

Today's Dirty Dozen – 12 Great Views

If you get sick of people watching, there's always the places natives take their in-laws. Please supply your own "oohs" and "aahs."

1. **Transamerica Pyramid**). Pointy, phallic thing on a massive scale. As far as is known, Vlad III was not involved in the design. Closed to the general public in 2001 (thanks, Homeland Security). A live camera feed has been promised by the website, but for the moment you'll have to be content with static pictures. Building is the tallest in SF, and the 4th tallest west of the Mississippi (853').

www.thepyramidcenter.com

600 Montgomery Street (@Clay)

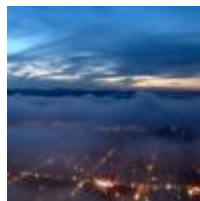


The view from the Pyramid cam

2. **Bank of America Building**. Rumor has it that AP Giannini, the founder of B of A's immediate predecessor, rolled a wheelbarrow full of cash down Market Street after the '06 Quake. Corporate raiders hauled all the cash to Charlotte NC, where the B of A is now headquartered. Fittingly, a black granite sculpture on the adjacent plaza is locally known as The Banker's Heart. There is a very-pricey restaurant, the Carnelian Room, on the 52nd floor; it has a bar called the View Lounge. Luckily, Barbara does not hold court here, but you should wear your formal leathers. www.carnelianroom.com for the restaurant;

www.555cal.com for the building

555 California Street (@Montgomery)



The view from the cam

3. **Twin Peaks.** Second highest point(s) in SF (after Mount Davidson). A brisk walk and a bracing view, especially on windy days. Just over three miles, but a tough hike, from the hotel. Draw your own anatomical conclusions.

501 Twin Peaks Blvd



Remind you of something?



The view

4. **Sea lions at Pier 39.** Some consider Pier 39 a tacky tourist trap, but there's often many fun things happening both on and off the pier. Good public transportation.

www.pier39.com

Embarcadero (@Beach).



5. **Coit Tower.** Not so pointy smaller phallic thing. Built in 1933 atop Telegraph Hill as a memorial to San Francisco fire fighters, the structure was funded by Lillie Hitchcock Coit. Unsubstantiated rumor that she admired the firemen's, uhh, equipment. Accessible by auto, bus, and a very steep climb up the Filbert Steps. An elevator (\$4.50) takes you to the top of the 210 foot tower; the free views from the base are almost as good.

1 Telegraph Hill Boulevard



6. **Golden Gate Bridge.** Opened in 1937, the bridge's 4200 foot long suspension span crosses its namesake, the Golden Gate Straits. You can walk, bike or drive across it; folks have been known to take a one-way trip off the side. Great views from the middle and either end, but can be pretty breezy at times. It's mighty awesome when a big 'un slides between your legs, too! Fort Point, directly under the south approach, bookmarks one end of Crissy Field.

www.goldengatebridge.org



The view from the bridge park

7. **Marin Headlands** Bucolic ying to San Francisco's cityscape yang, this part of the Golden Gate National Recreation area provides breathtaking views of the coast, bay and San Francisco. Beaches, hiking trails, Miwok Indians, a fort, a lighthouse and a Nike missile site (no, not related to Air Jordans).

www.nps.gov/goga/marin-headlands.htm

948 Fort Barry, Sausalito, CA 94965, (415) 331-1540



The view from the Marin headlands

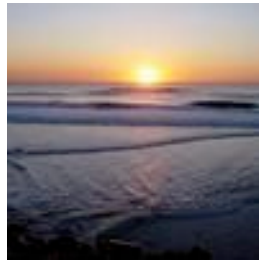
8. **Ocean Beach/Cliff House** Stretching for almost 4 miles along the west (left) side of the city, this beach is a haven for strollers, 'combers and sunset watchers (if the fog allows). The first Cliff House appeared in 1858; several incarnations followed, the latest houses several restaurants and public views. Burning Man originated on another SF beach -- Baker Beach -- and later decamped for the desert; their loss, we say. You can contemplate that over a brew-pub beer and gorgeous views at the Beach Chalet (1000 Great Highway @ Ocean Beach, 415.386.8439, www.beachchalet.com)

Ocean Beach (Great Highway (@ Fulton Street)

www.parksconservancy.org/visit/park.asp?park=68

The Cliff House 1090 Point Lobos (between Great Hwy & Merrie Way), (415) 386-3330

www.parksconservancy.org/visit/park.asp?park=390



The view at water's edge

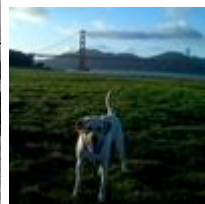
9. **Bernal Heights** A little further out of downtown, this neighborhood, and park, are a gathering point for dog-lovers and walkers.



10. **Crissy Field**. Yet another part of the Golden Gate Recreation Area, this flat land by the bay was the site of the first air field in the area (an Army air base in 1915, leather was worn here!!). After the Presidio -- yet another fantastic public space -- was decommissioned in the 90's, Crissy Field was restored to its natural condition and enhanced for day use. It's great for biking, jogging, strolling, dog walking, and watching people and sailboats.

www.parksconservancy.org/visit/park.asp?park=14

Mason Street, off Marina Boulevard



Puppy's view

11. **Ferry Building/Embarcadero.** As a transportation hub, this location has witnessed the comings and goings of San Franciscans since 1875. The current structure, built in 1898, was the focal point for SF bay ferry service in the pre-bridge era. An elevated freeway hid it from Market Street viewing until the Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989. Caring architects have created a buzz-worthy indoor and outdoor space that houses excellent restaurants and artisan food shops. Views to both the bay and the City are unparalleled, as is people watching. Farmers' market on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

www.ferrybuildingmarketplace.com

Embarcadero at the foot of Market. (415) 693-0996



12. **The men's room at the Eagle Tavern.** www.sfeagle.com. As they say, a picture is worth a thousand, errr, whatever. But do check out the urinal in the main bar for the view. Watch out for ice on Sundays.

398 12th Street, (415) 626-0880



The patio at The Eagle SF

Brought to you as a kinky public service from the folks who are bringing you Leather Leadership Conference 12.

Special thanks to JimH from the South Bay for his wonderful contributions.



AROUSE!