

San Francisco TOURISM TIPS



THE PERFECT DAY IN THE HAIGHT ASHBURY

A SELF-GUIDED ONE-DAY TOUR OF THIS COLORFUL, HISTORIC DISTRICT

9am: Climb to the Top of Buena Vista Park

Today's journey starts with a climb up to the top of Buena Vista Park. This cute park offers some great views of the Golden Gate Bridge, downtown San Francisco and the Ocean from its summit.

Start your climb at the stairs on the corner of Haight and Baker Streets. Continue to climb up and up, through the trees until you reach the top. There are several trails and, as long as you keep climbing up, you will reach the summit in about 45 minutes.

This hike is steep and I only recommend it for those fit enough to climb for 45 to 60 mins.

11am: Admire the Victorians

The Haight has the largest concentration of Victorian homes in the city. It was one of the few areas not impacted very much by the 1906 earthquake.

From Buena Vista Park, walk west to Haight and Central Avenue. Take some time to walk both north and south down Central Avenue to check out its colorful Victorians.

Head back to Haight and walk one block down to Masonic Street. Here you will find a few more Victorians (not as colorful), but still gorgeous.

After you finish, head to Magnolia Brewery on the corner of Haight and Masonic Streets.

QUICK FACTS

The Haight Ashbury is another popular stop for those visiting SF. It was the heart of the Summer of Love events in SF in 1967. It's also home to dozens of amazing Victorians from the late 1800s.

[Click here for an online version of this itinerary with more details and tips on how to get to and around the district.](#)

12:00pm: Savor Lunch at Magnolia Brewery

This popular pub is the perfect place to refuel after your strenuous hike. I love this place because of their amazing lunch options and the fact that they brew their own beer.

Try their burgers or, my personal favorite, their pulled pork sandwich. If you love beer, make sure you try one of their specialties. You will find them on the chalkboard in the middle of the restaurant.

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1:30pm: Stroll Past the Houses Where Its Famous Residents Used to Live

During the 60s, the Haight Ashbury district housed several famous residents. Many were not that famous when they moved in, but became very successful either during their time here or shortly after.

One of the best-documented residences is at 710 Ashbury Street. This is where the Grateful Dead spent most of their time in this neighborhood.

The house at 636 Cole Street is also important. This is where the infamous Charles Manson lived for a couple of years with his girlfriend and a few other women in his gang.

2:30pm: Shop 'Til You Drop

You will find almost two dozen shops lined up along Haight Street from Masonic Avenue to Stryan Street. In this five block stretch, you will find funky vintage clothing, inexpensive jewelry and other 60s inspired shops.

Have some fun checking out the merchandise, buying a new costume or fun jewelry and continue to make your way along Haight Street toward Stryan Street.

4pm: Stop at Ameoba to Check out the Music

One stop I recommend is Ameoba Music at 1855 Haight Street. They are the largest independent music store in the US with an amazing collection of music including current hits to the classics. They also feature live performances two to three times a month.

5pm: Grab the Bus to the Lower Haight

After your visit to Ameoba, it's time to rest your feet again and have some fun!

From here, I recommend grabbing the bus to head to the Lower Haight for a few drinks and dinner. It's mostly locals, so you will love the low-key atmosphere you find here.

Pick up the 71 on the corner of Haight and Stryan. Take it about a mile to the corner of Haight and Fillmore Streets. Walk a half a block back on Haight and you will find Toronado.

5:30pm: Enjoy a Beer at Toronado & Sausages from Rosemunde

The thing I love about this local pub is the selection of beers. You will find everything from the best local brews to unknown beers from Europe. The selection is large, so spend some time checking it out before ordering.

If you are hungry, head next door to Rosemunde to order a few sausages. They are the best sausages in the city and Toronado allows patrons to eat anything from Rosemunde in their bar.

You can also walk over one by one and order what you want. This is typically what we do, so we can see the full menu and get our favorite sausage.

You can then enjoy your beer as you wait the 10 to 15 minutes for your order to be ready. You will have to walk back over and pick up your order yourself. Rosemunde only accepts cash and there is an ATM in Toronado if you need it.

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