

Day 5: Hitting the highlights

Take in San Francisco's slew of world-famous sights.

9 A.M. Kick off your morning at **NOOK CAFÉ**, the Nob Hill local's favorite cozy coffee shop on the corner of Hyde and Jackson. Savor strawberry and banana waffles and a steamy latte served in a bowl-sized mug.

10:30 A.M. From Nook, head south on Hyde then east on California to **GRACE CATHEDRAL** at Huntington Park, one of the city's oldest cathedrals dating back to 1849. Test your wits with the indoor labyrinth on the church's marble floor, either on foot or with a bird's-eye view from the mezzanine level. After you leave, be sure to stop and admire the world-renowned **FAIRMONT HOTEL**, where JFK and the Obama family have stayed.

11 A.M. Hop in a cab and head to Civic Center, home to **CITY HALL** and the **SAN FRANCISCO OPERA**. Join a free public tour of City Hall to learn the ins and outs of San Francisco politics.

12 P.M. Pop into **ARLEQUIN CAFÉ** on Hayes Street for some fresh artisan treats and a bottle of wine from a local vintner; then continue west until you reach **ALAMO SQUARE PARK**. Cross the park to snap a photo of the famous **PAINTED LADIES** lining Fulton Street with the cityscape as the backdrop. Have a picnic in the very spot where the intro to the *Full House* sitcom was filmed.

3:30 P.M. Hail a cab from Divisadero and take it to **CAFFÈ SAPORE** in North Beach. Enjoy an afternoon coffee with not-to-miss views of the world's curviest street, **LOMBARD**, originally constructed in 1922 to reduce the hill's natural grade.

4 P.M. Follow Greenwich east until it narrows into steps that bring you—and your heart rate—up to **COIT TOWER**. The 210-foot tower was completed in 1933 to honor San Francisco's volunteer firemen. (Don't be fooled—the structure wasn't constructed to resemble a fire hose.) Your reward for the hike? Spectacular panoramic views of the bay, including the Golden Gate Bridge and the Bay Bridge. Head back down the hill for dinner in North Beach.

8 P.M. Meander down to Green Street to catch the vivacious live show **BEACH BLANKET BABYLON**. This internationally acclaimed San Francisco institution is the world's longest running musical revue, full of outrageous costumes and slapstick humor. **BY MICHELLE BERGMANN**



From left: Grace Cathedral and City Hall are two of the city's many architectural gems.



The view is worth the hike to Coit Tower.

CATHEDRAL PHOTO BY NATASHA BAUCAS; CITY HALL PHOTO BY TOM BROSS FOR SFCVB; COIT TOWER PHOTO BY TARA LUZ STEVENS