SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

THE CITY

Sometimes referred to as The Bay Area or The Bay, the San Francisco Bay Area is a metropolitan area that lies along the San Francisco Bay in northern California covering an area of approximately 22,789 square kilometres (8,789 square miles). This nine-county area consists of cities of various size including three large cities that stand out, San Francisco, San Jose, and Oakland. Of these three, San Francisco is often referred to as ‘The City’ because San Francisco was historically the first major population center in the area, and also because of its densely urbanized character in comparison to the other two cities. San Francisco is the 4th largest metropolitan statistical area and the 14th largest city in the United States, with an estimated population of 7.15 million in the San Francisco Bay Area and more than 6 million in the San Francisco metropolitan area. It is the second most densely populated area in the United States, with 15,000 people per square mile, compared to New York City, ranked first with 24,000 people per square mile, and Los Angeles, ranked third with roughly 7,000 people per square mile.

A key feature of city of San Francisco is the preservation of its urban forests. The Urban Forest Council, whose mission is to guide the stewardship of San Francisco’s trees and forests, aims to ensure public health and safety.

Historical Timeline:

Some 10,000 to 20,000 years ago, the Bay area was inhabited by Ohlone (a Miwok Indian word meaning western people), composed of forty or so culturally diverse native tribes that lived in the coastal area between Point Sur and the San Francisco Bay.

1842-Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo sailed along the coast near San Francisco and discovered the Farallones (16 rows).
1766-The United States of America declared its Independence from Britain on July 4 and the Mission of San Francisco de Asis was officially dedicated on 5 October.
1946-As the Mexican-American War unfolded, the United States took possession of a portion of California that included San Francisco (7 July).
1850—California grew at the discovery of gold in 1849 drew people westward. As a result of this growth institutions were established and in 1850 the California Legislature created the original counties, including San Francisco (17 Nov.). Later, California became the 31st state admitted to the Union (9 Sep.).
1906-The Great Earthquake, magnitude 8.25 on the Richter scale, struck on April 18 at 5:12 a.m. It lasted for 49 seconds. The Great Fire that followed caused more damage than the earthquake, destroying about 28,000 buildings, killing about 1,000 and leaving 225,000 homeless.
1945—The United Nations World Charter of Security was signed in San Francisco (26 Apr.), as the world began its road to relative peace.
1868—An earthquake (magnitude 7.1) occurred along the San Andreas fault (17 Oct.).
1922—The population of San Francisco in 1922 was 728,921.
2000—Non-white ethnic groups and the Hispanic group reached more than 50 per cent of the total population of 778,733, making San Francisco a city of rich cultural and ethnic traditions.