



Fun on Ferries: Shoreline Snacking and Shopping

Waterfront neighborhoods
are easiest to visit by boat



Destination No. 1: Fleeing the Summer Fog—San Francisco to Sausalito or Tiburon via Ferry

You need a vacation! You'd like to go to the Mediterranean or at least the New England Coast, but only have a day or two and your budget won't accommodate air-fare. Don't despair: go to the Mediterranean village of Sausalito or sample the lifestyles of the rich and famous in the idyllic town of Tiburon, both of which offer temperatures typically 10 degrees warmer than SF and the best views of San Francisco and the Golden Gate Bridge. Although the Pacific Ocean is too chilly for a casual swim, you might be inspired to buy a bathing suit (for sunbathing) at one of the boutiques near the ferry terminals.

The Boat Ride

Pick up a Golden Gate ferry behind the San Francisco Downtown Ferry Terminal for Sausalito or a Blue and Gold Ferry from Pier 41 bound for Sausalito or Tiburon. With onboard views of the Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz Island, recreational boaters, quaint Victorian houses perched along the hillsides, and, of course, seagulls, the time passes almost too quickly. The ride between San Francisco and either town takes approximately a half hour; the boat drops you off at the town center.

Sausalito: From Snacks to Meals

Caffe Tutti, one of the first shops you'll see to the south, on El Portal, is a good choice for a snack, frozen yogurt, Italian soda, coffee or tea to keep you going. If you're craving a sit-down meal without relinquishing the shoreline views, a number of restaurants offer front row seats of the water: for instance, try Scoma's or Horizons at the south end of Bridgeway.

Gifts for that Person who has Everything

If you're looking for a unique \$70 tee-shirt or a sherbet scoop of bath salt for \$8 you can visit shops such as The Beach House Clothing Company, which specializes in resort wear. Bargain shoppers can fill their pockets at Munchies Candies from Around the World, with its barrels of salt-water taffy and other treats. You can even taste the candies before making a purchase, giving new meaning to "barrel tasting."

Looking for original art? It's impossible to swing a cat without hitting a gallery along Bridgeway. For instance, Petri's Gallery specializes in glasswork, jewelry, bronze, and figurines. Their shipping service eliminates the hassle of carrying packages.

Tiburon:

Stroll through the Ark Row for wine tasting, art, book or clothes shopping; choose among tequilas to accompany your guacamole or a California-style Mexican meal at Guaymas; or dig into a plate of fish and chips at Sam's, also along the water. If you have extra time, you can even take a ferry that makes a side trips to Angel and/or Alcatraz Islands before returning to San Francisco. (Sausalito fare: \$5.60; Tiburon fare: \$7.25 with special youth and family rates; be sure to check schedules at <http://www.goldengateferry.org/schedules/index.html>; and, <http://www.blueandgoldfleet.com>)

Destination No. 2: Anywhere-with-a-ferry-terminal to SF

No ferry ride is complete without a tour of San Francisco's Ferry Building with its wide, naturally lit hallways, high ceilings and artfully decorated shops.

Try visiting on a Saturday morning, when the outdoor Farmer's Market is in full swing, perfuming the air with the sweet smell of fresh lavender and tempting you to fill your market bag with delicious seasonal produce or to fill your belly with samples of sundries served on toothpicks.

From One End to Another

Start at one end and work your way throughout the Ferry Building, where specialty and gourmet shops abound. From Sur La Table, you can choose from esoteric kitchen supplies like crab crackers, corn handles, and flexible 9 inch round cake pans; or pick from several different types of caramel

sauce to top your dessert. Take home some organic beef, poultry or fish from Golden Gate Meat Company, Potter Family Farms, or San Francisco Fish Company. Find the perfect coffee-table book at Book Passages or at Bay Crossings, specializing in historical ferry memorabilia.

Snack Attack

If all this talk about cakes and caramel made you crave sweets, you can satisfy your craving at Ciao Bella Gelato or Scharffen Berger Chocolate Maker. Wash it down with a soy latte from Peets Coffee or indulge in a tea experience at Imperial Tea.

For something more substantial, grab a sandwich at LuLu Petite, Mastrelli's Delicatessen (an offshoot of North Beach's Molinari's), or sample the specials at Hog Island Oyster Company. If you're ready for a sit down meal, your choices range from Slanted Door (high-end Vietnamese) to Marketbar (California cuisine).

Ferry Plaza Wine Merchant is a good meeting spot for friends, where the wine bar allows you to escape the fray while sipping a nice hearty red Zinfandel; and, if you'd like to repeat the experience later, you can take home a bottle from their store.

(One-way fares ranges from \$9.50 (Vallejo) to \$5.25 (Oakland) with discount fares available. See www.watertransit.org for a one-stop link to all the ferries. Check out the Ferry Building Marketplace at <http://www.ferrybuildingmarketplace.com>