

**Double S Travel**

118 Talbot Road  
Luton, Bedfordshire, LU2 7RA  
Telephone 01582 752752  
ABTA 16297 and ATOL 6766  
E-Mail [steve@doublestravel.co.uk](mailto:steve@doublestravel.co.uk)  
Web [www.doublestravel.co.uk](http://www.doublestravel.co.uk)



**Double S Travel Worldchoice - Celebrating Twenty Two Years of service to residents and businesses in the South Bedfordshire area 1985 – 2007**

San Francisco

So where is San Francisco?

On the western or Pacific Ocean coast of the USA in Northern California, 124 miles north of Los Angeles. At the entrance to a large bay.

Isn't it just a big city in the USA?

It is a big city, but it is also regularly voted the most attractive city in the USA, and it has a lot of history as opposed to its other California coast competitor Los Angeles. It has always been a trend setter – remember 'flower power' and 'free love' in the 60s, to gay liberation in the nineties.

The movies always show trams – what about them?

The street-trams and cable cars are a famous feature of San Francisco. They roller-coaster up and down the hills in the city. The original cable lines were built by a British engineer called Andrew Hallidie in 1873. There are 3 cable car routes **Powell – Mason** (running from the Mason turntable up and over Nob Hill and down to Bay St at Fisherman's Wharfe. **Powell – Hyde** which also runs over Nob Hill ending at Ghiradelli Square. The third line is the **California St** line which runs east-west from the financial district over Nob Hill to Van-Ness Ave. Tickets are \$3 each or a pass (1 day costs \$9, 3 days costs \$15 and a week costs \$20).

Any other tourist attractions?

Golden Gate bridge opened in 28<sup>th</sup> May 1937, linking San Francisco in the south to Marin County to the north. A 90 minute cruise from Fisherman's wharfe will take you around the bay, under the Golden Gate, and around Alcatraz, the third of the famous sights.

Alcatraz Island in SFO bay, originally a lighthouse, then a naval fortification, then more famously a federal prison. In the 1920-1930s there was a significant increase in organised crime and Alcatraz was used to hold these gangsters. Comprising 350 cells Gun galleries covered all galleries, tear gas canisters were permanently installed in the dining hall. In its 29 years only 2 ever escaped to the mainland. There were 14 attempts, 7 were shot trying, 2 were drowned. The most famous

**Partners: SJ Pattenden TD & KJ Pattenden MSc. VAT Number 449 3040 53.**

Nominated Travel Agent of the Year 2006, 2007, 2008

Finalist Travel Agent of the Year 2005, 2006, Finalist Business Travel Agent of the Year 2006

Finalist Best Specialist Website 2006 [www.railchoice.co.uk](http://www.railchoice.co.uk).

Runner-up, Corporatechoice Business Travel Agent of the Year 2005,

Runner-up, TIPTO Agent of the Year 2005, Nominated Travel Agent Achievement Awards 2005.

attempt was by Frank Morris and John and Clarence Anglin popularised by the film Escape from Alcatraz. Admission is \$21.75 incl ferry trip advance reservations are recommended.

#### Fisherman's Wharfe

Massively popular with tourists. The epicentre is Pier 39. There are shops galore, fast food stands, over-priced bay-view restaurants as well as bars, markets and street performers. It is also the start point for trips to Alcatraz and other bay cruises.

#### North Beach

Famous for the 'crookedest street in the world' – Lombard St, a zig-zag street so steep that it takes 8 sharp turns to make the descent down Russian Hill.

How do I get there?

Fly direct by BA, VS, NZ, DL, UA, CO

When do I go?

Cool to mild throughout the year, dry but sometimes foggy in the summer and wet mild winters which are cold at night (rarely dropping below 60F 15C). Best time to go is during the summer.

Are Visas need to go to the USA?

Sometimes. Anyone who has ever been arrested needs a visa. There are certain passport rules.

The usual 6 months run-on

Issued prior to 26Oct05, machine readable

Issued 26Oct05-25Oct06, digital printed photo or e-passport

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Foreign Currency Rates today

£1 = \$1.973

£1 = E1.34 so 1000euro = £746