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San Francisco is one of the most attractive cities in the world. It is a melting pot of finance and industry, arts and culture, liberalism and everything else in between. There are many reasons why you must visit this iconic city, and with so much to see, itâ€™s best to plan your vacation ahead to make every minute of your stay count.

San Francisco is best toured by public transportation: buses, shuttles, and subway trains can get you to the key areas of the city. Donâ€™t forget to ride San Franciscoâ€™s famous cable car system, whic is also called â€œMuniâ€• by its residents. Other options include walking and bicycle tours for visitors.

The city has several points of interest, but none are as popular as its symbol: the Golden Gate Bridge. It is arguably the most beautiful and most photographed bridge in the world, so donâ€™t miss the chance of taking a picture when you pass by. Also forming part of San Francisco is Alcatraz, the former prison island which is now a national historic landmark. Other tourist destinations include the Golden Gate Park, Fishermanâ€™s Wharf, and the Embarcadero.

San Francisco is also rich in cultural landmarks: examples are the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the War Memorial Opera House, and Castro St.â€”otherwise known as the â€œgay capital of the world.â€• San Franciscoâ€™s Chinatown is the largest Chinese community outside Asia. And donâ€™ forget that the city is home to many popular sports teams: you can catch a San Francisco 49ers or a San Francisco Giants game

Downtown San Francisco is the central business district of the city. The district is home to many corporate headquarters and historic buildings. The â€œskyscraper boomâ€• up until the 80s has led to the construction of high-rise structures in the area; you can find some of the tallest apartments, condominiums, office buildings, and hotels in Downtown San Francisco.

A tour of San Francisco will not be complete without visiting Union Square. One of the countryâ€™s premier shopping districts, Union Square is a collection of world-class art galleries, boutiques, department stores, and specialty shops. Thereâ€™s much more to see than just shopping centers, restaurants, and hotels in Union Square San Francisco; the plaza is also a hub for performing arts and special events.

For first-time San Francisco travelers, several websites can give you tips on things to do and places to visit while youâ€™re in the wonderful city. You can start by visiting bayareatravelguide.net and sanfrancisco.travel.com. If you are looking for hotels in Downtown San Francisco, log on to booking.com or hotels.com for listings of the best places to stay at affordable prices.

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