

## Embarcadero Self Guided Walking



Exploring the Embarcadero on a Saturday morning by walking is a wonderful choice! This area is bustling with activity and offers stunning views of the San Francisco Bay, along with a variety of attractions. The Scenery: As you head north, the Bay Bridge offers a stunning backdrop, especially in the early morning light. This waterfront promenade is lined with plaques detailing the area's rich history—from the Gold Rush era to the present day. Keep an eye out for street performers and public art installations, which add a unique flavor to your walk.

The Embarcadero is not just a route; it's a living tapestry of San Francisco's culture, history, and natural beauty. Here's a curated walk that you might enjoy, which combines iconic sights, leisure spots, and hidden gems. This itinerary offers a blend of cultural, historical, and scenic experiences that showcase the vibrant essence of the Embarcadero. Enjoy your walk, and don't hesitate to take detours to explore anything that catches your eye!

## Start: Ferry Building Marketplace

- **Time to Start:** 8:00 AM or 9:00 AM
- **Highlights:** Start your journey at the historic Ferry Building. The Ferry Building itself is an architectural marvel, dating back to 1898. On Saturdays, the Ferry Plaza Farmers Market is in full swing, featuring local farmers, artisan producers, and gourmet offerings. It's a perfect spot to grab a coffee and a bite to eat while enjoying the lively atmosphere. The Farmer's Market outside is a vibrant gathering of local farmers and food purveyors—perfect for sampling fresh produce or picking up unique San Francisco souvenirs.

## Walk to Exploratorium

- **Distance:** About 1 mile along the Embarcadero
- **Highlights:** Stroll north along the waterfront. Enjoy the picturesque views of the Bay Bridge and the bustling piers. As you head north, the Bay Bridge offers a stunning backdrop, especially in the early morning light. This waterfront promenade is lined with plaques detailing the area's rich history—from the Gold Rush era to the present day. Keep an eye out for street performers and public art installations, which add a unique flavor to your walk.

## Exploratorium Visit

- **Time to Spend:** 1-2 hours
- **Highlights:** The Exploratorium at Pier 15 is a museum of science, technology, and arts. It's an eye-opening, playful place to explore and engage with interactive exhibits. The tactile dome is a must-try experience (reservation might be required). Be sure to check with the hotel for discounted tickets

## Continue to Pier 39

- **Distance:** About 0.7 miles
- **Highlights:** Continue your walk to Pier 39, known for its shops, restaurants, and the famous sea lion colony that lounges on the docks. The lively atmosphere here is infectious, and the views of Alcatraz and the Golden Gate Bridge are spectacular. The real stars, however, are the sea lions. These marine visitors started arriving after the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake and have since become beloved residents. Their playful antics are a joy to watch.

## Optional: Fisherman's Wharf

- **Distance:** Less than 0.5 miles from Pier 39
- **Highlights:** If you're up for a bit more walking, continue to Fisherman's Wharf. You can visit the Musée Mécanique, a museum of vintage arcade games, or simply enjoy the waterfront views. For a touch of history, the USS Pampanito, a World War II submarine museum, provides a fascinating glimpse into naval life.
- **Hyde Street Pier:** Nearby, you'll find the Hyde Street Pier, home to a collection of historic ships at the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park. You can visit some of these vessels and get a glimpse into San Francisco's maritime

history.

- **Ghirardelli Square:** Continue south to Ghirardelli Square, a historic chocolate factory turned shopping and dining complex. Sample some delectable chocolate treats and enjoy a break in the charming square.

## Lunch and Relax

- After exploring, you might be ready for lunch. There are numerous dining options along the Embarcadero and Fisherman's Wharf, ranging from casual eateries to upscale restaurants. For a truly San Francisco experience, consider trying some fresh seafood or sourdough bread at Boudin Bistro in Pier 39.

## Tips for Your Walk:

- **Wear Comfortable Shoes:** You'll be walking quite a bit, so comfortable footwear is key.
- **Layer Up:** San Francisco weather can be unpredictable, with fog rolling in unexpectedly. Wearing layers will keep you comfortable throughout your journey.
- **Stay Hydrated:** There are several spots along the way to refill your water bottle.
- **Photography:** The Embarcadero is incredibly photogenic, so bring your camera or make sure your phone is charged. The early morning light provides excellent conditions for photography, especially near the water.
- **Exploration:** While the route is straightforward, allow yourself the freedom to explore side streets and piers. Hidden gems like the Rincon Park's bow and arrow sculpture ("Cupid's Span") and the historic ships at Hyde Street Pier add depth to your adventure.
- By embracing both the planned route and spontaneous discoveries, your walk along the Embarcadero will be a memorable experience, rich with the sights, sounds, and flavors of San Francisco. Enjoy your exploration!

After your exploration from the Ferry Building to Pier 39, getting back to the Hyatt Regency SOMA via public transportation is both convenient and straightforward. Here are a couple of options to consider, depending on your preferences and the time of day:

## Option 1: F-Market & Wharves Streetcar

- **Route:** The F-Market & Wharves historic streetcar runs along the Embarcadero and Market Street. This is not only a practical choice but also adds a touch of San Francisco charm to your journey.
- **Boarding Point:** You can catch the F-line streetcar directly from Pier 39. Look for the stops along The Embarcadero.
- **Drop-off Point:** Get off at the Market St & Drumm St stop, which is right in front of the Hyatt Regency SOMA.
- **Tips:** The F-line is popular among tourists, so enjoy the scenic route but be prepared for potential crowds, especially on weekends.

## Option 2: Muni Bus

- **Route:** For a faster, less scenic route, you can take one of the Muni buses. The #8 Bayshore bus is a good option.
- **Boarding Point:** From Pier 39, you might need to walk to a nearby stop on North Point St or catch the bus from a stop along The Embarcadero.
- **Drop-off Point:** Exit the bus at the Temporary Transbay Terminal, which is a short walk from the Hyatt Regency SOMA.
- **Tips:** Buses might be quicker than the streetcar, especially if traffic is light. Check the latest schedules and routes on the SFMTA website or a transit app for any service changes.

## General Public Transportation Tips:

- **Payment:** Purchase a Clipper card for convenience, available at Walgreens, certain SFMTA kiosks, and other retail locations. You can also pay with exact change on buses and streetcars, but the Clipper card or a mobile payment app like MuniMobile can be used across various transit options in the city.
- **Transit Apps:** Apps like Google Maps, Transit, and the SFMTA MuniMobile app provide real-time transit schedules, route options, and digital ticketing, making navigation through the city easier.
- **Safety and Etiquette:** Keep your belongings close, offer priority seating to those in need, and be aware of your surroundings.
- **Weekend Schedule:** Remember that public transportation schedules may vary on weekends, so check the latest times and frequencies.

These public transportation options will efficiently get you back to the comfort of your hotel, allowing you to rest and reflect on your day's adventure along the Embarcadero.