



# Travel Guide and Activities



## Useful Information

### Climate

San Francisco is characteristic of the cool, dry summer and mild, wet winters. The city experiences mild temperatures, making it comfortable year-round but often unpredictable. Whatever time of the year you visit San Francisco; it is always wise to carry a jacket or sweater with you!

### Money

The currency used in San Francisco is the United States Dollar (USD). ATMs can be found all over the city, and credit or debit cards are widely accepted.

### Telephone Country Code

The telephone country code for the United States is +1, followed by the area code 415.

### Electricity

110 V; 60Hz – 2 flat-pin plugs. You might need an adapter and possibly a voltage converter.

### Tap water

Tap water in San Francisco is safe to drink and of high quality unless there is a sign to the contrary.

### Transport

San Francisco is a very walkable city, but if you prefer not to walk, you will find plenty of transportation options including ridesharing services and taxis. Biking is also a popular option, with many bike rental stations throughout the city.

### Public Transport Info

San Francisco has an extensive public transportation network, which includes buses, streetcars, and cable cars. The Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) system connects San Francisco with nearby cities and suburbs. MUNI, the city's transportation service, operates buses and light rail trains throughout the city.

## San Francisco

### Must-See Sights and Travel Essentials

Located in Northern California, San Francisco is known for its hilly landscape, eclectic architecture, and iconic landmarks. The city is a hub for innovation, creativity, and social change, making it a fantastic place for international students to experience American culture.

[Check out the Monthly Activities Calendar](#)

### 5 Things to Do

- Visit Golden Gate Bridge
- Go to Alcatraz
- Ride the cable cars
- Experience Fisherman's Wharf
- Enjoy the California Academy of Sciences



## Public Holidays

### Public holidays falling on a weekday

2026: 01 January, 19 January, 16 February, 31 March, 25 May, 19 June, 03 July, 07 September, 12 October, 11 November, 26

Bus: \$2.25 or a valid single-ride ticket.

Cable car: \$8 each ride (an All-Day Passport is sold for \$14 by the conductors on the cable cars).

Muni Passports: 1-day Passport \$13; 7-day Passport \$41 (Muni Passports are good for unlimited rides on Muni, including cable cars).

Bicycle: Bicycles can be rented for \$28 to \$50.

[Muni Transit](#)

[Muni System map](#)

### Legal Driving Age

The minimum driving age is 16 years, but most rental companies require that you be at least 25 years old, have an international driving license, a second form of identity and a major credit card.

### Alcohol Age

The legal drinking age is 21. You will have to show valid identification, such as a passport or driver's license, if you wish to purchase alcohol at bars, restaurants, or stores.

### Smoking Laws

Smoking is banned in most indoor public places, including bars, restaurants, and workplaces. Smoking is also prohibited in parks, near playgrounds, and at public transportation stops.

### Insurance

All EC San Francisco students must be covered by health insurance for the entire length of their stay in the U.S.

November, 27 November, 25  
December

## Visa Requirements

A visa may be required depending on your nationality and length of stay. For Visa information, please visit our Visa Requirements page

[Visa Requirements](#)

## Cost of Living

Bottle of water / soda (0.33 litre)

\$1.00-\$2.50

Coffee/Cappuccino (Starbucks)

\$3.50-\$5.00

Fast-Food combo meal

\$7.00-\$10.00

Meal, inexpensive restaurant

\$12.00-\$20.00

Fitness club (monthly, 1 adult)

\$45.00-\$150.00

Public transport (local transport)

\$2.50-\$2.75

Public transport (monthly pass)

\$75.00-\$90.00

