



Must-See Attractions

MOUNT TAMALPAIS

The crown jewel of Marin, the “Sleeping Lady” is a 6,200-acre park, part of the State Park system. Over 2,000 feet high, the mountain gives a panoramic view of the East Bay, San Francisco, and the coast. The mountain was named by the Miwok Indian tribe, from “tamal” meaning coast and “pais” meaning mountain. There are many different trails with something for everyone from the experienced hiker to the tenderfoot. To get to the Pantoll Ranger Station and park headquarters take Highway 1 and follow it to Mount Tam. From Pantoll, there are many trailheads such as East Peak, or trails leading into Stinson beach and Muir Woods. To get there, take Panoramic Highway in Mill Valley to Highway 1 and follow the signs.

THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE

This famous span offers a breathtaking view of San Francisco, along with Alcatraz and the East Bay as well as the Bay Bridge connecting San Francisco to Oakland. On a clear day you can see the Farallones Islands about 30 miles to the west. Built in 1936, walking the span gives you a feeling of just how big the bridge is and on the south end a gift shop can be found with plenty of trinkets that will prove you really did the tourist thing. To get there, take Highway 101 south to the bridge.

THE GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

Located just above the Golden Gate on the north end are the Marin Headlands and the beginning of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area—a federal park system that stretches and skips from the bridge to the Marin county border. The headlands are a popular place for photographers seeking to capture the essence of the bay as the Golden Gate frames the city. The Headlands also include the Visitor’s Center, an excellent place to get practical and historical information on the Headlands and the GGNRA.

MUIR WOODS

Located just 12 miles from the bridge, Muir Woods (named for naturalist John Muir) is the last remaining stand of old growth coastal redwoods in the Bay Area. There are six miles of trail paths and four footbridges making it possible to do circular treks. The grove is in a canyon adjacent to Mt. Tamalpais and sunlight is scarce since the trees, which are mostly between 500 and 1,000 years old, form a canopy. Also, since the park is so close to the coast, fog in the morning and evening is a regular occurrence. To get there, take Panoramic Highway to Highway 1, and follow the signs.

POINT BONITA LIGHTHOUSE

This historic lighthouse in the Marin Headlands is still in operation. Tours of the lighthouse and the adjacent grounds are available during the day and some evenings. The view of the Pacific is breathtaking. A half-mile hike is required, and the trail is steep in a couple spots. But the view is well worth the trek. To get there, take Highway 101 south to the Golden Gate Bridge. Take the last available exit and go up the hill to the Headlands. The lighthouse hike begins at the end of Field Road. Call for tour availability (415) 331-1540.

Notes

Let us know your off-the-beaten path recommendations so we may share them with other Joie de Vivre Hotels guests! Please return your suggestions to the front desk staff.
