



San Francisco, California Cruise Port Guide

Pier 27, Pier 35, parking, airports, hotels, restaurants, attractions, shopping, and embarkation planning

Information reviewed August 1, 2026. Cruise schedules, terminals, parking prices, hotel packages, store hours, and transportation options can change. Verify current details before travel.

Cruise Port Overview

San Francisco cruises use the northern Embarcadero, primarily the modern James R. Herman Cruise Terminal at Pier 27, with Pier 35 as a secondary or overflow facility. The location is close to Fisherman's Wharf, the Ferry Building, North Beach, Chinatown, and many iconic attractions.

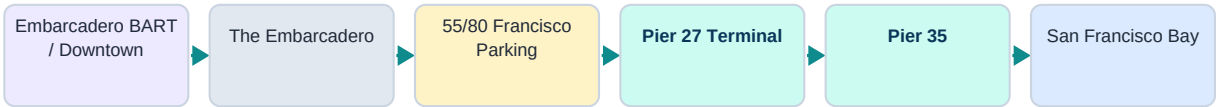
Primary terminal	Pier 27 James R. Herman Cruise Terminal
Secondary facility	Pier 35, about a 6-8 minute walk north of Pier 27
Primary airport	San Francisco International Airport (SFO)
Alternative airports	Oakland (OAK) and San Jose (SJC)
Transit	F-line streetcar, Muni, BART to Embarcadero, taxis, rideshare, and private transfers

Cruise Lines Sailing From This Port

Princess Cruises A principal San Francisco homeport operator.	Carnival Cruise Line A principal homeport operator for selected California and Alaska itineraries.
Celebrity, Norwegian and Holland America Seasonal homeport or port-call operations.	Oceania and Viking Selected destination-focused itineraries.
MSC, Royal Caribbean, Scenic and Virgin Voyages Selected calls or seasonal voyages listed by the port.	Schedule reminder Ship assignments vary among Pier 27, Pier 35, and occasional alternate facilities.

Cruise Terminals and Orientation Map

San Francisco Northern Waterfront (not to scale)



Pier 27 is on The Embarcadero near Lombard Street. Pier 35 is a short walk north toward Fisherman's Wharf. Taxis and vehicles can drop passengers at the terminal entrance. There is no overnight parking at the cruise terminals themselves.

Parking Options and Costs

At the terminal	Temporary or overnight parking is not provided at Pier 27 or Pier 35.
Cruise parking garages	The Port lists Metropolis facilities at 55 Francisco Street and 80 Francisco Street. Reserve directly and confirm the full-cruise total.
Typical city rates	Nearby San Francisco garages often charge roughly \$35-\$50 or more per 24 hours, with dynamic or weekend pricing.
Pier 39 garage example	The visitor bureau lists high daily maximums, but advance-reservation discounts may be available.
Best advice	Reserve in advance, verify 24-hour access, confirm vehicle clearance, and remove valuables.
Alternative strategy	Park at a hotel, airport, or BART long-term facility and use transit or a transfer, when allowed.

Airport Transportation

San Francisco - SFO	Oakland - OAK
Most convenient overall. BART reaches Embarcadero; finish by taxi, streetcar, or rideshare.	BART connects through Oakland to San Francisco; compare airfare and total transfer time.
San Jose - SJC	Taxi or rideshare
Farther away and usually best only when airfare or a South Bay stay makes sense.	Direct but affected by traffic and event congestion.
Private transfer	
Helpful for groups, luggage, mobility needs, or early-morning travel.	

Cruise-Friendly Hotels and Parking Packages

Hotel cruise-parking packages and shuttle schedules change frequently. Verify parking duration, transfer fees, vehicle access, and package restrictions directly with the hotel before booking.

Argonaut Hotel	Hotel Caza Fisherman's Wharf
Fisherman's Wharf hotel in a historic maritime building; parking is costly and usually separate.	Family-friendly Wharf location; ask about parking packages or partner garage rates.
Hyatt Centric Fisherman's Wharf	Holiday Inn Express Fisherman's Wharf
Convenient for Pier 27 and Pier 35; verify parking cost and cruise transfer.	Practical nearby option; long-term cruise parking is generally not included.
Hotel Riu Plaza Fisherman's Wharf	Parking-package reality
Large hotel near Pier 39; compare valet or garage pricing.	True multi-night cruise-parking packages are limited. A hotel plus reserved cruise garage is often easier.

Best Restaurants Nearby

Sotto Mare	Fog Harbor Fish House
North Beach seafood known for cioppino.	Pier 39 seafood and bay views.

Hog Island Oyster Co.

Oysters and seafood in the Ferry Building.

La Mar Cebicheria Peruana

Peruvian seafood and waterfront dining.

Coqueta

Spanish-inspired waterfront dining on The Embarcadero.

Pier 23 Cafe

Casual bayside restaurant and live-music venue near the cruise terminal.

Local Attractions

Fisherman's Wharf and Pier 39

Sea lions, waterfront dining, shops, and family activities.

Ferry Building Marketplace

Food hall, local products, and farmers market on selected days.

Coit Tower and North Beach

City views, Italian heritage, cafes, and historic streets.

Alcatraz Island

Very popular; buy official ferry tickets early.

Exploratorium

Interactive science museum on the waterfront.

Cable cars and Golden Gate Bridge

Classic San Francisco experiences; plan travel time and advance reservations where needed.

Shopping

Pier 39

Souvenirs, gifts, specialty shops, and family entertainment.

Union Square

Department stores, luxury brands, and major retail.

North Beach and Embarcadero

Independent shops, bookstores, and local businesses.

Ferry Building Marketplace

Artisan foods, local products, and culinary gifts.

Chinatown

Gifts, tea, cookware, markets, and specialty shops.

Grocery and Liquor Stores

Safeway North Point

Full grocery store convenient to Fisherman's Wharf.

CVS and Walgreens

Toiletries, medicine, and last-minute travel supplies.

Security reminder

Never leave luggage or purchases visible in a parked vehicle.

Trader Joe's and Whole Foods

Groceries, snacks, and prepared food in the city.

BevMo and local wine shops

Beer, wine, and spirits; verify location and hours.

Weather by Season

Winter	Cool and rainy, generally 50s, with occasional strong wind.
Spring	Cool 50s to 60s, breezy and variable.
Summer	Often foggy, windy, and cooler than inland California, commonly 50s to 60s near the bay.
Fall	Often the warmest and clearest season, usually 60s to 70s. Always carry layers.

Embarkation Day Tips

Confirm Pier 27 or Pier 35

The facilities are close but have separate entrances.

Remove valuables from the car

San Francisco visitor guidance strongly favors leaving nothing visible.

Pack layers in carry-on

Bay wind and fog can be chilly even in summer.

Do not expect terminal parking

Reserve a nearby garage before the cruise.

Use BART plus a short transfer

This can reduce airport transportation cost.

Reserve Alcatraz early

Pre-cruise attraction tickets often sell out well ahead.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is there parking at the terminal?	No overnight cruise parking is provided at Pier 27 or Pier 35.
Where should I park?	The port identifies Metropolis garages at 55 and 80 Francisco Street; reserve and confirm rates directly.
Which lines homeport in San Francisco?	Princess and Carnival are the principal homeport operators.
Which airport is best?	SFO is generally the easiest; OAK can be competitive with BART access.
Can I walk from BART?	Pier 27 is about a 20-minute walk from Embarcadero station. With luggage, use a streetcar, taxi, or rideshare.

Money-Saving Tips

Use BART from SFO or OAK

Public transit can save substantially compared with a private airport transfer.

Stay near the waterfront only when sightseeing matters

Airport or East Bay hotels may cost less after including parking.

Buy meals at markets

Ferry Building and neighborhood groceries offer lower-cost alternatives.

Reserve parking in advance

Dynamic garage rates may be lower before cruise day.

Use the F-line streetcar

It connects the Ferry Building, cruise area, and Fisherman's Wharf.

Let KalviTravel compare San Francisco totals

Scott can weigh airfare, transit, hotel, parking, and cruise itinerary together.

Why Book With KalviTravel

Personal comparison

Scott helps compare cruise lines, ships, cabins, itineraries, ports, and travel dates instead of focusing on only one advertised price.

Complete trip planning

Cruise fare, hotel, parking, airport transportation, transfers, and protection decisions can be considered as one vacation plan.

Clear reminders

KalviTravel helps clients keep track of deposits, final payment dates, identification needs, and important preparation steps.

Support from a real advisor

You have a person to contact before and during your trip. Call Scott Kalvinek at (508) 769-3808 or visit KalviTravel.com.

Official and Planning Sources

Port of San Francisco cruise information

<https://www.sfport.com/maritime/cruise>

SF Port cruise terminal plaza

<https://www.sfport.com/visit/parks-open-spaces/cruise-terminal-plaza>

San Francisco parking guidance

<https://www.sftravel.com/info/everything-you-need-to-know-about-parking-your-car-san-francisco>

Official San Francisco tourism

<https://www.sftravel.com/>

BART airport transportation

<https://www.bart.gov/guide/airport>

My Cruise Port Notes
