

## Send North America: San Francisco

### San Francisco Facts

1. The Spanish settled in San Francisco in 1775 when they ventured from Southern California on a "Sacred Expedition" led by Gaspar de Portola.
2. On July 9, 1846 the area became an official part of the United States. Three years later, gold dust was discovered in a Sierra saw mill and San Francisco became famed as "El Dorado."
3. El Dorado means a place of fabulous wealth or opportunity.
4. Once publicized that gold was found "Gold Fever" overtook the community, and over 50,000 people moved there within a year looking for fortune.
5. Denim jeans were invented in San Francisco for the Gold Rush miners to have comfortable work clothing.
6. Colorful Victorian houses, which were built to house the influx of people after the Gold Rush, still beautifully line the streets today.
7. The San Francisco cable cars are the only rolling National Historic Landmark and still run on a daily basis.
8. The famous Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco was built over the span of four years and opened on May 28, 1937.
9. San Francisco is positioned on a section of the 800 mile-long San Andreas Fault, which stretches vertically though most of the state. Due to this, the area is prone to earthquakes and has had several of these devastating phenomena's in recorded history.
10. The Great 1906 San Francisco earthquake lasted only one minute and caused \$400 million in damages due to the destruction and multiple fires the jolt spurred. That is estimated to be \$8.2 billion today.
11. On a small island in the San Francisco Bay, Alcatraz Federal Penitentiary opened in 1933 and imprisoned some of most notorious criminals at the time including Al Capone. During the 29 years it was in use there was never one successful escape attempt.
12. San Francisco is known as a community where creative thinkers thrive. Beginning with the Beatnik movement in the 1950s poets, and writers filled the city, which later evolved into the Psychedelic era of the 1960s known as the Hippie Generation.
13. The 1990s began the era of Cyberculture in San Francisco. Silicon Valley, the tech district in the city, is still a leading hub for high-tech innovation and development.
14. 37 percent of people in San Francisco were born in another country.
15. There is only 1 Southern Baptist church for every 17,139 people in metro San Francisco.

Sources:

[http://gocalifornia.about.com/od/casfmenu/ss/san-francisco-facts\\_15.htm#step-heading](http://gocalifornia.about.com/od/casfmenu/ss/san-francisco-facts_15.htm#step-heading)

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