

Potlatch 10

Native Guide

Welcome to the Potlatch 10 Native Guide! We, your Native Guides, have attempted to verify as much as this information as we were able, but we warn you—not everything may be perfectly accurate. Your Native Guide also includes many tirades, er, opinions, and begs your indulgence. You can assume that all phone numbers are in the 415 area code unless otherwise specified.

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Bookstores

Here we give a hint or two of the riches of the Bay Area's bookstore scene.

A Clean Well-Lighted Place for Books

441-6670

601 Van Ness Avenue, in Opera Plaza opposite Max's. .3 miles
Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.;
Sunday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

ACWLFPB is the bookstore closest to Potlatch. It's a model small, independent bookstore with great author events, and note those hours! Come here for a late-night book fix.

The Other Change of Hobbit

(510) 848-0413

2020 Shattuck near University, Berkeley

The *best* science fiction bookstore, with new and used science fiction and collectible editions, as well as a great selection of historical fiction, mysteries, and gay and lesbian mysteries.

Rand-McNally

Practically next to Stacey's (see below)

Rand-McNally has globes, travel accessories, and, yes, travel books, tons of them. It's *the* place to go in SF if you're going to be going someplace else.

Stacy's Books

421-4687

581 Market Street Looong walk!
Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

An exceptional independent bookstore with great fiction sections and an immense computer and technology section. Your Native Guide has whiled away many happy hours here.

Restaurants

San Francisco has a tremendous number of great restaurants. Many of them are in the general vicinity of the Ramada Plaza Hotel, but most are farther afield. Your Native Guides have barely scratched the surface of the riches, to tell the truth. Ask the locals for their recommendations, too, as there are many treasures we've not been able to cover here. We suggest also that you call these in advance to confirm their hours.

Absinthe 551-1590

398 Hayes St. at Gough 0.4 miles \$\$\$
Tuesday to Friday 8 a.m. to 1 a.m.; Saturday
10:30 a.m. to 1 a.m.; Sunday 10:30 a.m. to
10:30 p.m.

Fine dining: one of the best French/Californian restaurants in the area. Outstanding coq au vin and risotto; a tempting oyster bar that serves huge platters of seafood; a bar menu of snacks and real food that you can eat sitting in their lovely bar area. Your Native Guide still hasn't managed to go there when he has time to try the desserts, but they're reputed to be very good, nor has he sampled the wonderful-looking brunch menu. Prices are high, and reservations are recommended.

Ananda Fuara

1298 Market Street 1 block
Wednesdays 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.; all other days
8am-8pm

Right around the corner from the hotel, Ananda Fuara combines a homey atmosphere with tasty and inexpensive food. All of the dishes are vegetarian, and many are vegan. Warning: you don't need a reservation, but the restaurant is small.

Bistro Clovis 864-0231

1596 Market Street (at Franklin) \$\$
Open for lunch and dinner Monday through
Saturday. W/A

Bistro Clovis serves classic French food such as cassoulet with everything in it, patés, onion soup, beef stew, etc. and even looks like a neighborhood bistro. Famous for the "wine palette," a personal taster of four different French wines (always changing), which I strongly recommend. Pleasant atmosphere, moderate prices. But it's small, so be sure to make a reservation.

Brainwash Cafe/Laundromat 861-FOOD; 431-WASH

1122 Folsom .2 miles \$/\$\$
Opens 8 a.m. Monday to Friday; 7:30 a.m. Sat-
urday and Sunday; closes at midnight, except
Friday and Saturday, when it closes at 1 a.m.

It's really a laundromat, and the food is supposed to be pretty good! (They have sandwiches, pasta, breakfast foods, etc.) Wash your clothes and have a snack at the same time.

Bull's Texas Cafe

25 Van Ness Avenue .2 miles \$\$
Monday to Thursday 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Fri-
day, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday, 5 p.m. to 9
p.m.

This is more Tex-Mex (in a slightly yup-scale way) than Mexican. The food is damn good (at least if you like Tex Mex). Ambiance is seriously noisy and it tries a bit too hard to be funky, but a fun place if you don't care about quiet conversation.

Burger King

1200 Market (across Market from the hotel)
Open til all hours.

The burgers come from unsanitary meat-packing plants with brutal labor conditions. The flavors are created in a factory near the New Jersey Turnpike. However, the fries are made in a cool automated factory where potatoes are shot out of a hose at a speed of 117 m.p.h. at a grid of sharpened steel blades!

Cafe Allegro

350 Grove Street (yes, in the garage).3 miles\$
Hours: 7am-8pm M-F

Slightly upscale cafeteria style: soup, salads, sandwiches, and so on. Symphony and opera patrons often go there for a quick bite. You don't need a reservation.

Cafe do Brasil 626-6432

1106 Market Street .1 mile \$/\$\$
Open daily 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Cafe do Brasil is a Brazilian restaurant, serving typical specialties such as cod cakes and feijoida for lunch and dinner. Thursdays through Sundays Cafe do Brasil serves a buffet and churrascaria, Brazilian barbecue, featuring vast quantities of roasted meat.

Carl's Junior

10 United Nations Plaza 1 block

Fast Food Nation, by Eric Schlosser, has a lot to say about the Carl's Jr. chain and about its founder, Carl Karcher. The history of fast food is fascinating! One of the things Schlosser has to say is that Carl Karcher donates heavily to anti-abortion groups. Maybe you knew that already.

Chavito's 292-7233

370 Golden Gate .2 miles \$

Excellent taqueria/burritaria.

Chevy's 621-8200

590 Van Ness Avenue .3 miles \$/\$\$

Your basic Americanized Mexican food, but uses decent ingredients.

Citizen Cake

Grove at Gough .5 miles \$\$\$

Your Native Guide is at a loss as to define Citizen Cake's cuisine. Nouvelle cuisine might come closest: the portions are small, exquisite-looking, and beautifully prepared. The beverages include citron pressee (essentially fresh lemonade) and lovely teas. Desserts are fabulous and varied. Reservations recommended.

Florinda's Market Street Grill

Located in the hotel. Breakfast served 6:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.; lunch, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; dinner, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

One of the first things that sold your Native Guide on the hotel was the excellent salad of mixed baby greens with raspberry shallot vinaigrette that accompanied my sandwich. Offerings fall into traditional categories, but dishes are done with a "California cuisine" flair: good quality ingredients, interesting combinations; and other special touches. It's slightly more expensive than most hotel coffee shops, but the quality of the food and the comfortable, relaxing atmosphere make it a reasonable value.

Golden House Restaurant
775-3577

366 Golden Gate Avenue .2 miles \$/\$\$
Monday to Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10:30a.m. to 9:30pm

An unpretentious restaurant with good Vietnamese home cooking.

Greens 771-6222

Fort Mason Building A, in the Marina District. \$\$\$
The hours are annoyingly complex; the short version is that the restaurant is open for brunch or lunch Tuesday to Sunday and for dinner Monday to Saturday. Call for the exact times when you make your reservation. The deli is open Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If you make a trip to the Exploratorium (or even if you don't!), you may want to plan lunch or dinner at Greens, a great vegetarian restaurant with a gorgeous view of the Marina and the Golden Gate Bridge. Menus emphasize fresh, local ingredients from Green Gulch Farm—but if you associate vegetarian cooking with a dry salad full of alfalfa sprouts, followed by a stodgy unidentifiable glutinous mass, think again. This is elegant cuisine, beautifully presented. Founding Chef Deborah Madison is known in some quarters as “Saint Deborah.” And the current executive chef, Annie Somerville, is no slouch. Lunch: entrees \$8-12; dinner \$12-17. Saturday night there's a three-course prix-fixe dinner for \$40. Reservations recommended.

If you're not up for something quite that elaborate, try the deli in the restaurant's entry way. It serves simpler, less expensive fare: muffins, sandwiches, salads, and Greens' famous black bean chili.

Harbor Village Restaurant (Dim Sum) 781-8833

Embarcadero 4, Lobby level (second floor), at the foot of Market Street, one block north of Market on Drumm) W/A
Lunch 11:30 to 2:30; dinner 5:30 to 9:30.

Much time could be spent debating the merits of various San Francisco dim sum houses. Harbor Village not only serves a nice variety of well-made dim sum, but it also has the benefits of a pretty dining room overlooking the Ferry Building and your choice of easy public transit access or validated parking on weekends. There might be “better” places in Chinatown, but why hassle?

Hayes Street Grill 863-5545

320 Hayes Street, just west of Franklin \$\$\$
Monday to Thursday 5 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.; Sunday 5 p.m. to 8:30. W/A

The Hayes Street Grill is famous for beautifully prepared fish dishes. Hard to get into, though, especially on weekends. Reservations well in advance are advised. Also note that they do not handle large parties gracefully. Your Native Guide suggests going not more than 4 to 6 at a time.

Jardiniere 861-5555

300 Grove Street at Franklin .5 miles \$\$\$
Hours: 5:30-10:30pm

Traci des Jardins, chef and part owner of Jardiniere, is one of the most famous chefs in San Francisco. She deserves to be. Warning: Jardiniere is expensive and popular. You can sometimes get in there for drinks and (excellent) desserts without a reservation, but you need a reservation for dinner.

Kites

536 Golden Gate Ave .3 miles \$/\$\$
1:30-3pm M-F, 5-10pm MTuWTh, 5-11pm FSa

This is one of your Native Guide's favorite Chinese/Thai places in the Civic Center neighborhood. Excellent! Creative! WAY yummy!

MacDonald's

Van Ness across from Opera Plaza, .6 miles \$
Open until all hours.

See Burger King, above.

Max's Opera Cafe

601 Van Ness at Golden Gate, in Opera Plaza.
11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. W/A

A deli with attitude, famous for its belly-busting sandwiches and huge portions in general rather than for the excellence of its cuisine. Usually crowded, but you can put your name down for a table and cruise across Opera Plaza to the best (non-science fiction) bookstore in SF, A Clean, Well-lighted Place for Books. Does not take reservations.

Millennium Restaurant 487-9800, ext. 0

246 MacAllister St. .4 miles \$\$\$
5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. daily

Millennium bills itself as "gourmet vegetarian cuisine." It's California Cuisine and it's mostly vegan (you can get cheese on some dishes if you ask for it), but that's only part of the story. When you look at the menu, your reaction to many of the dishes is probably going to be "That's really weird! That combination can't possibly work!" Except it does. (Usually.) For dessert, stick to fruit-based options or you'll miss the butterfat. Your Native Guide likes

Millennium (well, two of us, anyway), but some people think the food is just a little too weird. Reservations recommended. They're willing to take reservations for large parties.

Moonstar

552-3882

1169 Market Street 1 block \$/\$\$
Lunch: Monday to Friday 11:00am to 4:00pm;
Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays 11:00am to 4:30pm. Dinner: daily 4:30 pm to 9:30pm

If they were looking to build a perfect place for fans, they couldn't have done much better. All-you-can-eat pan-Asian buffet (including Peking duck and sushi). Right across the street. Deals with big groups well (it's huge!). Casual and comfortable. Dinner and Brunch are a lot fancier. Food here is very good (although not great by SF standards)

San Francisco Main Library Cafe

100 Larkin (visible from hotel!)

There's a pretty good little cafe in the basement of the library: they serve simple sandwiches, soups, salads, muffins, etc., and are pretty cheap. You could get lunch there for under \$5, easily. A cut above fast food, in a cleaner, more pleasant atmosphere. But they're not equipped to handle crowds.

Shalimar

928-0333

532 Jones, between O'Farrell and Geary

Your Native Guide thinks Shalimar is one of the best Pakistani/Indian restaurants around. Very authentic food, and it's not westernized or tamed. If you went to Lahore, Pakistan, this is the kind of food you'd be eating. They use a variety of spices and flavors (but more of the flavor spices than *hot* spices). Shalimar is one of those hole in the wall restaurants, but it's

definitely very good and it's fun. It gets quite crowded, but they move people through the restaurant pretty quickly so it's not too bad.

If you want fancy, they have a sister restaurant (same food, a little more expensive) that's quite fancy. It's on O'Farrell, between Jones and Taylor, and it's called Shalimar Gardens. This is a much nicer, sit-down-and-eat place.

Your Native Guide especially recommends the Tandoori Chicken Boti, Channas (chickpeas), Koftas (meatballs), and lamb chops if they have them. Of course, you have to have the naan too.

Subway

Your Native Guide isn't sure where the local Subway is, but couldn't resist an opportunity to rant.

According to Schlosser's *Fast Food Nation*, Subway serves relatively healthful food for a fast food chain. On the other hand, it has one of the worst records for the way it treats its franchisees. Choose your poison.

Thepin Thai 863-9335

298 Gough at Fell Moderate
Open for lunch and dinner. W/A

This is one of your Native Guide's favorite Thai restaurants. Your NG eats there at least once during the opera/ballet season. It has a varied menu with delicious chef's specials that

change regularly. Very gracious but not stuffy atmosphere, moderate to low prices. Reservations for large groups or for any group on a weekend evening are certainly advisable.

Vicolo Pizza

20 Ivy Street, off Franklin .5 miles \$

Vicolo Pizza serves an unusual cornmeal-crust pizza with various interesting toppings. Service is casual: you order at the counter, and they'll bring it to you. Warning: Vicolo is popular with people heading to the symphony and the opera, and lines are sometimes long when there's a performance. (Vicolo is a little hard to find: Ivy Street is a little alley just off Franklin. It's worth the hunt.)

Zuni Cafe 5522-2522

1658 Market at Rose \$\$\$
Open for lunch and dinner Tuesday to Sunday. W/A

The Zuni is among your Native Guide's favorite places in the Civic Center area for a fancy meal. Gets three and a half stars from the Chronicle but is not in the least pretentious. Roast chicken is famous, but fish dishes are also excellent and there's a fine wine list. Like Hayes Street Grill, it's very popular, so reservations well in advance, especially for large parties, are necessary. Open for lunch and dinner Tuesday-Sunday.

Places to Go, Things to Do

Potlatch isn't the only thing going on in San Francisco this weekend! If you're coming early or staying late, or you have a couple of hours to see some of the city, here are some suggestions from Your Native Guide. Some of these are virtually across the street in San Francisco's Civic Center area; for others, you will have to take public transportation or a cab (or drive, but we suggest taking public, as the parking situation is miserable throughout SF).

34th Annual California International Antiquarian Book Fair

February 23-25

Concourse Exhibition Center, 8th & Brannan
Friday, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Admission: \$10 on Friday; \$5 on Saturday or Sunday

If your book collection isn't big enough, or you just *must* have a particular first edition, or you want to be completely horrified by the current prices of books your parents bought for \$1.25 when you were a child, or you just want to drool, this is the place to come. The Antiquarian Book Fair has more than 250 specialty dealers from all over. Whether you're interested in early printed books, 20th century first editions, or opera singer photographs, there's something here for you.

AMC 1000 Movie Theater

922-4AMC

1000 Van Ness Avenue. .5 to .75 miles

This 16-theater multiplex has stadium seating and is a great place to see *Matrix*-type blockbusters.

California Academy of Sciences

750-7145

Golden Gate Park across from de Young Museum
Open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The California Academy of Sciences, located in beautiful Golden Gate Park near the Japanese Tea Garden, includes a museum of natural history, an aquarium, and a planetarium. Many exhibits focus on California's natural history and wildlife, but the museum also features an "Africa Hall" and the usual natural history museum offerings (exhibits on gems, dino-

saur, etc.). Your Native Guide's favorite part is the aquarium, especially the alligator exhibit. There's also a very cool exhibit on California tide pools, including a "touch pool" with critters that can be picked up and examined. Years ago, while visiting the aquarium, your Native Guide noticed a penguin with a flipper tag clearly marked "Ursula."

Ursula Le Penguin? According to the Academy's web site, this penguin (or her namesake) still resides in the penguin colony.

Special exhibits scheduled during Potlatch weekend include "Venoms: Striking Beauties."

Parking near the museum is tight, so it's best to take public transport if you can. Muni bus #44 O'Shaughnessy, northbound brings you directly to the front entrance of the Academy. It connects to several different buses from downtown San Francisco. It can also be caught at the Glen Park Bart Station.

Chabot Space & Science Center

510-336-7300; buy tickets 510-336-7373

10000 Skyline Boulevard, Oakland. Take the AC Transit 53 bus from Fruitvale BART. Remember to get a Transfer Voucher good for a discount on your admission price!

Ticket prices are too complicated to list and depend on whether you attend shows at the Planetarium or MegaDome Theater. Basic admission to the center is \$8 for adults, \$5.50 for youth and seniors.

The new Chabot Space & Science Center sprawls over a site high in the Oakland Hills. Its Planetarium has one of the most advanced star projectors in the world; current shows include *Supernova* and *The Sky Tonight*. The MegaDome Theater shows 70 mm films on all kinds of scientific subjects. Current shows include *Antarctica*, *To Be An Astronaut*, and *SolarMax*. There are great exhibits and many lectures as well.

Fritz Leiber in San Francisco

In the area!

Fritz Leiber lived and wrote in The City from 1970 until his death in 1992. If you walk eight blocks up Hyde to Geary, to your left you'll discover 811 Geary, where Leiber was in residence in apartment 504 when he wrote his supernatural horror novel *Our Lady Of Darkness*. This building is also where the hero of that novel, Franz Westen, lives—in apartment 604, an imaginary floor invented for the book (though otherwise all descriptions, including the “Scholar’s Mistress,” are exact for Leiber’s own room). Heading toward downtown will bring you to his next address, 565 Geary, setting for his novelette “The Glove.” His last address in San Francisco is another block past Geary, on the corner of Leavenworth—The Warrington Apartments at 775 Post. You’ll find Corona Heights, where the ghost of Thibaut de Castries hangs out, by going to Noe and Market, going north a block to Beaver, turning left, and climbing until you are atop the naked rocks a few blocks ahead. Steep, but a great view. (And the restaurant Leiber used in the novel, one of his favorites, The German Cook on O’Farrell between Hyde and Leavenworth, is still serving.)

San Francisco City Hall

Grove and Van Ness, facing across the big plaza from the San Francisco Library Main Branch. Open Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturdays and Sunday 12 noon to 4 p.m. Public tours are Tuesday through Friday at 10 a.m., noon, and 2 p.m. Tour sign-up is at the Docent Kiosk on the main floor.

San Francisco’s City Hall is nearly everything a civic building should be: it presides over a big plaza; it sits among other important civic buildings constructed in a similar style; it has a beautiful dome and a sweeping staircase; you

can come in and get married by a justice of the peace, as at least one friend of your Native Guide did a couple of years ago.

Not that the grand old building doesn’t have problems: the post-earthquake renovation that restored much of its beauty and also installed an advanced base isolation earthquake protection system unfortunately didn’t include funding for updating the wiring to support modern computer networks! But drop by and take a look at City Hall anyway.

Davies Symphony Hall

864-6000

Corner of Grove and Van Ness (modern building) W/A

From the hotel you can't quite see Davies Symphony Hall and the glittering, newly refurbished War Memorial Opera House, but that's mostly because City Hall is in the way. Symphony Hall and the Opera House are right across the street from each other, and we're less than a ten minute walk away. Michael Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony are doing some very exciting things; MTT, as he is often called here, is one of the best known champions of 20th century symphonic music.

Unfortunately, you won't be able hear the San Francisco Symphony unless you're staying in town for another week: this week the Symphony is playing Carnegie Hall in New York City. There are still concerts at Symphony Hall on Feb. 24th and 25th, though: the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra on Saturday (conducted by Bobby McFerrin), and a recital by Garrick Ohlsson on Sunday.

Exploratorium EXP-LORE for general info; 561-0360 for recorded directions

3601 Lyon Street
Closed Mondays; Tuesday to Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesdays open to 9 p.m.

The Bay Area has an unusual number of science museums: the Lawrence Hall of Science in the Berkeley Hills, the Tech Museum of Innovation in downtown San Jose, the new Chabot Space & Science Center in Oakland. And, of course, San Francisco's Exploratorium.

The Exploratorium, founded by Frank Oppenheimer (yes, the brother of *that* Oppenheimer), is a hands-on science museum. It's a pioneer in experiential learning through an apparently unstructured environment, it sponsors artists in residence, and it's great fun. There's even a familial connection between the Exploratorium and Potlatch: you'll see a lot of familiar names among the authors of Exploratorium books such as *Zap Science* and *The Science Explorer*.

If you haven't been to the Exploratorium before, or if it's been years since you were last there, you should try to make it there while you're in town. It's located in the northwestern part of the city in the Palace of Fine Arts, a "Roman ruin" designed by architect Bernard Maybeck and built in 1915 for the Panama-Pacific Expo. Your best bet for getting to the Exploratorium from the hotel is probably to take the 49 bus up to Fort Mason Center and then transfer to the 30.

Golden Gate Park

Bounded by Stanyan, the Pacific Ocean, Fulton & Lincoln.

Golden Gate Park is one of the biggest, most beautiful, and most famous municipal parks in

the country. Within its bounds you'll find lakes, paths, riding stables, windmills, museums, and a Japanese tea garden.

Hyde Street Pier (San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park)

Daily 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Adults \$5; children 12-17 and adults over 62, \$2.00. Children under 12 free with an adult. The ships are *not* wheelchair accessible.

National Maritime Museum building is open 10 a.m to 5 p.m daily. Admission is free.

This museum is a favorite of Patrick O'Brian fans, since we have so few 74 gun ships on exhibit on the West Coast. See the historic ships *Balclutha*, *C. W. Thayer*, the San Francisco Bay ferry *Eureka*, *Alma*, and more!

The Mission, The Castro, and The Haight

Three of San Francisco's famous neighborhoods are easily accessible from the hotel. We can't do detailed reviews of the many attractions in each neighborhood: whole books have been written on the subject. But here's a basic summary of what you'll find and how to get there. For more info, see a guidebook or ask a friendly native.

The Mission is probably your Native Guide's favorite of the three. It's a bustling, multicultural neighborhood (until recently mainly Latino, but now truly polyglot); also dirty and noisy, but don't let that stop you. It's been the locus of San Francisco's recent dot-com wars, where local residents have banded together against yuppie intrusion. The Mission is a good place to find just about any variety of cuisine you fancy, from California to Vietnamese to Salvadoran. You can also get pierced, buy books, hang out in a café, go to a club, etc.

On Valencia (two short blocks west of Mission), you will find such attractions as Osento (a women's bath house), Good Vibrations (a pioneering woman-owned sex shop), and an Indian grocery selling some very weird ice cream flavors. Modern Times Bookstore (a left-wing institution) and Dog-Eared Books (a well-stocked but poorly-organized used bookstore) are both on Valencia at 20th. Do NOT attempt to park your SUV in the Mission (if you're curious, ask a native why not). Instead, take BART, and get off at either 16th Street or 24th Street.

The Castro was once a quiet working class Irish neighborhood, but by the late 1970's it was famous as a "gay mecca." As is so often the case, many people lament the good old days, when the Castro was Really Something. But even though gay pride has been commodified, the Castro is still pretty cool. The Castro Theater (on Castro between 17th and 18th) is a restored movie palace that shows an eclectic mix of movies. AND it has a Wurlitzer. Also, check out A Different Light Bookstore (489 Castro St., 431-0891). (Yes, it's named after Elizabeth Lynn's novel.) The Castro is not particularly known for its restaurants, but good food can certainly be found there. Bars and clubs in the evening are among the neighborhood's main attractions. The Castro is easily accessible from the hotel by Muni. Take the F Market to the Castro St. stop.

Haight Street is famous as the locus of San Francisco's 1960s counter-culture. By 1967, it had already declined to the point that aficionados described it as a place where tourists from Indiana came to stare at other tourists from Indiana. Now it's been invaded by chain stores and has lost some of its energy. Still, it's a good place to find funky used clothes, music, and books. The usual food choices are well-represented. Or check out a movie at the Red Vic theater (1727 Haight Street, 668-3994), a repertory movie theater where you get can nutritional yeast on your popcorn. To get to the

Haight, take a Muni bus from right in front of the hotel (the 6 Parnassus, the 7 Haight, or the 71 Noriega) and get off at the corner of Haight and Ashbury.

Museum of Modern Art

357-4000

151 Third Street (between Mission and Howard Streets)

Open daily 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; closed Wednesdays; open to 9 p.m. Thursdays.

Adults \$6 adults over 62 and students \$4; children under 12 free.

SF MOMA, located in a striking Mario Botta building south of Market, houses a permanent collection and shifting exhibits of modern art. From February 5 to March 2, only the permanent collection is open; the fourth and fifth floor galleries are closed while special exhibits are installed.

There's a top-notch bookstore and an excellent cafe on the ground floor.

Opera Plaza Cinemas

352-0810

601 Van Ness, in Opera Plaza

Small multiplex that focusses on independent and art films.

PALM (Performing Arts Library & Museum)

401 Van Ness, Fourth Floor, in the Veterans Memorial Building, Van Ness Avenue, across the plaza from War Memorial Opera House

Galleries open Thursday through Tuesday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Library open same days and hours but closed Tuesdays.

PALM is the repository for a vast amount of information on San Francisco's performing arts history. If you want to know about ballet companies or musicals or the history of opera in SF, this is the place to start. There are also permanent and temporary exhibits.

San Francisco Ballet at War Memorial Opera House

865-2000

Corner of Grove and Van Ness (Beaux Arts building) W/A

The San Francisco Opera and the San Francisco Ballet time-share the Opera House; this month is the Ballet's turn. Fortunately, it isn't Nutcracker season. This weekend's performances include original works by Mark Morris and Nacho Duato, with music ranging from Richard Strauss to John Corigliano. Call the box office for tickets and information, or just walk over.

San Francisco Library Main Branch

Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.; Monday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, noon to 6 p.m.

The San Francisco Main Library (New Main) is almost directly across from the hotel; you can see the library from the hotel's front door.

The New Main, open since 1996, has been a source of great controversy in San Francisco. Critics describe it as having poor layout, insufficient storage, and a focus on the needs of donors rather than users. Certainly, tens of thousands of books were thrown away when the move was made from the old main library to this one. See the edible book in the Hand Bookbinders Exhibit for a scathing comment on the issue.

Tours of the library are held Wednesdays and Fridays at 2:30. All library events are free. During Potlatch, the following library exhibits are open:

Hand Bookbinders of California Exhibition Sponsored by the Book Arts & Special Collections Center, the twenty-eighth annual members' show features the work of amateurs as well as internationally recognized bookbinders. The exhibition presents examples of refined gold-tooled leather binding, the avant-garde artists' book, and innovative designs that range from the traditional to the unexpected. Lower Level, Jewett Gallery through March 16, 2001.

Hispanic Heritage Baseball Museum Exhibition A display of 100 mementos of Hispanic Major League Baseball players, past and present. Sixth Floor, Skylight Gallery through March 25, 2001.

"The Manongs of Watsonville" The struggles and sacrifices of Filipino American pioneers of California: the living history of Manongs who worked long hours in fertile agricultural fields of the Pajaro Valley nestled on California Central Coast. Third Floor, Filipino American Center, through May 15, 2001.

And the following lecture could be your reward for an auction well-spent.

"The History of the Black Presence in Russia: From the Reign of Peter the Great to the Present," by Ralph William Boone. Covering an expansive amount of history from the medieval era to the contemporary post-Soviet era, the presentation examines the presence of Blacks both well-known in Russian history including author Alexander Pushkin, to the lesser-known contributions of Jan Tiutekurin's impact on Russian art. Possessed with a broad wealth of knowledge as a Russian scholar and lecturer, Mr. Boone shares fascinating, startling and illuminating facts and stories on this little known piece of world history. Lower

Level, Latino/Hispanic Community. Meeting Room, February 25, 2-3:30 p.m.

U.S.S. Pampanito

Fisherman's Wharf; Jefferson St. at Taylor; Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; all other days 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Adults \$7; children 6-12 \$4; children under 6 free; seniors over 62 \$5; active duty military \$4.; family ticket \$20 (two adults, two children under 18)

Take a self-guided tour of the claustrophobic WWII submarine *Pampanito!* It's part of the Maritime National Historical Park, but admission and hours are separate.

Yerba Buena Gardens

South of Market, bounded by Mission, 3rd, 4th, and Howard

Yerba Buena Gardens has a controversial history; hundreds or thousands of low-income San Francisco residence were displaced from the site decades ago during a period of "urban renewal." The fight over what to put on the site went on and on and on. We wound up with a performing arts center, beautiful outdoor gardens and fountains, SF MOMA, and other public amenities, but at great cost to the social fabric of the city. Worth a visit for the lovely grounds, the ice rink, the children's museum Zeum, and, if you're so inclined, the Sony Metreon, a weird but fun combination of indoor mall, food court, movie theater, and amusement park (video bowling on the street of San Francisco! incredible (and expensive) multiplayer video games!).

Other Useful Information

Even if we were trying to list everywhere to go and everything to do in town, there's no way we could: this is San Francisco. We've barely covered the area right around the hotel, let alone the Castro, the Mission, Corona Heights (watch out for paramentals!), Haight Ashbury, Golden Gate Park,...so here is some information on how to find out *more* information, and also notes about Useful Stuff in the vicinity of the hotel.

The *Bay City Guide* has useful maps, and free newspapers are a good resource for show times, restaurants, and so on. San Francisco has several; the two easiest ones to find are *SF Weekly* and the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*. The *Bay Times*, a free gay and lesbian paper, also has good listings.

The daily newspaper here is the *San Francisco Chronicle*; don't bother with the *Examiner*. (If you're interested in a rant about bizarre newspaper politics, ask a native.) If you're an obsessive who brought your computer with you, try:

<http://www.sfvisitor.org/> for general information,
<http://www.transitinfo.org> for public transportation, and
<http://www.sfgate.com/eguide/food/> or
<http://bayarea.citysearch.com/section/restaurants> for restaurant

ATMs, Nearest

Next door to hotel; across the street; 1 block

The nearest ATMs are at the Washington Mutual Bank next door to the hotel and across the street at Wells Fargo Bank.

Drugstore

Market & 9th

There is a Walgreen's Drugstore at Market and 9th Street, one block from the hotel.

Walgreen's Drugs

Market & 9th

The nearest drugstore is the Walgreen's at Market and 9th Street, one block from the hotel.