

San Francisco Visit

March 27 to April 2, 2011



You can't go to San Francisco and not see the famous cable cars (left). We have rode these on previous trips, but did not this time since they take a lot of time to wait for them.



Below left: we actually 'walked' up this crookedest street in the world: Lombard Street. We stayed a few blocks to the west. The Lombard Street district has many affordable hotels and inns to stay at, with free parking!



And, of course, below is Alcatraz. We have visited this famous island on previous trips and have 'been there, and done that!'

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We saw a long line out this restaurant, and decided to check it out. It is called 'Mama's Restaurant, and is rated one of the top 25 places to eat breakfast in the nation. And, it didn't disappoint! They specialize in Omelets and Eggs Benedict. But, seating is limited and thus the line. We got their at 7:45 am (it opens at 8 am) and there was already a line! It is at Filbert & Stockton Streets, right down street from St. Peter & Paul Catholic Church.

Below and to the right: Legion of Honor Museum, which is affiliated with the de Young Museum and has contemporary art displays



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The Mission district in San Francisco had a number of interesting things to see and do, such as the 'Bi-Rite Ice Cream' (above left) which always had a line out the door, to the Bi-Rite Grocery (above right) which was really cool place just to walk thru, to Delores Park, below right, and some interesting buildings and neat little shops (women's clothing, book stores, etc.) Great place just to buy home-made ice cream and just hang out.



Steve Wiser, AIA
WiserAIA@Hotmail.com www.WiserDesigns.com

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A new wine region is developing in California, east of Stockton, called the 'Shenandoah Valley'. This is what Napa Valley used to be 20 years ago before it became too commercial and congested. This is the Karmere Winery, which had excellent wines. We took picnic lunch and enjoyed the scenic views!



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We visited Sutter Creek (where gold was discovered that led to the California gold rush in the late 1840s). The town is full of boutique retail shops.

One we visited was a cheese tasting store, which was fantastic. We had a great time tasting various cheeses and the shop owner was a delight to talk with. Definitely a fun place to visit!



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