

## Romantic Hideouts & Peaceful Retreats



### For the Romantic Fools

*San Francisco will make any fool romantic—it's one of the most popular cities in the country for honeymooners. But sometimes the big city can be a little oppressive and you need a quiet place for romance or maybe just to get your head together. We've collected a wide-ranging set of alternatives, which will warm your romantic heart or simply give you some much-needed peace and serenity.*

#### BEST PLACE FOR A ROMANTIC BEACH STROLL:

##### CHINA BEACH

Situated just below the pricey cliff-hanging homes of the Sea Cliff neighborhood, China Beach is a pretty little rock-bound cove offering striking views of the Golden Gate Bridge and San Francisco's craggy coastline. Although it's busy with sunbathers on warm days, it's practically deserted on windy, cool days—the perfect time to bundle up and stroll arm-in-arm. Sea caves and rocky overhangs offer places to snuggle against the wind.

#### BEST PLACE FOR AN INTIMATE DINNER:

##### ACQUERELLO

This hidden treasure, on a street lined with anonymous shop fronts, offers some of the most elegant service to be found in the city. The ever-changing menu of beautifully executed Italian dishes is served in a lovely inviting room where watercolors line the walls. The flawless service, sensuous surroundings, and impeccable food make this the perfect place to linger with that special someone. 1722 Sacramento St., 567-5432 • [acquerello.com](http://acquerello.com)

#### BEST PLACE TO SHARE THE SUNSET:

##### MARIN HEADLANDS

The turnouts along the Marin Headlands road can get awfully cluttered with camera-clutchers during the daytime, but they're rarely crowded at night. The view of the sun slipping into the Pacific, the bridge standing below you, and the lights of the city beginning to twinkle will stir the romantic soul in anyone.

#### MOST ROMANTIC PLACE FOR A PICNIC:

##### PALACE OF FINE ARTS

This beautiful domed structure, a remnant of the 1915 Panama Pacific Exposition, is a favorite for wedding photos. Lounge on the grass while gazing at the lake, or each other! 3301 Lyon St.

#### MOST ROMANTIC SPOT IN VERY ROMANTIC PACIFIC HEIGHTS:

##### THE LYON STREET STEPS

San Francisco's most expensive neighborhood is a marvel to walk through; you'll see many well-known millionaire (make that billionaire) homes. A great final destination for any walk in Pacific Heights is where Broadway ends at the Lyon Street Steps on the edge of the Presidio. You'll get gorgeous views of the Palace of Fine Arts and the bay. At least one local celebrity took full advantage of the romantic surroundings by popping the question to his girlfriend.

#### BEST PLACE TO BE ALONE TOGETHER IN THE CITY IN A DARK THICKET:

##### SUTRO FOREST

This thick stand of eucalyptus on the steep flanks of Mount Sutro is surprisingly remote. It's a nice place to walk hand-in-hand! You can climb to vantage points and gaze down at the city. To find it, drive up Market Street to Castro Street, and veer slightly right onto 17th Street; follow 17th to Stanyan, then turn left and go up a steep grade to Belgrave Avenue. Turn right and follow it to the end of the road.

