



Today's Dirty Dozen – Things to do if you have a spare day. Or three.

If your travel plans place you in San Francisco before the conference, or you extend beyond, here are some ideas on where to spend some time. The first five suggestions are day-trips (not to be confused with Haight Ashbury day trips). Unless you like getting up really, really early, the rest would take an overnight stay.

1. **The Muir Woods National Monument:** Giants in the mist -- coastal redwoods just north of the Golden Gate. Bigger and older than you'll ever be. Teddy Roosevelt spoke here 100 years ago. www.nps.gov/muwo
2. **Alcatraz:** The ultimate in dank confinement. www.nps.gov/alca/
3. **University of California - Berkeley and Stanford University:** World class learning at two extraordinary institutions. www.berkeley.edu. www.stanford.edu.
4. **Napa Valley wine country:** California has a rich history of wine-making for world-wide markets. Napa Valley is place number one. Tasting rooms and attractions abound. www.napavalley.org
5. **Sonoma Valley wine country:** Ditto, but a bit more rustic and bucolic. www.sonomavalley.com
6. **Santa Cruz** (Berkeley by the beach): A laid back, funky, university, gay-friendly town, with a permanent amusement park. www.santacruz.org
7. **The Mendocino Coast:** Rugged, scenic coastal area. Interesting villages, shopping, accommodations and wineries. www.gomendo.com
8. **The Monterey Bay Aquarium:** World class fish --: A biologist's view of water sports. Sea otters, jellyfish, a kelp forest and more. www.montereybayaquarium.org
9. **Monterey/Carmel/Big Sur/Route One:** Steinbeck. Pebble Beach. Cannery Row. Fine dining, shopping and accommodations. Extraordinary coastal views in Big Sur/Route One. www.montereyinfo.org www.carmelcalifornia.com www.bigsurcalifornia.org
10. **Yosemite National Park:** Winter snowfall promises superlative springtime waterfalls. Ansel Adams earned his chops here. www.yosemitepark.com
11. **Lake Tahoe :** Deepest (and still clearest) freshwater lake in the world. Winter/summer/water sports, gambling, shows, nature. www.visitinglaketahoe.com

12. **California Gold Country:** John Sutter stumbled onto gold 160 years ago. The rest, as they say, is history. www.calgold.org .

Brought to you as a kinky public service from the folks who are bringing you Leather Leadership Conference 12.

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