

# WRITING MODEL: ONE PERFECT DAY ON FISHERMAN'S WHARF

## The History of Fisherman's Wharf

San Francisco's fishing industry was developed by Italian and Chinese fishermen drawn to California in the years after the Gold Rush. In 1900 lawmakers set aside a portion of the waterfront between Leavenworth and Taylor Streets for commercial fishing, and the industry quickly grew. By 1902 San Francisco had become the premier fishing city in the United States, with San Franciscans eating 3.5 million dollars worth of fish a year.

The wharf is still home to dozens of working fishermen and their fleets. Many of the boats are painted blue and white, the colors of *La Madonna del Luime*, the patron saint of fishermen. Today's wharf rests on landfill created from the rubble of the 1096 earthquake and fire.

The wharf is a haven for food lovers, offering fresh crab, steaming clam chowder, shrimp cocktails, and sourdough bread--along with a host of Italian restaurants, some that are generations old. Tom Castagnola, originally a fisherman, was the first to set up a food stall and sell fresh delicacies from the sea directly to hungry customers. He is credited with inventing Crab Louis.

The most famous seafood on the wharf is undoubtedly Dungeness crab. Crab season runs from November through June. If you visit Fisherman's Wharf during these months, peer into the huge boiling crab pots as you walk along the wharf to see the fresh catch being cooked up.

## Stops on the Tour

1. Ghirardelli Square
2. The Argonaut Hotel and Museum
3. The Cannery

**LUNCH STOP:** Anywhere along Fisherman's Wharf between the Cannery and Pier 45

4. Musee Mecanique
5. The *USS Pampanito*
6. The *US Jeremiah O'Brien*

## 1. Ghirardelli Square

Ghirardelli Square is named after chocolate king Domenico Ghirardelli. Born in Rapallo, Italy in 1817, Ghirardelli learned the art of making candy in Genoa. He traveled to Uruguay at the age of 20 and later settled in Lima, Peru, where he became a chocolate and coffee merchant.

Ghirardelli's chocolate shop in Peru was next to a cabinet shop owned by James Lick, who would become one of San Francisco's earliest and most successful business people. In January of 1848 Lick sailed to San Francisco with his workbench, his tools, and 600 pounds of Ghirardelli's chocolate, arriving just two weeks before the first Gold Rush pioneers. The chocolate was an immediate hit in this rough & tumble town, a rare and delicious luxury.

Begin your walking tour with a brief history of how Golden Gate Park came to be. Answer questions like these:

- Whose idea was it to create a large city park?
- Who led the effort?
- When did work on the park begin and end?
- What are some popular destinations at the park?

List six to eight places where you plan to stop on your walking tour. Number the stops.

Make sure you include a lunch break!

Write a few paragraphs about each place where you'll stop on the tour. Tell about the history of that place.

Try to include fun, interesting facts that will surprise people.

Number the stops the same way you numbered them above.

Enticed by dreams of striking it rich in the gold fields, Ghirardelli travelled to California in 1849. After failing in the gold fields, he returned to making chocolate. He and his three sons eventually built a chocolate empire. In 1893 the Ghirardelli Company moved its headquarters from the heart of old town San Francisco to the site of the Pioneer Woolen Mill on the city's north waterfront. The company built a power house and additional warehouses on the site. In time, the entire complex became known as Ghirardelli Square.

In the 1960s Ghirardelli Chocolate was bought by the Golden Grain Macaroni Company.

The chocolate factory was moved to the East Bay and the old brick complex was put up for sale. The Matson-Roth family purchased the complex in 1962 to prevent it from being replaced by a modern apartment building.

The historic brick buildings were restored and converted into a public center with upscale stores and restaurants. But worry not. There is still a Ghirardelli's chocolate shop there.

## 2. The Argonaut Hotel and Museum

In Greek mythology, the Argonauts were fearless adventurers who sailed aboard the *Argo* in search of the Golden Fleece. The gold seekers who flocked to California in 1849 called themselves Argonauts because they, too, were on an adventurous quest for gold. The Argonaut Hotel is named after the miners. It is located in the historic Haslett Warehouse Building, former home of the Del Monte canning company.

Be sure to visit the Visitors Center and museum on the Argonaut's ground floor. The museum offers a colorful glimpse into San Francisco's seafaring past through interactive technology and exhibits. The museum is one of the best and most authentic peeks into maritime history you will find in San Francisco—and many locals aren't even aware that it exists!

You may be wondering how much to write about each stop. This description is 125 words. The description above, for Ghirardelli Square, is 290 words.

How much you write about a place depends on how much information you can find about it.

You're aiming for a total word count of 1,200–1,600 words.

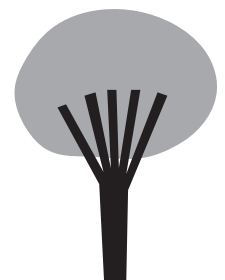
## 3. The Cannery

The fire that followed the 1906 earthquake destroyed most of the canning facilities owned by the California Fruit Cannery Association, a group of eighteen canning companies that had formed a cooperative in 1899. Later that year, the group bought a huge lot near the waterfront (now the corner of Leavenworth and Beach Streets) and in 1907 their new cannery and warehouse were ready for production.

By 1909 this facility was the largest fruit and vegetable canning operation in the world. It employed 2,500 people, who produced more than 200,000 cans of preserved foods per day. Peaches, tomatoes, salmon, and sardines were just a few of the foods that were processed here. In 1909 the association changed its name to Del Monte.

The Cannery closed its doors in 1937 because of the Great Depression. The empty factory and warehouses were used as storage, and were supposed to be torn down. But the Cannery was saved by local entrepreneur Leonard Victor Martin, who purchased the cannery in 1963. Martin's vision was to not just preserve the historic building--but to re-imagine it as a hub of restaurants and shops.

As you walk through the central courtyard, notice the olive trees. They are more than 130 years old, and came from a grove of olive trees near Marysville, California.



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**LUNCH STOP: Pick up an order of clam chowder, a crab cocktail, and some sourdough bread from one of the food stands along Jefferson Street. Pick a sunny spot along the waterfront and enjoy your meal while taking in the sights and sounds.**

Remember to include a stop for lunch. The stop should be about halfway through the tour.

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#### 4. Musee Mecanique

If you're looking for a fortune teller, photo booth, mechanical game, or pinball machine, look no further than Musee Mecanique. Located on Pier 45, this amazing place holds one of the world's biggest collections of coin-operated mechanical games.

The collection was started by Ed Zelinsky, who began collecting mechanical games at the age of 11. Today his son Dan Zelinsky operates the Musee. Many of the mechanical wonders you see here were once exhibited at Playland-at-the-Beach, a long-gone amusement park that fills old-time natives with nostalgia for "the city that was."

Lucky for us, the machines live on--more than 300 of them. Also in residence is a six-foot laughing automaton named Laffing Sal, another attraction that once graced Playland. She is creepy and hilarious.

If you visit Musee Mecanique, make sure to bring a good supply of quarters. (Admission is free, but you pay to play.)

To learn more, follow this link. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Musée\\_Mécanique](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Musée_Mécanique)

If you like, you can add a link to additional information. But you don't have to. It's your choice.

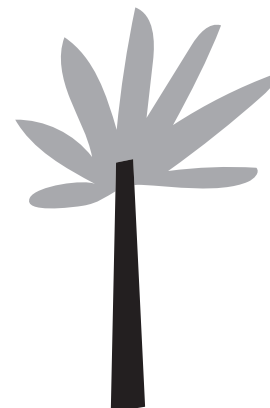
#### 5. The USS Pampanito, a World War II Submarine

Walk a bit further on Pier 45 and you'll encounter one of the world's few remaining World War II submarines, carefully restored and open to the public.

The *USS Pampanito* made six patrols in the Pacific during World War II. She sank six Imperial Japanese ships and damaged four others. Operated by the [Maritime Park Association](#), *Pampanito* hosts over 100,000 visitors a year and is one of the most popular historic vessels in the country. In addition to daytime visitors, over 1,500 kids a year participate in *Pampanito's* educational day and overnight programs. *Pampanito* is a National Historic Landmark.

The *USS Pampanito* is being restored to a specific point in time, late summer, 1945, to represent the height of World War II submarine development. The Maritime Park Association has scoured the country in search of missing equipment and spare parts. Almost all of the missing items have now been replaced and much of the equipment on board has been restored to operation.

Follow this link for hours and ticket prices. <https://maritime.org/uss-pampanito/pampanito-tickets/>



## 6. The *USS Jeremiah O'Brien*

More than 2,700 Liberty Ships were built and launched during World War II. Only two fully functional Liberty Ships remain, and the *SS Jeremiah O'Brien* is one of them. The ship is located just beyond *Pampanito* on Pier 45.

This floating museum is a National Register of Historic Places and is a National Historic Landmark. It is open daily for tours. For hours and ticket prices, follow this link. <https://www.ssjeremiahobrien.org>

**The walk ends here. But please feel free to continue exploring on your own. It's your waterfront—get to know it!**

This description is much shorter than the others. That's OK.

Tell people when the walk is over. Encourage them to keep exploring the park on their own.

### TIPS

#### BEFORE YOU BEGIN

- Use the map of Golden Gate Park on our website to help you plan your walking route. You can't visit the whole park in one day, so choose one section to focus on.
- You might divide the park into four blocks and pick the one that sounds most interesting.

#### AFTER YOUR FIRST DRAFT

- Try out the walking tour with a friend. Ask yourself:
  - How long does the walking tour take?
  - Is the route sensible, or should the stops be in a different order?
  - Revise your walk if you need to.

#### CITE YOUR SOURCES!

- Make sure to properly cite all of the sources you have used to write your walking tour. Include websites, books, newspaper articles, and any other sources.
- There are different ways of citing sources. Ask your teacher what method he or she prefers.
- If you include photos, make sure you give proper credit to the source of the photo.

#### WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION

- Visit the San Francisco History Center at the SF Library's main branch at 100 Larkin Street. The History Center has books, files, and more than 1,500 photos of the park.
- Visit the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department's website.
- Go on a walking tour of the park led by City Guides. The walks are free and the people who lead them know a lot! <https://sfcityguides.org>
- Search the Internet for news articles about the park's history.

