

Tour #12, Golden Gate Park

This tour starts just outside the southeastern corner of the Golden Gate Park and ends at the Pacific Ocean. For this reason, consider taking this tour on a sunny afternoon and ending it by watching the sunset over the Pacific.

The tour does involve a lot of walking – slightly over 5 ¾ miles worth. The locales in this tour are clustered in the eastern half of the park and then again along the extreme western edge. It is easy to reduce the walking by taking a MUNI bus from the last locale in the eastern half of the park to the extreme western edge to complete the tour. Instructions for taking this alternate route will be provided at the appropriate part of this tour.

A valuable aid for this tour is the [Golden Gate Park's official website](#). The website has both a downloadable and an interactive map that helps you explore the park's attractions and services.¹ It also provides a list of events happening each month in the park. This website is a "must do" if you are considering stopping in some of the museums and other attractions in the park during your tour. The website provides information about each attraction including entrance fees (if any) and hours of operations. Finally, although there are public restrooms scattered around the park, they may not be easy to find in some instances. The website will help you quickly locate one.

There are a few apps for your smart phone that can make accessing the Park's features easier for both San Francisco residents and visitors. The following two apps are free through the iTunes store:

- Golden Gate Park Field Guide (This app was developed by the California Academy of Sciences – which is included in this tour)
<http://www.calacademy.org/apps/ggp/>
- Viciniti: <http://www.viciniti.org/Golden-Gate-Park.html>

Consider using some of the apps for MUNI (such as MUNI Watch, Routesy Pro) which will help you find the routes, times, etc., when using MUNI.

The Google Map for this tour: Tour #12, [Golden Gate Park](#) Use the map on your smart phone or tablet while walking the tour; it may be helpful in making sure you remain on the tour's route.

Golden Gate Park was featured significantly in three of the Tales books (i.e., *Tales of the City*, *Further Tales of the City*, and *Mary Ann in Autumn*) and was used in the filming of scenes in the miniseries based on the first two of those books.

A significant amount of the activity in Armistead Maupin's recently released short story, *Jackie Old*, also occurred here in the Park. A little background (without the spoiler) is

¹ If you do decide to stop and see some of the Park's attractions while walking through this tour, you will want to get a much earlier start and plan for a rather longer but enjoyable day.

needed if you haven't yet read the short story: The story was written in 1980 and is a speculation on what Jackie Onassis' life would be in the then distant year of 1999. Her son, John is married to the Mayor of San Francisco. An earthquake occurred the previous year (1998) that ravaged many parts of San Francisco. Like the 1906 earthquake and fire, many of San Francisco's citizens are living in tents throughout Golden Gate Park. The gay community finds that it enjoys living in the new tent city. Jimmy Bakker has been elected President of the United State and the "Praise the Lords" controls a third of the Senate. (Shudder) Bakker calls in Federal Troops to clean out the new residents from the Park.

The tour starts at the Circus Center at 755 Frederick. There are two ways to reach the starting point by MUNI. They are:

- *N-Judah MUNI Metro: The MUNI Metro trains are always an interesting way to travel through San Francisco. Pick up the outbound N-Judah at any MUNI station along Market from the Embarcadero Station to Van Ness. Exit the N-Judah at Carl and Hillway (the stop after Carl and Stanyan). After exiting the car, turn left and walk to Arguello Blvd. Turn right on Arguello and walk to Frederick. At Frederick, turn right again and walk a short distance to the Circus Center.*
- *#71 Haight-Noriega MUNI bus: This is an interesting bus line. It travels along Market Street but then picks up Haight and travels directly through Haight-Ashbury. At Stanyan, the bus turns south and goes along the eastern edge of the Park near Kezar Stadium. At Frederick, it turns west and continues to follow along the edge of the Park. Exit the bus at Arguello. The Circus Center is on the south side of Frederick just a few buildings east of Arguello.*

Circus Center, 755 Frederick

By the time Mary Ann returned to San Francisco for a visit (*Mary Ann in Autumn*), her daughter Shawna was (kinda) dating a young street performer named Otto. He practiced his clowning skills here at the Circus Center.

This very Art Deco building is an old high school gymnasium.



Return to the intersection of Frederick and Arguello (Frederick becomes Lincoln Way at this point). Cross Lincoln and follow Arguello (which does not have an actual sidewalk) a short distance north to the entrance of Kezar Stadium. Enter the stadium through its entrance arch.

Kezar Stadium, 755 Stanyan Street / Golden Gate Park



After Mary Ann had her surgery (*Mary Ann in Autumn*) and was released from the hospital, she returned to Michael's and Ben's home on Noe Street for her recovery (see Tour #8, *The Castro and Noe Valley*). Part of her recovery required walking. Almost immediately, she and Michael began taking walks around the track at Kezar Stadium. On the day she received the good news from the pathologist that her cancer had not spread, Mary Ann sat down on the bleachers and cried in Michael's arms.

On the morning of 24 October 1999 (*Jackie Old*), President Bakker and a thousand Praise the Lords gathered at the ruins of the Stadium to prepare for their 2:00 invasion of the gay tent city located in the park. From here they marched up Kezar Drive to JFK Drive, turned west, and continued their march to the intersection of JFK Drive and Tea Garden/Music Concourse Drive (later in this tour).

In 1922, the San Francisco Park Commission received a gift of \$100,000 from the estate of Mary Kezar to build a memorial to her family who were pioneers in the San Francisco Area. The stadium was dedicated in 1925.

The stadium was the former home of the San Francisco 49ers until the team moved to its "new" stadium at Candlestick Park in 1971. It was also used for a variety of other sports events.



After the 49er's departure, several scenes from the film *Dirty Harry* were shot at and above the stadium. If today the stadium doesn't look the same as in the film it's because the stadium seen in the film was demolished in 1989 and replaced with the current, much smaller stadium.

Backtrack to Arguello, turn right, and continue walking until Arguello dead ends at Kezar Drive. Turn left on the sidewalk and walk the few feet to the cross walk that will take you across Kezar. On the other side, continue walking into the park along Martin Luther King Jr, Drive. At the intersection with Bowling Green, cross to the other side of Bowling Green and then turn right taking the sidewalk past the bowling greens. (NOTE: There are no street signs at this intersection. Look for the name Bowling Green written in the sidewalk at the intersection to ensure you are at the correct intersection.)

Eventually on your left is the entrance (South Portal) to the Aids Memorial Grove. The entrance is marked by a circle of stones. Turn left and walk down into the Grove. At the end of the pavement, turn right and enter the "Circle of Friends". A stone and wood bench encircles half of the Circle of Friends.

Aids Memorial Grove, the intersection of Bowling Green and Nancy Pelosi Drive (formerly known as Middle Drive East) in Golden Gate Park



In *Mary Ann in Autumn* (2008), Shawna and Otto had lunch here eating the sandwiches Shawna had brought. She pointed out to Otto that not all the names in the Circle of Friends were of individuals who died from AIDS. Some of the names were people who had donated to the Grove's creation. Shawna looked for and pointed out Jon Fielding's name. She informed Otto that she didn't actually know Jon; he died before she was born. She

told Otto that Jon was her Uncle Michael's partner. Her dad (Brian) really liked Jon. She then shared with Otto that her real mother (Connie Bradshaw) was a flight attendant. She also told Otto about her visit with Mary Ann in Connecticut back when Shawna lived in Brooklyn, New York.

Shawna and Otto entered the Grove using the same route you just took to get here.



Exit the Circle of Friends by way of the paved path and follow it up the ramp exiting the Grove at the Main Portal at Nancy Pelosi Drive (near the intersection of Bowling Green).

The Main Portal is a gift from Steve Silver's Beach Blanket Babylon (see Tour #2, *North Beach*).

Turn right on Nancy Pelosi Drive, cross Bowling Green, and continue along Nancy Pelosi to the intersection with John F Kennedy Drive. Take the crosswalk to the other side of JFK.

Note: This stretch of JFK is closed to vehicular traffic on Sundays. This reduces the risk of being taken out by a car but not by a bicyclist or in-line skater.

Continue forward on the paved path (that is, don't turn right or left onto the sidewalk that's along JFK) as it leads to the right (east) side of the Conservatory of Flower. As you walk along the paved path, you will pass a statue of James A Garfield on your right and the formal flower garden in front of the Conservatory on your left.

Eventually you will come to a circular drive/parking area on the east side of the Conservatory of Flowers.

Conservatory of Flowers (east end), Pompei Circle

The Conservatory of Flowers appeared in two scenes in the "Further Tales of the City" miniseries.

One scene was filmed in this parking circle on the east end of the Conservatory: DeDe (Barbara Garrick) has seen Jim Jones in the Aquarium in the California Academy of Sciences (below in this tour). She flees the Academy with Mary Ann (Laura Linney). They end up in Mary Ann's car which is parked in this circle. The eastern end of the Conservatory can be seen behind DeDe. You can see the steps leading up from this parking area behind DeDe as well. While sitting in the car, DeDe reveals that "there's never been just one Jim Jones". DeDe proceeds to tell Mary Ann about the Jones devotee who turned himself into Jones' double which became a tool of Jones to keep the troops in line when he was away from Jonestown. Here is the scene on [YouTube](#); it starts about 06:28.



The story about Jones' double was a bit different in *Further Tales of the City*. Also, DeDe and Mary Ann were at Halcyon Hill when DeDe informed her about Jones' use of a double.

Walk up the steps at the end of the parking circle and along the front of the Conservatory until you are directly in front of it.

Conservatory of Flowers, Golden Gate Park / 100 John F. Kennedy Drive

The Conservatory of Flowers was a focal spot for some of the activity in *Further Tales of the City*. As mentioned above, the Conservatory of Flowers was the backdrop for two scenes in the *Further Tales of the City* miniseries. More about the Conservatory's appearance in both the book and miniseries will soon be explored in this tour.



Although going into the Conservatory is not part of this tour, consider coming back to Golden Gate Park to tour the Conservatory. The Conservatory of Flowers is a greenhouse and botanical garden. Its collection includes rare and exotic plants. Construction was completed in 1878 making it the oldest building in the park. Although the Victorian structure had been repaired several times during the first 100 years of its existence, it was still slowly deteriorating. A series of severe winter storms during the winter of 1995-1996 hastened the building's deterioration. At one point, 100 mph winds blew out a significant number of windows throughout the building. Starting in 1999, a four year effort at rehabilitating, restoring, and stabilizing the Conservatory began – to the tune of \$25M.

For more information about the Conservatory, visit its [website](#).

Walk toward JFK Drive by taking the walkway that leads away from the Conservatory's main entrance. Just before you reach the underpass at JFK Drive, take the ramp to the left that leads up to JFK Drive. Turn right, walk a few steps, and then stop at the balustrade on the JFK overpass.

JFK Drive in front of the Conservatory of Flowers

Now, more about the Conservatory and *Further Tales of the City*:

One Saturday morning, Prue Giroux lost her wolfhound, Vuitton, in the tree ferns across the street from the Conservatory of Flowers. Nearly a week later, Prue called Park & Rec to report her missing dog. The clerk at Park & Rec whistled “Where Oh Where Has My Little Dog Gone” while looking through the files for a report of a found dog. There weren’t any. More about that telephone call below in this tour.



Two weeks later, Prue decided to take matters into her own hands. Before launching her search for her peripatetic dog, she went to Eddie Bauer (located near Union Square on Post at the time of *Further Tales of the City*) for just the right safari jacket to wear for the task (see Tour #7, *Union Square*). After appropriately re-outfitting herself, Prue had her driver dropped her off in front of the Conservatory a little before noon.

On another Saturday, a few weeks later, while DeDe was telling Mary Ann at Halcyon Hill about Jim Jones’ double, Michael and Brian were skating in Golden Gate Park. Sitting on a bench along JFK drive, Michael suddenly spotted Prue Giroux getting into a limo in front of the Conservatory...Prue had just left Luke’s shack overlooking the Rhododendron Dell (coming up soon in this tour) knowing she had won the battle of convincing him to accompany her on a cruise to Alaska.

Early in the *Further Tales of the City* miniseries, Prue Giroux (Mary Kay Place) is jogging with her dog, Vuitton, on the grass along JFK Drive in front of the Conservatory. Father Paddy (Brian McCulloch) is slowly driving alongside Prue in his 1950s Cadillac Eldorado Biarritz with the top down. They are talking about Frannie Halcyon’s state of mind. Just as they are passing the balustrade (where you are now standing) Father Paddy cautions Prue not to exhaust herself. He informs her that he’s taking her to see the Shroud of Turin that evening. Prue, bless her heart, thinking this is an opera, asks “Who’s in that?” After they pass the balustrade, Prue shouts out a “Goddamnit” – startling the good Father – and calls out to Vuitton who has just escaped from her and is bounding into the shrubbery. Here is the scene on [YouTube](#); it starts about 08:53.

In *Further Tales of the City*, Prue and Father’s Paddy’s chat about the Shroud of Turin didn’t take place here in Golden Gate Park but rather while Prue was shopping for a safari jacket at the Eddie Bauer store formerly located on Post Street. She bumped into Father Paddy who was in the camping section of the store. However, in the book, Father Paddy was not taking Prue to see the Shroud of Turin. He was taking Frannie Halcyon.

If you look closely at the above clip from the miniseries, you will see that Vuitton is a poodle. In *Further Tales of the City*, Vuitton is a wolfhound.

Continue walking west along the north side of JFK Drive (the Conservatory will be to your right) and on the other side Conservatory Drive West you will come to a crosswalk that will take you to the other/south side of JFK Drive. Cross JFK Drive.

The “Two Paths”



On the south side of JFK Drive, you will see a narrow trail (with deteriorating blacktop) going up a slope almost directly ahead of you. A few feet to the left of the narrow path, you'll see a wider and better paved path that also leads away from JFK Drive. The photo shows the meeting of the two paths.

In the *Further Tales of the City* miniseries, Brian (Whip Hubley) is sitting in Anna Madrigal's (Olympia Dukakis) kitchen helping her whip up reefer laced chocolate brownies for Mary Ann's birthday. Brian tries to pump information from Anna to learn how Mary Ann really feels about him. He learns that Mary Ann really hasn't said anything directly to Anna about her feelings for Brian. Attempting to lighten Brian's mood, Anna says, "Tell you what. Why don't we have lunch together? I know a lovely spot where we can dine *al fresco*."

We next see them sitting on a bench in a park. Brian is again talking about Mary Ann.

The scene suddenly cuts to Prue (Mary Kay Place) and Father Paddy (Bruce McCulloch) walking down a path looking for Vuitton. This is the wider paved path to your left. They eventually arrive to JFK Drive (almost to where you are standing). Prue spots Brian and Anna sitting on the bench, she approaches them and asks if they've seen a white precious poodle. They hadn't. Prue and Father Paddy then walk uphill on the narrower path as they continue their search for Vuitton. More about Prue and Father Paddy's discussion as they walk along the wider path toward JFK Drive will be covered just below in this Tour.

Brian returns to his discussion with Anna and tells her he wants to marry Mary Ann. He continues by saying, "I've never wanted anything so badly." Anna assures him that he shall marry Mary Ann. Her children always get what they want.

In *Further Tales of the City*, the discussion between Brian and Anna didn't take place here in Golden Gate Park. After planning Mary Ann's birthday party and previewing "Miss Stanwyck" (one of her many pot plants) in Anna's home, Anna and Brian wandered down Russian Hill to Washington Square where they continued to talk about Brian's and Mary Ann's relationship. It was while they sat in Washington Square that Anna assured with, "My children always get what they want." (See Tour #2, *North Beach*)

To watch the scene of Prue and Father Paddy meeting Anna and Brian, click onto [YouTube](#) (scene starts about 2:24).

Olivia Dukakis and Whip Hubley were *not* sitting on a bench during the shooting of the scene. In fact, at the time of the filming of "Further Tales of the City" there was no

bench placed here...just as there isn't now. Mary Kay Place and Bruce McCulloch stopped where the two paths met, Mary Kay Place recite here lines to an empty spot, then she and Bruce walked up the smaller path.

Turn to the left, walk the short distance to the wider paved path. Take the path away from JFK Drive. You are now entering...

The Fern Tree Forest

This stretch of the paved path from where the pavement splits (125 feet ahead of you) back toward JFK Drive is where Mary Kay Place (Prue) and Brian McCulloch (Father Paddy) were filmed searching for Vuitton (see the clip/link above).



The photo shows the split of the paved path.

Prue and Father Paddy never had this conversation in *Further Tales of the City*. In fact, Father Paddy never helped Prue search for her missing dog in Golden Gate Park. The discussion about her dog possibly being eaten by Cambodians happened when Prue called Park and Rec. She spoke to a man there who didn't appear to Prue to be too concerned about her dog:

“...Where did you say you lost him again?”

Prue heaved a weary sigh. “In the tree ferns. Across from the Conservatory. He was with me one moment, and the next he was...”

“Last week?”

“Yes, Saturday.”

“One moment, please.” She heard him riffling through files. The jerk was whistling ‘Oh Where Oh Where Has My Little Dog Gone.’ Several minutes passed before he returned to the phone. “No ma’am. Zilch. I checked twice. Nobody’s reported a Russian wolfhound in the last...”

“You haven’t seen any suspicious Cambodians?”

“Ma’am?”

“Cambodians. Refugees. You know.”

“Yes ma’am, but I don’t see what...”

“Do I have to spell it out? They eat dogs, you know. *They’ve been eating people’s dogs!*”

Silence.

“I read it in the *Chronicle*,” Prue added.

Further Tales of the City/28 Barbary Lane pp 510-1

After her trip to Eddie Bauer (see Tour #7, *Union Square*) to select the right safari jacket for her trip into the wilds of Golden Gate Park, Prue had her driver drop her off in front of the Conservatory. It was in the Tree Ferns that Prue had lost Vuitton and so she decided to start her search here.



Momentarily moved by the beauty of her surroundings, she stopped and jotted a reminder in her notebook: “If W calls, ask to be shot in the tree ferns.”

Further Tales of the City/28 Barbary Lane, pp. 534-5

Prue always planned ahead.

When you reach the fork in the paved path, take the left fork which curves off to the left and walk just a short distance to the ...

Lily Pond

Prue’s exact route through the park from where she started her search to where she encountered Luke is not made clear in *Further Tales of the City*.

After writing the above note to herself about the photo shoot with W, Prue sets off on a paved path that quickly ascended a ridge. The ridge was U-shaped and from there Prue looked down upon the Lily Pond. (This might be the ridge that separates the Lily Pond from JFK Drive.) Ringed by the tree ferns, the Lily Pond appeared as a primeval lake-swamp to her. She half expected a 60 foot Gila monster to appear. She headed west – or at least thought she was heading west – skirting the Lily Pond. She eventually ended up at the rhododendron dell where the asphalt ended.

At least two more scenes from *Further Tales of the City* were filmed in the vicinity of the Lily Pond:

After looking for Vuitton in park with the assistance of Father Paddy, Prue returns to continue her search. Mary Kay Place has stopped a mounted policeman to see if he’s seen her wolfhound. Unfortunately he hasn’t. She then starts to walk toward fork in the path (which you just passed) while the policeman continues down the paved path in the same direction of travel as you. Here’s the scene on [YouTube](#) (starts at about 0:55).



Continue your walk down the paved path, through the curve to the left, and follow it along the edge of the Lily Pond to the point where the path and the Pond start to “part ways.”

The vegetation about the Lily Pond has drastically changed since the filming of *Further Tales of the City*. During the filming, there was a thicket of shrubs and other flora that grew on the left side of the path.

The closing scene of *Further Tales of the City* finds Prue visiting Luke's now abandoned – and vandalized – shack. She removes the handmade plaque that says, “Those Who Can't Remember the Past Are Condemned to Repeat It.” The scene cuts to Prue and Vuitton walking along the paved path skirting the Lily Pond (where you just walked). You see one guy emerge from the undergrowth behind Prue and then Father Paddy emerges from the undergrowth in front of Prue tucking his shirt inside his pants. Some thirty seconds later, the SF mounted cop also emerges from the undergrowth at the same spot where Father Paddy emerged. Prue, bless her heart, asks Father Paddy if she knows the cop. Father Paddy said, “Well...slightly.”

Then the credits for *Further Tales of the City* start to roll.

Here's the scene from [YouTube](#) (scene by the Lily Pond starts at about 7:32).

Over the years the appearance (and the smell) of the Lily Pond worsened. Invasive species of water plants and an African frog damaged the original ecosystem of the pond to such an extent that the Lily Pond and Fern Tree Forest are undergoing a radical revitalization by the Park. When work is completed on the restoration of the Lily Pond, the pond and the vegetation around it will appear significantly different than it did when the several scenes of *Mary Kay Place* in *Further Tales of the City* were filmed in this area.

Backtrack all the way to JFK Drive to where the “Two Paths” meet. Turn left and take Mary Kay Place and Brian McCulloch's (aka, Prue and Father Paddy) route up the slope on the narrow path. The blacktop – such as it is – eventually ends. Keep going. You will eventually come to another paved path. Take the paved path to the right. Follow it as it makes a broad curve to the left. Partway through the curve you come to a gardener's shed on your right.

Gardener's Shed



throughout the City.

So, if the Lily Pond and the Fern Trees were used by Maupin in *Further Tales of the City*, was there also a gardener's shed in that vicinity?

There was. Is.

As described in the *Further Tales of the City*, this shed stands on a ridge overlooking the rhododendron dell. JFK Drive passes just beyond the Dell and it can be heard from the shed.

The idea of a man living in a shack originated from one of the times Armistead Maupin lived on Telegraph Hill. Armistead had a chance encounter with Olin L Cobb, a retired merchant seaman, who lived in a hidden lean-to at the base of Telegraph Hill just above the sea wall and off the Greenwich steps. He was eventually evicted in the early 1980s by developers of a 250 unit condo complex that was part of the Levi's Plaza development. Olin Cobb was a squatter (in the eyes of the condo developers) who lived in a shack on Telegraph Hill and Luke was a squatter who lived in the gardener's shack in Golden Gate Park. And that, according to Armistead, is where the similarities between the real individual and the fictitious character end.

Armistead Maupin shares more about Olin Cobb in the blog on his official website: <http://armisteadmaupin.com/blog/?p=249> .

This area of the park where the shed is located has recently gone through significant improvements. A lot of underbrush was removed. The paths in this area were realigned and paved. The gardener's shed, which was little used at the time the photo was taken in 2003, is now use again by the Park as a gardener's shed.

When you have finished with the Gardener's Shed, continue on your original direction of travel (return to the paved path from the shed and turn right). A path will angle in from the left and merge with the path you're on. Keep going straight ahead. The path now gently curves to the left. After about 150 feet, a path intersects from the right. Turn right onto it. The path first curves to the right and then back to the left. It comes to an end at the intersection of another path and the sidewalk along JFK Drive at the Rhododendron Dell. Turn left and walk the short distance along JFK Drive to the unmarked intersection of JFK Drive and Music Concourse/Hagiwara Tea Garden drives.

Intersection of JFK Drive and Music Concourse/Hagiwara Tea Garden drives

At 1:45 pm on 24 October 1999 (*Jackie Old*), President Jim Bakker and his horde of right wing Christians pour out of Kezar Stadium headed for JFK Drive. They have begun their crusade to cleanse the Park of the Sodomites. At JFK Dr, they turn left and head for the intersection of JFK and Tea Garden. JFK Jr. runs alongside the crusaders.



At this intersection, Bakker and the Praise the Lords hear music and voices approaching them from around the corner on Tea Garden Drive.

In short, there's simply not
A more congenial spot
For happily-ever-aftering than here
In Camelot.

Bakker orders the crusaders to halt.

Around the bend of Tea Garden come thousands and thousands of men: “shirtless, sun-bronzed and singing at the top of the lungs while a great majestic goddess floats ethereally above the throng on a platform borne by six muscular attendants!”

Through a bullhorn, Bakker asks the goddess: “In the name of God, who are you?”

Take the sidewalk along Music Concourse (walking against the one-way traffic headed toward JFK Drive) and walk to the California Academy of Sciences.

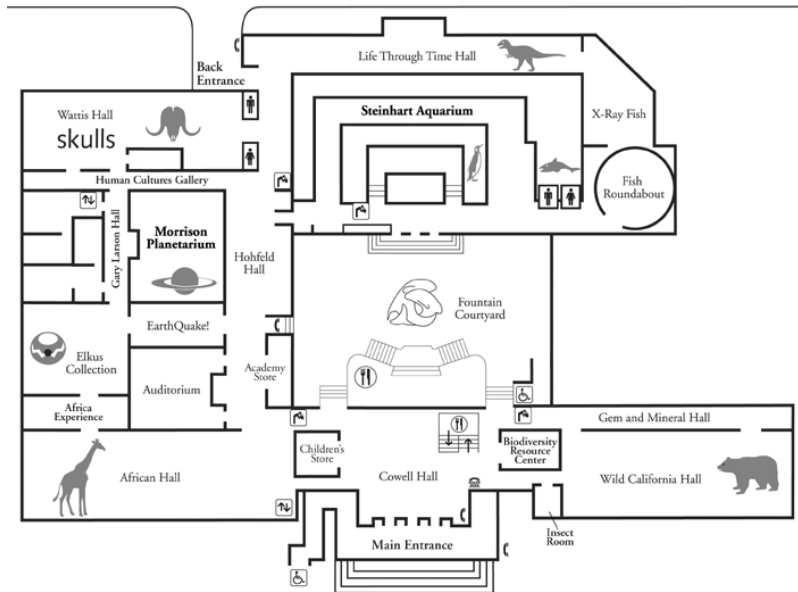
California Academy of Sciences, 55 Music Concourse Drive



The first thing you will notice is that the present California Academy of Sciences does not look like the photo which was taken in 2003. Although a significant scene in *Further Tales of the City* miniseries was filmed within the *prior* Academy building (the one in the photo), the new building is a complete redesign of the Academy so you will not be able to see where

the scene was filmed.

Late on a Friday evening (*Further Tales of the City*), DeDe called Mary Ann and pleaded with Mary Ann to meet with her the next day. When Mary Ann arrived at Halcyon Hill the following day, she noticed the flesh around DeDe’s eyes was dark. DeDe began to really open up to Mary Ann about life in Jonestown. She ended her story with a bombshell: Jim Jones was still alive.



DeDe told Mary Ann that during the previous day, DeDe needed some breathing space and left Halcyon Hill. She eventually made it to the Steinhart Aquarium here at the Academy. She suddenly saw Jim Jones in the Aquarium looking at the fish. Although he was thinner and healthier, she knew it was him when she looked into his eyes and he into hers. Then he smiled at her.

The scene in the Further Tales of the City miniseries was filmed in the Fish Roundabout in the old Steinhart Aquarium prior to the demolition and total redesign of the Academy in 2008. DeDe (Barbara Garrick) and Mary Ann (Laura Linney) are sitting in the Roundabout. With fish swimming behind them, DeDe tells Mary Ann that she, D'or, and the kids escaped Guyana in empty barrels as part of a shipment of tropical fish. Mary Ann leaves DeDe sitting in the Roundabout to look for a restroom. As Mary Ann exits, DeDe hears a man's voice singing "Bye, Baby Bunting". She freaks and flees the Roundabout. We don't see who's singing the lullaby.

The scene next cuts to DeDe running out a door with Mary Ann asking what's wrong. DeDe tells Mary Ann that she has just seen Jim Jones. This scene was shot in the old Academy of Sciences building as well. There was a courtyard in the middle of the Academy's previous structure. The door DeDe and Mary Ann exited was the door leading from the courtyard to the old Aquarium.

Here is the scene on [YouTube](#) (starts about 0:27)

The California Academy of Sciences is well worth a visit. Because the exhibits are extensive, to really see the Academy, don't try to make it part of this tour. Here is the [Academy's website](#).

Using the crosswalk directly in front of the Academy's entrance, cross Music Concourse drive. To your right, you will see a fountain with steps on either side of it. Take either set of steps to the landing and then the next set of 3 steps to the ground. Walk to the circular water fountain directly in front of you.



While DeDe revealed to Mary Ann at Halcyon Hill that Jim Jones was still alive (*Further Tales of the City*), Michael and Brian were here in Golden Gate Park trying out roller skates that Anna gave each of them the previous Christmas. Brian wobbled passed the de Young Museum as they skated through the park. They ended up on a bench on JFK Drive where Michael noticed Prue getting into her limo in front of the Conservatory of Flowers.

Go around the fountain and continue walking toward the de Young Museum. Take the steps up to the street and turn left. In a few feet, you'll come to a walkway that leads up a set of steps to the street. A few feet beyond the steps you'll come to a sidewalk that runs along Hagiwara Teagarden Drive. Turn right and follow the sidewalk a short distance until you come to a statue on your right.

Apple Cider Press Sculpture

About 25 years later in 2005 (*Michal Tolliver Lives*), Michael and Anna visited the rebuilt de Young Museum to meet Shawna Hawkins for lunch. As they walked up to the museum, they stopped in front of this bronze statue of a half-clothed "hunk



straining at a cider press.” The sculpture, by Thomas Shields-Clark, is from the Midwinter Exposition of 1894.

Backtrack a few steps to the pedestrian crosswalk that will take you across Hagiwara Teagarden Drive. Turn left and then right to walk up to the front entrance to the de Young Museum of Art. (The entrance is not well marked. It is through the “opening/courtyard” at the front of the building.)

Hamon Education Tower and de Young Café/de Young Museum, 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive (Golden Gate Park)

After stopping for a short rest and looking at the Apple Cider Press hunk, Anna (referring to the Hamon Education Tower at the de Young Museum) said, “Meanwhile...you and I will climb the tower.” Taking Anna’s arm in his, Michael responded with, “As Jimmy Stewart said to Kim Novak.” They then headed across the street to the de Young.



After the visit to the observation deck in the tower, Anna and Michael ate lunch at the café which overlooks the sculpture garden. While eating their sandwiches, Michael told Anna that his brother, Irwin, was coming to San Francisco to visit.

Michael wasn’t sure why his brother had decided to visit Michael.

When Shawna arrived at the café uncharacteristically on time, she insisted on showing Anna and Michael the *Pacific Parnassus* by Arthur Bowen Davies.



The café and tower are accessible without paying the de Young admission. The view of the park from the Tower is worth the detour.

Here are photos of the view from the top of the de Young Tower:



Looking east from the top of the Tower. The new California Academy of Sciences is seen mid-photo just beyond the Music Concourse.

Looking northeast from the top of the Tower.





Looking north from the top of the Tower. You can see the towers of the Golden Gate Bridge behind the hill.

Looking northwest from the top of the Tower.



A lunch possibility during the tour is to stop and have something to eat at the de Young Café. Another possibility is to pick up something to eat here for a picnic lunch with Brian and Thack at the top of Strawberry Hill in the middle to Stow Lake...ahead in this tour.

For more information on the de Young: [The de Young Museum's website](#).

From the de Young Entrance, return to the sidewalk along Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive. Turn right and resume walking. You will soon arrive at the Japanese Tea Garden.

Japanese Tea Garden, 75 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive

In October 1999 (*Jackie Old*), John F Kennedy, Jr, has convinced his mother, Jackie O, to leave her apartment – if only for a short time – and stay with him and his wife, Jade Jagger Kennedy (daughter of Mick and Bianca and now Mayor of San Francisco). He has brought Jackie back to San Francisco and shortly after her arrival, Jackie presses John John to take her to see the Tent City erected in Golden Gate Park to house the thousands of gays and lesbians left homeless after the 1998 Quake.



The last stop they make in the park is the Tea Garden.

The Tea Garden is the enclave of the drag queens. As they approached the bridge in the garden, four drag queens dressed in pink Chanel-style suites and pink pillbox hats emerged. Seeing Jackie O., they fell to their knees.

About the Tea Garden from its [website](#):

Originally created as a “Japanese Village” exhibit for the 1894 California Midwinter International Exposition, the site originally spanned about one acre and showcased a Japanese style garden.

When the fair closed, Japanese landscape architect Makoto Hagiwara and superintendent John McLaren reached a gentleman’s agreement, allowing Mr. Hagiwara to create and maintain a permanent Japanese style



garden as a gift for posterity. He became caretaker of the property, pouring all of his personal wealth, passion, and creative talents into creating a garden of utmost perfection. Mr. Hagiwara expanded the garden to its current size of approximately 5 acres where he and his family lived for many years until 1942 when they, along with approximately 120,000 Japanese Americans, were forced to evacuate their homes and move into internment camps. When the war was over, the Hagiwara family was not allowed to return to their home at the tea garden and in subsequent years, many Hagiwara family treasures were removed and new additions were made.

Exit the Tea Garden at the main entrance. Turn right and continue walking along Tea Garden Drive. At the corner of Tea Garden and ML King Drive, turn right and follow the sidewalk about 100 feet. There is a crosswalk on your left that takes you across ML King Drive to the Botanical Gardens at Strybing Arboretum. Do not cross the street, and instead take the paved path just to your right.



You will soon find yourself at the back gate of the Tea Garden (on your right). On the left, there is a paved path. Take it up the incline and up the steps (either set is fine). At the top of the steps, you come out to Stow Lake Drive. Cross the drive and you'll come to a path that circles the Stow Lake.

Turn left and follow the shore of the Lake about 1/3 of a mile – a pleasant walk – until you come to a bridge (Rustic Bridge) that crosses over to an island.

On the other side of Rustic Bridge, turn left and follow the dirt path. You eventually come to a "Y" in the path. Take the path on your right that climbs the hill. After a walk of about 300 yards (all uphill), you come to a clearing with the top of a waterfall on the right and a fenced off reservoir on the left.



The waterfall is Huntington Fall. It is man-made.

Standing with your back to the falls, the path you just came up is to your extreme left. To the right of that path and to the left of the reservoir, there is another path that leads to the top of Strawberry Hill. Take that path.

Strawberry Hill, Golden Gate Park (in the middle of Stow Lake)

Shortly before Mary Ann moved from San Francisco (*Sure of You*), Brian and Thack took bag lunches to the top of Strawberry Hill. Sitting atop a flat rock, they shared a joint. Brian told Thack that Mary Ann's former boyfriend, Burke Andrew, was in town.



Leaving the park, Brian and Thack took the #29-Sunset MUNI bus up 25th Avenue. When the bus stopped at Balboa, two smart mouth teens boarded the bus and began to wisecrack about AIDS. When one asked if there were any faggots on the bus, Thack nonchalantly raised his hand and said “Yeah, over here”. Slowly more passengers raised their hands until the passengers began to ridicule the teens with laughter.

NOTE: There really are no flat rocks at the top of Strawberry Hill. There is one broken piece of concrete that is flat. However, there are several “flat” rocks below at the top of Huntington Falls. Brian and Thack might have eaten their lunch there.



Strawberry Hill was mentioned in *Jackie Old*. In October 1999, John Kennedy Jr. walked with his mother, Jackie, through Golden Gate Park visiting the various parts of the gay Tent City erected after the 1998 Earthquake. Jackie asked John why he hadn’t shown her the island in the middle of Stow Lake (Strawberry Hill). John tried to avoid answering the question. When pressed by his mother, he informed her that people were having sex there.



“Really, Al fresco, huh?”

“Yes.”

“How interesting!”

They then continued on to the Tea Garden.

The website for [Strawberry Hill](#).

Backtrack down the hill to the top of the falls. Just beyond the falls (to the left of the water fall as you face it) is a set of steps; take them down the hill.

At the landing continue directly ahead and take the path/steps that switchback down the hill along the side of the falls. Be very careful of the steps – particularly those closest to the bottom – they are very uneven.



There is a path at the bottom of the hill. Turn left and follow the broad path until you come to the Roman Bridge on your right. Cross the bridge to Stow Lake Drive East.

After you’ve crossed the Roman Bridge, turn left and take the sidewalk along Stow Lake Drive East. You will

eventually come to the Stow Lake Boathouse. Look to your right (and across the entrance to the Boathouse parking), you'll see the public restrooms (the white building with a red roof). Cross the parking lot to the building and to the left of it there is a paved path. Follow that path that takes you behind the building and down to JFK Drive.

Cross JFK Drive. Turn left and walk west along JFK Drive. You'll soon come up to Rainbow Falls on your right.

Continue walking and pass under the bridge (Crossover Drive). Shortly after crossing under Crossover Drive, you come to Transverse Drive.

At this point you need to make a decision: Do you want to walk west about 1 mile to the next stop (a very pleasant walk through the park) or pick up a MUNI bus and resume the tour at the west end of the park? If you decide to take the bus, you will by-pass one stop: The Bison Paddock, which was a location for activity in the short story, Jackie Old.



If you decide to take a bus:

- Carefully cross over Transverse Drive.
- On the other side and to the right, you will see a dirt path that follows along Transverse Drive. Take that path.
- Eventually, you will come to a crosswalk that takes you over Transverse Drive. Cross over Transverse Drive Cross and take that sidewalk a short distance. You'll come to Crossover Drive.
- Carefully cross Crossover Drive.
- Continue to follow the path and you will soon exit the park at 22nd and Fulton streets.
- Turn left at the sidewalk and walk a short distance until you come to the 2nd crosswalk that crosses Fulton and takes you to a bus stop/shelter at the NW corner of 22nd and Fulton.
- Board an outbound #5-Fulton MUNI bus.
- Exit the bus at Playa and Fulton (the bus turns right off Fulton onto Playa and then immediately stops at the corner of Fulton and Playa).
- As you exit the bus, turn right and cross over Fulton.
- There, you will find a dirt path that leads back into the park. Take that path.
- You eventually will come to an underpass. Do not take the underpass; instead, take the dirt path on your right that will take you to a set of steps.
- After you reach the top of the steps, you soon come to JFK Drive nearly at the intersection with The Great Highway.
- At JFK Drive, turn left and walk a short distance until you come to the Dutch Windmill and Queen Wilhelmina Tulip Garden on your left where you resume the Tour.

If you decide to walk to the western end of the Park, continue following the sidewalk along JFK Drive.



You will soon come to Lloyd Lake which has an interesting monument on the far side of the lake: Portals to the Past. This is the portico from Alban Nelson Towne's home which was located at 1101 California Street on Nob Hill (SW corner of California and Taylor streets, the present location of the Nob Hill Masonic Auditorium and across the street from Grace Cathedral) (see Tour #6: Chinatown, Nob Hill, and The Edge of the Tenderloin). The home was destroyed in the 1906 earthquake and fire. His wife presented the portico to the Park in 1909.

As you continue to walk west along JFK Drive, you eventually come to Spreckels Lake at 35th Street. Just beyond 35th Street, you will come to the Bison Paddock on your right. Buffalo in San Francisco!

Bison Paddock, 1237 John F Kennedy Dr

On 23 October 1999 (*Jackie Old*), John F Kennedy, Jr., showed his mother, Jackie Onassis, the tent city that was erected throughout Golden Gate Park in the aftermath of the 1998 Quake that damaged many areas of The City. A year after the quake, the thousands of gays living in the “Tent City” found they enjoyed living in the Park and decided to stay. “Neighborhoods” were established. For example, the drag queens settled in the Tea Garden. The “lumberjacks” – the largest contingent – set up their camp in the redwood grove north of the de Young Museum. The Cowboy Camp was located – understandably – here in the Bison Paddock.



While peering through the fence at the enclosure, Jackie reminded her son of the time in his life (age 7 or so) when he wanted to be a cowboy.

Walking through the Camp, John explained to her the tension that the Tent City was causing with the Jim Bakker, the ultraconservative President of the United States, and his Praise the Lord supporters in the US Senate.

For background on the Bison Paddock, click [here](#).

Continue walking west along JFK Drive. Eventually, you come to a T intersection with Bernice Rodgers Way coming in from the left. Turn right and continue to follow the sidewalk along JFK Drive. You pass the golf course on your right and then 47th Street. Cross 47th Street and shortly after that, you arrive at the Dutch Windmill and Queen Wilhelmina Tulip Garden, the next stop on the Tour.

Dutch Windmill and Queen Wilhelmina Tulip Garden, 1691 John F Kennedy Dr



The Dutch Windmill (also known as the North Windmill) and the Queen Wilhelmina Tulip Garden were used in the filming of the Tales of the City miniseries. As Mary Ann and Norman finish dinner at the Beach Chalet, Norman suggests a walk. Mary Ann appears unsure about the proposal but eventually agrees. They are next seen walking through this garden with the windmill behind and above. Its blades are turning and creaking.

Norman launches into a bout of self-pity wishing that he was better looking. He questions why Mary Ann goes out with him. Although Mary Ann tries to bolster his crummy self image, she fails in saying what Norman really wants to hear. Desperate, Norman reveals that he really doesn't sell vitamins and that he's about to come into a lot of money very

soon. He can buy Mary Ann whatever she wants. This disturbs Mary Ann. Here is the scene on [YouTube](#), starts about 05:55.

In the book, Mary Ann and Norman cross over the Great Highway and walk along Ocean Beach (see below in this tour.)

The Dutch Windmill is one of two windmills on the western edge of the Golden Gate Park. Pumps were needed to bring water to the newly formed park. The Dutch Windmill was completed in 1903 and began to pump water from the ground into the reservoir at Strawberry Hill (above in this tour). In 1908, the second windmill, Murphy Windmill, was built further south in the Park also facing the ocean.



The Queen Wilhelmina Tulip Garden was named for Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands. Contrary to popular belief, the queen did not contribute the funds for the building of the windmill. The tulips are normally in full bloom throughout March and April. Other flowers generally fill the garden during the other months.

When you leave the garden, turn right to continue along JFK Drive until you reach the intersection of JFK Drive and the Great Highway. Turn left and cross over JFK Drive. Walk a short distance and you have arrived at the Beach Chalet.

Beach Chalet, 1000 Great Highway



Mary Ann and Norman celebrated Norman's birthday with a dinner here at the Beach Chalet. (*Tales of the City*)

Earlier that day, Mary Ann purchased Norman a *real* necktie. A bit later, Beauchamp slithered up to Mary Ann's desk. Toying with Mary Ann, he suggested that they go out for a drink that night. Mary Ann informed him she already had a date. After some pressing by Beauchamp, Mary Ann revealed that the date

would be at the Beach Chalet. She asked if he knew the place. “Sure. You’ll love it. The VFW meets there.” he replied.

That evening at dinner, and with the help of three white wines, Mary Ann felt much better about the place’s ambiance. Norman remarked that he thought she would get a kick out the “muriels”. This puzzled Mary Ann until Norman elaborated by pointing out the paintings on the walls. Aha! *Murals!* (*Tales of the City*)



The filming of the dinner scene in the Tales of the City miniseries was done here at the Beach Chalet. The restaurant was set up on the first floor which is now a Visitors’ Center. The table where Mary Ann (Laura Linney) and Norman (Stanley deSantis) sat was placed approximately slightly southwest of the center of the room – closer to the row of glass doors facing the ocean. The bar (with the half asleep bartender) was located near the opposite wall to the left of the arched door leading to the Park Chalet Restaurant at the back of the building.



Here is the scene on [YouTube](#), starts about 04:12.

The “muriels” (actually, frescoes) were created by Lucien Labaudt in the 1930s with WPA funds from the Roosevelt administration. They convey real people and real activities of San Francisco in the 1930s. In 1947, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) leased the building as a social hall, with a bar and pool tables downstairs and meeting rooms upstairs. The VFW

moved out in 1979. The building remained empty for a couple of years. In 1981, an extensive restoration of the structure and artwork began. The building reopened in 1996, and today the ground floor houses the Golden Gate Park Visitor Center and the Park Chalet restaurant. Upstairs is the Beach Chalet restaurant. The food at both restaurants is good. The views from either restaurant are nothing to sniff at either. The Visitors’ Center on the first floor has an interesting scale model of the Golden Gate Park.



Here are links: [The Beach Chalet Restaurant](#); [The Park Chalet Restaurant](#); and [Golden Gate Park Visitors’ Center](#).

After you’ve visited the Beach Chalet, return to the intersection of the Great Highway and JFK Drive. Use the traffic signal and crosswalk to cross the Great Highway and down to the beach of the Pacific Ocean.

Ocean Beach, the western edge of North America



In the “Tales of the City” miniseries, after Norman explains the “muriels” to Mary Ann, he asks her if she would like to go for a walk. Shortly thereafter, the scene cuts to Norman and Mary Ann walking beneath the Dutch Windmill through the Queen Wilhelmina Tulip Garden (which you visited a short while ago on this tour).

In *Tales of the City*, after Norman proposes the walk to Mary Anne, they walk along the Pacific here at Ocean Beach. Cliff House, to the north of them, shone beneath a full moon. It was here along the beach that they had the conversation during which Norman reveals his sense of inadequacy and eventually revealed that he really didn’t push pills.

This is the end of Tour #12, Golden Gate Park. You have a couple of options for returning back to downtown on MUNI. However, whatever you do, if it’s late afternoon and a beautiful day, watch the sunset before taking the bus back to wherever you need to go.

If you need to return quickly, retrace your steps to the intersection of the Great Highway and JFK Drive. Cross the Great Highway to the southeast corner of the intersection and take the crosswalk across JFK Drive to the northeast corner of the intersection. Walk to Fulton, turn right, and walk a short block and a half to the MUNI bus stop. Here, you will board the inbound #5-Fulton MUNI bus.

NOTE: You might notice a bus running north and south along the Great Highway. This is the #18-46th Avenue MUNI bus. It is a cross-town bus that transports riders between the Palace of the Legion of Honor in Lincoln Park (in the north) to San Francisco State University/Stonestown Galleria (in the south). It will not take you east back toward Downtown.

Another possibility, which is fun on a sunny afternoon/evening, is to walk north along the beach. If it’s late afternoon and a clear day, the view looking north toward the Cliff House as you walk is very pleasant. As you near the base of the cliff, you will need to make a choice. You can either walk back to Fulton and the Great Highway to pick up the inbound #5-Fulton bus or turn right, walk up to the Great Highway, turn left on the sidewalk then continue walking uphill along the Great Highway (which changes to Point Lobos Ave as it climbs the hill) past the Cliff House. Keep walking uphill around the curve until you reach the intersection of Point Lobos and El Camino del Mar/48th Street. Turn right and cross Point Lobos and walk south along 48th Street (the Seal Rock Inn

*will be across the street from you to your left and Sutro Heights Park is on your right).
Walk about one block and you will come to a stop for the #38-Geary MUNI bus.*

*NOTE: The Cliff House, Seal Rock, and other places you've just past while walking up
from the Beach to the bus stop will be included in a tour that highlights Lands End and
Lincoln Park, which is currently under development.*

End of Tour

Update: 2 June 2016