than a dozen museums are located here as well as a memorial to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

SOMA - Moscone Convention Center Area

Union Square

Financial District / Embarcadero

Chinatown

Fisherman's Wharf

Nob Hill

The biggest names in retail make Union Square anything but square. Virtually every fashion label in the world has set up shop in and around the Square, a landmark park in the heart of the downtown shopping and hotel district. Granite plazas, a stage, a café and four grand entrance corner plazas bordered by the park's signature palms pay tribute to the Square's distinctive history and offer a forum for civic celebrations.

Built near Portsmouth Square, the historic heart of San Francisco, this city's Chinatown neighborhood is one of the oldest and largest in the U.S. Enter at Grant Avenue, the oldest street in San Francisco, through the "Dragon's Gate" and explore 24 blocks of hustle and bustle.

Fisherman's Wharf, on the northern waterfront, is one of the city's busiest tourist areas. Souvenir shops and stalls selling crab and clam chowder in sourdough bread bowls appear at every turn, as do postcard views of the bay, Golden Gate and Alcatraz. There's also a colony of sea lions to see and historic ships to tour. At Ghirardelli Square, boutiques and eateries reside in the famed former chocolate factory.

For the ultimate luxury hotel visit Four Seasons, especially when combined with a casual stroll along The Embarcadero. Lined with deep-water piers, The Embarcadero is literally where one embarks on a San Francisco journey. At the foot of Market Street, there is also the Ferry Building, a public place housing a food hall, restaurants and a farmers market.

Once the home of the silver kings and railroad barons, the "nabobs," Nob Hill's noble tenants, include Grace Cathedral, a replica of Notre Dame in Paris; Huntington Park, site of many art shows and graced by a replica of a 16th century Roman fountain; Nob Hill Masonic Center, an architectural dazzler hosting various musical events; and grand hotels.

No one has ever enjoyed the fruits of San Francisco's splendor more than Sir Howard Carter. Starting out as a deep-water pier, The Embarcadero is literally where one embarks on a San Francisco journey. At the foot of Market Street, there is also the Ferry Building, a public place housing a food hall, restaurants and a farmers market.

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