



DAY ONE

**9:00
a.m.**

BREAKFAST AT [FERRY BUILDING](#) - ONE FERRY BUILDING

TIPS

Grab your food and sit outside by the Embarcadero (waterfront). The benches and tables can fill up quickly so you may want to have an adult scout out a spot while another gets the food.

Coffee lover? Try the local favorite [Blue Bottle Coffee](#).

Avocado toast? Try one of the best in San Francisco at [Frog Hollow Farm Market & Café](#).

Gluten free? You won't want to miss [Mariposa Baking Company](#).

Dessert? For breakfast? Why not, you're on your holiday. (At least that's what my husband and I always say.) [Miette Patisserie](#) was the first place I had Parisian Macarons more than a decade ago and I always get at least one Chocolate Pot de Crème from their shop. I've heard they also have "exquisite" morning buns, but I can't speak from experience.



→ *Transportation from Ferry Building to Pier 33: Approximately 20 minutes. Walk or take a historic streetcar!*

**10:30
a.m.**

ALCATRAZ TOUR – PIER 33 **BRING YOUR PRINTED OUT TICKETS, BOARDING BEGINS 10AM**

TIPS

PRINT OUT TICKETS IN ADVANCE (RECOMMENDED SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO WAIT IN AN EXTRA LINE THIS MORNING) MAKE SURE IT IS A CLEAR PRINTOUT THEY WILL BE ABLE TO SCAN. You don't want to stand in line to board, get to the front, and find out your tickets won't scan. Speaking from experience.

Boarding is 30 minutes prior to departure. Even if you hold a confirmed ticket, your space may be given to another passenger if you are not onboard at least 10 minutes prior to departure. Gates close 5 minutes prior to departure.

Large backpacks and luggage are not allowed on the cruise to Alcatraz.

Bring a light jacket, no matter how nice the weather seems in the morning. It can get windy out there!

On the cruise over stand on the left side of the boat for amazing views of “The Rock,” the Golden Gate Bridge, and the San Francisco skyline.

Once you are on the island and after the introductory speech from the park ranger, **VISIT THE RANGER STATION TO PICK UP A JUNIOR RANGER ACTIVITY BOOK**. It is full of activities to entertain your kids (and you too!). Stop back by the Ranger Station on the way out and your children can get “sworn in” and receive a Junior Ranger badge.

The daytime cruise tickets include a Cellhouse audio tour. It is a great tour featuring former inmates and guards, but we all know these kinds of things aren’t always possible with small children. **IF YOU DON’T TAKE THE TOUR YOU CAN GET A REFUND FOR THIS PORTION**. From the Alcatraz Cruise website: “If you prefer not to take the Cellhouse Tour today, we will happily provide a coupon toward an interpretive product or refund your audio tour ticket price. Please let a supervisor know at the entrance to the Cellhouse.”

There are only TWO restrooms on the island. One at the dock area and another up the hill close to the Warden’s House. One of these was closed for cleaning when we needed it!

I recommend visiting the bathroom on the ferry right as it is starting to dock at Alcatraz to avoid long lines on the island.

There are some steep hills to climb, the equivalent of a 13 story building. If this is a problem, there is an accessible shuttle that runs twice an hour from the dock to the prison building.

Be prepared, they situate the tour so you have to walk right through the gift shop. Stay strong parents!



Transportation from Ferry Building to Pier 33: Approximately 20 minutes. Walk or take a historic streetcar!

1:30
p.m.

LUNCH IN CHINATOWN

LUNCH IDEAS

[New Lung Ting \(AKA as Pork Chop House\)](#) - 670 Jackson St, San Francisco, CA
THIS PLACE IS FOR THOSE LOOKING TO EAT LIKE A LOCAL. IT IS A SMALL CHINESE DINER. I've heard it described as "Chinese Blue Collar Food" and I would agree. When we visited, there were no other (obvious) tourists and the staff spoke very little English, but they treated us like special guests. The food is essentially a Chinese version of American food. Almost everything is served with rice and a piece of boiled cabbage (better than it sounds). The menu is extensive, the food is inexpensive, and the portions are large. If you have a picky kid they also have basics like hamburgers and they let us order a grilled cheese sandwich that wasn't on the menu. Food comes out as it is ready, not all at once. Keep that in mind if you have grouchy kids who will whine when their brother gets his plate before they do. To get to the bathroom you have to walk through the kitchen and down to the basement. CASH ONLY.

[Hunan Home's](#) - 622 Jackson St.

It is across the street from the famous Z&Y, but with shorter lines. This place is what you think of when you think of American Chinese food, but better. Food is good and familiar. Generally more tourists than locals, but that doesn't mean the food isn't delicious.

[City View Restaurant](#) - 662 Commercial St.

Go here if you are looking for dim sum. You can choose your food from a rolling cart or order off the menu. Choosing food from the cart is fun for everyone and means you get your food right away. No more waiting! Don't let the name fool you; there is no city view. Keep in mind they don't take reservations and you may have to line up, but usually the line moves quickly.

AFTER LUNCH SNACKS

[Golden Gate Bakery](#) - 1029 Grant Ave

Go for their famous egg tarts and eat them right away while they are still hot. This place is known for their unpredictable hours and frequently closing to "go on vacation," so make sure you check the ["Is The Golden Gate Bakery Open Today"](#) website or call before you go. CASH ONLY

[Golden Gate Fortune Cookie Factory](#) - 56 Ross Alley/Jackson

This is located in one of Chinatown's many alleys. Go here to see fortune cookies being handmade and try a sample. If you want to take a picture or video they ask for a 50 cent donation. They also have fortune cookies to buy (some chocolate covered!) so be prepared for the kids to ask. CASH ONLY



OTHER CHINA TOWN SIGHTS

Dragon Gate, Grant/Bush

Iconic gated archway leading into Chinatown

Portsmouth Square Park

Sometimes referred to as Chinatown's living room, you will see some residents practicing Tai Chi, others playing various games and gambling, and others just socializing. It isn't exactly an impressive place visually, but it is a great place for people watching with a small playground for the kids and one of the few places in Chinatown you can sit down. The park is full of history and has many plaques to commemorate its past. Keep in mind you may find homeless people also using this park.

Just Walk Around. There are alleys to explore, lots of shops, and plenty of photo opportunities.

**4:00
p.m.**

RIDE THE CABLE CAR TO LOMBARD STREET (\$7 PER PERSON)

TIPS

There are cable car stops close to Chinatown. (See tip below about boarding from a stop) However, the cable cars frequently fill up at the start of a line.

If you are boarding from a cable car stop and not at the end of a line, wait on the sidewalk and wave to request the Grip Operator to stop. Wait for the cable car to come to a complete stop before you board. You can enter on either end or side of the car.

If the cars look full while you are waiting at a stop and don't stop to pick you up, start walking down Powell Street to the start of the line. It is several blocks, but it is all down hill. There you will wait in line to board a car.

THE LINES CAN BE LONG, SO THIS WOULD BE A GREAT TIME TO PULL OUT SOMETHING TO KEEP THE KIDS OCCUPIED. We were able to pose for pictures on the cable cars that were waiting to go into service and you get to watch the workers manually turn the cars around to go back up the hill while you wait.

Try to ride the Powell-Hyde line. It drops you off at the top of Lombard Street. The Powell-Mason line takes a similar route, but drops you off a couple of blocks below the crooked portion of Lombard Street. They both begin at the same stop at the bottom of Powell Street and after waiting in line you may want to take the first car available.

It is fun to sit outside if you can, but only if you feel confident with your kids. There are no seatbelts and it goes down a busy road. My five year old managed to drop his recently purchased Chinatown stuffed cat in the middle of the road and underneath a cable car going the opposite direction. An amazing and heroic stranger jumped down and rescued it, but there is no way that was safe. Once you are on, do not get off unless you are at an actual stop and the driver knows you are getting off. Also keep in mind if you sit outside people will stand in front of you (hanging off like you see in the pictures), but we didn't have any trouble seeing.

**5:00
p.m.**

EXIT CABLE CAR AT LOMBARD STREET (BETWEEN HYDE AND WENTWORTH)

Times may be off depending on your wait to get a cable car.

Walk down the famous windy street and make sure to take lots of pictures.



Transportation: Lombard Street to your dinner destination. Timing will vary.

DINNER

DINNER IDEAS

[Za Pizza](#) - 1919 Hyde Street

Walk a few blocks up Hyde Street to check out their daily slices or order an entire pie for the family. Beer and wine available for the adults.

Your Room

Use [Grubhub](#) and order something in. It's been a busy day and you could use a rest. *NOTE: That is an affiliate link, use it to get \$7 off your first order.*

EVENING