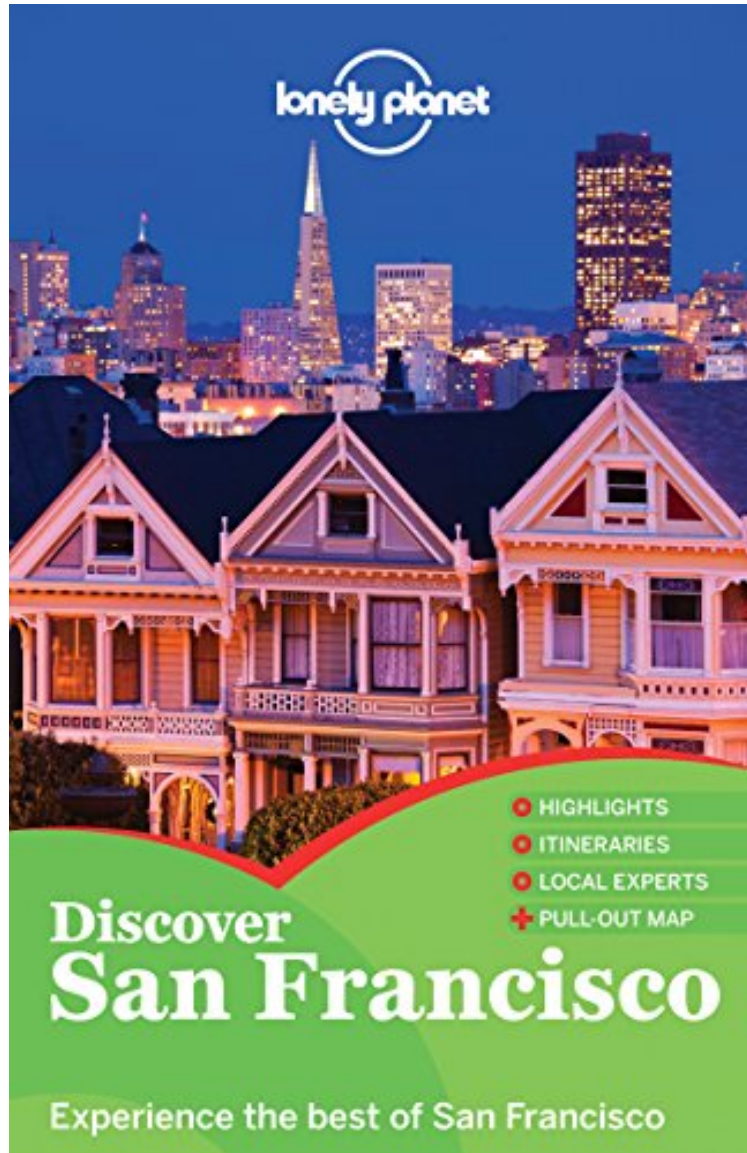


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## Lonely Planet Discover San Francisco (Travel Guide)

*Lonely Planet, Alison Bing, Mariella Krause, John A Vlahides*  
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**Lonely Planet, Alison Bing, Mariella Krause, John A Vlahides : Lonely Planet Discover San Francisco (Travel Guide)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lonely Planet Discover San Francisco (Travel Guide):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Typical LP guidebook: reliable and useful, with a few omissions By VirginiaDarePros:-Seems to be the most current guide for SF as of my purchase date (July 2011).-LP has always been my go-to guide for both domestic and international travel. Its recommendations may not always be the best, but I think

LP is the most consistently reliable guidebook. I appreciate that LP also segments restaurants/bars/accommodations by budget/midrange/high end so you can choose yourself rather than other guidebooks typically gear the entire book toward one type of traveler (Rough Guide for budget, Dorling Kindersley for higher end).-Guide features a pull-out map which was helpful.Cons:-I did not see (and I could have missed it) any public transportation maps, such as the underground or bus system. Some underground and trolley stops were marked on the pull-out maps but there was not separate public transport guide/maps. I used the GPS function on my smartphone for bus routes, etc.-I agree with the previous reviewer's (J. Wong's) comment about comparing LP to Trip Advisor. I have consistently found that the top Trip Advisor choices for a city are not featured in LP.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Threw it outBy JohnJAdded little or nothing useful to the standard publication on SF. Seems to be an attempt to put out yet another book to sell. I threw it out.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Not a classic Lonely Planet guideBy DunyazadI've seen several reviews for other Lonely Planet Discover guides where people seemed unpleasantly surprised by what they got. Discover guides are not the classic Lonely Planet guides; they're a new series that was started a couple of years ago, and the originals are still being published as well.Lonely Planet describes the classic style as "the original; comprehensive; adventurous", while the Discover guides are "best-of; photo-packed; inspirational". In other words, the Discover guides don't have as much information as the original guides. What they do have is a lot of photographs and an attractive format that highlights don't-miss attractions. There's enough overlap in content that you probably won't want to buy both guides, and choosing between them will come down to individual preferences.One place where the Discover guide cuts back is on accommodations; there are only six pages of hotel listings, plus two pages of more general information. I was perfectly happy with this, since I had already chosen accommodations independently and didn't need a lot of hotel details taking up space in (and adding weight to) my travel guide. And the Discover guide does have a useful chart comparing the pros and cons of different neighbourhoods of San Francisco from the perspective of where to stay: whether they're close to sights, easy to access by public transportation, active or quiet at night, etc. This is more than enough for me when I'm just looking for a decent place to stay in a North American city; I expect that pretty much any hotel will turn out to be acceptable. It's only when I'm travelling farther afield to places where I might face language or cultural barriers that I worry more about every detail. I don't know whether I'd buy a Discover guide for, say, Egypt, but for San Francisco it worked for me.I've also found that I really appreciate the photo-heavy, highlights-focused approach when I'm just visiting a city for a short time. I might read a travel guide in great detail if I'm going somewhere for three weeks, but three days is a completely different matter. I want to be shown top attractions in an appealing format, and quickly; I'm not going to invest more time in reading the guidebook than I'll be spending on the trip. The Discover San Francisco guide does exactly what I want: I can quickly flip through it to get a sense of what the top sights are and decide what I actually want to see. The photos help a lot with this, and the various attractions also seem to be split up more into individual chunks, rather than listed as part of a paragraph, which again makes it friendlier for skimming rather than sitting down and reading.I've so far used this for a day trip to San Francisco with hardly any planning, and it worked out well; I was satisfied with the attractions that I saw and the limited time that I had to put into doing research beforehand. We didn't even plot out our whole day in advance, but chose a couple of major sights and then used the guidebook to hit other highlights nearby. If that's the kind of trip that you're looking for--a quick visit without a lot of advance planning--then this may be the book for you. But if you want to research every detail ahead of time, then you'll probably prefer the more thorough classic guide.Even for my purposes, this Discover guide wasn't perfect, though. For one thing, I would have liked a transit map or some other useful reference on the back inside cover, instead of just advertisements for other Lonely Planet guides. I also would have liked a reference section of maps at the back of the book, instead of just the pull-out map. There are neighbourhood maps in various sections, but I sometimes wanted an overview, and I find it awkward to deal with a fold-out map while simultaneously walking around carrying a guidebook. Finally, I would have liked the individual attractions to be indexed more precisely to the various maps. The maps have an alpha-numeric grid system around the edges, so why not make use of it by specifying the location of each attraction? I've seen this done in the Mini Rough Guide to New York, so it's not unheard of, but unfortunately it doesn't seem to have caught on.Despite these issues, though, I'm satisfied with this book overall. I certainly prefer it to the Frommer's San Francisco guide, which seems to target a more upscale (read: free with their money) audience. This Discover guide achieved its goal of providing an appealing, photo-heavy book that quickly helped me pick out the top attractions that I wanted to see.

Lonely Planet: The world's leading travel guide publisher Lonely Planet Discover San Francisco is your passport to all the most relevant and up-to-date advice on what to see, what to skip, and what hidden discoveries await you. Watch fog creep beneath the Golden Gate Bridge, ride a cable car past stately Victorians, or taste the best of California cuisine at the Ferry Building; all with your trusted travel companion. Discover the best of San Francisco and begin your journey now! Inside Lonely Planet Discover San Francisco: Full-color maps and images throughout Highlights and itineraries show you the simplest way to tailor your trip to your own personal needs and interests Insider tips save you time and money and help you get around like a local, avoiding crowds and trouble spots Essential info at your

fingertips - including hours of operation, phone numbers, websites, transit tips, and prices Honest reviews for all budgets - including eating, sleeping, sight-seeing, going out, shopping, and hidden gems that most guidebooks miss Cultural insights give you a richer and more rewarding travel experience - including history, art, literature, entertainment, music, architecture, politics, cuisine, drink, and more Free, convenient pull-out San Francisco map (included in print version), plus over 30 color neighborhood maps Useful features - including Walking Tours, Month-by-Month (annual festival calendar), and Travel with Kids Coverage of North Beach, Chinatown, Downtown, Civic Center, The Mission, SoMa, The Castro, Russian Hill, The Haight, Hayes Valley, The Marina, Fisherman's Wharf, Golden Gate Park, and more The Perfect Choice: Lonely Planet Discover San Francisco, our easy-to-use guide, is perfect for travelers who seek the most popular attractions a destination has to offer. Filled with inspiring and colorful photos, this guide focuses on the best of the best. Looking for a comprehensive guide that recommends a wide range of experiences, both popular and offbeat, and extensively covers all of the city's neighborhoods? Check out Lonely Planet's San Francisco guide. Or check out Lonely Planet's Pocket San Francisco, a handy-sized guide focused on the can't-miss sights for a quick trip. Looking for more extensive coverage? Check out Lonely Planet's California guide for a comprehensive look at all the state has to offer, or Lonely Planet's Discover California, a photo-rich guide to the state's most popular attractions. Authors: Written and researched by Lonely Planet, Mariella Krause, Alison Bing, and John A Vlahides. About Lonely Planet: Started in 1973, Lonely Planet has become the world's leading travel guide publisher with guidebooks to every destination on the planet, as well as an award-winning website, a suite of mobile and digital travel products, and a dedicated traveler community. Lonely Planet's mission is to enable curious travelers to experience the world and to truly get to the heart of the places they find themselves in. TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice Awards 2012 and 2013 winner in Favorite Travel Guide category 'Lonely Planet guides are, quite simply, like no other.' - New York Times 'Lonely Planet. It's on everyone's bookshelves; it's in every traveller's hands. It's on mobile phones. It's on the Internet. It's everywhere, and it's telling entire generations of people how to travel the world.' - Fairfax Media (Australia)