



Fun science: the parabolic mirror at the Exploratorium

FAMILY TIME

San Francisco Treats

WHAT'S GREAT FOR KIDS IN THE CITY BY THE BAY By KIMBERLEY LOVATO

PLACE	THE SCOOP	DON'T MISS
The Exploratorium	A Silicon Valley-worthy relaunch of the interactive science museum founded by Frank Oppenheimer (Manhattan Project fame) in 1969. The new digs are on Pier 15, near the Ferry Building.	Drink from the toilet-shaped water fountain. Sculpt with electrified Play-Doh at the Tinkering Studio. Sample a California seawater cocktail at the bar (grown-ups only).
Mission District	This Latino/boho/hipster neighborhood feels like an adult enclave, but there's plenty here for the pint-sized.	Peek into the hushed sanctum of the Mission Dolores. Walk through mural-laden Balmy Alley. Order a cone of ricanelas ice cream at Bi-Rite.
Golden Gate Park	At more than 1,000 acres it's 20 percent larger than Central Park, with lakes, fields, windmills (right), gardens, and two museums (including the California Academy of Sciences). You'll need a plan.	Ride the century-old carousel at the Children's Quarter (only the beasts in the middle row go up and down). Count bison (there's been a herd since the 1890s). Get free swing dance lessons on Sundays.



"The Rock"

ESCAPE TO ALCATRAZ

Catch the scenic ferry ride from Pier 33 to Alcatraz, or "the Rock." The fearsome **FEDERAL PENITENTIARY** on the island housed America's most notorious criminals from 1934 to 1963, including Al Capone and "Machine Gun" Kelly. Tickets often sell out in the summer, so book far in advance. The two-and-a-half-hour tour (\$30, including audio guide) includes the five-by-nine-foot cells in C-Block, which inmates sarcastically dubbed "Park Avenue." Some parents seize the opportunity to give their kids a *Scared Straight!* lesson by putting them in a solitary confinement cell and shutting the door. Those who have read the book *Al Capone Does My Shirts* will know that children—the sons and daughters of prison guards—resided on Alcatraz. Get a sense of their lives by strolling the grounds, where rocky cliffs are now claimed by thousands of roosting gulls and egrets. Got teens? Opt for the more ghoulish night tour (\$37), which includes stops at the prison's hospital and morgue.

FIRST PERSON

"As a teenager in San Francisco I loved to stand on the running board of a cable car and hang on tight as it went downhill."

—LINDA BURBANK,
SAN FRANCISCO PARENT

ATLAS

San Francisco



Though curvy Lombard Street gets all the attention, Vermont Street in Potrero Hill is actually more crooked.

