

SFGATE

Locals only: These are our favorite Bay Area day trips

By **Jessica Mullins** Updated 4:00 am, Monday, May 28, 2018

Sometimes a day trip can be just as rejuvenating as a bigger vacation. Fortunately for us, the Bay Area has seemingly endless mini getaway options within a 1-to-3 hour drive.

One of the many things we love about living in the Bay Area is how quickly we can find a change of landscape or pace - calming redwoods, natural swimming settings, tiny seaside villages, breathtaking beaches or even an African safari (that narrowly survived the horrible Wine Country wildfires) are all an easy day trip from San Francisco.

The above slideshow is full of SFGATE staff's favorite local excursions, with tips for insider activities and eateries. We tried to avoid the obvious, touristy day trips and instead offer an off-the-beaten path itinerary, catering to everyone from movie buffs to avid hikers to foodies touring the coast. The only exception to our exclusion of "touristy" things is the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk. We can't help it, Santa Cruz was one of the more popular recommendations among our staff (along with Pescadero and the town of Sonoma). We received so many tips for some locations that we included multiple slides for some destinations.

We also calculated out the driving time for each day trip, estimating each



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Tour the town of Sonoma: Alternatively, bring your picnic to the historic **Buena Vista Winery** (a 7-minute drive or easy bike ride from the Sonoma plaza). The winery has beautiful picnic grounds and also offers a "historic wine tool museum tour and tasting" that involves an eccentric 20-minute light and sound show on the history of winemaking.

For dinner in Sonoma, have a family-style Italian feast on the outdoor patio at the homey **Della Santina's** (reservations recommended) or grab a drink at the restaurant's adjacent wine bar.

Drive time SF to Buena Vista Winery: 1 hour 5 minutes