



MPACE 2026

Bridging Ideas, Building Possibilities

San Francisco, CA | Dec 9-11

Fun Things to Do in San Francisco During MPACE Week!

December 2026

Stay: Fairmont San Francisco • Nob Hill

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San Francisco Highlights

Experience the city's iconic landmarks and neighborhoods.

-  **Walk the Golden Gate Bridge** – One of the world's most recognizable landmarks, offering spectacular views of the Bay, Alcatraz, and the city skyline.
-  **Classic San Francisco Photo Tour** – Visit the Golden Gate Bridge, Painted Ladies, Lombard Street, and other iconic landmarks in one convenient 2–3 hour sightseeing tour.
-  **Ride a Historic Cable Car** – A quintessential San Francisco experience connecting Nob Hill with the waterfront.



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- 🏮 **Explore Chinatown** – Wander the oldest Chinatown in North America, filled with historic temples, tea shops, bakeries, and colorful alleyways.
- ☕ **North Beach** – Discover San Francisco's Little Italy, known for its cafés, bookstores, bakeries, and lively neighborhood atmosphere.
- 🦉 **Pier 39 & Fisherman's Wharf** – Visit the famous sea lions, browse waterfront shops, and enjoy fresh seafood with bay views.
- 🍫 **Ghirardelli Square** – Explore the historic chocolate factory turned shopping and dining destination, and treat yourself to a famous hot fudge sundae.
- 🏰 **Alcatraz Night Tour** – Experience "The Rock" after dark with exclusive evening programming. Reserve well in advance, as tours frequently sell out.
- 🏀 **Golden State Warriors at Chase Center** – Catch an NBA game at one of the league's premier arenas, just a short rideshare or Muni ride from downtown.
- ✨ **Visit Club Fugazi at North Beach** - Experience the soul of San Francisco through awe-inspiring acrobatics at their signature “Dear San Francisco” show.



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Holiday & Seasonal Experiences

Visiting during the holidays? Don't miss these festive San Francisco traditions.

- 🌟 **Let's Glow SF** – Downtown buildings become giant canvases for spectacular animated light projections.
- 🎄 **Union Square Christmas Tree** – A beloved San Francisco holiday tradition.
- 🏠 **Westin St. Francis Sugar Castle** – Admire the famous Sugar Castle and Gingerbread Village in one of the city's most historic hotels.
- 🚶 **Winter Walk on Stockton Street** – Holiday lights, music, local vendors, food trucks, and seasonal entertainment.
- 🛼 **Union Square Ice Rink** – Skate beneath the city skyline in the heart of Union Square.
- 🎩 **Great Dickens Christmas Fair** – Step into Victorian London with live entertainment, costumed characters, festive shopping, and traditional holiday fare.



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Free Things to Do

Enjoy San Francisco without spending a dime.

-  **Salesforce Park**
-  **Cable Car Museum**
-  **San Francisco Railway Museum**
-  **Institute of Contemporary Art San Francisco**
-  Stroll the Embarcadero
-  Explore Chinatown
-  Wander North Beach
-  Union Square Holiday Displays
-  Let's Glow SF



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Food & Drink Experiences

Classic San Francisco restaurants worth the walk.

Restaurant	Approx. distance from The Fairmont	Why you'll love it
Key Klub	0.4 miles	A stylish neighborhood wine bar with a lively atmosphere, natural wines, craft beer, and elevated comfort food. Great for happy hour, casual dinners, or a fun night out after conference sessions.
Wayfare Tavern	0.8 miles	Chef Tyler Florence's beloved tavern serves elevated American comfort food in a beautifully restored historic building. Famous for its fried chicken, warm hospitality, and lively San Francisco atmosphere.
Z & Y Restaurant	0.8 miles	One of San Francisco's most celebrated Chinatown restaurants, known for bold, authentic Sichuan cuisine. Come for the famous spicy dishes and handmade dumplings—perfect for sharing.
Goldenette	0.9 miles	A fresh take on the classic American diner, serving all-day breakfast, crave-worthy smash burgers, crispy tater tots, and nostalgic milkshakes in a bright retro-inspired space.
Swan Oyster Depot	0.9 miles	An iconic seafood counter that's been a San Francisco institution for generations. Pull up a stool for impossibly fresh oysters, Dungeness crab, and clam chowder—but come early, as the line is part of the experience.



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Restaurant	Approx. distance from The Fairmont	Why you'll love it
Tadich Grill	1.0 mile	California's oldest continuously operating restaurant (est. 1849), serving classic San Francisco seafood in an elegant old-world setting. Don't miss the cioppino or fresh local catch
The Buena Vista	1.0 mile	Home of the original Irish Coffee in America, this waterfront landmark has been welcoming visitors since the 1950s. Stop in for breakfast, lunch, or a world-famous Irish Coffee after exploring Fisherman's Wharf.
Tony's Pizza Napoletana	1.1 miles	An award-winning North Beach institution where World Champion pizzaiolo Tony Gemignani serves exceptional pizzas in a variety of regional Italian styles. Expect a wait—it's worth it.
Sotto Mare	1.1 miles	A cozy North Beach seafood favorite famous for its legendary cioppino, fresh oysters, and welcoming neighborhood charm. A quintessential San Francisco dining experience.
Ferry Building Marketplace	1.3 miles	Stroll through one of San Francisco's most iconic waterfront destinations, featuring artisan food vendors, local shops, and breathtaking views of the Bay and Bay Bridge.
Scoma's	1.3 miles	Scoma's is a San Francisco classic on Fisherman's Wharf, known for its fresh seafood, waterfront views, and warm, old-school charm. It's the perfect place to enjoy local favorites like cioppino or Dungeness crab (when in season) while taking in the sights of the harbor.



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Restaurant	Approx. distance from The Fairmont	Why you'll love it
Boudin Bakery at Fisherman's Wharf	1.3 miles	Home to San Francisco's famous sourdough bread and a must-visit for first-time visitors. Stop in for a classic clam chowder served in a sourdough bread bowl, watch the bakers at work, and pick up a fresh loaf to take home.

Nightlife Near the Fairmont

Looking for a place to unwind after conference sessions? These local favorites are all within walking distance or a quick rideshare from the Fairmont.

Tonga Room & Hurricane Bar (Inside the Fairmont)

A San Francisco icon since 1945, the legendary Tonga Room features an indoor lagoon, floating stage, tropical rainstorms, and live music. Sip tiki cocktails while enjoying one of the city's most unique nightlife experiences. **Note:** Live music nights have a \$20 entertainment cover after 7:00 PM, so reservations are recommended.



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Top of the Mark (Across the Street)

Located atop the InterContinental Mark Hopkins, this historic rooftop lounge offers panoramic views of the Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz, downtown San Francisco, and the Bay. Enjoy handcrafted cocktails while taking in one of the city's most spectacular sunsets—a quintessential San Francisco experience.

Bourbon & Branch (Short Rideshare)

Step into an authentic Prohibition-era speakeasy where expertly crafted cocktails, vintage décor, and hidden rooms recreate the spirit of the 1920s. Reservations—and a password—are required for the main bar, while **The Library** offers a more casual walk-in experience.

Persona (10-minute Walk)

A glamorous Lower Nob Hill cocktail lounge featuring dramatic mirrored interiors, creative cocktails, and plenty of space for larger groups. Its lively yet relaxed atmosphere makes it an excellent choice for post-conference conversations.



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Owl Tree (10-minute Walk)

A cozy neighborhood cocktail bar known for its friendly bartenders, owl-themed décor, and relaxed atmosphere. A great spot to enjoy a thoughtfully crafted drink away from the crowds.



Harper & Rye (15-minute Walk)

A stylish Polk Street cocktail bar serving creative drinks in a laid-back setting. With a pool table, comfortable seating, and a quieter upstairs lounge, it's an ideal gathering place for small groups after a day of conference sessions.

SF Neighborhoods at a Glance

- **Nob Hill** — where we're staying. Grand old hotels, cable cars, church spires, quiet and upscale. Good base, not much nightlife of its own beyond hotel bars.
- **Union Square** — the retail/theater core, 10-15 min walk from the Fairmont. Shopping, big department stores, cable car turnaround, holiday displays in December.
- **Chinatown** — right next to Nob Hill downhill. Oldest Chinatown in North America; dim sum, markets, alleyways, a few hidden bars.



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- **North Beach** — SF's "Little Italy," walkable from Chinatown. Old-school Italian restaurants, cafés, City Lights Bookstore, live jazz and comedy clubs, Washington Square Park.
- **Fisherman's Wharf / Ghirardelli Square** — touristy but classic. Sea lions at Pier 39, chocolate, seafood, the cable car turnaround for the Powell-Hyde line ends here.
- **Financial District / Embarcadero** — skyscrapers by day, the Ferry Building marketplace, waterfront path, ferries to Sausalito/Oakland.
- **SoMa (South of Market)** — where the Moscone Center and a lot of convention hotels sit; also home to Yerba Buena Gardens, SFMOMA, and a growing bar/restaurant scene.
- **Mission District** — a bit further out (rideshare or BART recommended). SF's best burritos and taquerias, colorful murals (Clarion Alley, Balmy Alley), trendy bars, lively at night.
- **Hayes Valley** — boutique shopping, wine bars, close to the Opera House/Symphony — good pre- or post-show neighborhood.
- **Castro** — historic LGBTQ+ neighborhood, vibrant nightlife, the iconic Castro Theatre marquee, rainbow crosswalks.
- **Marina / Cow Hollow** — younger, sportier crowd, waterfront views of the Golden Gate Bridge, upscale casual bars along Union/Chestnut Streets.
- **Haight-Ashbury** — counterculture history, vintage shops, bordering Golden Gate Park.

Digital Maps for Muni, BART and Cable cars can be found here:

<https://www.sftravel.com/meetings/article/maps>

Neighborhood maps can be found here:

<https://www.sftravel.com/article/arts-culture-neighborhood-maps-to-help-you-explore-san-francisco>