

Muir Woods, Giant Redwoods & Sausalito Tour

Tour 4 — Muir Woods/Sausalito Tour



Cross the Golden Gate Bridge, and after you motor through the “Rainbow Tunnels” on Hwy. 101, Marin’s unique topography comes into view. Tidal flats along the bay segue into gentle undulating hills as they rise to meet Mt. Tamalpais, Marin’s 2,600-foot landmark. As your tour ascends Mt. Tam, breathtaking views abound at every turn. Descending into the valley toward Muir Woods, you will see a land-

scape that hasn’t changed since its original inhabitants, the Coast Miwok Indians, lived here centuries ago. You will have 1 1/4 hour to spend in Muir Woods, the most time offered on any sightseeing tour program. There will be ample time to stroll the Nature Trail along picturesque Redwood Creek, and through Cathedral and Bohemian Groves, filled with 500 to 800-year-old redwoods. Be sure to stop at the Visitors Center and Gift Shop. The next stop on your tour is beautiful Sausalito, a Mediterranean-like community with elegant hillside homes facing the bay and a unique colony of floating homes moored along the waterfront. You will have time to stroll Downtown Sausalito, a National Historical Landmark District offering many fine shops, galleries and restaurants. If you want to spend additional time here you can stay and take a ferry back to Fisherman’s Wharf or the San Francisco Ferry Building at the foot of Market Street (ferry fare not included). Your return to San Francisco by motorcoach will be via the Golden Gate Bridge and through San Francisco’s Marina District.

- 4-hour tour of Muir Woods and Sausalito
- Cross over the Golden Gate Bridge
- 1 1/4 hour in Muir Woods
- 1 hour in Sausalito
- Shopping/Dining/Galleries in historic Downtown Sausalito

MUIR WOODS NATIONAL MONUMENT

140 million years ago, redwood-like trees covered most of the Northern Hemisphere. Today, this expanse of trees has been reduced to two areas, the west slope of the



Sierra Nevada and a thin 500-mile strip along the Pacific coast from Oregon to Monterey, California. Most old-growth coast redwoods have been cut down,

but the trees in Muir Woods National Monument have never been logged. Congressman William Kent and his wife Elizabeth Thacher Kent bought the forest along Redwood Creek in 1905 to protect its old-growth redwoods from logging, and donated the land to the Federal Government. President Theodore Roosevelt proclaimed it a national monument in 1908, naming it for conservationist John Muir.

Today Muir Woods is a part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and a part of the National Park System. The redwood groves within the 560-acre park include trees that measure over 252 feet tall. One is 14 feet wide; some are at least 1,000 years old.

Although most famous for its redwoods, Muir Woods also has a variety of other trees and plants. Douglas fir, big-leaf maple, tan-bark oak and bay laurel grow along with ferns, lichen and mushrooms. Its abundant wildlife ranges from ladybugs, silverhead trout and silver salmon to Steller’s jays, chipmunks and black-tailed deer.



The color of Muir Woods changes with the seasons; in Fall the big-leaf maples turn yellow; Winter brings the vibrant red toyon berries; Spring explodes with wildflowers; and Summer is the time for azaleas, aralias and buckeyes.



SAUSALITO



The Coast Miwok Indians were Sausalito's first settlers, followed in 1775 by Spanish explorer Juan Manuel de Ayala, who gave

Sausalito its name "Saucelito" (little willow). During World War II, the northern portion of the city was a bustling shipyard known as Marinship, which built Liberty ships, tankers and landing craft. Later the area became a center for artists, writers and crafts people. The Marinship waterfront is lined with yacht harbors and a unique colony of floating



homes called "arks." Their unusual architecture and the unique lifestyle of their inhabitants lend a bohemian air to the community.

Downtown Sausalito, a National Historical Landmark District, has many fine shops, restaurants, hotels and galleries, plus many small parks. In the center of town the beautiful Plaza de Vina Del Mar Park features a fountain and two 14-foot tall elephant statues created for the Panama-Pacific Exposition in 1915. Adjacent to the park is the ferry landing where you can catch a ferry to Fisherman's Wharf or the San Francisco Ferry Building. Shopping in Sausalito varies from village markets with local wares to sophisticated boutiques and galleries. Dining ranges from sidewalk cafes to gourmet restaurants, many of which offer outstanding views of the bay, San Francisco and surrounding hillsides. You will enjoy the friendly, sophisticated charm of this bayside community.



Golden Gate Bridge



The most recognized image of San Francisco, its 4,200-foot span connects San Francisco with Marin County.

Blue & Gold Fleet Ferry

At the end of your tour of Sausalito you may choose to return to San Francisco by ferry. Blue & Gold Fleet offers service to Pier 41, Fisherman's Wharf.



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