With 15 cemeteries for people and 1 for pets, the city of Colma is home to 2 million graves and 1,800 living souls. It is a suburban necropolis.

### Former Cemeteries of San Francisco

- **1776 Mission Burying Ground**: for converted Ohlone people and other Catholics, established. Most graves of native people were removed, but a small part of the cemetery still exists.
- **1825 Sansome Street Graveyard**: unofficially established. Also known as Sailor’s Burying Ground. Protestants, Greeks, and Jews were buried there because they could not be buried in the Mission Graveyard. It was later moved to Yerba Buena Cemetery.
- **1847 North Beach Cemetery**: a.k.a. Powell Street Graveyard, unofficially established in a vacant lot.
- **1849 First Jewish cemetery**: established. It was moved in the 1860s to two new Jewish cemeteries in the Mission, where Dolores Park is now.
- **1850 Yerba Buena Cemetery**: founded at what is now Civic Center. It closed in 1861 and moved in 1870, mostly to City Cemetery. Some of the bodies were “returned home” to other parts of the world.
- **1852 First non-native burials on Goat Island**, now known as Yerba Buena. Ohlone burial sites predated the cemetery.
- **1853 Rincon Point Cemetery**: established.
- **1854 Laurel Hill**: the first of four cemeteries at Lone Mountain, established.
- **1860 Calvary**: the Roman Catholic cemetery, established at Lone Mountain. It was later moved to Holy Cross in Colma.
- **1868 City Cemetery**: a.k.a. Golden Gate Cemetery or Clement Street Cemetery, established. It closed in 1909. Many of the people buried there were indigent or minority. The cemetery had at least 21 separate sections for societies and ethnicities. It was common to bury people two to a grave, and burials were often temporary resting spots before the bodies could be shipped home.
- **1884 San Francisco National Cemetery**: established. It is the only fully remaining cemetery in San Francisco, but it is technically not within city limits. Greco-Russian Cemetery was also established, later moved to City Cemetery.
- **1899 Bones, relics, boots, and a shroud found near Odd Fellows during extension of Golden Gate Avenue.**
- **1901 City ordinance makes it illegal to bury or cremate a body in San Francisco.**
- **1906 The fires after the great earthquake destroyed many vital records at City Hall.**
- **1908 16 graves found during excavation for Methodist Book building at Civic Center.**
- **1912 City ordinance evicts cemeteries.**
- **1913 Several graves found at construction site for Federal Building near Civic Center.**
- **1934 20 more graves found during excavation near Civic Center.**
- **1941 Removal of graves completed.**
- **1947 Removal of tombstones completed.**
- **1993 300 graves were found under Legion of Honor during remodels. 11,000 may remain.**

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Sources: San Francisco History Center documents, sfgenealogy.com

(Photograph: Removal of Odd Fellows Cemetery, 1931. Used with permission, San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library)