

Online Information

The Golden Gate Mystery

Fascinating Facts

San Francisco

- Levi Strauss invented denim jeans in San Francisco during the Gold Rush. He created them for the miners who needed tough, comfortable clothing.
- The last prisoners on Alcatraz Island were released on March 21, 1963. Alcatraz means “pelican” in Spanish.
- Cable cars are the only moving National Historic Landmark. About 10 million people ride the cars every year!
- The first fortune cookie was baked in San Francisco at the Japanese Tea Garden.
- The Golden Gate Bridge has been closed three times due to high winds around 70 mph—in December of 1951, 1982, and 1983.
- America’s first Chinese immigrants arrived in San Francisco in 1848.
- San Francisco is known for tart, crusty sourdough bread, created by French baker Isidore Boudin during the Gold Rush.
- During the summer, the infamous fog has been known to linger on the shore for days!
- San Francisco is one of the most popular tourist destinations in the United States. Over 17 million people visit the city every year!
- The original Spanish name for San Francisco was *Yerba Buena*. It means “good herb.”

