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California Academy of Sciences

4.5 star rating based on 115 reviews Rating Details »

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55 Music Concourse Dr
Golden Gate Park
San Francisco, CA 94118
(415) 379-8000
www.calacademy.org



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Good for Kids: Yes

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[First to Review](#) Julie T.

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Selected Review

Elite '08
933
259
Nicole G.
San Francisco, CA

5 star rating 08/21/2008

The Cal Academy is set to reopen on September 27th, and I got a sneak peak on a press tour today! Gotta say, I love this Yelp gig. Apparently they started planning this new museum right after the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, so with years of thought and \$500 million invested in the project, it's not hard to believe they've turned out a gorgeous, state-of-the-art facility.

The first thing I noticed when I walked in is that the building is absolutely stunning. With floor to ceiling glass almost all of the way around, at most points you can see the beauty of Golden Gate park from inside the museum, so you always feel like you're somewhat in nature. Elegant steel beams reach up far overhead to create interesting patterns, and a hanging 225 foot long whale skeleton almost takes your breath away with its prehistoric massiveness.

From start to finish, I'm pretty sure my mouth was hanging open in awe. The loungey seats in the planetarium made me feel like I was kicking back in front of a campfire, staring up at the galaxy. The aquariums were insanely big, with tropical fish and corals brought in from all over the world. The rain forest, housed inside of a 4 story dome, was lush and full of life. The roof of the museum is a Living Roof, with rolling "hills" and 3 acres of flowers and vegetation native to the park.

It will cost you \$25 a person to get in, so maybe just coughing up the full membership fee of \$99 a year is a better deal? I love that a membership gets you free admission for you and a guest AND supports cool projects, like housing bees on the roof to help prevent colony collapse disorder.

My favorite thing about the museum? Ocio the penguin! He is just such a happy little guy, and he loves people. He was following me around for a little bit. Check him out on the web cam. He's got a tux I can't resist.
<http://www.calacademy...>

People thought this was: Useful (26) Funny (19) Cool (31)

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Elite '08
0
6
Joely L.
San Francisco, CA

5 star rating 08/06/2008

I love the fact that Renzo Piano made this structure as GREEN as it can possibly get!! Save a tree and go GREEN!!!!!!!

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Elite '08
157
113
Patty G.
Walnut Creek, CA

5 star rating 07/23/2008

I remember coming to the CA Academy of Sciences each year on the requisite field trip, and I must admit that I didn't appreciate it nearly as much as I should have.

As an adult, we became members while they were in their temporary location. In fact, we renewed our membership about a year ago knowing that a large part of our two year membership would occur after the closing of the temporary space and before the opening of the new space. And guess what? We didn't care! We are counting down the days til we get to see what they have done.

At the old location, perhaps our favorite was the penguin feeding time and then the coral reef exhibit -- "Finding Nemo" introduced the next generation of kids to coral reefs, as there were tons of 5 year olds and under at that coral reef exhibit going: there's Dory and Nemo and Marlin! Very cute, especially since two of those kids were ours.

Support the Academy of Sciences by becoming a member. Secret tip: there is a reciprocal benefit where many other museums and aquariums are free or 50% off. Actually, it's not secret. But, it's a