



## » CITY SCENE

# Golden Gate Park

## 1,000 Acres of Adventure

Stretching for 3 miles on the western edge of San Francisco, larger than New York's Central Park and home to everything from roaming bison to Sunday swing dance parties to a Japanese tea garden to a renowned science academy, Golden Gate Park is more than 1,000 acres of sights, sounds and activities to dazzle the senses and give anyone, whether a first-time visitor or a seasoned local, a sense of eclectic, beautiful and cultural San Francisco.

### CONSERVATORY OF FLOWERS

The oldest building in the park and one of the first municipal conservatories in the country, this classic Victorian structure houses a collection of exotic plants, including the most comprehensive public collection of orchids in the world. 1100 John F. Kennedy Dr., 415.634.2090, [www.conservatoryofflowers.org](http://www.conservatoryofflowers.org)

### MUSEUMS

The largest cultural renovation project in San Francisco's history yielded the new, improved and recently opened California Academy of Sciences. It features an aquarium, natural history museum, planetarium and rainforest all under one roof. It is also officially the greenest museum in

the world. The U.S. Green Building Council awarded the Renzo Piano designed facility with its highest possible certification, LEED Platinum. The Living Roof efficiently cools and heats the building through solar energy, and soot acts as natural insulation. The museum features natural ventilation, its own solar power production, and uses recycled materials, including insulation made from blue jeans (\$5 Music Concourse Dr., 415.379.8000, [www.calacademy.org](http://www.calacademy.org)).

Founded in 1895, the de Young is an impressively varied museum in a striking structure

that houses collections from the Americas, the Pacific Islands and Africa. 150 Hagiwara Tea Garden Dr., 415.750.3600, [www.famst.org/deyoung](http://www.famst.org/deyoung)



### GETTING THERE

Take the N Judah Muni line from Powell and Market streets or the 3 Fulton bus from McAllister and Park streets. Map 2, A5-75



## » MUST-SEE EXHIBIT

### Grizzly Bear on Display

More than a century ago, grizzly bears roamed the state of California. But with the exponential growth of the human population during the Gold Rush came many grizzly bear deaths from commercial trapping and unregulated hunting. In 1889, newspaper tycoon William Randolph Hearst commissioned the capture of a live California grizzly bear, which he named Monarch after his San Francisco newspaper, the *SF Examiner*, the "Monarch of the Dailies." When the Midwinter Fair came to San Francisco in 1894, Monarch was moved to Golden Gate Park and presided in an iron cage built near what is now the AIDS Memorial Grove, just across from the site that would soon house the California Academy of Sciences. More than 20,000 people flocked to see what Hearst proclaimed to be the only California grizzly bear in captivity. In 1953, the California State Legislature designated the California grizzly as the official state animal; the California state flag bears Monarch as its center symbol.

One hundred years ago this month, Monarch died of old age and was donated to the California Academy of Sciences for display. Celebrate his life and honor California's iconic state symbol by visiting the museum and paying homage to treasured a piece of California history. —ER