

HOST COMMITTEE'S GUIDE TO

Staying and Playing in San José

Welcome to the capital of Silicon Valley! San José is the 10th largest city in the United States, and the largest city in the San Francisco Bay Area: it covers about 180 square miles and is home to over 1,000,000 residents. San José offers world-famous attractions, such as the Winchester Mystery House, the Tech Museum of Innovation, and the Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum and Planetarium. Downtown San José has an abundance of eateries, museums, performing arts venues, galleries, and nightclubs—all within a short stroll of your hotel. With so much to see and do, whether you have a few hours or all day, we have provided you with itineraries for trips in and around our city. We hope you enjoy your visit and come back soon!

Two-Hour Escapes

Museums and Attractions

If you only have two hours between meetings or before your flight, the best bet is to stay in or near downtown San José. For the young at heart, visit **The Tech Museum of Innovation**, which features interactive exhibits in genetics, microchips, alternative energy, earth sciences, and virtual design. Young children will love the **Children's Discovery Museum**, ranked by *Child Magazine* as one of the top ten children's museum in the United States. This center for creative play and expression features galleries such as the Art Loft, Bubbalonga (world of bubbles), Kids' Garden, and Wonder Cabinet, and also offers children's theater performances. Art lovers should visit the **San Jose Museum of Art**, exhibiting more than 1,400 works of 20th-century American paintings, sculpture, and photographs.

The South First Area (SoFA) district serves as downtown San José's visual arts and entertainment district. Enjoy distinctive architecture, rich coffee, and eye-catching galleries such as the **Institute of Contemporary Art**, **Anno Domini**, **MACLA/Movimiento de Arte y Cultura**, the **Art Glass Center of San José**, and **Works**. Visit the one-of-its-kind **San José Museum of Quilts & Textiles**, displaying over 550 textiles, including historic and contemporary quilts, contemporary woven textile art forms, and wearable art. A short drive or taxi ride from downtown is the **Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum & Planetarium**, home to the largest collection of Egyptian artifacts in the western United States.

Just north of downtown San José is **Japantown**, one of the last three remaining Japantowns in the United States. Where most other Japanese-American neighborhoods were lost after the internments of World War II, San José's Japantown is a rare treasure. Take a **self-guided walking tour** of the historical sites that line the streets of this century-old authentic ethnic neighborhood.

Performing Arts

Downtown San José is designed like a cultural campus, with numerous museums, galleries, and performing arts venues all within walking distance of the convention center and hotels. The Center for the Performing Arts offers renowned shows by **Broadway San José** and **Ballet San José**. The revamped **San José Civic** electrifies the downtown area with headline concerts, and the historic **California Theater** is home to Symphony Silicon Valley and Opera San José. The **San José Repertory Theater** showcases a variety of classic and contemporary plays. Latin culture lovers must see the **Mexican Heritage Plaza**, a 200,000-square-foot cultural center with state-of-the-art theatrical venues, a Smithsonian-affiliate gallery space, and luscious thematic gardens that serve as

a regional resource for cultural programming and education.

Recreation

Nature buffs won't have to look far to find imposing scenery. The **Guadalupe River Trail** is a beautiful 11-mile pedestrian and bicycle path near downtown that runs along the banks of the Guadalupe River. For respite, visit the **Japanese Friendship Garden** in Kelley Park. Next door is **History San José**, a life-size model of turn-of-the-century San José decorated with 27 original and replicated homes, businesses, and landmarks.

Horticultural heaven is northwest of downtown. The **San José Heritage Rose Garden**, located in the Guadalupe River Park and Gardens, part of the Guadalupe River Trail, and the **Municipal Rose Garden** offer acres of rolling green lawns filled, naturally, with blooming roses. The Municipal Rose Garden is one of the most attractive of its kind in the world, featuring over 4,000 rose shrubs representing 189 varieties.



Half-Day Trips

Thrills and Chills

You can't visit San José without checking out the house that Sarah Winchester built! The spooky **Winchester Mystery House** has bizarre architectural features, such as stairways to nowhere and windows opening onto walls.

If you prefer thrills over chills, check out **Great America** in neighboring Santa Clara. Just a few miles from downtown San José, this 100-acre theme park packs in heart-pounding rides, speeding roller coasters, and stage shows. If you like your thrills to be more low key, visit **Happy Hollow Park & Zoo** in beautiful Kelley Park, and **Gilroy Gardens** in Gilroy, California, located 30 miles south of downtown San José. Happy Hollow Park & Zoo recently reopened after a \$72 million green renovation of its 12-acre expanse of ride areas and zoo exhibits. Ideal for families with young children and garden lovers, Gilroy Gardens is California's only horticultural theme park.

Hometown Charm

Shop or browse in one of the many areas in Silicon Valley with local hometown charm, such as Santana Row,

Campbell, Los Gatos, Mountain View, and Palo Alto. **Santana Row** is Northern California's answer to Rodeo Drive. Find everything from Gucci and other high-end boutiques to trendy al fresco eateries and wine bars. Historic Downtown **Campbell** is a vibrant but casual shopping and entertainment district set against the backdrop of early 1900s classic architecture. It is brimming with charming sidewalk cafés and restaurants, friendly bars and coffeehouses, beautiful art galleries, and fabulous shops and services to explore and enjoy. Nestled in the scenic Santa Cruz foothills, **Los Gatos** is a perfect getaway, embodying



European small-town charm with its unique architecture and quaint downtown atmosphere. It is renowned for its world-class, one-of-a-kind restaurants and a fun selection of over 100 shops offering unusual art, gifts, and boutique jewelry and clothing. Influenced by an upscale tech demographic and Stanford University, Castro Street in **Mountain View** and University Avenue in **Palo Alto** both offer a great mixture of shops and services from the neighborhood type to the eclectic.



Earthly Pleasures

A natural, rugged getaway lies just minutes from downtown San José in 720-acre **Alum Rock Park**. Open Tuesday through Sunday, California's oldest municipal park offers 13 miles of trails and includes a visitor center, picnic areas, a playground, and sand volleyball pits. Or enjoy walking, jogging, and biking on the **Coyote Creek and Los Gatos Creek Trail**. The Coyote Creek Trail offers 18 miles of attractive scenery with waterway views. The beautiful 10-mile Los Gatos Creek Trail extends from the Lexington Reservoir above Los Gatos all the way to San José. While on the Los Gatos Creek Trail, stop in **Vasona Lake County Park** and ride the carousel or miniature train.

Top 10 Hole-in-the-Wall Restaurants in and around San José

Below are some recommendations of locals' favorite "hole-in-the-wall" eateries:
 \$ = Under \$10 per person, \$\$ = \$10-25 per person

Downtown San José

- 1 **Henry's World Famous Hi-Life** (\$\$)—BBQ/Steakhouse. 301 W. St John St., 408-295-5414
- 2 **ToFoo Com Chay** (\$)—Vegetarian Vietnamese Deli. 388 E. Santa Clara St., 408-286-8335
- 3 **Morocco's** (\$\$)—Moroccan. 86 N. Market St., 408-998-1509
- 4 **Naglee Park Garage** (\$\$)—New American. 505 E. San Carlos St., 408-286-1100

Within three miles from Downtown San José

- 5 **Gulzaar Halaal Restaurant & Bakery** (\$)—Middle Eastern/Pakistani. 1880 W. San Carlos St., 408-292-2786
- 6 **Grand Century Mall** (\$)—Vietnamese food court. 1001 Story Rd., 408-298-5148

Beyond three miles

- 7 **A Slice of New York** (\$)—Pizza. 3443 Stevens Creek Blvd., 408-247-5423
- 8 **Dia De Pesca** (\$)—Mexican. 55 N. Bascom Ave., 408-287-3722
- 9 **Falafel's Drive In** (\$)—Middle Eastern Cuisine. 2301 Stevens Creek Blvd., 408-294-7886
- 10 **Zeni Ethiopian Restaurant** (\$\$)—Ethiopian. 1320 Saratoga Ave., 408-615-8282

Full-Day Getaways

Santa Cruz

Located about 40 minutes southwest of San José, Santa Cruz is reputed to be the site of the first surfing in California. The **Santa Cruz Surfing Museum** is staffed by Harry Mayo and other docents from the Santa Cruz Surfing Club who have surfed these waves since the 1930s. In addition to surfing, this laid-back, old California seaside town is home to the **Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk**, California's oldest amusement park and a designated State Historic Landmark. The boardwalk is accessible not only by car but also by the **Roaring Camp Railroads**, a historic train that originates in the redwood forests and chugs down to the coast. The Santa Cruz region is also home to dozens of beautiful wineries: Chardonnay accounts for about a third of the acreage in the **Santa Cruz Mountain Wine Region**, one of the oldest appellations in the state, and the area is best known for its pinot noir and cabernet sauvignon.

Monterey/Carmel/Big Sur

San José's central location makes it the perfect home base for the best of **Monterey Bay** attractions from Carmel to Big Sur. Just 75 minutes southwest of downtown San José, Monterey's beaches and attractions await you. In Monterey, you can stroll through the many shops and restaurants of **Cannery Row** and **Fisherman's Wharf**, and make sure to allow enough time to visit the world-famous **Monterey Bay Aquarium**. Just south of the city is **Carmel-by-the-Sea**, a town well known for its shopping, whimsically romantic homes, art galleries, and Carmel Mission. While in Carmel, take in the scenic **17-Mile Drive**, a toll road that offers beautiful views of the Pacific coastline, luxury golf courses, and mansions. Continue your drive south on Highway One for another 25 miles to **Big Sur**, where dramatic cliffs with sheer drops to the sea offer eye-popping vistas, and you'll find some of the most beautiful parks in the state.

San Francisco

San José is a great jumping-off point for an easy day trip to San Francisco just 50 miles away, whether by car or **Caltrain**. Renowned for its chilly summer fog, steep rolling hills, eclectic mix of Victorian and modern architecture, and famous landmarks, San Francisco is home to **Fisherman's Wharf** and its most famous attraction, **Alcatraz Island**. Don't miss **Golden Gate Bridge** and **Golden Gate Park**: configured as a rectangle, the park features a plethora of attractions, such the Conservatory of Flowers, Tulip Gardens, Japanese Tea Garden, and Arboretum. Two world-class museums are also housed in the park, the **de Young Museum of Art** and the **California Academy of Sciences**.

Napa Valley

Just an 80-mile drive north of San José (50 miles north of San Francisco) is the world-renowned Napa Valley. While the main attraction will be a visit to several of the valley's 700 wineries, there are many more activities to enjoy during your visit. For some pampering, make an appointment at one of the spas in Calistoga. A neighboring town just a few miles north of Napa, Calistoga sits near natural mineral and mud springs as well as hot water geysers, thus making it an ideal spot to relax and enjoy a mudbath and other spa treatments. There are also some wonderful shopping opportunities in the Napa Valley, beginning with the revitalized downtown area of Napa and going all the way north to Calistoga. Each of the valley's towns (Calistoga, Oakville, Rutherford, St. Helena, and Yountville) have unusual specialty shops and galleries. Finally, to top off the getaway, choose from among the many delectable dining options in the valley, sure to delight the most hard-to-please palates. Visit www.napavalley.com for a comprehensive planning guide for your visit!

