

SAN FRANCISCO WALKING AND VIEWING HIGHLIGHTS

Introduction

San Francisco is Truly a walker's city. It's small enough to be do-able. There are many interesting sites. There are splendid views. Even the hills provide a challenge. Over the past 10-15 years, I've walked the entire city twice. There are many visitor and walker's guides to the City. I've described some of these in a brief reference section at the bottom of this article. My favorite is: San Francisco-The Ultimate Guide; by Randolph Delehanty. This list is simply my personal preference of all of the several hundred distinct locations to which I've been. Your interests and preferences will probably differ from mine. However, walking the city is a wonderful way to more fully appreciate San Francisco. Most of the brief quotes are from Delehanty's book.

In November of 2004 I updated these highlights with substantial additions to the following districts: **SOMA, Financial District, Fisherman's Wharf, Civic Center & Presidio & Lands End Area.**

Union Square

Union Square- Located in the heart of the shipping district, the Union Square has itself been recently (2004) remodeled. Its broad flat verandas attract shows and performances of all kinds. The statue on the top of the 245 foot high column was modeled, in about 1900, by Mrs. Adolph de Brettville Spreckels (of sugar fame), who was given the sobriquet of **Big Alma** because of her stature and her influence on early San Francisco's social life.

Niemen Marcus/ City of Paris Rotunda; southeast corner of Stockton and Geary. The Building is new but the Rotunda with it's art glass dome (from the old City of Paris building), which depicts a sailing ship, is a very interesting interior space. It's also a good example of the retail shopping focus of Union Square. It catches just a bit of the older San Francisco flavor. (While you're in the neighborhood, plan to stop at the St. Francis for afternoon tea.)

Geary Theater-on Geary between Mason and Taylor (1909).

The Geary Theater is the location of the American Conservatory Theater (ACT). Be sure to note the facade of the terra cotta columns and of fruits and garlands.

Tessie Wall's Townhouse-535 Powell Street-2 blocks down hill from the SFS on the right side 1911).

This building is the only surviving downtown structure built as a single-family residence. "It was bought by Frank Daroux, the Republican boss of the Tenderloin's vice, for his bride Tessie Wall, a Madame. "Despite the centrally located real estate, Tessie shot Frank dead"(RD).

Circle Gallery/V.C. Morris-140 Maiden Lane, between Stockton and Kearny. It was re-built in 1949 to a Frank Lloyd Wright design. "This is one of the greatest architectural works in San Francisco" (RD).

South of Market (SOMA)- SOMA, centered around the Moscone Convention Center, is rapidly becoming a new focal point in San Francisco, and has lost the seediness which typified it in an earlier era.

Museum of Modern Art (MOMA)-151 Third Street.

MOMA (1995) is one of the city's most outstanding architectural achievements. In its light-filled, spacious new building, the museum presents the best of its 15,000-piece collection of modern and contemporary art.

Yerba Buena Gardens. (Across Third Street from MOMA)

Features a series of lovely gardens (& art pieces) through which locals can stroll and congregate. The Gardens also feature a range of attractions, restaurants and museums.

Sony Metreon-150 Fourth Street.

Part amusement park, part mall, it's designed as an all-day experience. An IMAX theater with 15 screens, restaurants, shops and games conspire to boggle your mind. Kids will love **Where the Wild Things** are, an interactive adventure where kids of all ages can join Maurice Sendak's characters in a huge fantasy play space.

Cartoon Art Museum-655 Mission St, between 3rd & New Montgomery Streets.

With an endowment from Peanuts creator, Charles M. Schulz, the museum established residence across from Yerba Buena Gardens. It features exhibitions and displays by both local and nationally known cartoon artists.

SBC Park-Home of the Giants-24 Willie Mays Plaza, at King St., between 2nd & 3rd sts. Has great views and a classic design. Features an inspiring nine-foot statue of Willie Mays. Public tours of the Park are available; call 972-2400.

Financial District

Wells Fargo bank History Room-420 Montgomery Street.

"This fascinating museum recounts the history of the California Gold Rush which made San Francisco a great city" (RD).

Merchants' Exchange/Coulter Paintings-465 California Street at Leidesdorff.

Designed by Willis Polk, built in 1903 and reconstructed after the earthquake and fire of 1906. When the banks rebuilt their structures after the earthquake they did so with an eye towards re-assuring their stockholders and depositors. Post-earthquake buildings such as this one were designed as "financial temples" with exterior Greek columns, interior coffered ceilings and marble paneling. This

interior is particularly worth seeing because it contains some of the finest public art in San Francisco; a series of large oil paintings by marine painter William A. Coulter. After you've visited this building, stroll around the district (on a weekday) to locate and see other examples of these financial temples.

Embarcadero Center-A five block area bounded on the North & South by Sacramento & Clay Streets, and on the East & West by Drumm and Sansome Streets.

The Center combines offices with over 120 quality shops, restaurants plus a movie theater complex. Scattered about the Center are many art pieces of various media.

Ferry Building-On the Embarcadero at the foot of Market Street.

This historic building has been remodeled and is now the home of the Farmer's Market and some permanent market shops, cafes, and restaurants. Until the late 1930's when the bridges were built, the Ferry building served as the principal entry into the city. Its 240-foot clock tower, modeled after the 12th century bell tower in Seville, has been the San Francisco waterfront icon for more than 100 years.

The Embarcadero-Runs along the edge of the bay from China Basin and SBC Ball Park all the way to Fisherman's Wharf. The street has recently been 'renamed' Herb Caen Way, in honor of San Francisco's near famous columnist. The route is traversed by the F-line from the Wharf to Market Street to the Castro District; and utilizes historical trolleys from the US and around the world.

Chinatown

Dashiell Hammett sites on Pine and Bush streets are on the way to Chinatown. From the SF Suites cross Pine and turn left. Turn into the alley that opens on the 700 block of Pine. You are on Monroe (recently renamed Dashiell Hammett Street); on which Hammett (author of the **Maltese Falcon**) lived for a short while at No. 20. Hammett Street ends at Bush Street after just one block. Just across Bush Street is Burritt Alley, where Brigid Shaughnessy did in Sam Spade's partner, Miles Archer (in the film **Maltese Falcon** with Humphrey Bogart). Note the commemorative plaque. If you are a real Dashiell Hammett fan get the book, which locates every known site in San Francisco, related to Hammett, Sam Spade and the Continental Op (see reference section).

Also, on the left hand side of the street, at 608 Bush, is a plaque, which notes that Robert Louis Stevenson lived here for a short time when he was in California.

Grant Avenue.

The eight blocks of Grant Avenue between Bush and Broadway make up the heart of Chinatown. You must make this walk. Saturday morning is the best time to walk, because everyone is shopping, residents and tourists alike. Start at Bush

and Grant and note the gate (1970) and the street lamps decorated with dragons (1920s), the epitome of chinoiserie. The open markets and curio shops are of particular interest. There are many restaurants along Grant; both small and large, simple and pretentious. Find one that offers dim sum and go in for tea and a snack.

Old Chinese Telephone Exchange-742 Washington Street off of Grant Avenue (1909).

It is one of the most 'Chinese', of Chinatown's buildings. The telephone exchange was probably the only one in the U.S. operated in a foreign language. Legend has it that the operators had to memorize almost 6,000 telephone numbers along with the names of their owners, because there is no Chinese alphabet.

Kong Chow Temple-Stockton and Clay Streets.

Detour up Clay to Stockton. The Temple is open from 9 am to 4 PM daily; a donation is expected. Take the elevator to the top floor. This temple is one of two or three which are open to the public, and which provide a very unusual opportunity to visit an authentic bit of Chinese culture. Don't miss it!

Chinese Culture foundation Gallery/Holiday Hotel-750 Kearny Street.

The building is of no particular interest, but on the third floor is the Gallery/Museum, which hosts changing exhibitions of Chinese-American and Chinese art. I found it to be a delightful, well kept secret.

North Beach

Columbus Tower-906 Kearny street, at Columbus (1906).

Designed before and built just after the 1906 earthquake. "It is a landmark building clad in gleaming white tile and sporting fine green, copper-clad windows. Its top floor housed turn-of-the-century political boss (and ex-mayor of San Francisco) Abe Rueff's thriving real estate brokerage business after his release from San Quentin prison. Francis Ford Coppola bought and restored the building in the 1970's.

Fugazi Hall-678 Green Street, between Columbus and Powell (1912).

The theater offers ongoing performances of Beach Blanket Babylon. "The facade looks like the frontispiece of an old volume. It is very Old World in flavor and seems to burst with pride in Italian Culture (R.D.)."

Coit Tower, Telegraph Hill.

Sits on the top of Telegraph Hill, where an outstanding panorama of San Francisco and the entire bay can be enjoyed. The tower, which looks like the end of a fire nozzle, was built as a commemorative to Lillie Hitchcock Coit, a pioneer San Franciscan, who developed a life-long fascination with fires and firemen.

The interior of the tower is embellished with WPA frescos, as a relief project for local artists in the 1930's. There are about sixteen of the frescos, whose themes are identified by such titles as: Farmer and Cowboy, Department Store, and City Life.

Fisherman's Wharf

The Cannery-2801 Leavenworth, between Beach and Jefferson Streets (1907). This modern 'shopping center' is inserted within the four brick walls of the former California Fruit Cannery Association cannery. There are three levels of specialty shops, several fine restaurants and a number of lovely views of the bay, Alcatraz Island and the Golden Gate Bridge.

Ghiradelli Square-900 North Point Street (1864).

"Ghiradelli Square is a San Francisco landmark in several senses. Its handsome old red brick factory buildings are an architectural landmark; its fine old electric sign is a visual landmark; and its conversion into shops and restaurants was an economic landmark in the evolution of the postindustrial city."

Pier 39-Two blocks east of Fisherman's Wharf at Beach Street and the Embarcadero.

This site features several worthwhile family attractions, including: a sea lion sanctuary, a carousel, "**The San Francisco Adventure**," an aquarium, plus numerous restaurants and retail stores.

Alcatraz Island-This infamous island once held scores of prisoners incarcerated above its cliffs, including Al Capone. The prison closed in 1964 due to prohibitive operating costs. Tours of the island can be arranged through the Blue & Gold Fleet, 705-5444.

"**The Rock**," starring Sean Connery and Nicholas Cage, is a fine film featuring Alcatraz Island.

Fort Mason Center-at the foot of Van Ness Avenue.

This is a very interesting short walk which features 'fort culture' of the late 1800s. The area has several Victorian houses, abandoned fortifications and the S.S. Jeremiah O'Brien (the last unaltered Liberty Ship). The dock area below features small cultural museums, and excellent restaurant, major craft shows and other special events.

Nob Hill

Flood Mansion (Pacific-Union club)-1000 California Street, at Mason (1886). This is the only Nob Hill mansion which survived the 1906 earthquake and fire, and it did so only because it was built of stone not wood. James Flood, with William S. O'Brien, ended up controlling several mines in Nevada's Comstock silver lode. "The flood mansion is one of the great landmarks of San Francisco--- It is important because it epitomizes the style adapted for the Victorian City' ubiquitous redwood-built row houses. You will see the same window design in redwood in the surviving Victorian districts in the city." Enclosing the mansion is the finest Victorian metalwork in San Francisco. After the fire, flood moved to Pacific Heights (see below) where he built two more mansions.

Grace Cathedral-corner of California and Taylor (1925-1928).

Of particular interest to me are the copies of Lorenzo Ghiberti's bronze doors to the baptistry in Florence, Italy. Now that the front of the church has been cleared of its obstructing building these doors will be particularly attractive. The front of the church is featured in a scene from **Bullitt**, a film set in San Francisco which features Steve McQueen.

The Cathedral also has two 'Chartes-like' labyrinths, one outdoors made of terrazzo stone and a wool tapestry one indoors Anyone can walk the labyrinths during certain posted hours.

Cable Car Barn-1201 Mason (1909).

Everyone rides the cable cars at least once. In order to gain a full appreciation of the history and technical achievement of the cable cars, be sure to visit the Cable Car Barn and Museum. Hop on the Powell Street car going toward the waterfront, and get off after the car turns the corner and crosses Mason. You will have a much better appreciation of these little cars 'which reach the sky.'

Russian Hill

Summit View-corner of Hyde and Lombard Streets.

Take the Hyde Street Cable Car and get off at Lombard Street. You're at the top of the "the most crooked street in the world." You also have a splendid panorama in four directions: North to the bay, East to Telegraph Hill and the City, South to Mt. Davidson, West to Pacific Heights. Russian Hill is good location to become aware of San Francisco's extensive literary heritage, of which the locations and descriptions below describe just a few.

Ina Coolbrith Park-corner of Taylor and Vallejo Streets.

This is a charming park with a series of terraced paths that overlook Noble Hill and the main part of the city. However, what makes this park particularly interesting is the person to whom it is commemorated. Ina Donna Coolbrith came to California as a child during the great Gold Rush. During her 87 years she was a close friend of many literary luminaries including Mark Twain, Brete Harte,

Ambrose Bierce and George Sterling. At the turn of the century she was the Oakland City Librarian, where she befriended and guided the teenage Jack London. Coolbrith was living nearby at the time of the 1906 earthquake. She was herself a renowned woman of letters and was selected as California's first Poet Laureate.

George Sterling Glade-on Larkin between Lombard and Greenwich Streets. This block long glade and park is a living memorial to George Sterling, the Bohemian King of San Francisco. Sterling, a well-known turn-of-the-century poet, wrote a poem in which he penned the line "oh cool, gray city of Love" to describe San Francisco, a phrase cited frequently by Herb Caen in his newspaper column. Sterling and Jack London were close friends for many years. He is considered by many to be the laureate of San Francisco. (Take some time to locate and walk the several footpath streets in and around Russian Hill, passable only on foot.).

San Francisco Institute of Art-800 Chestnut Street at Jones. Although the Art Institute and its buildings are of some interest, of particular merit is the large Diego Rivera mural in the Rivera Gallery, done in 1931. Rivera is possibly the best and certainly the most famous of several Mexican muralists. He did several frescos in San Francisco; this is one of the most accessible. He was married to Freda Kahlo, the Mexican painter.

The Civic Center-At Market Steet and Van Ness Avenue.

The Civic Center- is colossal, with mammoth classical buildings arranged around two vast plazas. The center is home to the opera, symphony, several major theaters, the new main public library and San Francisco City Hall. City Hall has been referred to as "The Crown Jewel" of the finest ensemble of classical architecture in America. Following the 1989 earthquake, which badly damaged the building, it was extensively strengthened and rebeautified.

The Asian Art Museum-On Civic Center Plaza across from City Hall and bordered by Larkin, McAllister, Hyde and Fulton streets. This new museum opened in 2003 and was created through the rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of the city's former main Library. It is a 1917 Beaux Arts-style building recognized as one of San Francisco's most important historic structures. Exhibit space comprises 165,000 net square feet. It now houses the City's collection of art that was donated by Chicago millionaire Avery Brundage. The museum's collection stands at nearly 15,000 objects, making it the largest museum in the US devoted exclusively to the arts of Asia.

Eastern Pacific Heights (Premier Tour site-11 great addresses).

Although you can easily drive past these great mansions, it's much more enjoyable to take the California Street cable car to Van Ness and see them on foot by starting your walking tour at that Point.

Victorian and Edwardian Mansion Group-California and Franklin: Grass Valley gold, Alaska sealskins.

Spreckels mansion, 2080 Washington Street (sugar): Residence of Danielle Steele.

Phelan mansion, 2150 Washington Street: banking-James Phelan was mayor of San Francisco; he also built Villa Montalvo in Saratoga.

Haas-Lilienthal house Museum-2007 Franklin Street: shipping.

Matson-Roth houses-1950 and 1960 Jackson Street: shipping.

Whittier Mansion Museum-2090 Jackson Street: Whittier owned the forerunner of PG and E.

James Leary Flood mansion (the Hamlin School)-2120 Broadway: Comstock Lode.

Bourn mansion-2550 Webster Street; gold rush mining, Spring Valley Water Company.

James Leary Flood mansion: now the convent of the Sacred Heart High School 2222 Broadway.

Joseph Donohoe Grant mansion-2200 Broadway at Webster Street.

Andrew Hammond mansion-2252 Broadway.

Be sure to catch the fine view of the Palace of Fine Arts and Golden Gate Bridge halfway down Fillmore between Broadway and Vallejo.

Japan Town

Buddhist Church-118 Pine Street, at Octavia (1938).

Although the exterior of this building is unremarkable, the interior is superb; with a recessed gilded altar, painted screens, and gilded ornamented panels. I just walked into it one weekday; however there is an English service on Sunday at 10 am.

Vollmer House, Victorian-1735-37 Webster Street (1885)

According to Delehanty, this ornate, steeple-capped Eastlake row house is one of the most elaborate surviving Victorian Architectural works in San Francisco. I agree, and it's well worth a look (Don't try to go inside, it's a private residence).

Konko Church-1909 Bush Street, at Laguna (1973).

This modern Japanese-style temple is pleasing both inside and out.

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral-1111 Gough Street, at Geary (1971).

This modern edifice sits on top of Cathedral Hill. It has a bold and unique exterior design, with an interior space to match. As you go in be sure to take a close look at the bronze gates. Once you are inside, your eyes can't help but be caught by the cross and 'floating' ornament over the altar.

Mission District

Mission Dolores-320 Dolores Street (1791).

The mission site includes a museum and old cemetery, and is open daily 9am to 4pm. The mission is one of the great historical and architectural treasures in San Francisco. Printed material and tours are available.

Balmy alley Murals and others-In the vicinity of Twenty-Fourth St, Mission and Capp. If you're the nervous type you may prefer to drive though this section of town, rather than walk it.

Hidden in Balmy Alley is a series of murals depicting the political agony of contemporary Central America.

At the southeast corner of 24th and South Van Ness is a fine mural entitled "Golden Dream of the New World."

BART Station Mural-Mission and Twenty-Fourth streets. This interesting mural shows a BART train resting on the backs of the people.

At 2701 Mission Street is a mural entitled "Raza history."

Presidio and Lands End Area

Palace of Fine Arts-Baker and Beach Streets (1915).

Designed by Bernard Maybeck, this building is a remnant of a Panama-Pacific International Exposition; which was intended to show the world that San Francisco had recovered from the earthquake of 1906. Delehanty calls it a "Beaux Arts Hallucination." It also provided an impressive background for James Stewart and Kim Novak in a fairly long scene from the film "**Vertigo**."

Golden Gate Promenade to Fort Point.

Start at the Hyde Street Pier and head toward the Golden Gate Bridge for a 3.5 mile footpath walk along the north shore of San Francisco. I particularly like this walk because of it's rather unusual urban setting, its fine views of the bay and the bridge, and its destination of historic Fort Point. The Golden Gate Bridge supports were specifically placed to avoid tearing down the old fort.

Fort Point/sea wall-at head of Marine Drive (1853).

"It is the first and only brick, coast artillery fortress built west of the Mississippi River and is similar in plan to Fort Sumter, outside Charleston, South Carolina. It even has a moat. The view from the top of the fort, directly under the bridge, looking across the Golden Gate between the X-braces of the two piers is memorable. The end of the promenade by Fort Point is where Jimmy Stewart jumps into the bay and rescues Kim Novak in "**Vertigo**." The Fort Point museum is well worth a visit. (In 2004, please be aware of the level of terrorist security alert! At orange and above the Fort is closed to tourists.

The Presidio-In the Northwest corner of San Francisco.

The Presidio served as a military post of Spain, Mexico and the US. It is now jointly managed by the National Park Service and the Presidio Trust. Within its boundaries are more than 500 historic buildings, a collection of coastal defense fortifications, a national cemetery, an historic airfield, a saltwater marsh, miles of hiking and biking, and some of the most spectacular vistas in the world. Start at Building 102, Montgomery Street. A great film featuring this site is "**The Presidio**" starring Sean Connery, Mark Harmon & Meg Ryan.

Golden Gate Bridge (1937).

"The Golden Gate Bridge is one of the few things in life that does not disappoint." It is an art deco masterpiece. If you decide to walk the three miles across and back, be sure to wear warm clothing, the wind can cut right through flimsy clothing, even on a sunny day.

California Palace of Legion of Honor-Lincoln Park (1920)/ Lands End.

This art museum, which houses a nice collection of Rodin Sculptures, is a limestone palace, which also commemorates California's World War I dead. The surrounding park allows for several fine views. El Camino Del Mar road dead-ends near the Palace; park at road's end or in the Palace parking lot. A double trail meanders along the rocky headlands, Golden Gate Bridge and South along the western shore of San Francisco.

Golden Gate Park

De Young Museum-75 Tea Garden Drive.

The deYoung Museum is closed until 2005 while a new facility is built.

Japanese Tea Garden-right around the corner from the De Young (1894).

The five-acre garden has a surprisingly complex horticultural and architectural history; and includes a two story main Gate, a Ten-and-a-half-foot bronze Buddha, and a beautiful display of Japanese and Chinese native plants.

Strybing Arboretum.

The arboretum features a seventy acre living library of plants; including a garden of fragrance, California native plants, a redwood trail, a succulent garden, a Biblical garden, demonstration gardens and a hall of Flowers.

Conservatory of Flowers.

Originally opened in 1879, it is the oldest public conservatory in the Western Hemisphere. It's glass walls even survived the 1906 earthquake. The Conservatory houses four different gardens: the 'Lowland Tropics,' the Victorian Pot Culture, the 'Highland Tropics,' and the 'Aquatic Plants.'

Castro (Drive Through)

Almost everyone knows that the Castro is the center of San Francisco's Gay community. Except for the Castro Theater, there aren't any interesting architectural features. However, the street life is well worth a drive or bus ride up Market Street and down Castro.

Haight-Ashbury (Drive Through)

The Haight was the locale for the hippie and flower child movements of the 1960's and 1970's. This counter culture movement faded badly as drugs and other whacked out activities swept through the societal dropouts. There is still a vestige of this era to be sensed along Height Street; poster shops, crystal shops, new-age music shops, etc. This district is also worth a drive or bus trip though the area to catch its flavor.

Supplementary list-for young people

San Francisco Zoo-At Sloat Boulevard at 47th Avenue, adjacent to Ocean Beach & the Great Highway.

Sand Dollar Beach-Ocean Beach at the foot of Sloat Avenue, near the Zoo. After a heavy surf you can pick up fossil sand dollars which have been washed ashore from a nearby sunken reef.

Exploratorium-3601 Lyon Street at Bay, Behind the Palace of Fine Arts.

The Exploratorium is a science museum organized around the theme of human perception. It is especially enjoyable for families with children because it is a hands on place to explore and observe a fantastic and fun array of scientific concepts.

Wells Fargo Bank History Room-shows the history of the California Gold Rush, and has a real WF stage coach.

Fisherman's Wharf-observe the fishing fleet, go to Pier 39 exhibits and games, and take a boat ride on the bay.

Guinness Museum of World Records-Both this and the Ripley's exhibits are generally worth the price of admission.

Ripley's Believe it or Not Museum. Both Ripley's & Guinness are in the Fisherman's Wharf area.

Maritime Museum and Historic Ships-features the U.S.S. Pampanito (submarine), the S.S. Jeremiah O'Brien (which recently took part in the 50th anniversary of D-day in Europe), a side-wheeler, and several sailing ships.

Pier 39-Sea Lions, Carousels and other interesting stuff.

Carousel, GGP-the animals on this merry-go-round were recently and lovingly refurbished and repainted, and the ride is almost as fun for adults as it is for children.

California Academy of science, GGP - features the Steinhart Aquarium, the Morrison Planetarium and a splendid natural history museum.

Chinatown-take the kids on the Grant Street walk.

Sony Metreon-'Where the Wild Things Are', a play area featuring Maurice Sendak's characters.

Selected Reference

The books I've listed below happen to be my own personal favorites. There are many more and different San Francisco guidebooks available in the local bookstores. It's fun just to browse in the guide book section of these local bookstores.

SAN FRANCISCO-THE ULTIMATE GUIDE, Randolph Delehanty. This is certainly my favorite book; it is extensive and detailed. Delehanty, an architect himself, focuses on the buildings of San Francisco, especially the Victorians. His book is divided into fourteen chapters, each featuring a distinct section of San Francisco; and my list utilizes his chapter headings. It also has a good selection of maps.

SAN FRANCISCO AT YOUR FEET- The Great Walks in a Walker's Town, Margot Patterson Doss. For many years Doss wrote a column in the Chronicle; this book (and several others) are collections of these articles. The Doss walks focus on fifteen San Francisco neighborhoods, including the Hills- Nob, Russian and Telegraph. It's very chatty and personal, and has good maps (a very

important criteria in the selection of guidebooks). It may not even be in print any longer; However, it was this book which started me on my S.F. walks.

THE LITERARY WORLD OF SAN FRANCISCO AND ITS ENVIRONS, Don Herron. If you are a reader, then this is the guidebook for you. He locates residences of authors and other significant literary sites in the San Francisco area. Some of the featured authors are: Robert Louis Stevenson, Ina Coolbrith, George Sterling, Jack London, Dashiell Hammett, Jack Kerouac, Fritz Lieber and many others. How many of you know that poet Robert Frost was born in San Francisco?

THE DASHIELL HAMMETT TOUR, Don Herron. I'm a fan of Hammett and I have a video copy of the **Maltese Falcon** starring Humphrey Bogart. If you have any affinity for this sort of thing then this is the book for you. Herron provides a brief biography of Hammett and then leads us on a tour to view and learn about the almost 30 important Hammett sites in San Francisco. Don used to personally lead highly entertaining group walks of the Hammett sites; I can see him slouching along in his trench coat and felt hat.

SAN FRANCISCO CHINATOWN- A walking tour, Shirley Fong-Torres. If you are into Chinese cooking this book is an interesting combination guide to Chinatown, to Chinese cooking and to local Chinese restaurants. She also has chapters on Chinese teas, Chinese medicine and Chinese brush painting. It's a great example of a specialty book.

These walking and viewing highlights were compiled by homeowner Greg Ohanneson. Greg and his wife Joan have been owners of two shares since the beginning of San Francisco Suites. They are both truly lovers of our "City By The Bay"!