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San Francisco Bay Area Information

By John Nazareno

Nestled along San Francisco Bay, the Bay Area boasts of one of the finest natural harbor in the world, which has a total area of around 450 square miles. Home to almost 8 million people, the San Francisco Bay Area provides the only real break in the coastal mountains of California making it one of the most ideal spot for living within the state. It is divided into 6 sub-regions (North Bay, San Francisco, East Bay, Peninsula, South Bay, and Santa Cruz) and composed of 10 counties (Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, and Sonoma).

North Bay is a sub-region north of the Golden Gate Bridge, is separated by water from the rest of the Bay Area. It has numerous affluent communities and is probably the least urbanized among the 6 sub-regions. North Bay has many undeveloped parks, farmlands, and plantations. One popular location is Napa Valley, which is well-known for the world class red wines produced from its vineyards.

The City and County of San Francisco was once the largest city, in terms of population in the whole Bay Area. Although it no longer holds that distinction, it remains as the traditional, cultural, financial, and urban center of the region. The most famous landmark in this area is the Golden Gate Bridge, which spans the Golden Gate Strait, a water passage connecting San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean. The bridge connects the city/county of San Francisco with Marin County in the North Bay.

The East Bay area is split into 2 regions, the Inner East Bay and the Outer East Bay. Inner East Bay, located along the bay's coastline, is more urban, densely populated, and has a more ethnically diverse population. Old buildings in the area suggest that it is one of the oldest developed regions. Outer East Bay, on the other hand, is composed of inland valleys separated from the Inner East Bay by hills and mountains. Its development dates back to less than 60 years ago and is mostly suburban to rural.

San Francisco Peninsula (or simply Peninsula) is the area between East Bay and San Francisco. It is composed of a series of towns, small cities, and suburban communities along San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean.

South Bay is the sub-region where the past blends well with the present and the future. The past is typically characterized by the city of San Jose, the oldest city in California, while the present and the

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future could be gleaned from the products churned by Silicon Valley. In 1990, San Jose became the most populated city in the area.

Santa Cruz, although regarded by most as part of Monterey Bay Area, some agencies and records show it as a part of San Francisco Bay Area. It is sprawled along San Francisco Peninsula, Santa Cruz Mountains, and Monterey Bay.

With tourism being the region's leading industry, the Bay Area is teeming with tourist destinations and historic landmarks. It is one of the wealthiest regions in the United States. Of the 280 metropolitan areas nationwide, the Bay Area has the highest median household income with \$62,024. Six of the top ten places in California with the highest per capita income could also be found in the Bay Area. These figures are a testament of the boundless opportunities available for the citizens residing in the region.

With its idyllic setting and mild climate, living in the Bay Area is an investment that you can never be wrong about.

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Luxurious Lifestyle At The San Francisco Bay Area

By John Nazareno

The San Francisco Bay Area, popularly known as the 'Bay Area' to local residents, is a diverse and thriving metropolitan region that encompasses San Francisco Bay in the northern part of California. San Francisco, North Bay, East Bay, South Bay, Peninsula and Santa Cruz make up the Bay Area regions. They are divided into nine counties: San Francisco, San Benito, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Alameda, Napa, Solano and Sonoma.

Although San Francisco City is identified as the cultural and traditional center of the Bay Area, it is not the largest or most populated city within the area. Historically, the Bay Area traces its roots from Spanish explorers who first set foot in the region and founded a Catholic church in 1776.

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Bay Area is distributed over a population of nearly seven million residents (as of the latest count in 2006). People are scattered over a number of suburban and urban centers, hence, the general area name. Its generic name is derived from the various regional natures of the area, with no specific reference to a city.

Studies place the population of San Francisco Bay Area among the best in the country for overall education placement, competing with Washington D.C. and Boston. East Bay is known for being the home of famous seminaries and universities, namely Berkeley or the University of California and Stanford University.

Weather is generally agreeable but unpredictable, as bodies of water fence in the land area. Spring casts mild and cloudless days, summer is cool and overcast, and fall weather is warm, hot and sunny, with mild and clear nights, while winter brings in the most humid rainy days, alternating with clear and sunny skies.

The diverse geography is broken up into prime residential and industrial spaces, covering villages, towns and cities, parks in the national, state and regional levels, as well as airports and military bases. All these are connected by a modern and efficient transport system composed mostly of trains (commuter rail and railroads), highways and roads.

Considered as one of the most affluent regions in America, the San Francisco Bay Area boasts having the most median income per household, across the nation. Six out of the 10 best Californian areas that have the most income per capita (Belvedere, Diablo, Atherton, Woodside and Portal Valley) are all in the Bay Area. The popular Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties in Bay Area are also part of the top 100 income per capita counties in the States. As a result, the Bay Area real estate appreciated to the level of the 'most expensive zip code' league. In 2005, Forbes Magazine listed Atherton, Diablo, Ross, Nicasio, Los Altos, Tiburon, Los Gatos, Portal Valley and San Francisco as one of the top 50 most expensive places to live in.

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