

Transportation Tips

❖ Economical Parking

If you are planning to rent a car/drive into SF, be prepared to spend some money. Parking in San Francisco is extremely expensive, not to mention hard to find. Parking garages will run \$25 - \$50 per day, and on-street parking violations can cost up to \$250 to pay. On-street parking is limited. If you aren't planning to leave SF to venture out, renting a car might be more hassle and cost than it's worth.

Parking at the Marriott Hotel

If you do plan to park, the hotel has a garage that costs \$50 per day for parking. A nearby parking garage is at 5th and Mission. They charge \$30.00 per 12 - 24 hours.

(<http://www.fifthandmission.com/home.htm>).

Economical Parking – Moscone Center

The Moscone Center garage at 255 3rd offers all day parking for only \$8 (\$30 is more common for the area) a couple of blocks from the Marriott Hotel, BUT you have to **arrive before 9AM** (and sometimes they fill much earlier than that) and only on non-event days, but it looks like Wednesday-Sunday are event-free. If you can't get parking there, try the lots on 5th at Howard. They're a little cheaper and it's a short walk.

❖ Transportation from Oakland and San Francisco Airports

You can fly into the San Francisco Airport (SFO) or the Oakland Airport (OAK) across the bay. Both provide an easy connection to BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit).

Oakland Airport

Oakland airport has a shuttle, the Air-BART, to take you to the Coliseum/Oakland Airport BART station. Catch the shuttle across the street from baggage. From the Coliseum/Oakland Airport BART station, you'll want to catch a San Francisco bound train and exit at Powell Street station (Bart operators announce each stop and there are also small station signs on the walls of the stations.) The Air-BART runs approximately every ten minutes and costs \$3. A BART ticket to Powell Street station will cost an additional \$3.55. Buy your ticket at the station, use it to get through the turnstile, and KEEP the ticket to get out of the Bart station at your destination. At Powell, you can exit from the underground station right into the Westfield Shopping Center and walk east through the center to exit on Fourth street near the hotel.

http://www.oaklandairport.com/bart_airbart.shtml

San Francisco Airport

The San Francisco Airport is located in South San Francisco. At SFO you can take the free express rail shuttle from the baggage claim area to the SFO BART station. For \$5.45, BART will take you right to the Powell Street station close to the hotel at 55 Fourth Street in San Francisco. At Powell, you can exit from the underground station right into the Westfield Shopping Center and walk east through the center to exit on Fourth street near the hotel. Much less expensive than hiring a taxi! For BART schedules go here:

<http://www.bart.gov/schedules/index.aspx>

BART is the best budget and eco-friendly way to get from either airport to the conference, but taxis and shuttles are available from both airports. If you are bringing a lot of baggage, BART can be cumbersome. RWA National's page on travel information lists approximate fares and a coupon for the Super Shuttle you can download:

http://www.rwanationalconference.org/Hotel_Travel/HotelsTravel_AirportTrans.html

❖ Getting Around the City

San Francisco has a great public transportation system. Between BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit, the "subway" of SF) and MUNI (San Francisco Municipal Railway). You can get to virtually every part of the city, and the special attractions are covered particularly well. When taking public transportation, always ask the driver or operator for a transfer. A transfer will allow you to get on another bus or streetcar for no additional fare within the time limit on the transfer. You can also buy an all day pass for travel in the city through MUNI which is around \$20. It's good for buses, cable cars and other public transportation. With a one way charge going each way, if someone is going to truck around, the pass is a great option. Plan your destinations ahead and you can map out how to get there using the beta website:

http://tripplanner.transit.511.org/mtc/XSLT_TRIP_REQUEST2?language=en

Other websites if you want the details:

SF MUNI

<http://www.sfmta.com/cms/home/sfmta.php>

BART

<http://www.bart.gov/index.asp> (Great for excursions further out into the east bay)

CABLE CARS

The historic cable car runs from the base of Powell Street near the hotel, all the way up and over Nob Hill and down to Fisherman's Wharf, Ghirardelli Square and such landmarks as the Buena Vista saloon, famous for Irish Whiskeys. It's a beautiful ride and you can connect to the other routes if you like. Tickets are \$3 each way or a day pass is \$9.

<http://www.sfcablecar.com/>

Historic streetcars are part of the MUNI system and run on Market Street that will take you around to the Embarcadero and Wharf. There are several very nice restaurants over that direction, such as the famous Fog City Diner and Teatro Zinzanni where you can dine and watch the circus performance.

http://www.lovetoeatandtravel.com/Site/Sfbay/SF/restaurants_embarcadero.htm

Basically, there are three cable car routes in operation, and it helps to know their respective destinations. At Powell and Market streets, there is a cable car turntable which serves as the beginning stop for two lines, the Powell-Mason and Powell-Hyde lines. The Powell-Mason line begins at the Powell/ Market turntable, and the line runs from there up and over Nob Hill and down to Bay Street at Fisherman's Wharf. The Powell-Hyde line also begins at the Powell Market turntable and runs over Nob and Russian hills before ending at Aquatic Park near Ghirardelli Square. Both these lines end near Fisherman's Wharf, but at different areas, and the routes are significantly different. Paying close attention to the signs on the cable cars will help you distinguish where in Fisherman's Wharf you will find yourself.

The signs on Powell street cable cars are color coded. The yellow signs will head towards Bay and Taylor streets, and the red signs will head towards Aquatic Park. The California Street line runs East-West from the Financial District, through Chinatown, over Nob Hill and stops at Van Ness Avenue. Since all the cars on this line have the same routes, the signs are painted directly on the car.

CHINATOWN & NORTH BEACH

The Stockton Bus will take you to and through Chinatown and North

Beach. It's also a walkable distance in sensible shoes. Walking is a great way to get to know the character of the city, and to give your calf muscles a workout.

BERKELEY & EAST BAY

If you want to venture to the East Bay (Berkeley especially), BART is the best choice. To visit Sausalito, Tiburon or Marin in general, the ferries are fun and have their own romantic allure. You can have a glass of wine, sit on the fantail and enjoy a gorgeous sunset.

Welcome to San Francisco!