

SAN FRANCISCO

From gold rush workers to beatnik poets, the City by the Bay lets your students explore various cultural revolutions. Student tours include visits to Alcatraz, Fisherman's Wharf, the nation's oldest Chinatown, and the Golden Gate Bridge.

Why Brightspark?

Safety And Security

We regularly conduct strict audits of our vendors, ensuring they act in accordance with safety, security, and quality standards.

Our Tour Directors

You deserve the best, so we only use experienced and enthusiastic Tour Directors who are experts on their destinations.

Quality, Custom Tours

Our programs are designed for you, by you. From STEM-based DC tours to performance trips to some of our country's top music cities, we have a destination for every budget and every passion.

Industry Experience

With over 50 years of experience providing custom tours, Brightspark is a leader in student travel.

Travel Protection & Incident Coverage

With our 24/7 emergency hotline, comprehensive general insurance, and an industry-leading refund guarantee program, we've got you covered.



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Day 1:

- Meet your Tour Director and board your private motor coach.
- Head to San Francisco's **Chinatown**, the largest one outside Asia and the oldest in all of North America. Established in 1848, the neighborhood has had a strong influence on Chinese immigrant culture. Its distinctive architecture, decorations, and shops make it one of the city's top tourist destinations.
- After lunch in Chinatown, hop back on your motor coach for a **guided tour** of the city by the Bay. Sights include **Coit Tower**, the famously crooked **Lombard Street**, and the Victorian homes known as the **Painted Ladies**.
- Enter the **Presidio**, a park on the site of a former U.S. Army post. Its forests and miles of trails provide a relaxing environment in the middle of the city.
- Take a stroll down **Baker Beach** for great views of the **Golden Gate Bridge**.
- After dinner, take in a touring production of a Broadway show at the historic **Orpheum Theater**, built in 1926 to resemble a French cathedral.

Day 2:

- Visit **Fisherman's Wharf** on the city's northern waterfront, where Italian fishermen first settled in the city during the late 19th century. Nowadays, you can find restaurants selling crab legs and clam chowder and bakeries filled with fresh San Francisco sourdough. Head to the piers to meet a colony of friendly sea lions!
- Walk to nearby **Ghirardelli Square** to learn about the city's iconic chocolate factory and enjoy a tasty snack!
- Take a ferry ride to **Alcatraz Island**. The United States first turned the island into a military fort in the 1850s. During the Civil War, the island's isolation and chilly conditions made it an ideal military prison. Alcatraz became a federal prison in the 1930s, housing notorious criminals like Al Capone.
- Explore **Golden Gate Park** – 1100 acres of gardens, lakes, trails, cultural attractions, and monuments. Highlights include the Conservatory of Flowers, the Japanese Tea Garden, and a paddock that hosts a herd of bison.
- Inside the park, visit the **California Academy of Sciences**, one of the largest natural history museums in the world with over 26 million specimens.

Day 3:

- Ascend the "**Twin Peaks**" for an unforgettable panoramic view of the city. Located near San Francisco's geographic center, these hills are among the highest in the city – only Mount Davidson outranks them.
- Go under the sea at the **Aquarium of the Bay**. On the city's Embarcadero waterfront district, the aquarium celebrates the biodiversity of the North Pacific with immersive, hands-on exhibits. Among the 20,000 marine animals on display are sparkling anchovies and hypnotic jellyfish!
- After lunch at Fisherman's Wharf, climb up **Telegraph Hill** and **Coit Tower**. The simple concrete column has been a staple of San Francisco's skyline since it was built in 1933. Eccentric socialite Lillie Hitchcock Coit, who had passed away in 1929, left instructions and funds in her will for the construction of a tower "adding beauty to the city which I have always loved." The tower features murals dating back to the Works Progress Administration during the New Deal Era.
- Discover the spookier side of the city's history during a **haunted walking tour**.

Day 4:

- Inspire curiosity at the **Exploratorium**, a museum that brings together art and science with tangible, interactive exhibits and inquiry-based experiences. Founded in 1969 by Frank Oppenheimer, the public learning laboratory allows visitors to learn about science with an explore-for-yourself approach.
- Continue to **Crissy Field** and **Fort Point**, a Civil War-era Army site at the base of the **Golden Gate Bridge**. From here, your group will enjoy a unique view of one of the most famous architecture landmarks in the world. When the one-mile bridge was completed in 1937, it was both the longest and tallest suspension bridge in the world.
- Cross the bridge, drive through scenic **Sausalito**, and venture into the **Muir Woods National Monument**, dedicated by President Theodore Roosevelt and named after naturalist John Muir, whose advocacy helped establish the National Parks Service. The forest features towering coastal redwoods – the tallest stands 260 feet high!
- Depart for home.

