

Tour #6: Chinatown, Nob Hill, and the Edge of the Tenderloin



Nearly all of the walking for this tour is fairly level or downhill. Most of the uphill travel will be via the California cable car.

Although the title of the tour indicates that the Tenderloin is included; the tour just touches on a few locales on the Tenderloin's eastern edge. Other locales in the Tenderloin are visited in Tour #10: The Civic Center, the Other Edge of the Tenderloin, and Polk Street.

In the Tales books, Prue Giroux's home is located on Nob Hill; however, no precise location is provided. At least two sources cite Pat Montandon (one of whom is Pat herself), a San Francisco society columnist, as Armistead Maupin's inspiration for Prue. Pat's one time home at 1000 Lombard is included in Tour #1: In the Beginning... (Aquatic Park and Russian Hill).

Walking time for this tour: 1 ½ - 2 hours.

The link to the Google Map for this tour: [Tour #6: Chinatown, Nob Hill, and the Edge of the Tenderloin](#)

This tour starts at the corner of Sacramento and Front streets. Probably the quickest way to reach the starting point is to take either BART or one of the MUNI Metro cars to the Embarcadero Street Station. When exiting the Embarcadero Station, use the A2 (Market/Davis) station exit. Do an about-face at the top of the steps/escalator. Walk to Davis Street, turn right, walk two blocks to Sacramento Street. Turn left at Sacramento and walk one block to Front Street. Across the street at the southeast corner of the intersection is the...

Royal Exchange, 301 Sacramento Street (southeast corner of Sacramento and Front)



Shortly after she started working at Halcyon Communications, Mary Ann joined Mona for lunch at the Royal Exchange (*Tales of the City*). Mary Ann ate a turkey sandwich and bean salad. Mona settled for two Pimm’s Cups. Mary Ann told Mona that she was having dinner that evening at Mrs. Madrigal’s.

In the “Tales of the City” miniseries, they have this discussion shortly after Mary Ann meets Mona at the trash cans. They are upstairs in Mona’s apartment. At the time, Mona is dressing for work in front of her uncovered windows. “*You really can’t hide from the Cosmos, right?*”

Turn left/south on Front and walk one block to California to pick up the California Cable Car at the northeast corner of the intersection. Take the west bound (uphill) Cable Car to Powell Street. The gripman and/or conductor generally call out the stop as the transfer point for the cable cars going to Fisherman’s Wharf and Downtown/Union Square.

Exit the Cable car and cross to the southwest corner of California and Powell.

Stanford Court, 905 California Street (southwest corner of California and Powell)

In *Tales of the City*, Jon took Michael to a cocktail party at the Stanford Court given by *After Dark*, an entertainment magazine.

Although not specifically a gay magazine, it was very popular in the gay community. It covered theater, cinema, dance, ballet, music, and so on. It also contained articles on fashion – often exclusively men’s fashion. Many of the advertisements were targeted at the gay male population. It was first published in 1968 and ceased publication in the early 1980s.



Years later, in *Sure of You*, Burke Andrew returned to San Francisco to woo Mary Ann into moving to New York to host a nationally syndicated talk show. Burke stayed at the Stanford Court during his visit.

Cross both Powell and California streets to the northeast corner of the intersection.

University Club, 800 Powell Street (northeast corner of California and Powell)

Beauchamp and his friend Peter Cipriani were members of the University Club. In *Tales of the City*, Peter commiserated with Beauchamp after Beauchamp received a chewing out from Edgar Halcyon earlier in the day over DeDe. Suddenly, Peter reminded Beauchamp that Beauchamp and DeDe were to attend an event that evening hosted by a friend named Madge. In the “Tales of the City” miniseries, Beauchamp and Peter had much the same conversation over drinks; however, Beauchamp was attending the opera that evening with DeDe.



Walk north (downhill and toward the Bay) on the east side of Powell (along the side of the University Club) 1 ½ blocks to 940 Powell.

YWCA Apartments, 940-950 Powell Street



In the “Tales of the City” miniseries, the scene with DeDe and Frannie Halcyon eating lunch was shot on a terrace on the east side of this building.

In the scene, DeDe tells her mother that Beauchamp is having an affair with Mary Ann. As proof, she produces Mary Ann’s scarf – which Mary Ann accidentally left in Beauchamp’s car upon her and Beauchamp’s return from Mendocino, California.

Armistead Maupin shared that when the scene was being shot, it was very windy and it even rained a little as Nina Foch (Frannie) and DeDe (Barbara Garrick) sipped Mai Tais. At one point, Nina Foch lost a colored contact lens so the shooting of the scene was held up while someone fetched her another set of contacts. Here is that scene from “[Tales of the City](#)”.

The YWCA Apartments along with the Chinatown WYCA building around the corner on Clay Street were designed concurrently by the famous architect, Julia Morgan. For a number of years, Julia Morgan was the official YWCA architect for the western United States. The YWCA Apartments were originally the YWCA Residence Halls for the adjoining YWCA. It was Morgan’s last major building for that organization.



Walk the short distance to Clay Street and turn right.

Chinese Historical Society of America, 965 Clay Street

This was originally the Chinatown YWCA designed in conjunction with the YWCA Residence Hall by Julia Morgan. It is now the home of the Chinese Historical Society of America.



Continue walking east (downhill) on Clay Street past Stockton Street to Waverly Place.

A bit about Waverly Place: Waverly Jong, one of the main characters in Amy Tan's novel, *The Joy Luck Club*, was named after Waverly Place. Amy Tan is a close friend of Armistead Maupin. Armistead and his husband, Christopher Turner, were married in Amy Tan's garden in Sausalito on October 4, 2008.

Turn left at Waverly Place and walk to Washington Street. Turn right on Washington and just a short distance on your right is DeeDee Boutique.

DeeDee Boutique, 813 Washington Street

Sorry. This store has no relationship to DeeDee Halcyon Day.



This was the location of Sam Wo at the time of *Tales*. The restaurant closed its doors on Friday, April 20, 2012, after 100 years of business. A descendent of one of the restaurant's original owners was forced to shut down the restaurant after City/County officials demanded extensive health and safety upgrades.

In Tales of the City, after Mary Ann and Norman watched a movie at the Gateway Cinema (see the Eureka Theater in *Tour #3, Jackson Square*), they walked up Jackson Street to Chinatown for dinner at Sam Wo (spelled Sam *Woh's* in *Tales of the City*). This is where Mary Ann had her encounter with the eatery's

infamous/famous waiter, Edsel Ford Fong. Mary Ann committed a *faux pas* upon leaving the eatery's restroom. When Mary Ann couldn't find the sink in the restroom, she skipped her ablutions and went directly back to her seat to join Norman. Edsel Ford Fong confronted her with "*Hey, lady! Go wash yo' hands!*" (*Tales of the City/23 Barbary Lane*, p. 163)

As you can see in the photo to the right, the sink was in a tiny area between a wall on the right with a door to the restroom (that was only large enough for a toilet) and a room divider on the left. When the door to the restroom was opened, view of and access to the sink was blocked.



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Not seeing the sink upon exiting the restroom, unsuspecting guests frequently assumed there was no sink and returned directly to a table to eat.

Edsel Ford Fong (yes, he was a real waiter at Sam Wo) waited for unsuspecting guests to commit the *faux pas* of not washing their hands after using the restroom. He was very much in real life the character portrayed in *Tales of the City*. He was known for his rude or abrupt greetings to customers (“Sit down and shut up.”). His antics often extended well beyond his welcoming. He became a Chinatown celebrity. Locals brought their unwary out-of-town guests to Sam Wo to subject them to Edsel’s insults.

He was, in short, Sam Wo’s resident “character”.

After his passing, Edsel Ford Fong was replaced by two different women who tried to copy his misanthropic style. They just couldn’t pull it off.

In October 2015, the same descendent who was forced to shut down Sam Wo at its original location on Washington reopened Sam Wo at a new location at 713 Clay Street in Chinatown.

Retrace your steps uphill on Washington Street to Waverly Place. Cross over to the other (north) side of Washington and turn left. Walk a few steps uphill to Ross Alley on the right. Turn right and walk almost to the alley’s end.

Golden Gate Fortune Cookie Factory, 56 Ross Alley

When the Tour Guide conducts the occasional group Tour of the Tales, special fortunes are inserted into fortune cookies made at this shop. At the start of each Tour, each participant receives a fortune cookie. The participants read their fortunes aloud to the entire group.

What do the fortunes say?

You will need to participate in a group Tour of the Tales to find out.



Continue down Ross Alley to Jackson Street and turn right. Walk the short distance to Grant Street, turn right again, and walk four blocks back to California Street where you’ll pick up the California cable car for your ride back up Nob Hill. Take the cable car uphill three blocks to Mason Street. Exit the cable car go to the southeast corner of the intersection.

Mark Hopkins, 999 California Street (southeast corner of California and Mason)

When Mary Ann called her mother from the Buena Vista (see *Tour #1: In the Beginning... (Aquatic Park and Russian Hill)*), her mother began to reminisce about rendezvousing with Mary Ann's father upon his return from the South Pacific at the end of WWII. Mary Ann's father took her mother to the Top of the Mark. Mary Ann's mother began to recount the spilling of her Tom Collin's on her husband's beautiful Navy Dress Whites when Mary Ann interrupted to ask her to tell Mr. Lassiter that she was quitting her job at Lassiter Fertilizers.



The Top of the Mark is on the hotel's 19th floor. It provides a stunning wraparound vista of San Francisco. The Top of the Mark has the well-known *100 Martinis* menu. It is a popular place so if you're planning to visit for cocktails or light dining; however, it's first come, first served. Reservations are taken only for full meals.

Here is a bit of the Top of the Mark's history that was at one time shared on the hotel's website.

During World War II, servicemen would buy and leave a bottle in the care of the bartender so that the next soldier from their squadron could enjoy a free drink, the only requirement being that whoever had the last sip would buy the next bottle. The soldiers gathered before shipping out for one last toast to the Golden Gate Bridge, believing that the bridge was good luck and would bring them home. As they sailed off under the Golden Gate, wives and sweethearts would draw together in the lounge's northwest corner, where they would tearfully gaze out the windows. This corner became known as the "Weepers' Corner."



Cross both Mason and California and walk west on California Street until you are directly in front of 1000 California.

Pacific Union Club (Flood Mansion), 1000 California Street (northwest corner of California and Mason streets)

In *More Tales of the City*, Michael eventually recovered enough from his scare with Guillain-Barre syndrome to be released from St Sebastian's hospital. On the evening of his return home to Barbary Lane, he and Jon sat together in bed going over back issues of *Architectural Digest*. They discussed the Pacific Union Club which was built by the Flood family at the top of Nob Hill. Suddenly, Michael unraveled some of the clues of the chant Burke remembered in his dream:



*High upon the Sacred Rock
The Rose Incarnate shines,
Upon the Mountain of the Flood
At the Meeting of the Lines*

(More Tales of the City/28 Barbary Lane, p. 440)

Suddenly, Michael grasped that the chant was about Grace Cathedral. He immediately called Mary Ann to share this revelation.

Mary Ann and Burke decided to visit the Cathedral to further unlock the mystery of Burke's forgotten past. They walked west California Street from Mason Street. As they walked along the front of the Pacific Union Club, Mary Ann ran her fingers along the Pacific Union's bronze fence.

Continue walking west on California a few more feet to the intersection of Cushman and California. Now, look directly across the street at 1055 California.

Ten Fifty-Five California, 1055 California Street

It's October 1999, and John F Kennedy Jr. is married to Jade Jagger, the daughter of Mick and Bianca. Jade has been elected Mayor of San Francisco. They live in an apartment at 1055 California Street that faces the street.

(Jackie Old: A Tale of the Future Told in the Past)

Jackie O is 70 year old, living in New York City, and "crazy as shit"...so says Jade. "John-John" is concerned about his mother and is seriously thinking about bringing her out to San Francisco.



Want to know more?

Read the short story.

Backtrack to the corner of California and Mason. Cross Mason, turn left, and walk until you are at the Fairmont Hotel. Go inside the Fairmont.

Fairmont Hotel, 950 Mason Street (the east side of Mason between California and Stockton streets)

During her book tour stop in San Francisco, Wren Douglas stayed in a suite in the Fairmont (*Significant Others*).



From her west facing suite Wren and her limo driver were able to watch the sunset. While watching the sunset, Wren received a call from Roger (Booter) Manigault. He had a proposition for her. Wren agreed to meet Booter in the Cirque Room in the hotel's lobby. When Wren arrived, Booter was already in the Cirque Room sitting in a corner banquette.



The Cirque Room still exists, but it is no longer a bar. It's used for special events. The banquettes are still there.



The Fairmont played a role in the debut of "Tales of the City" in *The San Francisco Chronicle*.

On Sunday evening, May 23, 1976, Armistead Maupin dined with a half-dozen men at Mama's at Gramercy Towers (see below in this tour). Afterward, one of men invited the group up to his suite of rooms (the Diplomatic Suite) at the Fairmont for a night cap. The man extending that invitation was Rock Hudson. Hudson already knew that the first episode of "Tales of the City" would appear in the next day's *San Francisco Chronicle*. He secretly purchased an early edition of the next day's paper. He entertained Maupin and the rest of the group by reading the column aloud, as Maupin put it: "rather drunkenly but with great charm".

Exit hotel, turn right, and walk the short distance to Sacramento.

Brocklebank Apartments, 1000 Mason Street (northeast corner of Sacramento and Mason)

In the Tales books, DeDe's and Beauchamp's penthouse apartment was located at the Malloch Apartments on Telegraph Hill (see *Tour #4: Telegraph Hill and Return to Fisherman's Wharf*). In the Tales miniseries, their apartment was located here at the Brocklebank Apartments.



Upon his return from the weekend tryst with Mary Ann in Mendocino, Beauchamp is seen driving up the hill on Sacramento Street and turning right into the parking area in front of the Brocklebank (in “Tales of the City”).

Also, in the miniseries, while Michael led his parents on a walking tour of San Francisco, they walked past the Brocklebank Apartments. Michael remarked that the Brocklebank was where Kim Novak’s character in the movie *Vertigo* lived. This is one of the many examples of how Alastair Reid, the director of the miniseries, who – like Armistead Maupin – was a fan of Alfred Hitchcock, wove elements of *Vertigo* into the miniseries. (See *Tour #1: In the Beginning... (Aquatic Park and Russian Hill)* for more about this connection between the miniseries and *Vertigo*.)

From the southeast corner of Mason and Sacramento, cross Mason and walk west on Sacramento ½ block to Huntington Park.

Huntington Park, the square formed by Sacramento, Taylor, California, and Cushman streets

Prior to entering Grace Cathedral, Mary Ann and Burke entered Huntington Park and sat on a bench near the Fountain of the Tortoises where they had a short chat before entering the Cathedral.

“Why do I feel so creepy, Burke?”

“He turned and smiled at her. ‘Because your heritage is the Little Brown Church in the Dell.’ He rose suddenly, taking her with him. ‘C’mon, you heathen. Let’s go get religion.’”

(More Tales of the City/28 Barbary Lane, p, 469)



In the “More Tales of the City” miniseries, this scene was filmed with Mary Ann and Burke sitting on the edge of the fountain.

The Tales stories return to Huntington Park in *Further Tales of the City*. After calling the City’s Parks and Recreation about losing her dog, Vuitton, in Golden Gate Park, Prue Giroux took a ten-minute walk through the park to calm her nerves.

The creation of Huntington Park was a direct result of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire. In 1872, David Colton, a railroad attorney, built an elaborate mansion near the highest point of Nob Hill. Eight years later he died. His widow sold the mansion to Collis Huntington – one of the era’s great railroad robber baron. *He* died eight years later. Huntington’s widow continued to live in the

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mansion until it was destroyed in the 1906 earthquake and fire. In 1915, Mrs. Huntington donated the land to the City of San Francisco to remain forever as a park for all of San Francisco to enjoy.



The Fountain of the Tortoises, where Mary Ann and Burke sat before continuing on to Grace Cathedral, is the park's focal point. The fountain is a replica of the *Fontana delle Tartarughe* in Rome, Italy.

Walk through Huntington Park and exit at the corner of California and Taylor. Cross over to the northwest corner of the intersection. Walk up the steps and enter Grace Cathedral.

Grace Cathedral, 1100 California Street (northwest corner of Taylor and California)

If you have read *More Tales of the City* and/or have seen the miniseries, you already know what happened at Grace Cathedral. If you've done neither of the above, I don't want to drop a spoiler on you. Skip this stop on the tour and take time to read the book or watch the miniseries – or better yet, do *both*.

Exterior shots of Grace Cathedral were used in the miniseries; however, the interior scene was shot in a church in Montreal.



Just as in the book and miniseries, there *is* an elevator in Grace Cathedral that, with a key, will take you up to the stairs that lead to the towers and catwalks. Keys are needed for levels 2 and 3. The 2nd level is the Chapel of St Francis/Columbarium. It is open Sundays and by appointment. If you stand in the Cathedral's nave and look back at the Ghiberti doors, you will notice that the elevator is located to the right of these main doors of the Cathedral. In the miniseries, the elevator is coincidentally also located to the right of the Cathedral's main doors.

In “More Tales of the City”, Burke's sudden recollection of the transplant man's remark “Go ahead. . .it's organic” occurred in the elevator. In *More Tales of the City*, Burke's recollection occurred several days prior to Burke's and Mary Ann's ride in the elevator. Mary Ann and Burke were having dinner at the Savoy-Tivoli when he shared with Mary Ann the poem/chant he remembered from his dreams (See *Tour #2: North Beach*).

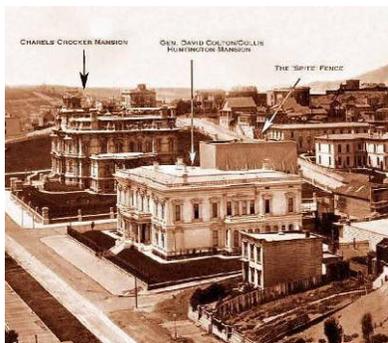
Look up! There *are* catwalks in Grace Cathedral just above the vaulting...and they *do* cross nearly directly over the altar.



Armistead Maupin made a cameo in all three of the Tales miniseries. In “Further Tales of the City”, he plays the role of the Episcopal priest officiating the Mass.

The Cathedral has two labyrinths. One is located indoors near the entrance and the other is located outdoors north of the main steps. The indoor labyrinth is based on the famous medieval labyrinth of *Cathedral Notre-Dame de Chartres* in Chartres, France. It is said that if a visitor walks the labyrinth, it will bring a meditative state of mind.

Although Grace Cathedral is now a place of peace and tranquility, this piece of ground was once the scene of spite and rancor.



The invention of the cable car made it easier – and safer – to move up and down most of San Francisco’s steepest streets. Suddenly, Nob Hill became *the* place for San Francisco’s robber barons (railroad and silver) to build their lavish mansions.

Charles Crocker, one of these robber barons, purchased all of the lots on the block where Grace Cathedral now stands – except the one owned by Nicholas Yung, an undertaker, located on Sacramento just west of its intersection with Taylor. Negotiations for the sale of the lot broke down. There are differing accounts of just what the negotiations were and how they collapsed.

In the end, Crocker was extremely upset with Yung and, in 1876, he erected a forty-foot high wall that surrounded Yung’s lot on three sides. Due to its height, the fence needed buttresses to support it. Because Yung’s lot was not located on the corner, his house received very few hours of sunlight each day. Young returned fire by constructing a 10 foot high coffin – complete with skull and crossbones – on his roof pointed at Crocker’s mansion.

The fence became a tourist attraction for over twenty years. At one point, in October 1877, a crowd of angry San Franciscan’s threatened to tear down the fence. Yung soon moved his house to another lot...but continued to refuse to sell the lot to Crocker. After Yung’s death, his wife refused to sell this lot to Crocker.

By 1904, both Yung’s widow and Crocker himself were dead. Yung’s heirs agreed to sell the lot to the Crocker estate. Two years later, the Crocker mansion burned as a result of the 1906 earthquake.

Donations are accepted for touring the Cathedral. For more information: [Grace Cathedral](#).

Exit Grace Cathedral and walk to the corner of Taylor and California. Cross California to the southwest corner of the intersection. Across Taylor on the southeast corner is the Huntington Hotel.

The Huntington, 1075 California Street (southeast corner for California and Taylor)

In *The Night Listener*, when Gabriel Noone's father, Gabriel Noone II (aka, Pap) and his step mother, Darlie, stopped in San Francisco on their way to Tahiti, they stayed at the Huntington.



Nob Hill Spa, 1057 California Street



This was the location of *L'Etoile*, a French restaurant where Prue and Father Paddy ate a late supper. And shared some gossip. While having dessert, Prue revealed to Father Paddy her growing relationship with Luke, the charming man she met living in a gardener's shed in Golden Gate Park (*Further Tales of the City*).

In the miniseries, Prue and Father are eating lunch at Perry's. Brian serves them...and catches Father Paddy's eye.

L'Etoile closed in 1990 after operating for 24 years. Nob Hill Spa took over the location. The entrance to Nob Hill Spa is through The Huntington's lobby.

Walk west on California to the southeast corner of Taylor and California.

Gramercy Towers, 1177 California Street

This is the former location of Mama's at Gramercy Towers.

After learning that the twins were safely back in San Francisco after their abduction in Alaska by Luke (*Further Tales of the City*), DeDe and Mary Ann picked up the twins at Prue's home on Nob Hill. DeDe, Mary Ann, and the children then ate breakfast at Mama's.

This location has seen many restaurants come and go. In the early 1980s, Mama's was housed in this space. Rent went up and Mama's went good-bye. In 1986, Vanessi's



moved here from its location on Broadway (see *Tour #2: North Beach*). Vanessi's closed its doors 11 years later in 1997. This was followed by a string of short lived restaurants (Le Bistro, Sherlock's Pub, Gramercy Park, Watergate, Sparrow, Californian Bar & Restaurant, and Excelsior).

As mentioned above in this tour (The Fairmont), on the night of Sunday, May 23, 1976, Armistead Maupin dined with a few men at Mama's – one of whom was Rock Hudson. After dinner, Rock invited the group up to his suite at the Fairmont for a night cap.

Turn south (downhill) on Jones Street and walk three blocks to Sutter Street.

Intersection of Jones and Sutter Streets



In Sure of You, DeDe's and D'or's restaurant, D'orothea's Grill, was located near this intersection on the southern slope of Nob Hill. Mary Ann and Burke Andrews rendezvoused there for lunch.

When Mary Ann entered the restaurant, she quickly glanced at the walls to make sure that she was still included in the row of caricatures of the restaurant's more illustrious patrons. Hers was still displayed between Danielle Steel and Shirley Temple Black. The *maitre d'* seated Mary Ann and Burke at the banquette at the back...wisely so because Father Paddy and Prue were eating in the front room of the restaurant. During lunch, Burke pitched to Mary Ann the idea of her moving to New York and having her own nationally syndicated talk show.

A few weeks later, the day after Russell Rand tried to pick-up Michael at Arch Gidde's former home in Sea Cliff, Thack and Michael stopped at D'orothea's. The restaurant was "a little short of celebrities that day, so their people watching centered around the bubble-butt boy who brought them their Chinese chicken salads." As they were finishing their salads, DeDe approached them and greeted each with a kiss on the cheek. Thack grunted when DeDe told them that they had just missed Chloe Rand who was there earlier. When she asked Thack if he knew Chloe, Thack responded with a "No...But her husband tried to f* k my husband last night." (*Sure of You/Back to 28 Barbary Lane*, p. 688)

Although Armistead Maupin didn't provide an exact location of D'orothea's Grill in *Sure of You*, until June of 2014, there was an excellent restaurant just steps away from (aka "near") the intersection: *Fleur de Lys* (777 Sutter Street). *Fleur de Lys* was co-owned by noted French Chef Hubert Keller. *Fleur de Lys* had been



located here since the late 1950s. The menu was *à prix fixe* which was fun. Before *Fleur de Lys* closed, you could have come here some night and pictured yourself being greeted and seated by D'or.

Continue walking south on Jones about 200 feet to Cosmos Place, an alley on your left. Turn left into Cosmos place and walk a few yards to where Trader Vic Alley comes in on your right.

Le Colonial, 20 Cosmo Place

The San Francisco Trader Vic's was originally located in this building and it was still located here at the time of Queen Elizabeth II's visit in March 1983 (*Babycakes*).



Mary Ann and her camera crew waited outside the St Francis Hotel to catch the Queen's arrival at the hotel, only to learn later that the Queen's entourage entered the hotel through its parking garage (see *Tour #7: Union Square*). Later that evening, Mary Anne was invited to join DeDe, D'or, Frannie, and the twins at Trader Vic's. They sat at the Captain's Cabin, the banquettes near the bar, drinking Mai Tais. They were there because Frannie hoped to meet the Queen who was also dining at the restaurant that evening.

Frannie was obsessed with meeting the Queen. Frannie had once met the Queen in the 1960s when Halcyon Communications handled the BOA account. However, because of her poor relationship with Nancy Reagan, Frannie was not invited to dine with the Queen. The Queen, Prince Philip, and the Reagans dined that evening upstairs in the Trafalgar Room.

There are two stories associated with the event: this was the first time Queen ever ate at a restaurant; and, when presented with a fortune cookie, the Queen had no idea what to do with it. The first story is true. The second one is apocryphal.

Trader Vic's closed this restaurant in the early 1990s. The San Francisco Trader Vic's reopened in 2004 at 555 Golden Gate Avenue (near Van Ness Avenue), the former location of the Stars restaurant. The Trader Vic's at that location on Golden Gate Avenue also eventually closed. (See *Tour #10: Civic Center, the Other Edge of the Tenderloin, and Polk Street.*)

Turn right on Trader Vic Alley and walk the short distance to Post. Turn left on Post and walk to the corner (Taylor), then cross over to the northeast corner of the intersection.

The Bohemian Club, 624 Taylor Street (northeast corner of Taylor and Post)

This is *the* Bohemian Club. This is the same group that owns the Bohemian Grove central in the story line of *Significant Others*.

Both Edgar Halcyon and Roger (Booter) Manigault were members of the Bohemian Club.

One day after work (*Tales of the City*), Edgar went to the Club. The Cartoon Room was crowded so he went to the empty and quiet Domino Room. Once there, he called Frannie to inform her he would be late coming home; he said he had a committee meeting at the Club. After ending the call, he picked up the phone again and called Ruby Miller to ask if he could see her that evening.



Once Edgar arrived at Ruby's home in the Sunset, we learn that Ruby relationship to Edgar wasn't what we thought it would be.

"Heal him, Jesus! Heal they servant Edgar. Heal his failing kidneys and make him whole again. Heal him, Jesus! Heal they servant..."

(*Tales of the City/28 Barbary Lane*, p. 45)

In the "Tales of the City" miniseries, Edgar's excuse to Frannie was that he was working late on the Adorable account.

The Club wasn't always the bastion of the business and political aristocracy that it now is. It was founded in 1872 for and by journalists. They began to invite artists and musicians. They then expanded their membership to include the less talented but financially more powerful. The rest is history.

On the outside wall near the corner of Taylor and Post, there is a bronze plaque with an owl in the middle. On the plaque is, ironically, the admonition, "Weaving spiders come not here".



Years later (*Significant Others*), Booter lay on the floor of a tent at Wimminwood, a "prisoner" of the militant feminist, Rose Dvorak, watching a spider weave a web only inches from his face. He recalled the words on this plaque.

Frannie sarcastically referenced the owl in *Tales of the City*. Upon Edgar's arrival home at 11:15 pm (after his visit to Ruby Miller), Frannie asked, "Well, how was the club darling? You make like a little hooty owl?"

Cross both Post and Taylor to the southwest corner of the intersection, then continue south on Taylor three block to Ellis.

*Glide Memorial United Methodist Church, 330 Ellis Street
(northwest corner of Ellis and Taylor)*

Glide Memorial was the model for Glibb Memorial Church – Mona's church in *Tales of the City*. The preacher, Willy Sessums, was modeled on the Rev. Cecil Williams, who at the time of *Tales* was Glide Memorial's pastor. He is now the Founder and Minister of Liberation at Glide.

In August 2013, the intersection of Ellis and Taylor Streets in front of the church was renamed "Rev. Cecil Williams Way" in honor of Reverend Williams.



For more on [Glide Memorial Church](#).

This is the end of this tour.

You are very close to the starting point of Tour #7: Union Square. To go directly to the start of that tour, retrace your steps two blocks north to Geary Street. Cross to the southeast corner of the intersection. Now walk east on Geary to the American Conservatory Theater (ACT) at 415 Geary Street.

To return to the Powell MUNI/BART Station of the Powell-Hyde/Powell-Mason Cable cars: Cross both Taylor and Ellis streets to the southeast corner of the intersection. Walk east on Ellis Street (away from Glide) two blocks to Cyril Magnin Street. Cross Cyril Magnin, turn right and walk one block south to the edge of Hallidie Plaza. The entrance to the Powell MUNI/BART station is directly ahead of you. The Cable Cars are to your left at the other end of the Plaza.

Updated: 23 May 2020