

San Francisco TOURISM TIPS



THE PERFECT DAY IN NORTH BEACH A SELF-GUIDED ONE-DAY TOUR OF SF'S ITALIAN DISTRICT

8:30am: Grab Coffee & Breakfast at Caffe Trieste

You can't visit North Beach without stopping by for a cup of Joe at Caffe Trieste. It's full of history and some of the best coffee in town.

Caffe Trieste opened in 1956 and was the first espresso house on the west coast. Shortly after it opened, it became popular with local artist, writers and poets.

Address:

9:30am: Take the Bus to Coit Tower

After breakfast, stroll back down Columbus Avenue to pick up the 39 to Coit Tower.

This beautiful tower features murals from the 1930s and some amazing views of the bay all around.

Address:

11am: Grab Fresh Baked Bread from Luguria Bakery

After Coit Tower, head down the hill to the corner of Filbert and Stockton Streets where you will find Luguria Bakery. This little bakery has some of the most amazing focaccia bread in the city. My favorites are the garlic and rosemary.

Address: Corner of Filbert and Stockton

QUICK FACTS

SF's North Beach district dates back to the 1800s. It was the favored spot for those looking for a "good time" during the Gold Rush period. It was also the home of The Beat Generation of the 1950s and 1960s.

Step inside this Italian district for a look at its past and to savor its amazing Italian goodies. [Click here for the full itinerary online.](#)

11:30am: See the Spot Where Joe DiMaggio Learned to Play Baseball

Many people don't know where Joe DiMaggio grew up in North Beach. It was his home for many years including the time when he first learned to play ball.

From Luguria Bakery, walk past Washington Square Park on Filbert Street away from Coit Tower. Walk one block to Powell Street and take a right. You will then walk two blocks to Powell and Lombard Streets.

Address: Corner of Powell and Lombard

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1pm: Shop on Columbus Avenue

After your quick Joe DiMaggio history walk, head back to Columbus Avenue for a short shopping tour. Along Columbus Avenue, starting at Union, you will find a handful of cute, boutique shops with several Italian goodies. You will also find unique jewelry, clothing and other fun items for sale.

Address: Columbus Avenue starting at Union Street

2pm: Stop for Lunch at Molinari's Deli

Another local's secret about North Beach is that Molinari's Deli is THE best Italian deli in the city. Step inside to order one of their delicious sandwiches with fresh baked bread. You can enjoy your lunch at one of their tables outside or eat as you continue on your walking tour of North Beach.

Address: 373 Columbus Avenue

3pm: Swing by the Beat Museum

The Beat Generation of the 1950s made this neighborhood famous. The most famous people from the Beat Generation include Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg and Lawrence Ferlinghetti.

Stop by the museum to see unique pieces from these artists and learn more about the history of this generation. Don't miss the second floor exhibit and the short films in the movie theater near the back on the first floor.

Address: 540 Broadway Street

4:30pm: Check Out the City Lights Bookstore

Now that you know a little more about the Beat Generation, it's time to head to the City Lights Bookstore. Lawrence Ferlinghetti founded this bookstore in the 1950s to sell unique works from his generation of artists.

Address: 261 Columbus Avenue

5:30pm: Walk Down Jack Kerouac Alley

After your visit to the City Lights Bookstore, step inside Jack Kerouac Alley right next door. This alley features a few colorful murals and is worth a quick look.

6:00pm: Grab a Drink at the Vesuvio Café

This small cafe and bar was the main hangout for many of the Beat Generation artists. In the 1950s, you could walk in and find Jack Kerouac sitting here almost every day.

Take a seat at the bar and order one of their famous cocktails (my favorite, of course, is the Jack Kerouac, pictured above).

Address: 255 Columbus Avenue

7pm: Enjoy Dinner in North Beach

If you love pizza, then head to Tony's Pizza on the corner of Union and Stockton Streets.

The owner, Tony, is an 11 time winner of the World Pizza Championship in Italy (he's the only non-Italian to win the crown!). He is SERIOUS about his pizza and it will not disappoint.

Address: 1570 Stockton Street

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