

San Rafael TOUR

San Rafael, located halfway between San Francisco and the wine country, is Marin's oldest city. Named after the Mission San Rafael Arcangel, the city is famous for its favorable climate, the landmark Frank Lloyd Wright Civic Center, Victorian architecture, and historic China Camp.

San Rafael is also Marin's central city. Located in the center of the county's eastern urban corridor, San Rafael is also the county's governmental, business, and cultural center. San Rafael is a central base for taking day trips to many scenic locations such as the Napa/Sonoma wine country, the Pt. Reyes National Seashore, and Muir Woods.

San Rafael has many interesting sites for visitors and residents alike.

MARIN COUNTY CIVIC CENTER

3501 Civic Center Drive

The Marin County Civic Center was Frank Lloyd Wright's last major commission and is one of the famed architect's most distinctive designs.

The Civic Center, which spans three hills, includes a lush, 11-acre lagoon and a 20-acre park. Also on the grounds of the Civic Center complex is Marin Center, the county's largest performing arts and convention facility.

Buildings are open to the public for self-guided tours during normal business hours, Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Volunteer docents lead a free one-hour tour of the Center by appointment only. Call ahead at (415) 499-5050.

GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND, INC.

350 Los Ranchitos Road

Guide Dogs are a familiar site on San Rafael's streets, in restaurants, and on buses. That's because San Rafael is home to Guide Dogs for the Blind, Inc., where dogs are raised and trained to assist blind people.

Free 45-minute tours are available, and include a trip to the kennels, the campus, the student dormitories, grounds, and gift shop. Monthly graduation ceremonies are also a good time to visit. Ceremony schedules are available by calling the organization. Call (415) 499-4000.

MISSION SAN RAFAEL ARCANGEL

1104 Fifth Avenue

Mission San Rafael Arcangel is a 1949 replica of the original Mission, which was constructed in 1817 and was second to last in the California mission chain.

The building is small and plain, measuring 40 by 20 feet, and divided into a hospital, chapel, storeroom, and monastery. The site includes a religious gift shop and small museum. Open daily. Call the rectory at (415) 454-8141 or the gift shop at (415) 456-3016.

FALKIRK CULTURAL CENTER

1408 Mission Avenue

Built in 1888, the former home of Scottish shipping magnate Robert Dollar is typical of the elaborate Queen Anne style.

The 17-room mansion was purchased through public bonds in 1974 to be preserved as a historic and cultural resource. This national landmark is surrounded by 11 acres of formal grounds, natural wooded hillside and a sculpture garden. Falkirk exhibits contemporary art in the upstairs galleries and sponsors events throughout the year with other cultural organizations. Call (415) 485-3328.

DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

1520 Grand Avenue

Founded in 1890, Dominican University is located on 80 wooded acres in the center of San Rafael. The four-year liberal arts college is home to many architecturally and historically significant buildings.

Dominican's library won a national architectural award for design. The Conlan Recreation Center is a new addition to the campus. Tours of the campus can be arranged by appointment and a brochure is available for a self-guided tree tour. (415) 457-4440.

MARIN HISTORY MUSEUM

1125 B Street

Boyd House, home to the Marin History Museum, is a beautiful example of high Victorian Gothic set in a parklike garden surrounded by a granite and iron fence. The building is listed on the National Register

of Historic Places. The museum houses a detailed collection of local historical photos and artifacts. Call for hours: (415) 454-8538.

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1123 Court Street

Built in 1869, this Victorian Gothic church is noted for its beautiful stained glass Rose Window and redwood interior. The Rose Window was installed in 1895. (415) 456-4842.

CHRISTOPHER B. SMITH RAFAEL FILM CENTER

1118 Fourth Street

Restoration has preserved many of this three-screen cinema's historic art deco design elements while adding new film and sound technology. Operated by the nonprofit California Film Institute. For information and schedules call (415) 454-1222.

MARIN ACADEMY

1600 Mission Avenue

This co-ed private high school, located on 10 acres, was formerly a military academy built in 1870. It is an austere, Italianate mansion, stripped of most of its original ornamentation. Tours by appointment. (415) 453-4550.

ART WORKS DOWNTOWN

1337 Fourth Street

Lively arts center located in the heart of downtown. A visit yields views of artists at work in any of 30 studios. Visitors may also view art exhibitions or participate in art classes, community events, lectures and performances. (415) 499-6387.

Public Transportation

The San Rafael Transportation Center offers a central location from which to depart for the airport or arrive in San Rafael. The Center is located at the corner of Hetherton between Second and Third Streets, just one block from Highway 101.

Marin's airport shuttle services stop at the Center, and the Golden Gate transit system uses the Center as a central passenger station.

For scheduling details, call the carriers listed below or visit the San Rafael Chamber of Commerce.

Golden Gate Bus and Ferry Transit

(415) 455-2000

Marin Airporter

(415) 461-4222

For additional information visit the San Rafael Chamber of Commerce. You'll find maps of San Rafael, a walking tour map, and other information about San Rafael and Marin County. The office is located at 817 Mission Avenue, near the corner of Lincoln Avenue. Call (415) 454-4163.



817 Mission Avenue | San Rafael, CA 94901
415 454 4163 | 415 454 7039 fax | sanrafaelchamber.com

SAN RAFAEL IMPROVEMENT CLUB

Fifth Avenue at H Street

San Francisco's Palace of Fine Arts isn't the only remaining building from the 1915 Panama-Pacific Exposition. The San Rafael Improvement Club, RCA Victrola Music Pavilion in the Exposition's Palace of Liberal Arts, is the only other. Now privately owned and not open to the public, the building is a city and state landmark and is in the National Register of Historic Places.

WILDCARE

76 Albert Park Lane

The center is a rescue mission for the rehabilitation of native species. Injured animals are treated and returned to their environment.

The Center has an indoor clinic and more than 20 outdoor cages for all types of animals. One-way glass windows allow visitors to observe recovering animals and birds without disturbing them. An indoor exhibit hall features habitat dioramas, hands-on exhibits, games for children, a small nature shop, and wildlife displays. (415) 456-7283.

CHINA CAMP STATE PARK

North San Pedro Road

One of the more fascinating historic sites in San Rafael, this 1,648-acre bayside park acquired its name from a Chinese fishing village that once flourished there. China Camp has hiking and horseback riding and biking trails with sweeping views on all sides. Boat launches, fishing piers, windsurfing, and plenty of picnic tables and barbecue pits round out the park's features.

Along the park, San Pedro Road hugs the shores of San Pablo Bay for a breathtaking view of the North Bay panoramas. The road is studded with jutting points with parking, barbecue pits and picnic tables. Remnants of an old pier dating back to the founding of China Camp are off Buckeye Point. People still fish there.

Also visit a preserved fisherman's cottage and the China Camp Museum. Located in the original shrimp processing plant, the museum offers self-guided tours showing photos and artifacts from China Camp in its heyday. For a map of the area, call the park at (415) 456-0766.

MCNEAR'S BEACH PARK

Cantera Way, off Point San Pedro Road

McNear's Beach is one of Marin's most popular recreation areas, located off Point San Pedro Road near Peacock Gap. The 35-acre recreational area offers an outdoor swimming pool, fishing pier, two tennis courts, numerous family and group picnic areas with barbecues, and almost a mile of sandy beaches. Fee for parking and use of pool. (415) 499-6387.

ST. VINCENT'S SCHOOL FOR BOYS

4900 Redwood Highway

St. Vincent's, a large Italian Renaissance Mission-style church, was constructed in 1855 and is designated a California historical landmark. The state's oldest home for dependent children, the school began as an orphanage during the Gold Rush. St. Vincent's now provides residential care to boys ages seven to 12 with serious emotional and educational problems. Tours by request or self-guided walking tour map. (415) 507-2000.

San Rafael



Points of Interest