

# Sausalito charms visitors

Cross over from  
San Francisco  
for a day or more

By **CONNIE DUFNER**  
Special Contributor

**SAUSALITO**, Calif. — Sausalito is the little sister city by the bay, and an upstart one at that.

Brimming with personality and good looks, she'll steal your heart every bit as much as San Francisco does. And the best news is, there's room for both beauties on your Bay Area dance card.

With a storied past as a fishing village and a coastal defense fort, today's Sausalito is the ideal stomping ground for visits to San Francisco, the Marin Headlands, Muir Woods and other national parks, as well as the Napa and

Sonoma wine regions.

It's an easy and fun day trip by water from San Francisco's Ferry Building or Fisherman's Wharf, on a rented bike or by auto en route to other Bay Area spots.

But staying overnight adds a different dimension. The city unwinds in the ferries' off hours, for a slower pace akin to cruise ship ports.

While Sausalito welcomes day-trippers with an enticing array of restaurants, shops and arty enclaves, it also wishes them godspeed at the end of the day, and turns its full attention to you.

*Connie Dufner is a Dallas-based writer.*

## When you go

### STAY

■ Historic Casa Madrona offers an array of lodging options refreshed by a major renovation completed this past summer, including the Mansion, an 11-room luxury mini hotel, and hillside cottages, with views of Richardson Bay and the San Francisco skyline.

**Contact:** 1-877-456-5239; [casamadrona.com](http://casamadrona.com)