

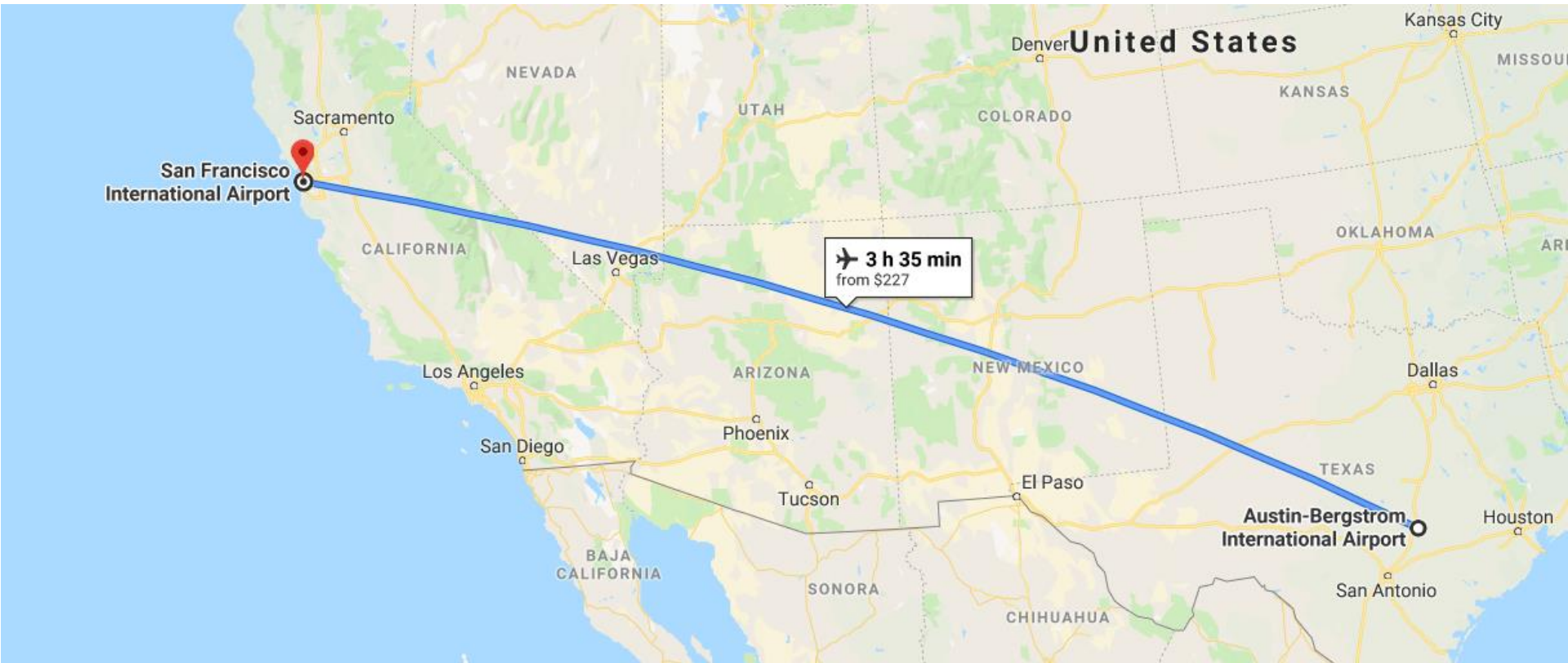
A photograph of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, California, taken at dusk. The bridge's towers and suspension cables are silhouetted against a deep blue sky. The bridge deck is illuminated with warm lights, creating a glowing path that recedes into the distance. The water below is dark, and the overall atmosphere is serene and dramatic.

**Ed & Rob's
north-central
California trip
8-13 July 2019**



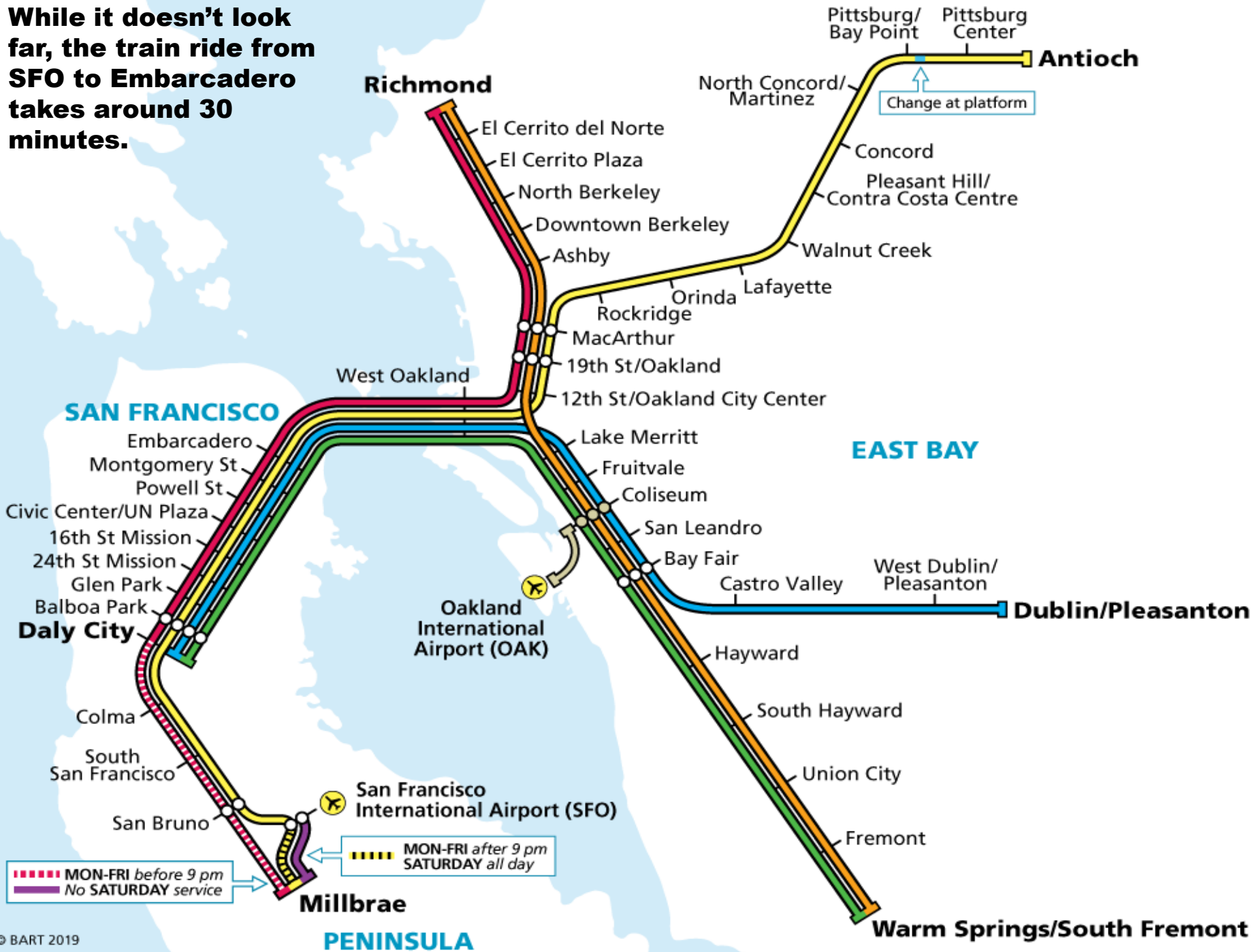
Day #1, 08 July 2019

MK was kind enough to drive us to the airport. We left their house at 4:30a for the 7a flight. Heading south on the toll road we hit a piece of tire debris (affectionally? known as a road gator) that unbeknownst to us at the time, did significant damage to the car.



And so it came to pass... our 3.5 hour flight put us there at about 8:17a PDT.

While it doesn't look far, the train ride from SFO to Embarcadero takes around 30 minutes.





**And off we
go again.
More travel
adventures
ahead!**

Our walking tour of Fisherman's Wharf begins a little after 10a.

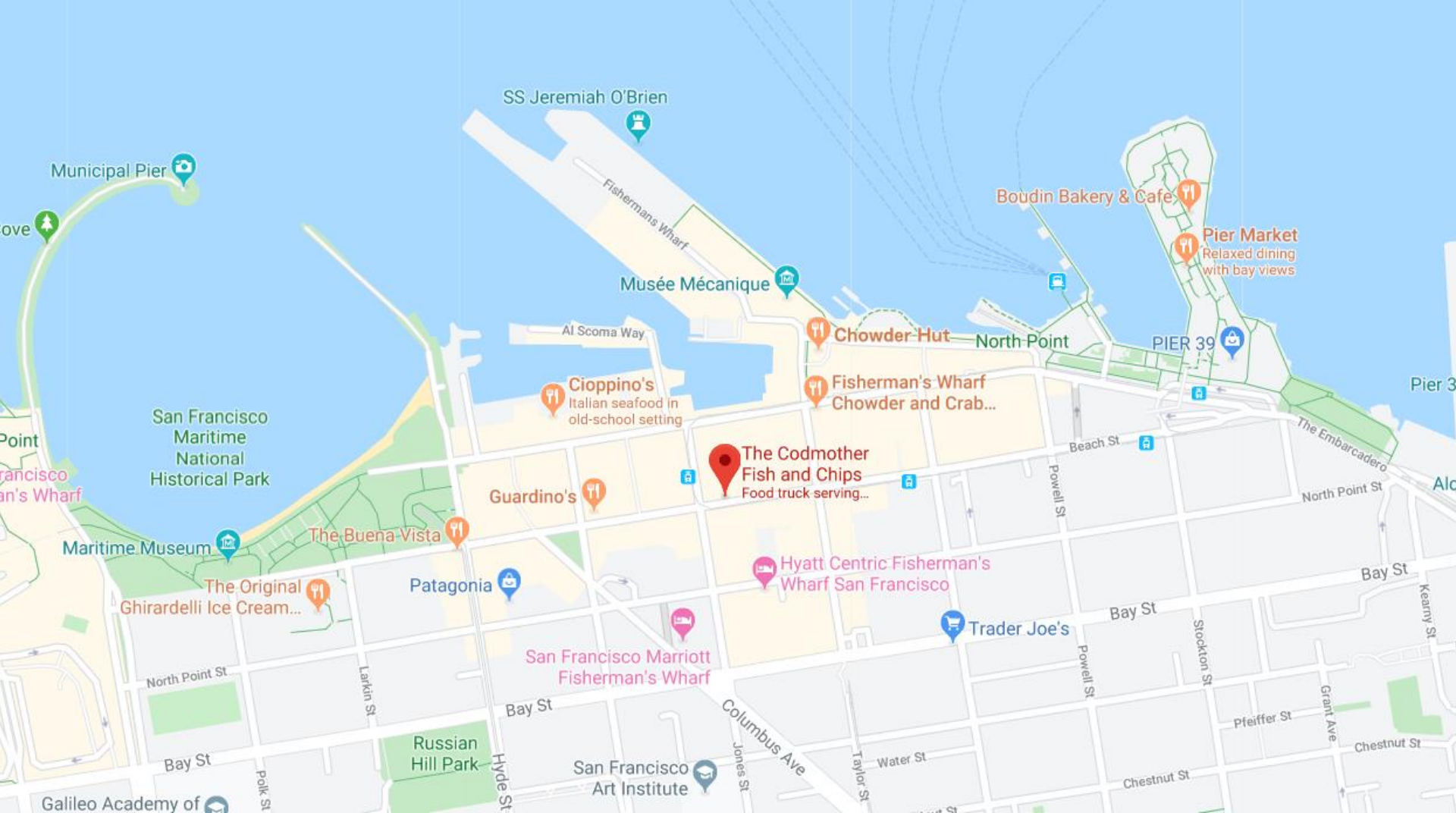




Neither of us could think of a single item we could possibly want to buy here.

We stumbled to this place for some. It's only 11:15 PDT, but our stomachs were telling us it was 1:15 CDT.

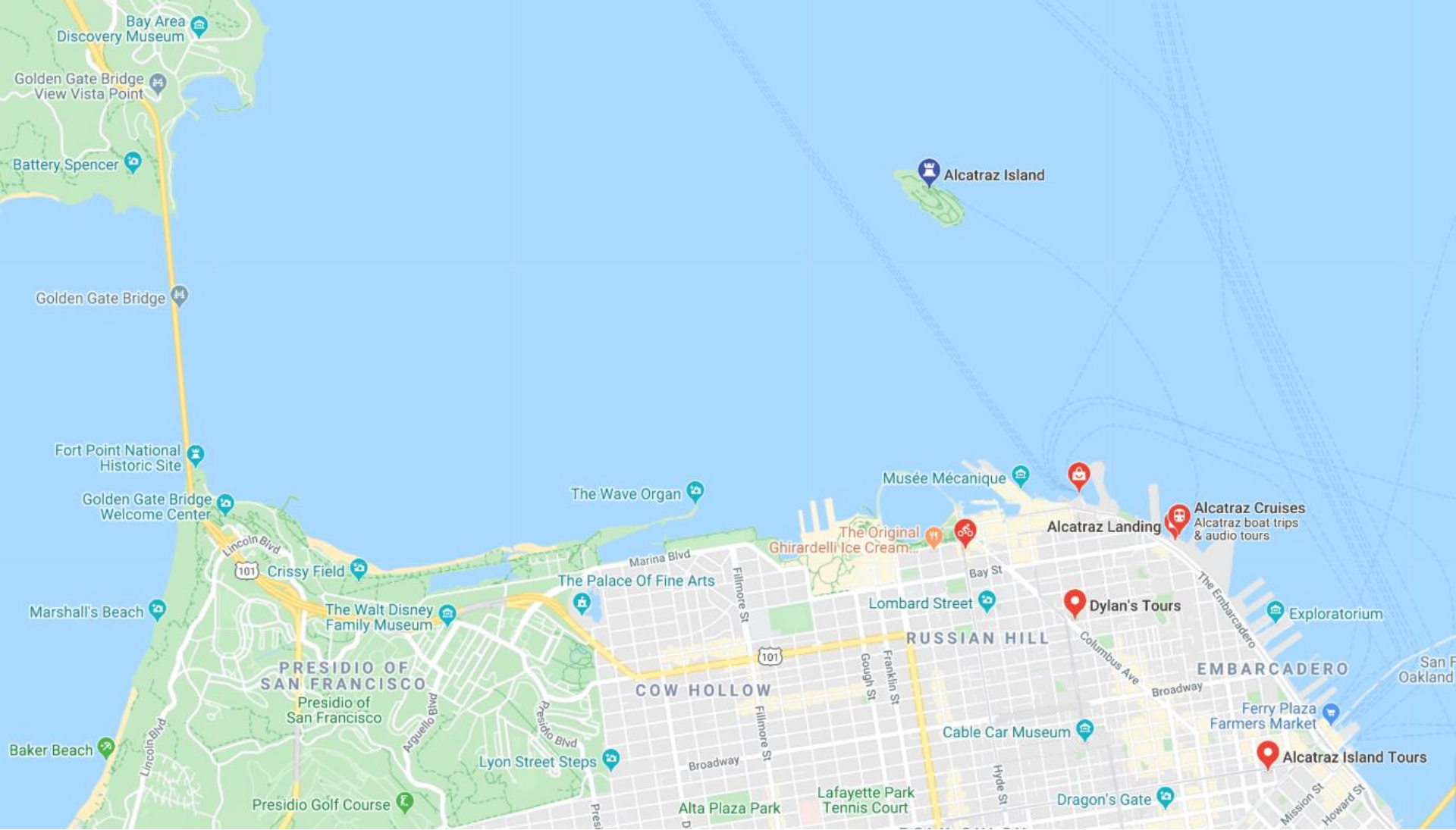




Here's where this place was located in relation to the wharf



After lunch we caught this trolley to head back to the pier so not to be late to catch the ferry for the Alcatraz tour.



We had to get to Pier 33 to pick up the boat to Alcatraz Island

We got off the trolley at Pier 29 and walked up to 33.





**Smart travelers allow time
for a beer before major
events like visiting Alcatraz.**

Yea, this place had atmosphere you might expect for a pier pub.





Our first beer of the day. 12:24p



Soon we were in line for the Alcatraz Flyer for the ride to the island. You have to get reservations for this weeks, even months in advance.









INDIANS
WELCOME
UNITED STATES
PENITENTIARY

BOOKSTORE

ALCATRAZ ISLAND

Here's where our self-guided tour began. The story of this place is very interesting.







**Quite the view of
SF from Alcatraz**



21 MARCH 1963

ASSORT'D DRY CEREALS
STEAMED WHEAT
1 SCRAMBLED EGGS
2 FRESH MILK
STEWED FRUIT
TOAST
BREAD
BUTTER
COFFEE







Heading back now to SF. 4:30p







Model of Alcatraz Island

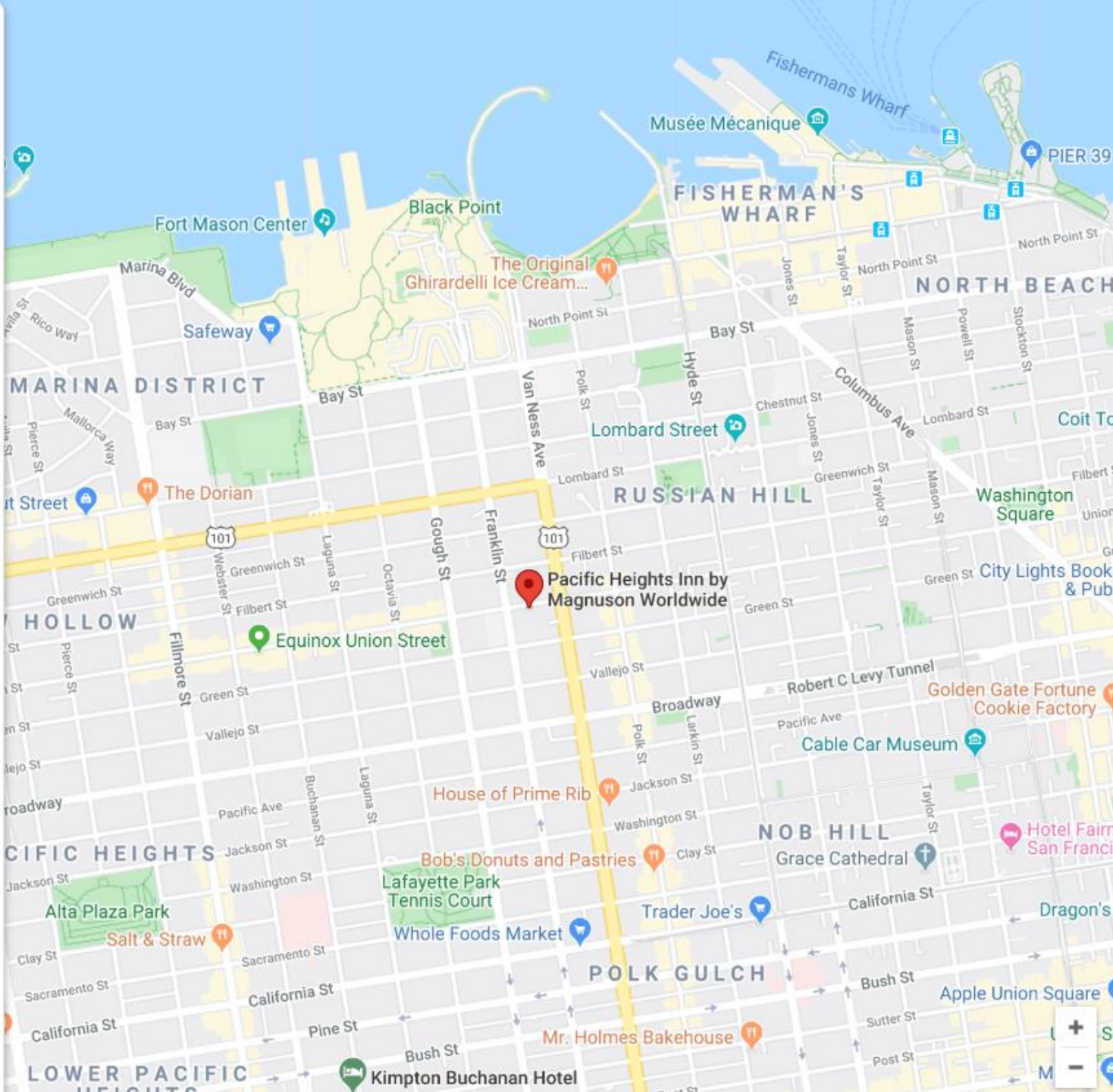


STAFF HOUSING AREA

Most of the penitentiary staff, along with their wives and aging children, lived on Alcatraz. Living quarters included an array of army barracks overlooking the dock, small cottages, and modern apartment houses built in 1940 with spectacular views of the Golden Gate. At the very tip of the island was a duplex occupied by two of the most important people on the island: the associate warden and the captain of the correctional staff. During the 1950s, an average of 75 families lived on the island at any one time. Dozens of children grew up on Alcatraz, and were ferried each day to school in San Francisco. Wives and off-duty guards took the shuttle boat to the city for shopping trips and social events.



Children of U.S. Army officers, circa 1935.



After a great Alcatraz experience, we walked and navigated the bus system to find our way to our lodging for the night... Pacific Heights Inn



UNION GARAGE

SMOG CHECK STATION

1550

Clean Air Vehicle

5829

CA4889 5829

45 California Street

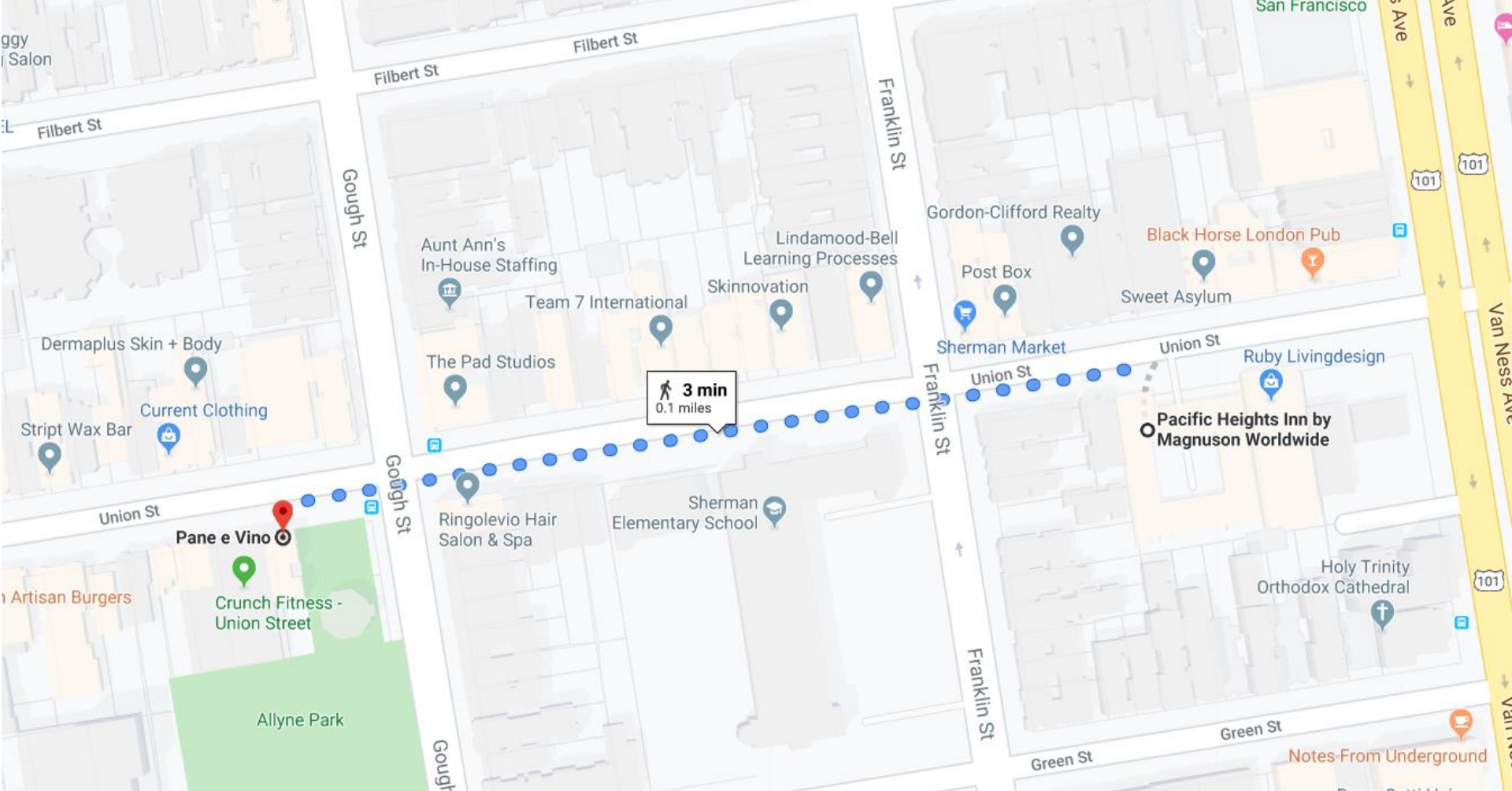
SMOG CHECK STATION



SMOG CHECK

**Outside entrance
to our room**





After checking in at Pacific Heights Inn, we walked west a block or so to Pane e Vino Italian restaurant for a great meal and drinks. Beers later at Black Horse London Pub across from and up a little from Pacific Heights. Tiny little bar.



Ed & MK's last Europe trip they had an Aperol Spritz. This place had them, so why not? Defined, *an Italian wine-based cocktail, commonly served as an aperitif in Northeast Italy.* (website)

Ice

3 ounces (1 part) Aperol

3 ounces (1 part) dry Prosecco

1 ounce (a splash) club soda or unflavored sparkling water

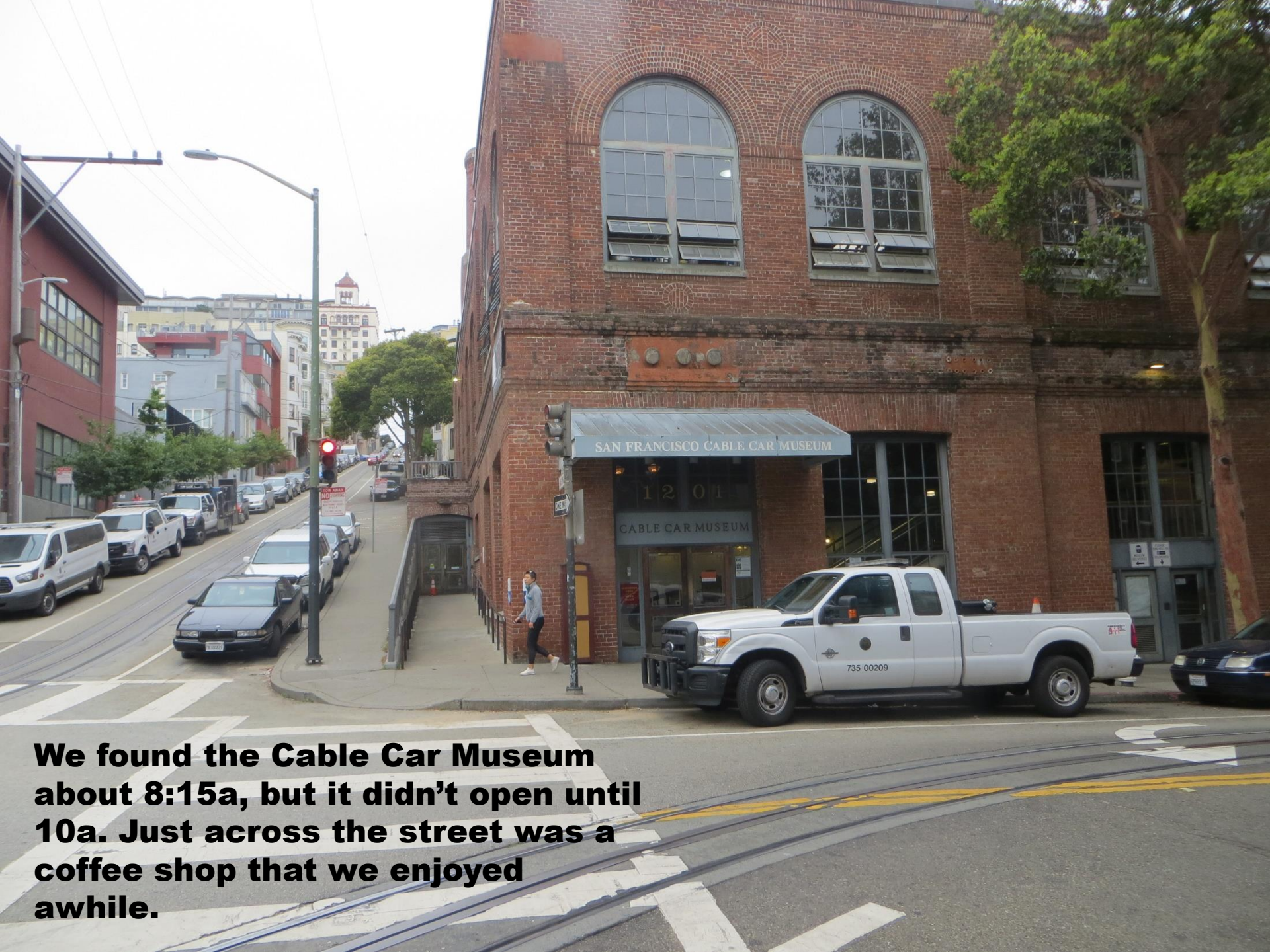
Orange slice, for garnish



After a nightcap at this place, we crashed out pretty early.



Day #2, 09 July 2019. Day 2 started cloudy. You can't experience SF without a cable car ride.



We found the Cable Car Museum about 8:15a, but it didn't open until 10a. Just across the street was a coffee shop that we enjoyed awhile.



Gallery Café is where we visited for coffee and a bite to eat. Then we decided to hike to Grace Cathedral in the time remaining before the Cable Car Museum opened.

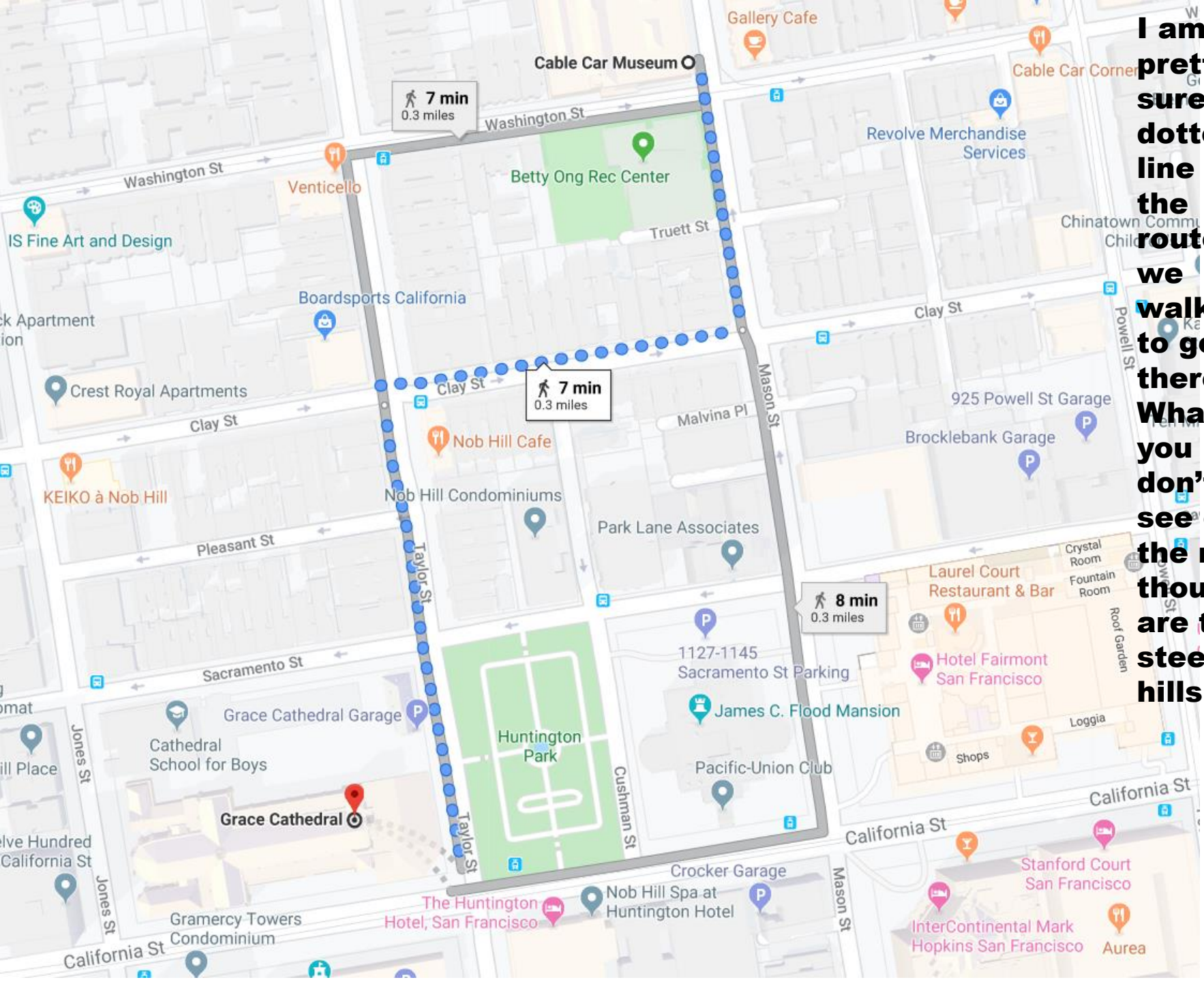
Washington

WHEN FLASHING
CABLE CAR TURNING
WAIT

GALLERY CAFÉ

LOCAL BEERS





I am pretty sure the dotted line is the route we walked to get there. What you don't see on the map though, are the steep hills.



This place has some history. The congregation was founded in 1849 at the time of the gold rush. The original building was destroyed in the 1906 earthquake. Then they acquired this property on Nob Hill. Construction on the current structure began in 1910 and was completed in 1964. This became the largest Episcopal church building in the USA.


There are several organs in this room, but the most noteworthy is the 1934 Aeolian-Skinner with 7,466 pipes.

(Photo from website)

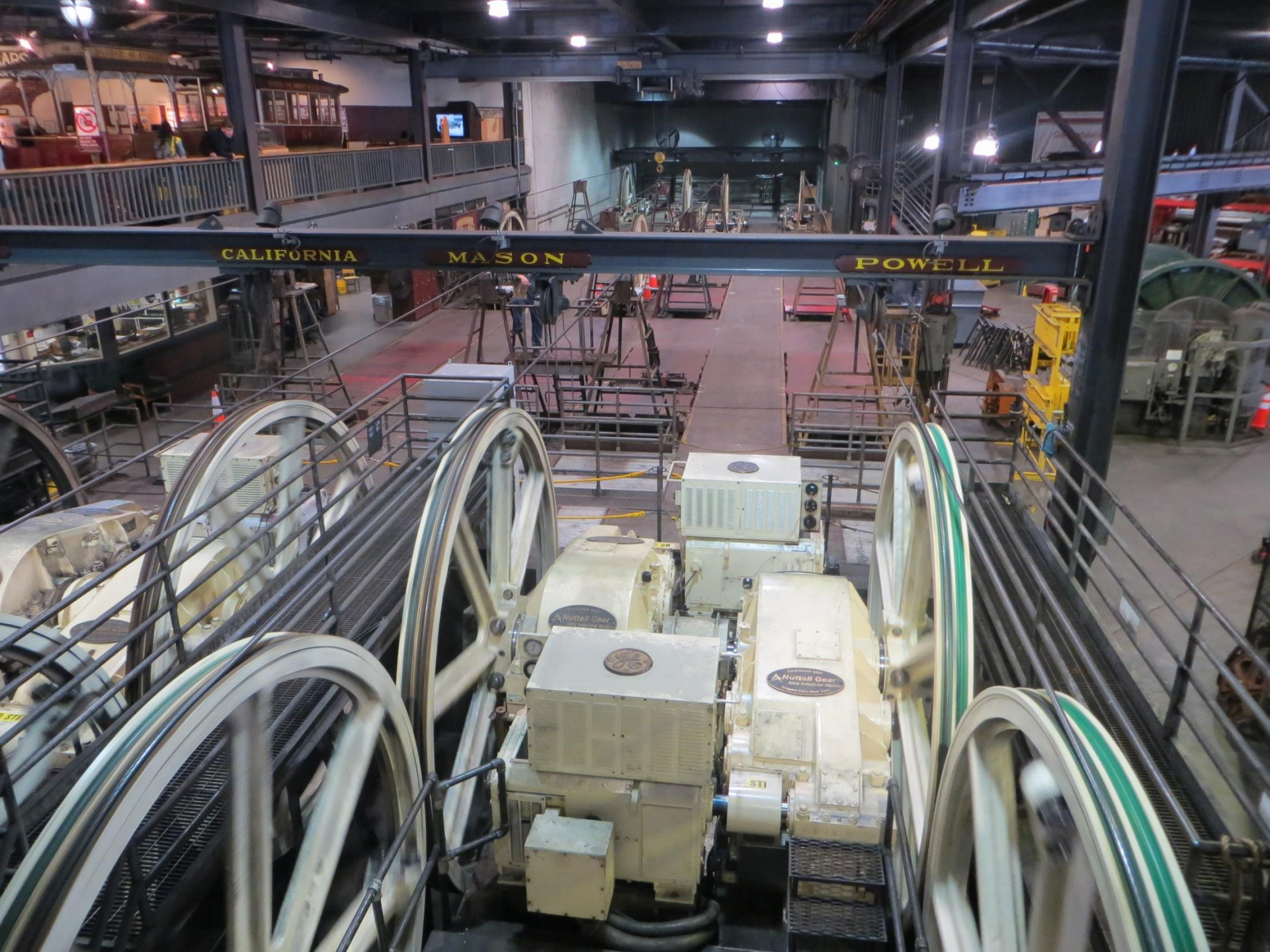




**On our way
back to
Cable Car
Museum**



The Cable Car Museum is not just a museum. It is “ground zero” for the functioning of the cable car system in SF. All these wheels and cables are moving. We declared this a “travel home run” visit.



CALIFORNIA

MASON

POWELL

Nuttall Gear

GE

Nuttall Gear

EST



Home | Cable Car Heritage | Museum | Online Store | Information

The Cable Car Museum was established in 1974. It is operated by the Friends of the Cable Car Museum as a nonprofit educational facility.

Located in the historic Washington/Mason cable car barn and powerhouse, the museum deck overlooks the huge engines and winding wheels that pull the cables. Downstairs is a viewing area of the large sheaves and cable line entering the building through the channel under the street.



On display are various mechanical devices such as grips, track, cable, brake mechanisms, tools, detailed models, and a large collection of historic photographs.

The museum houses three antique cable cars from the 1870s. The Sutter Street Railway No. 46 grip car & No. 54 trailer and the only surviving car from the first cable car company, the [Clay Street Hill Railroad No. 8 grip car](#).



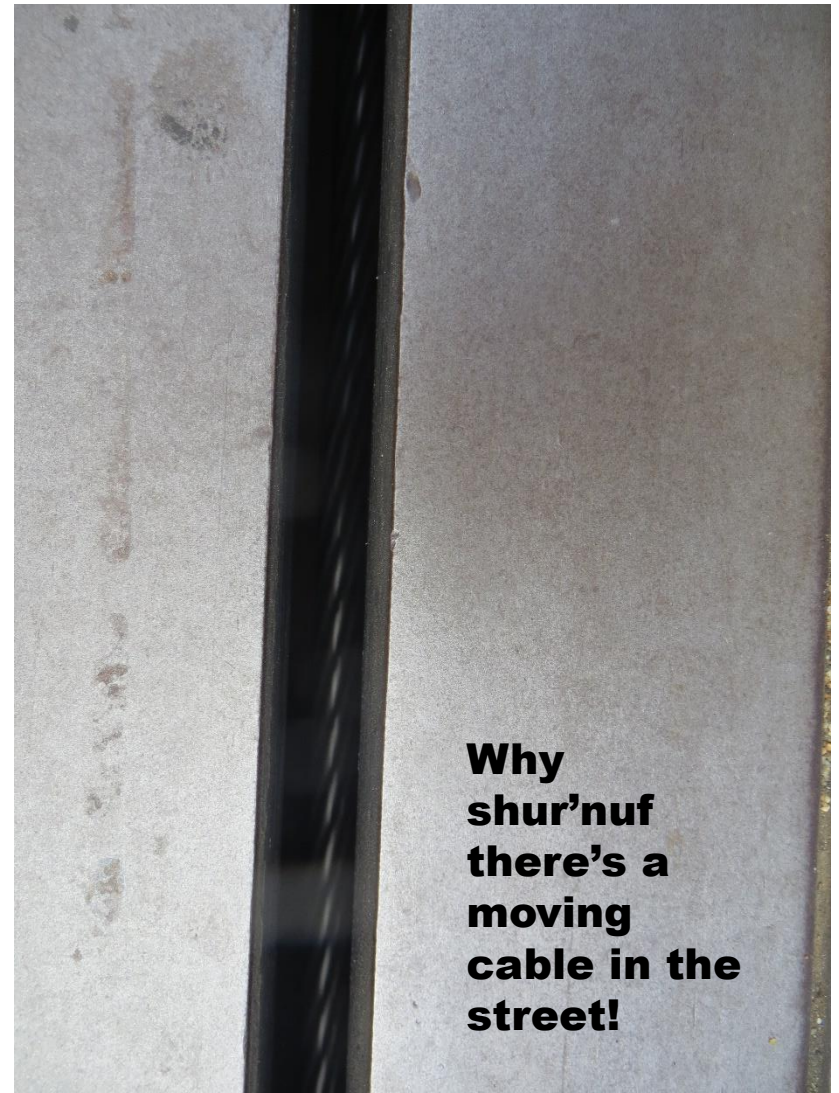
The museum store offers a variety of cable car memorabilia, books, clothing, cards and even genuine cable car bells!

About the Museum

About the Museum

Friends of the Cable Car Museum

The front page to their website pretty much says it all.



**Why
shur'nuf
there's a
moving
cable in the
street!**

Amazing how it all works. A series of moving cables, then the things on the cable cars that grab the moving cable, and of course the brakes. All carefully orchestrated by the driver for smooth starts & stops.



Ya just never know what you might randomly see on the street. 11:13a

A very European-like
open-air market.



Ride the Golden Gate Bridge with San Francisco's Highest-Rated Bike Rental & Tour Company

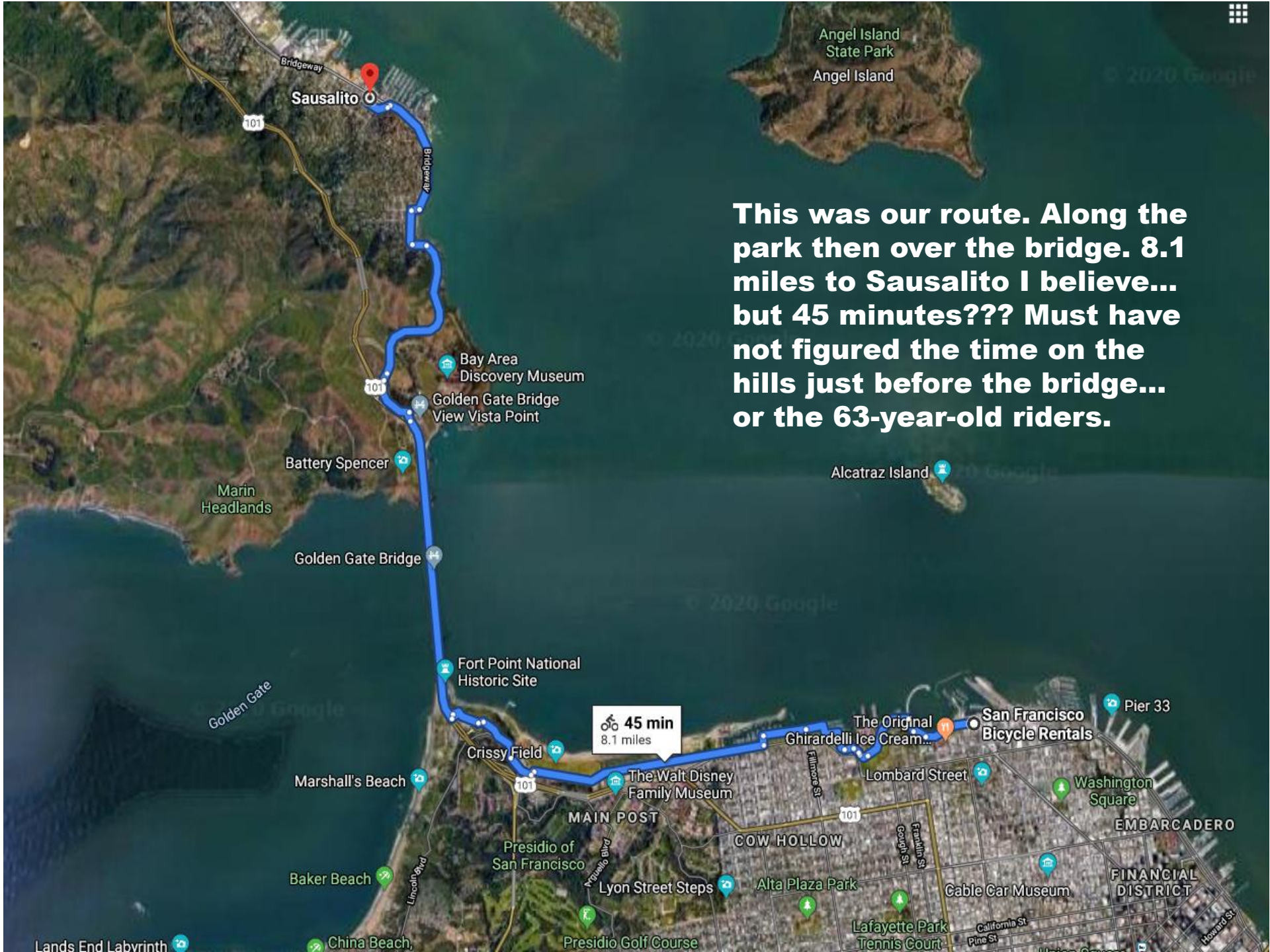
Book Now to Receive a 20% Online Discount

[Reserve a Bike](#)



OPTION A: SELF-GUIDED BIKE RENTAL (SCROLL DOWN FOR GUIDED TOUR OPTION)
20% Discount: ~~\$32~~ \$25.60 per day.

The next thing to do was to ride bicycles across the Golden Gate Bridge using the SF Bicycle Rental Co. By noon or a little after we were on our way.



This was our route. Along the park then over the bridge. 8.1 miles to Sausalito I believe... but 45 minutes??? Must have not figured the time on the hills just before the bridge... or the 63-year-old riders.

🚴 45 min
8.1 miles

Sausalito

Angel Island State Park
Angel Island

Bay Area Discovery Museum
Golden Gate Bridge View Vista Point

Battery Spencer

Marin Headlands

Golden Gate Bridge

Alcatraz Island

Golden Gate

Fort Point National Historic Site

San Francisco Bicycle Rentals

Pier 33

Marshall's Beach

Crissy Field

The Walt Disney Family Museum

The Original Ghirardelli Ice Cream...

Lombard Street

Washington Square

MAIN POST

COW HOLLOW

EMBARCADERO

Baker Beach

Presidio of San Francisco

Lyon Street Steps

Alta Plaza Park

Cable Car Museum

FINANCIAL DISTRICT

Lands End Labyrinth

China Beach

Presidio Golf Course

Lafayette Park Tennis Court

California St
Pine St

Howard St



Some beautiful vistas along the way.











It was kind of daunting and intimidating riding across the bridge... but we made it.



Thought surely we would stumble into the home of singer Linda Ronstadt whose place pictured here overlooks the Golden Gate Bridge. She might have invited us to stay at the self-contained guest cottage... or at least an afternoon visit for tea and crumpets.

Singing legend Linda Ronstadt has placed a staggering total of twenty-one songs on the Billboard Hot 100 chart and has won eleven Grammy Awards across multiple music genres, making her one of the most successful female singers in history. Born in Tucson, Arizona, the music icon currently owns homes in both Tucson, AZ and San Francisco, CA. Linda Ronstadt's most recent home purchase was her San Francisco home which she purchased in July of 2009 for \$1,990,000. Built in 1906, the home has four bedrooms, three full baths and a half, and includes two wood-burning fireplaces, powder room, wine closet, walkout terrace for the master bedroom, and a self-contained guest cottage. (website)

A beautiful day in Sausalito



When we rented the bikes we paid \$13 extra to ride the ferry back to the SF wharf. If we would have opted to ride bicycles back, they would have refunded it. Best \$13 we spent the whole day, besides beer.





After dropping bikes off at the “bike barn” we celebrated the successful ride with a beer and late lunch at Capurro’s. Had chowder.

CAPURRO'S

Established 1946
CUCINA SICILIANA SERVING FRESH FISH SINCE 1946

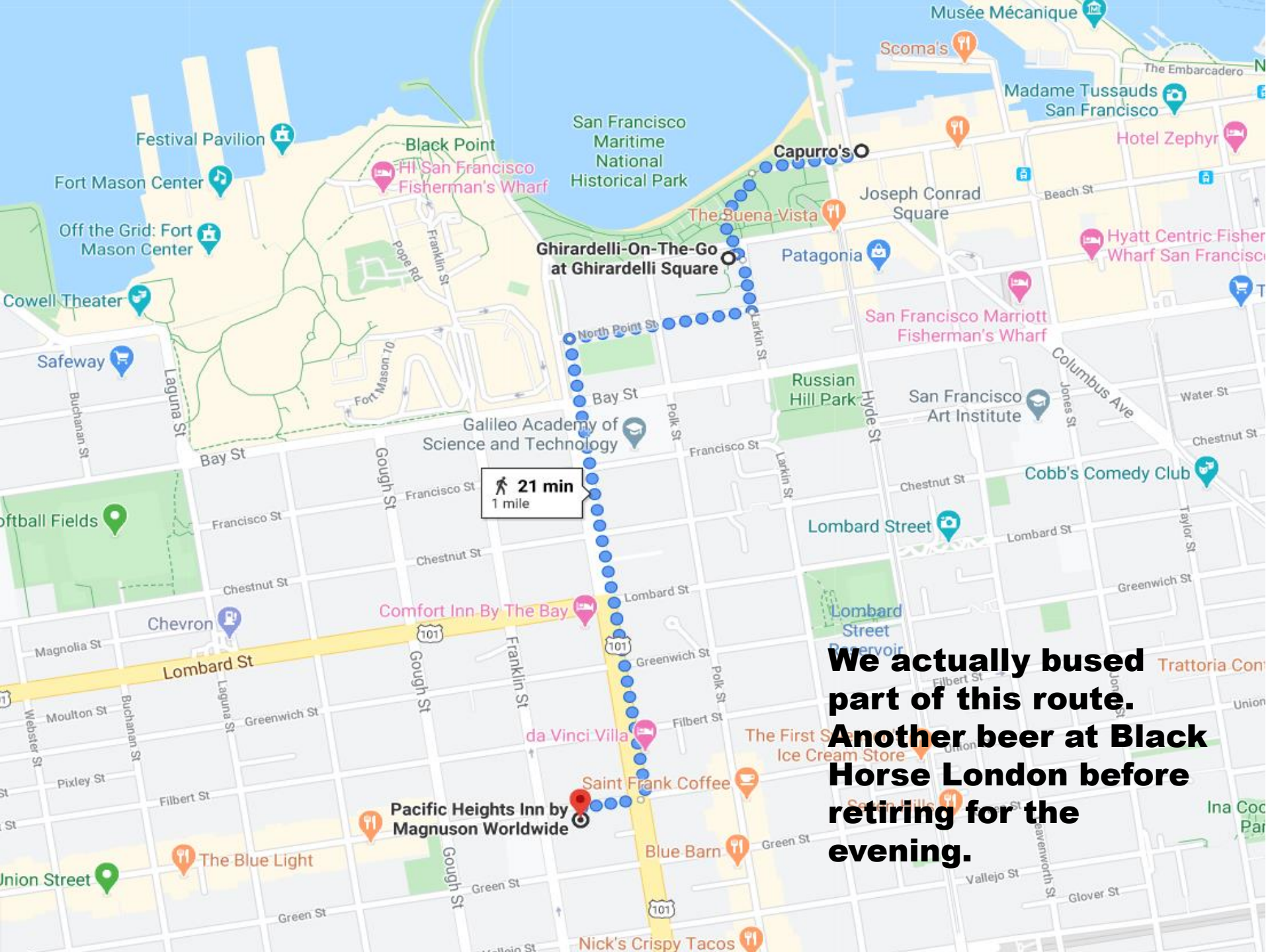


restaurant & bar



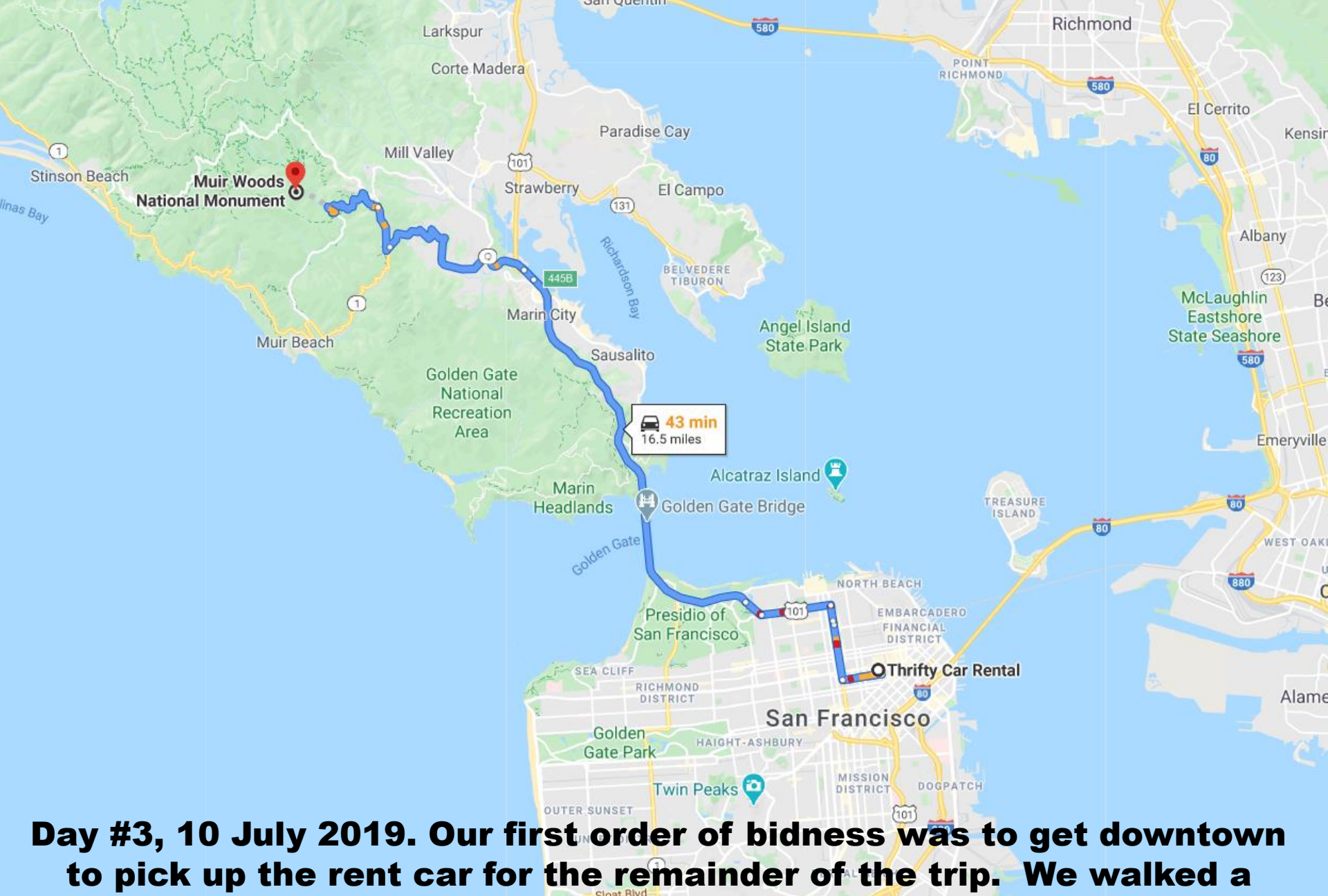


Next was home base to Ghirardelli Chocolate. Quick walk-through then on to room



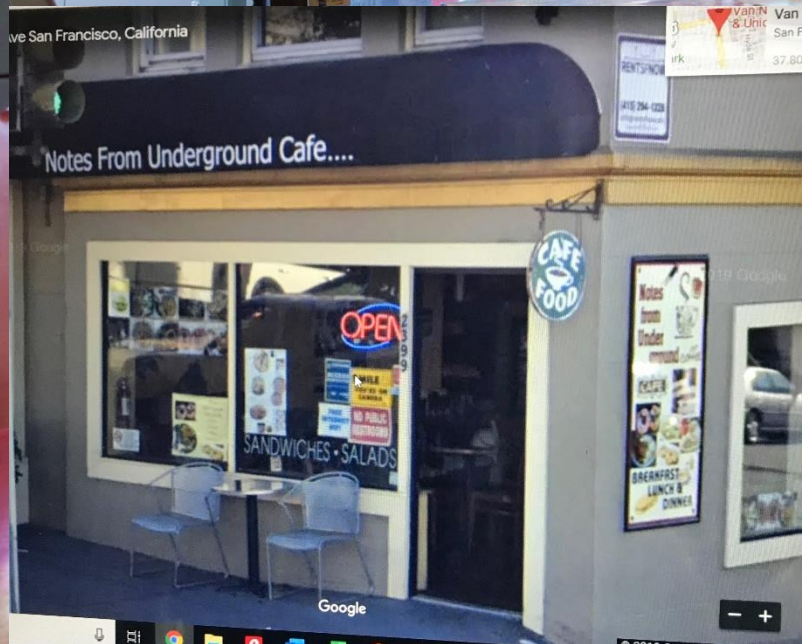
21 min
1 mile

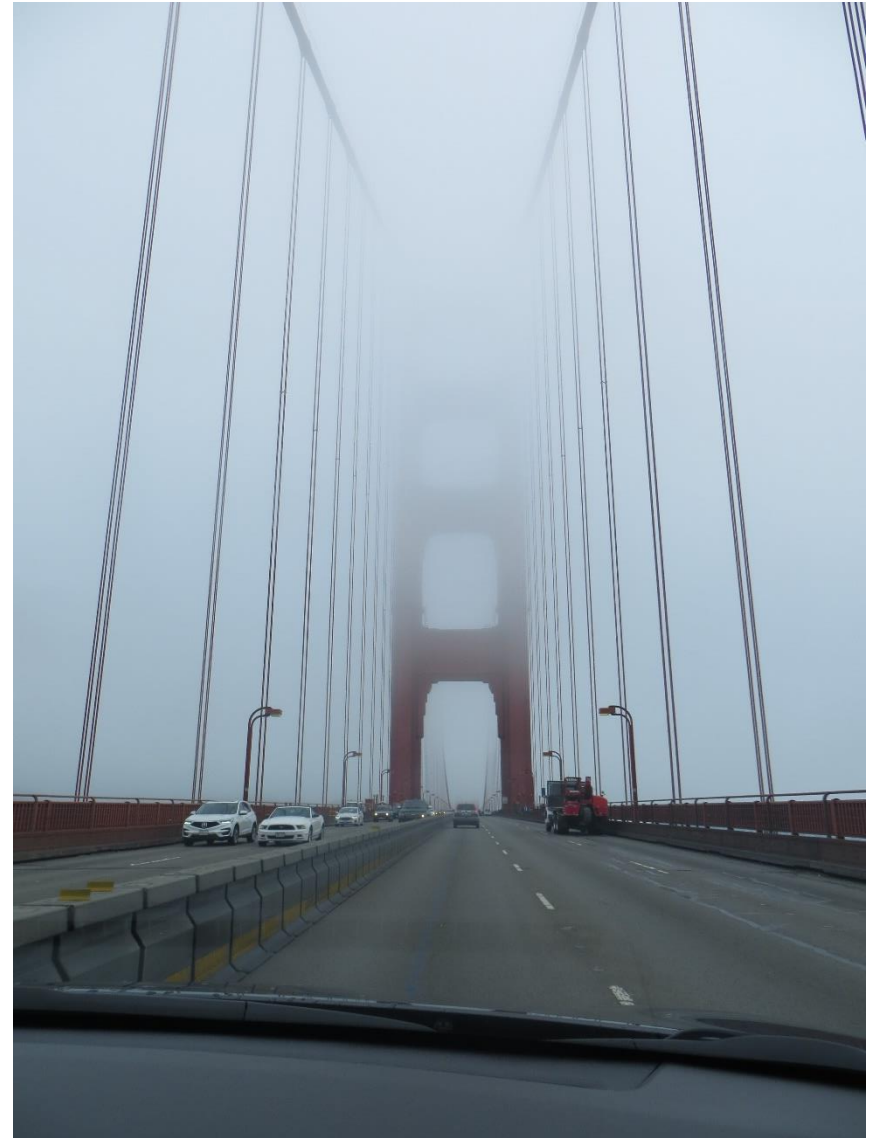
We actually bused part of this route. Another beer at Black Horse London before retiring for the evening.



Day #3, 10 July 2019. Our first order of business was to get downtown to pick up the rent car for the remainder of the trip. We walked a good part then Uber'd the rest. Our first goal of the day, besides getting the car, was to go to Muir Woods.

In our years of travel we have run into our share of interesting characters. We stopped for breakfast here before heading down to Thrifty, and ran into this guy eager to talk. Wish we'da asked his name, but our immediate goal was to vamoose.





Fog covered the Golden Gate Bridge. What a surprise!

Rob was here in 1981 and 2008. You just drove up, parked, and walked through the woods for as long as you liked. All free. Looks like that changed in 2018. Since we hadn't made reservations, time to move on.

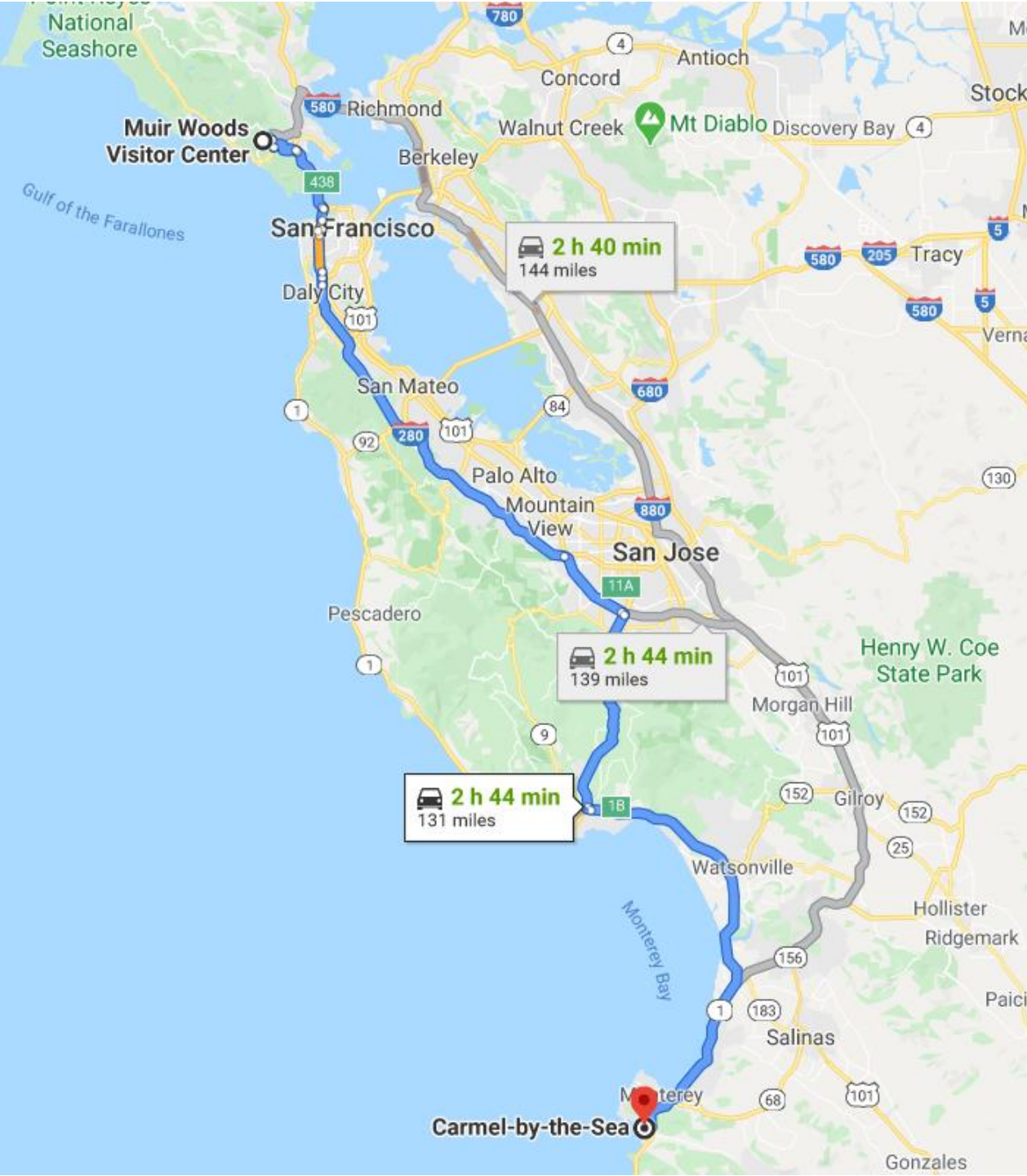
Muir Woods Parking and Shuttle Reservations



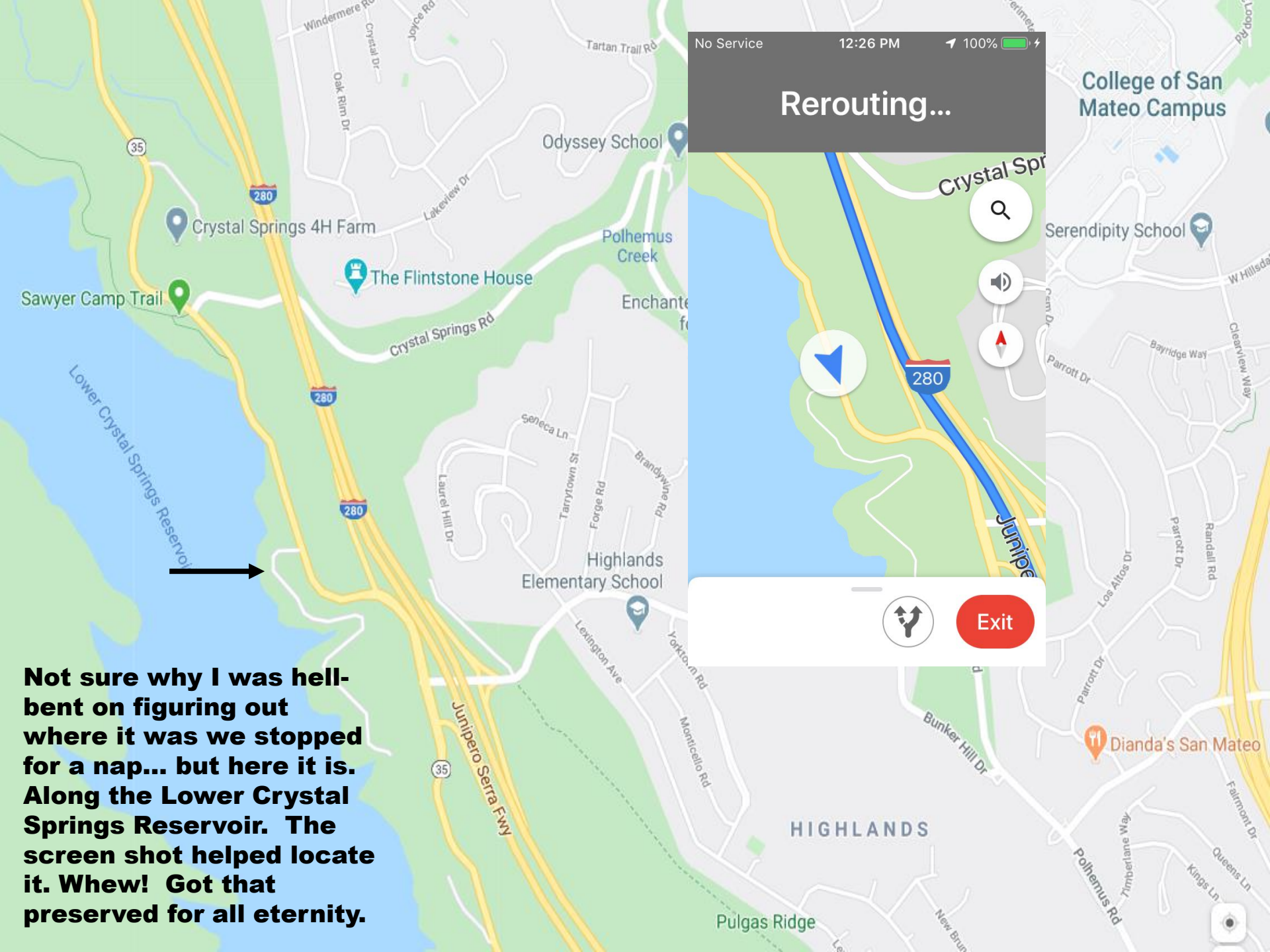
Plan Ahead.
Enjoy the Woods.

GoMuirWoods.com

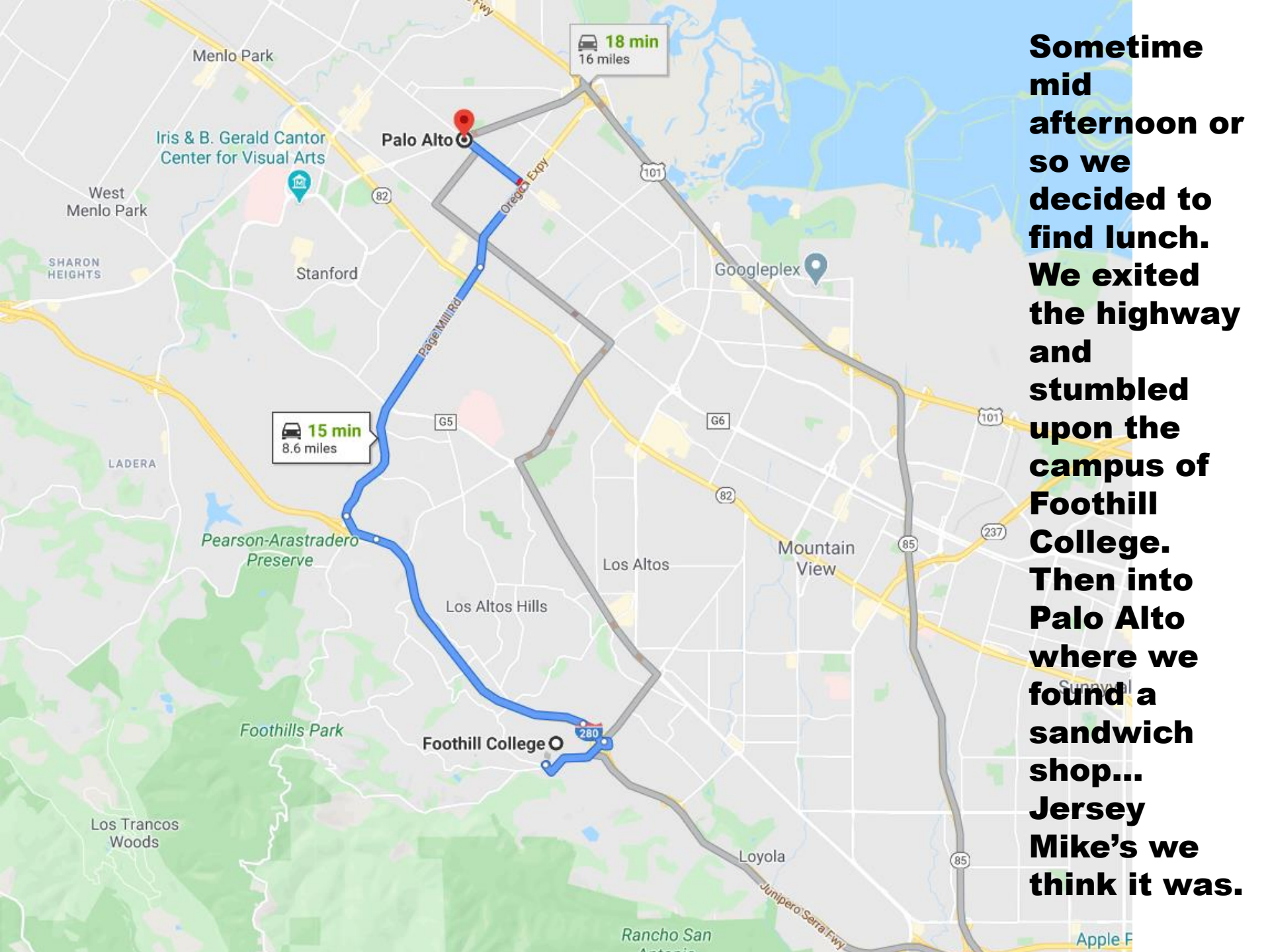




I'm pretty sure this is the route we took going to San Simeon via Carmel-by-the-sea.



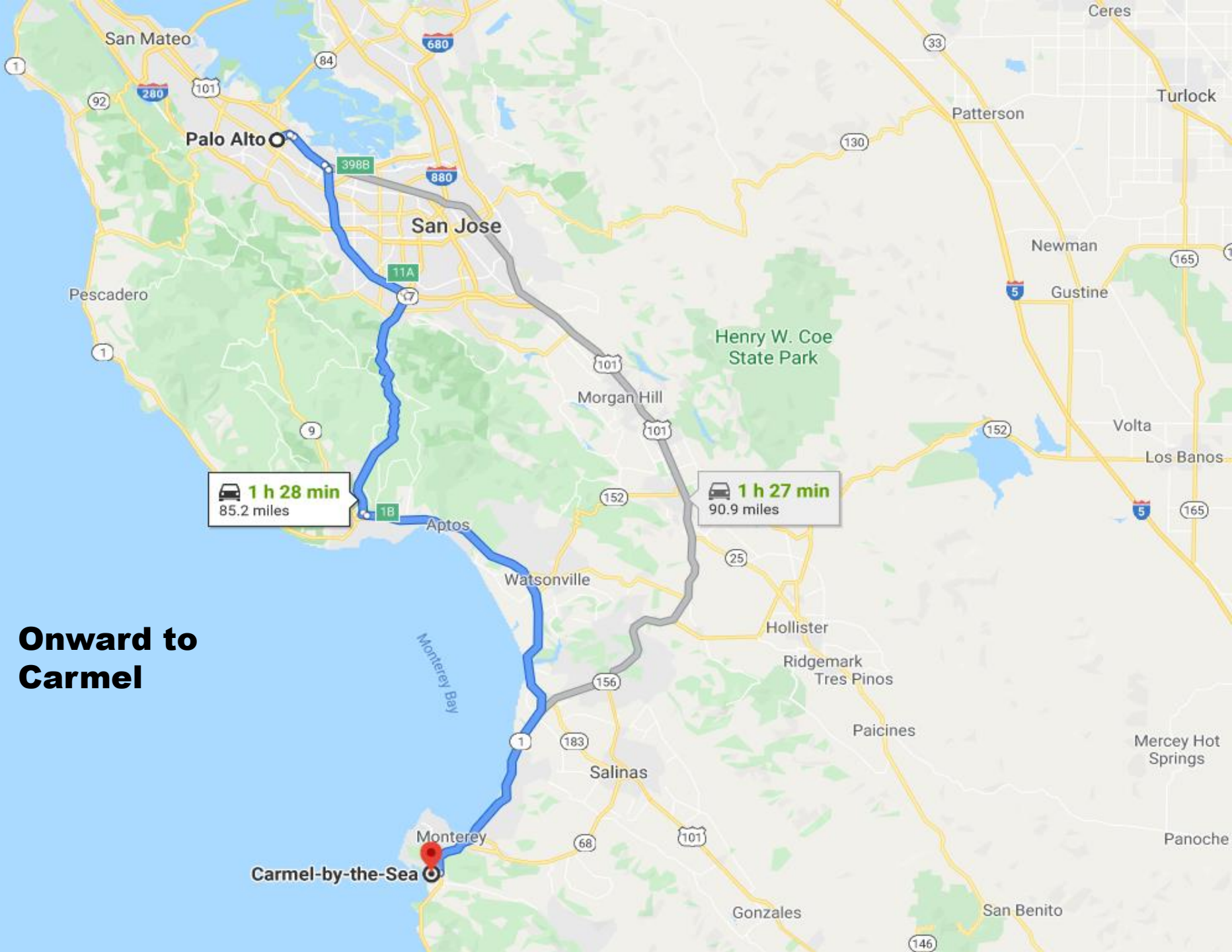
Not sure why I was hell-bent on figuring out where it was we stopped for a nap... but here it is. Along the Lower Crystal Springs Reservoir. The screen shot helped locate it. Whew! Got that preserved for all eternity.



Sometime mid afternoon or so we decided to find lunch. We exited the highway and stumbled upon the campus of Foothill College. Then into Palo Alto where we found a sandwich shop... Jersey Mike's we think it was.

15 min
8.6 miles

18 min
16 miles



Onward to Carmel

 **1 h 28 min**
85.2 miles

 **1 h 27 min**
90.9 miles

We got into Carmel around 3:30p. This was just a few miles before we got there. Its former mayor, Clint Eastwood still resides there. Wikipeda says, *Carmel is also known for several unusual laws, including a prohibition on wearing high-heel shoes without a permit, enacted to prevent lawsuits arising from tripping accidents caused by irregular pavement.*





We decided to stop for a break at Clint Eastwood's town of Carmel-by-the-sea. He began his mayorship in April of 1986. He owned the Hog's Breath Inn where we had a beer. Wiki says about it:

Thanks to its famous owner of 27 years, the Hog's Breath Inn is Carmel's most famous establishment. After Clint Eastwood and his partner retired the Inn, closing it in 1999, a new owner, Kaiser Morcus, recently reopened with few changes, and is riding the wave of the Eastwood legacy. Had our beer at 3:45p, on the road again by 4:30p.



**HOG'S BREATH INN
PRESENT**

DIRTY HARRY MARGARITA 13
tequila, orange liqueur, lime juice, sweet & sour and gran gala

LOVE POTION OF PLAY MISTY 11
Peach vodka, cranberry juice & orange juice

BRONCO BILLY BLOODY MARY 13
vodka and homemade spicy mix

THE MULE 12
vodka, lime and ginger beer

THE GOOD PEACH SANGRIA 11
homemade sangria and peach liqueur

THE BAD MEZCAL MARGARITA 13
mezcal, triple sec, lime-lemon juice & spicy-salt

THE UGLY JALAPENO TWIST 12
Jalapeno vodka, triple sec, lime juice, sweet & sour and salt

GRAN TORINO COFFEE 10
Pecan liqueur and coffee

Riesling 9
Bernardus Sauvignon Blanc, Monterey
Ryder Estate Rose 10

Cabernet Sauvignon

Hog's Breath Inn 8
J.Lohr, Paso Robles 13
Franciscan, Napa Valley 15

**THE
HOGS BREATH
INN**

ARY FOOD

GLASS

co 10

13

Mont

ia 7

8

(Grigio)

225 Bernardus Sauvignon Blanc, Monterey 38

224 House Riesling 34



Chardonnay

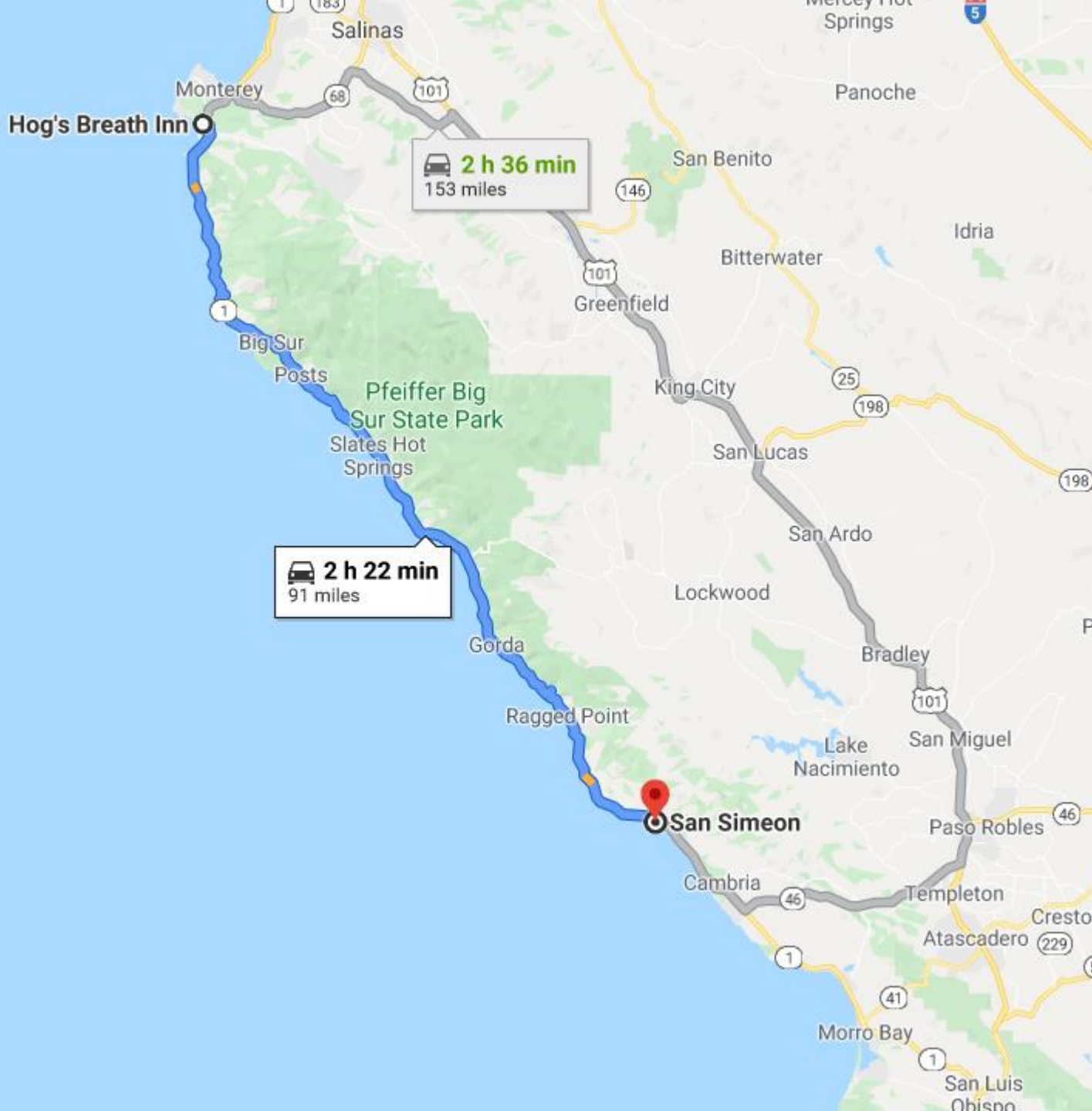
nn, California 30
"Unoaked", Monterey 38
Monterey 38
Lucia Highlands, Monterey 48
"y Hollow", Monterey 52
anta Lucia Highlands, Monterey 54
arneros 65

Other Whites

Rose 35
t Grigio 35



WINE BY THE BOTTLE



This was arguably the most scenic 91 miles of the whole trip. It was pretty slow-going, but we made numerous photo stops.















**Sturdy
travelers
here I'm
tellin ya**



Got to San Simeon about 6pm and found a room at SANDS BY THE SEA before going up the street for mussels, fish & chips, and of course... beer. First goal tomorrow is Hearst Castle.



Sands by the Sea had a fireplace with a roaring fire in it for its guests to enjoy. We were there about 5 minutes.

Day #4 11 July 2019 Hearst Castle, San Simeon, is a National Historic Landmark and California Historical Landmark. The joint concept of William Randolph Hearst, the publishing tycoon, and his architect Julia Morgan, it was built between 1919 and 1947. Known formally as "La Cuesta Encantada" (The Enchanted Hill), and often referred to simply as San Simeon, Hearst called his castle "the ranch." (website)



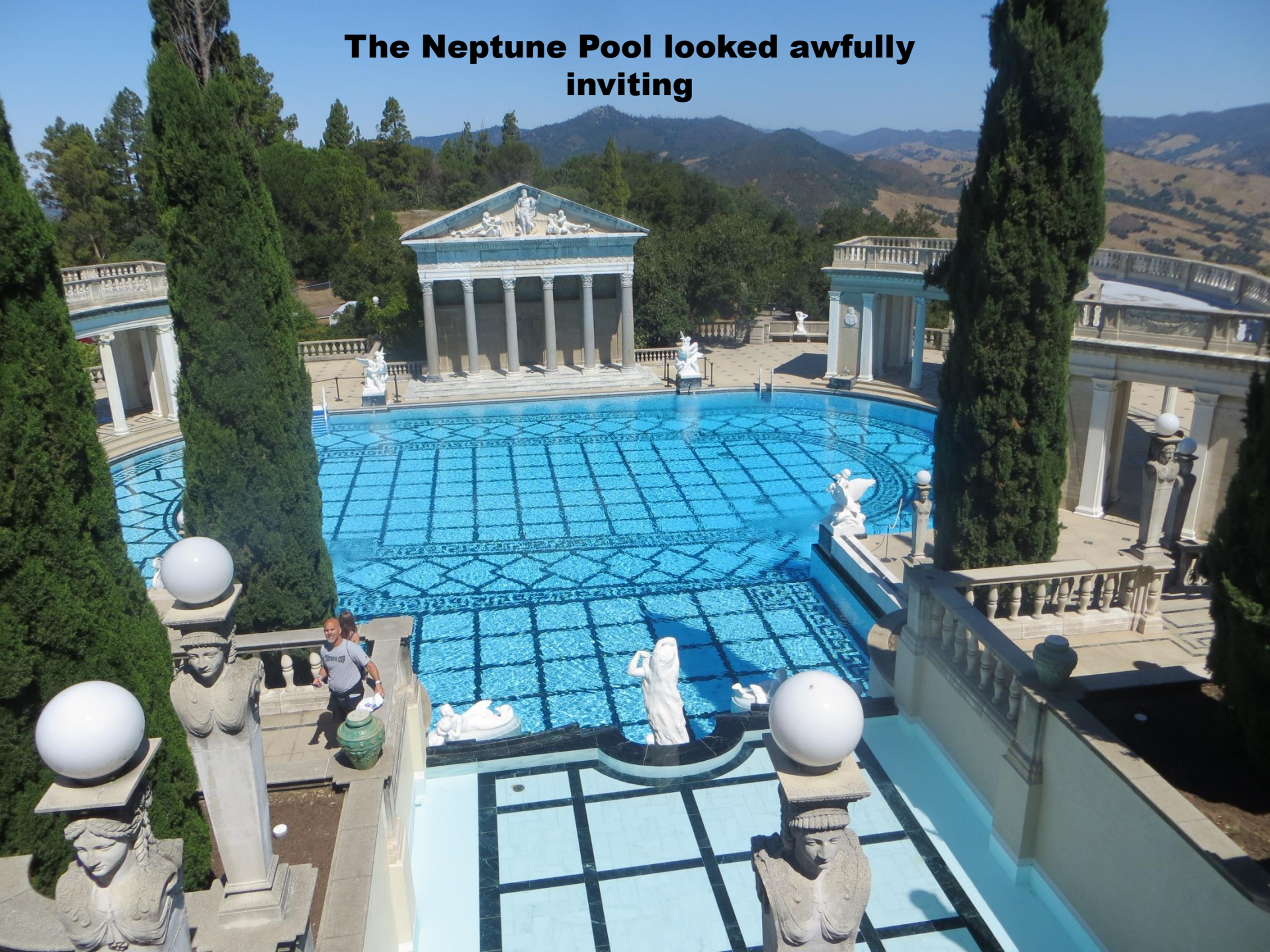


Website picture by Trevor

Of the 3 tours offered, we took the “Grand Rooms” tour led by this guide who was a wealth of interesting information

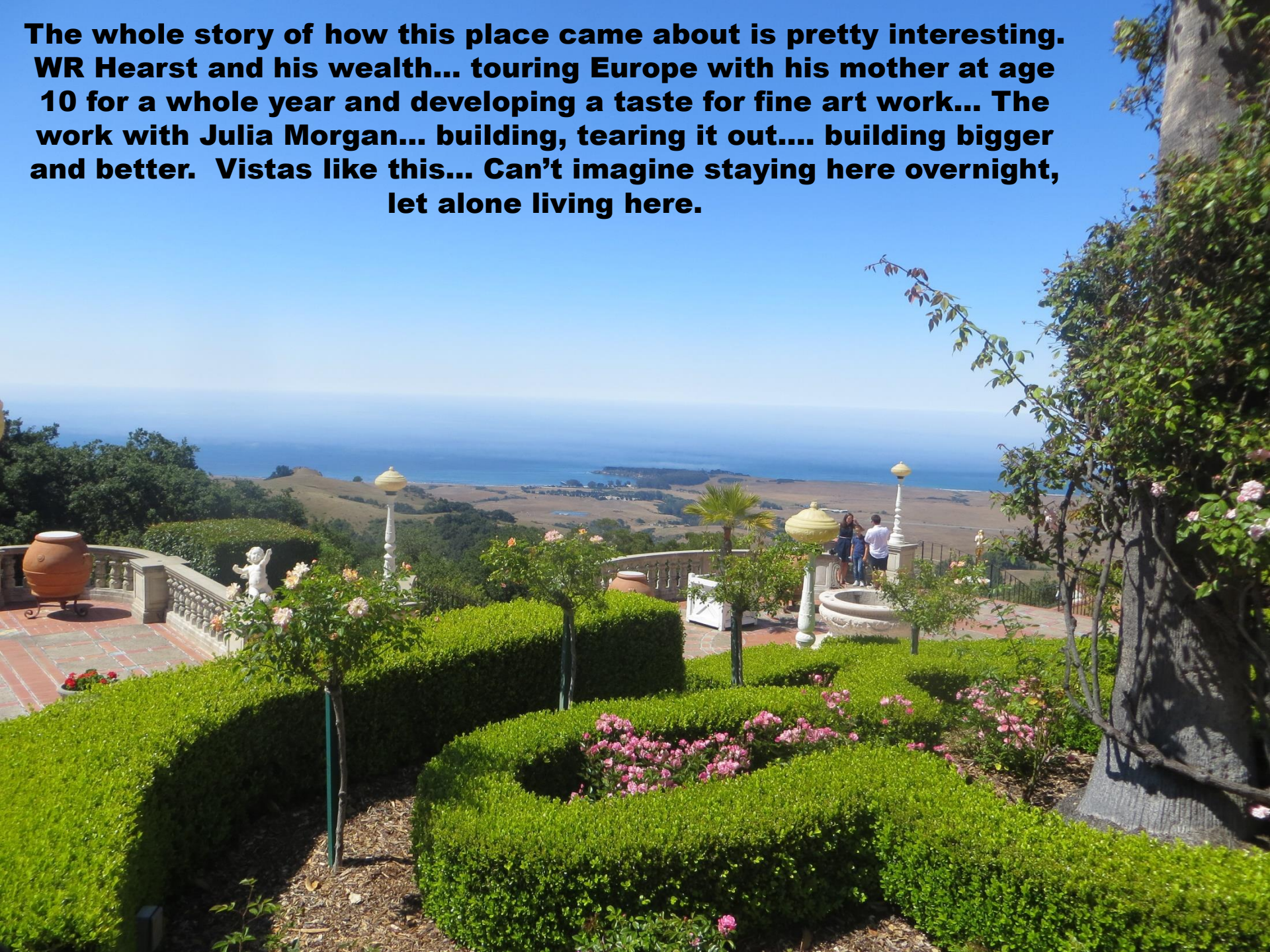


The Neptune Pool looked awfully inviting





The whole story of how this place came about is pretty interesting. WR Hearst and his wealth... touring Europe with his mother at age 10 for a whole year and developing a taste for fine art work... The work with Julia Morgan... building, tearing it out.... building bigger and better. Vistas like this... Can't imagine staying here overnight, let alone living here.



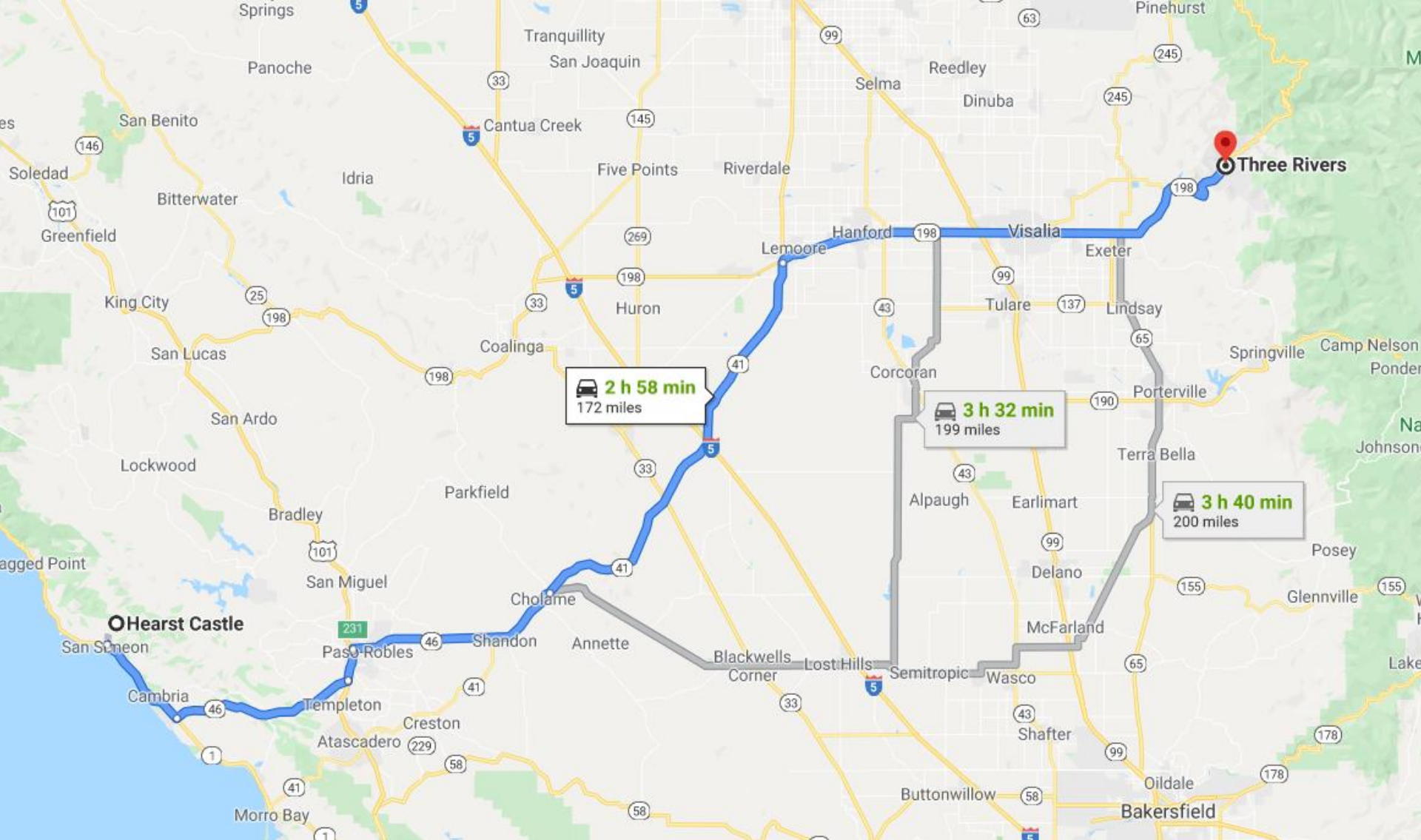




**The indoor
“Roman Pool”**

We got back down the hill to the visitor center where we ate lunch before proceeding onward. We knew our next goal – one way or another – was Yosemite or Sequoia. Had to drive several miles along the Pacific coast again. Very scenic.





We started westward about 1:15pm stopping occasionally for breaks.

Farewell to Sands by the Sea



Nice scenery on this leg of the trip too, but much different than what we saw yesterday.



**Clever truckers
along the way.**



About 5pm



Arrived at Three Rivers, CA on the edge of Sequoia Nat'l Park and got a room at THE RIVER INN & CABINS



The
River Inn
& Cabins
VACANCY

Welcome to
SEQUOIA
& KINGS
CANYON

CABINS



Hardly the Hearst Castle, but it'll do for the night.



Again, not the level of lodging Hearst guests would have, but we're hardly the Hollywood elite.



Found this brewpub which had plenty of local color and atmosphere... unfortunately the beer was not the finest in our humble opinions.



Sitting along side the mountain stream was scenic and peaceful... but did I mention the beer was less than great?



45186

OPEN

TOEM MARKET & DELI

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

MONDAY - TUESDAY 7 AM - 7 PM

WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY 7 AM - 6 PM

WELCOME

VISA
MasterCard

Dinner and beer here before retiring for the evening



Day #5, 12 July 2019. Our day began with breakfast from the convenience store connected with the restaurant from last night. Got juice & banana before heading into Sequoia Nat'l Park.

 **TOTEM MARKET & GIFTS**
A-1

LAST CHANCE TO STOP & SHOP

 **SNOW CHAINS**
RENT or BUY

WINE TASTING

EAT

Deli

BREAKFAST - LUNCH - DINNER

RESERVED PARKING

STATE DISABLED PARKING PERMIT REQUIRED



Quite simply... we started our drive from Three Rivers and entered the Park at the Ash Mountain Entrance, came out at Big Stump, then 180 on into Fresno.



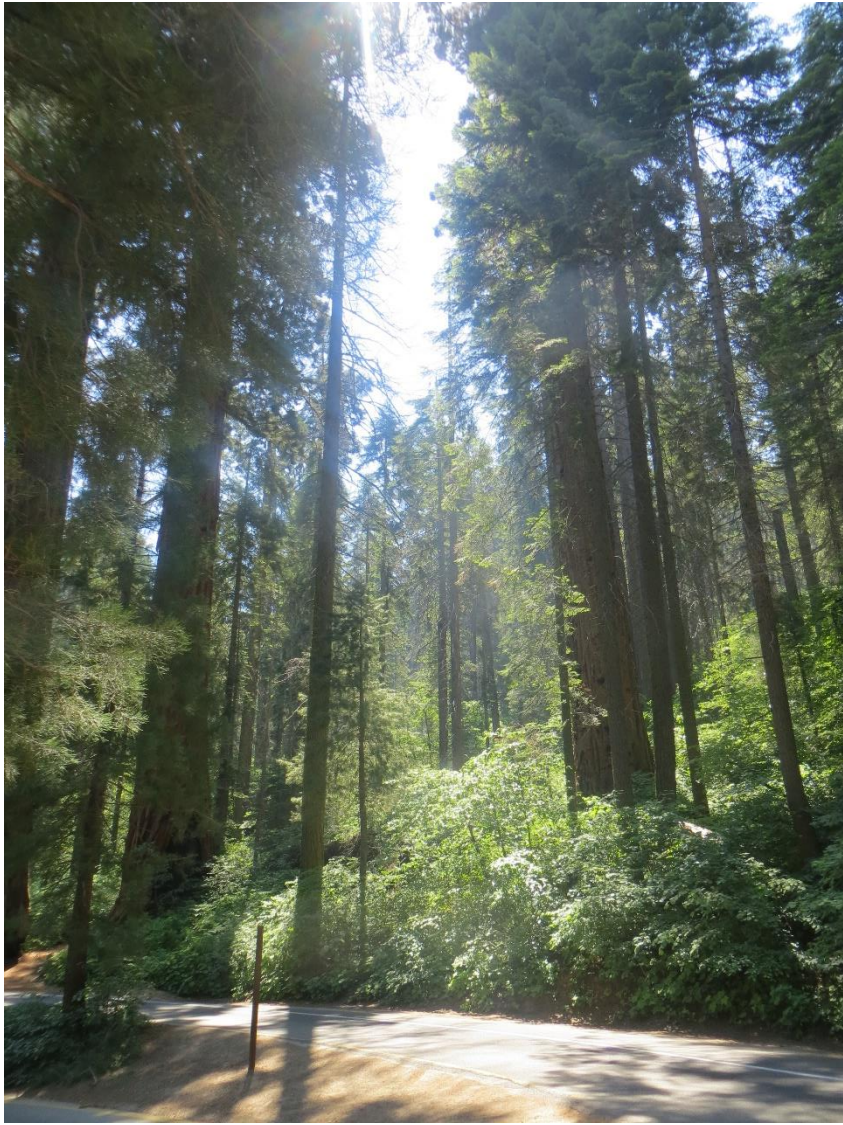


Like so many places... you can't take enough pictures... or all the right pictures to do it justice.













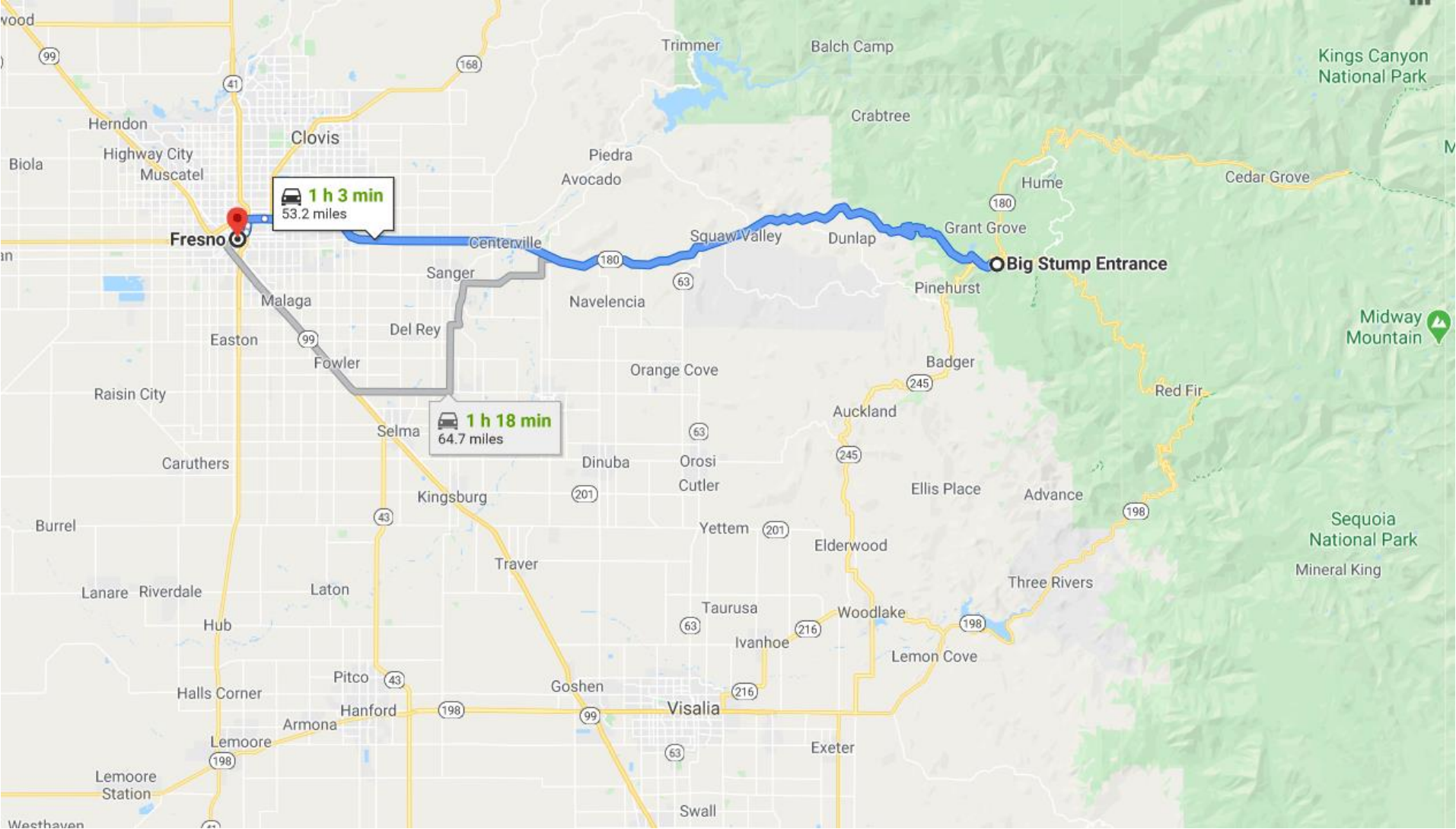
BOUNDARY
SEQUOIA
NATIONAL FOREST





**Just a year ago we
were standing in front
of the Liberty Bell. Now
here we are at Sequoia
Nat'l Park**





Got to Fresno about 12:45p or so.



Kocky's
Bar & Grill

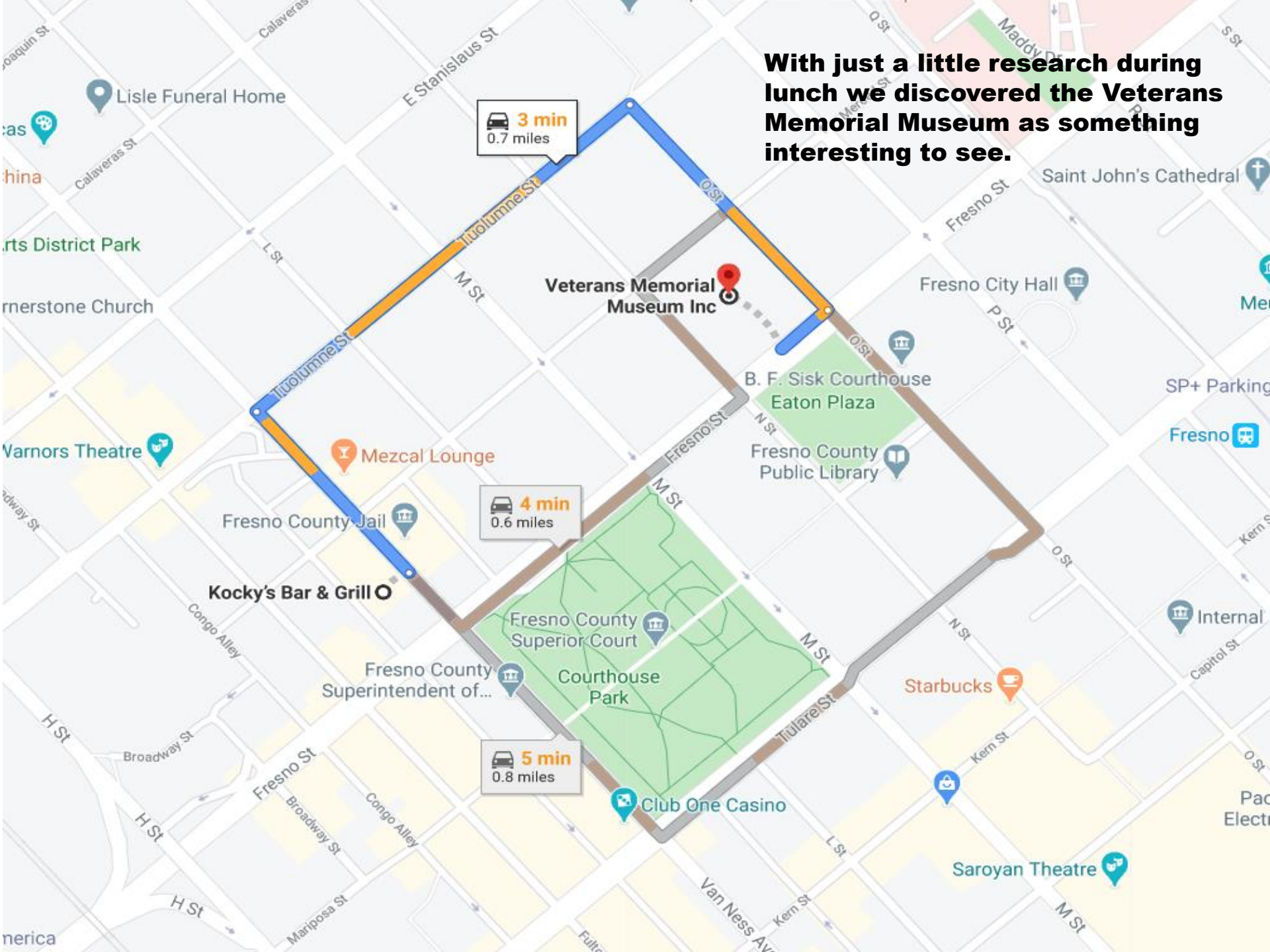
Lunch here was ok

FREE
WiFi



FREE
WiFi

With just a little research during lunch we discovered the Veterans Memorial Museum as something interesting to see.



3 min
0.7 miles

4 min
0.6 miles

5 min
0.8 miles

Veterans Memorial Museum Inc

Fresno City Hall

B. F. Sisk Courthouse
Eaton Plaza

Fresno County Public Library

Mezcal Lounge

Fresno County Jail

Kocky's Bar & Grill

Fresno County Superior Court

Fresno County Superintendent of...

Courthouse Park

Club One Casino

Starbucks

Saroyan Theatre



FRESNO MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM





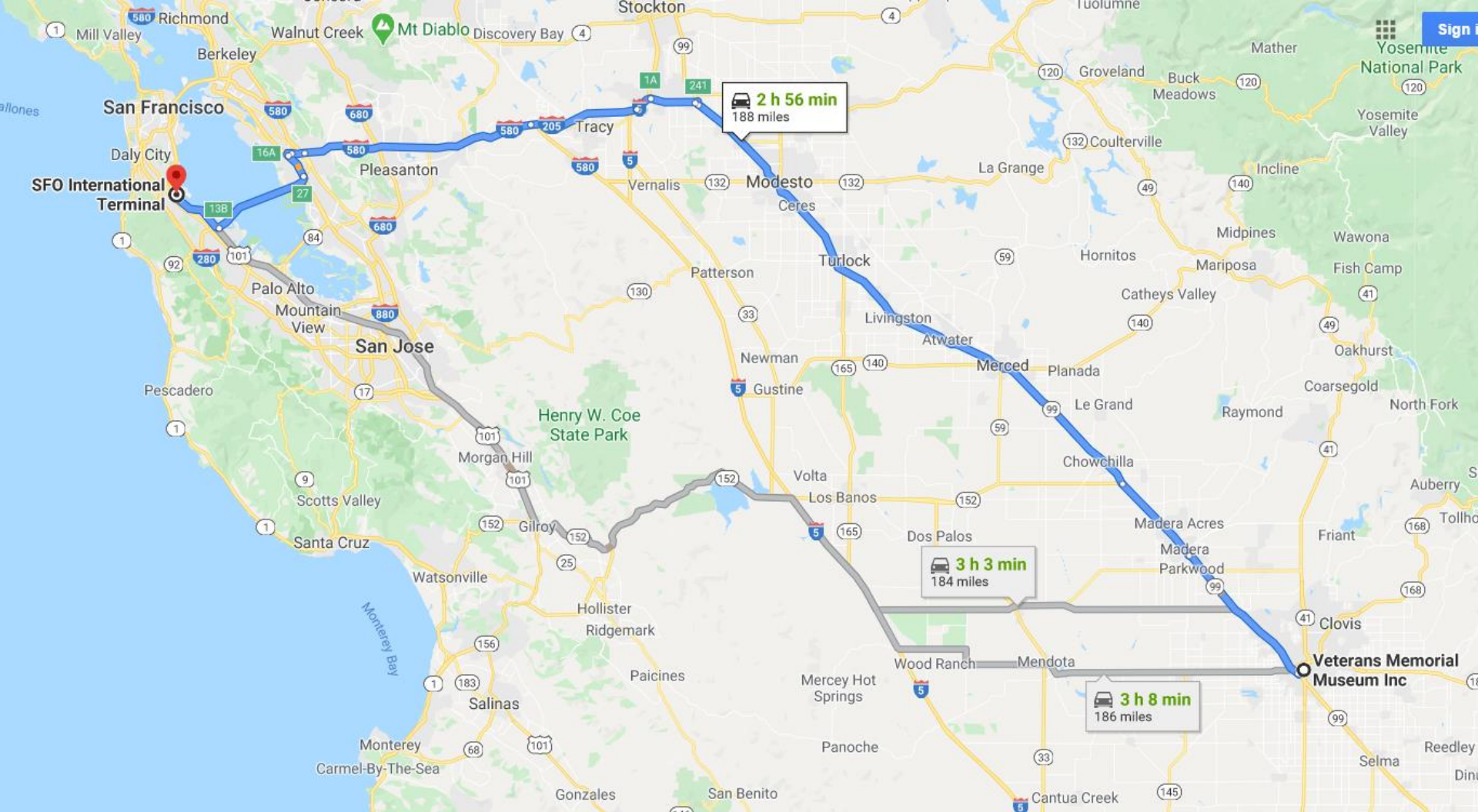
**Got here about 2p.
For some reason
beyond my
memory they were
closing today at
2:30. Short time
to go through**



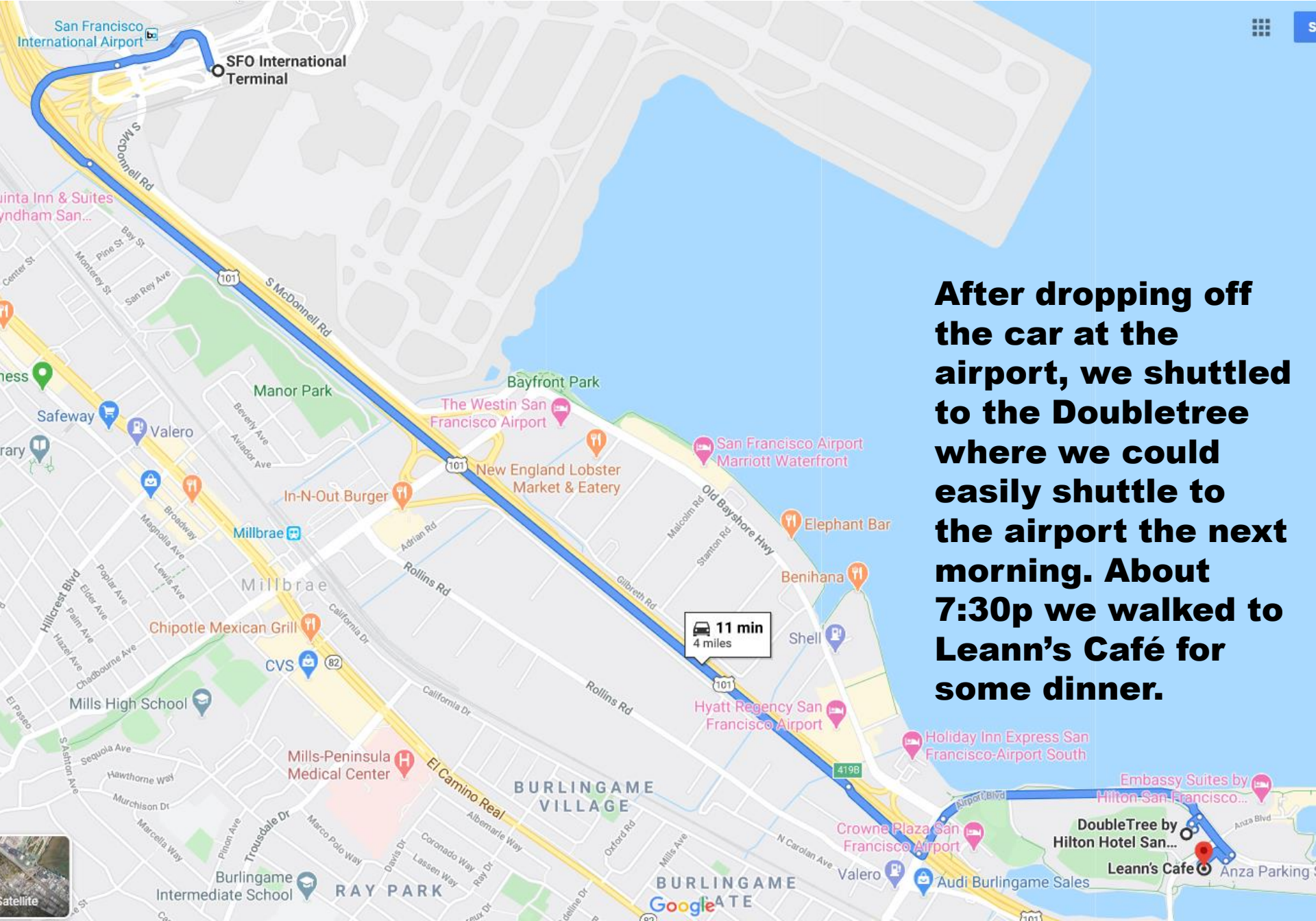


From the front steps of the museum





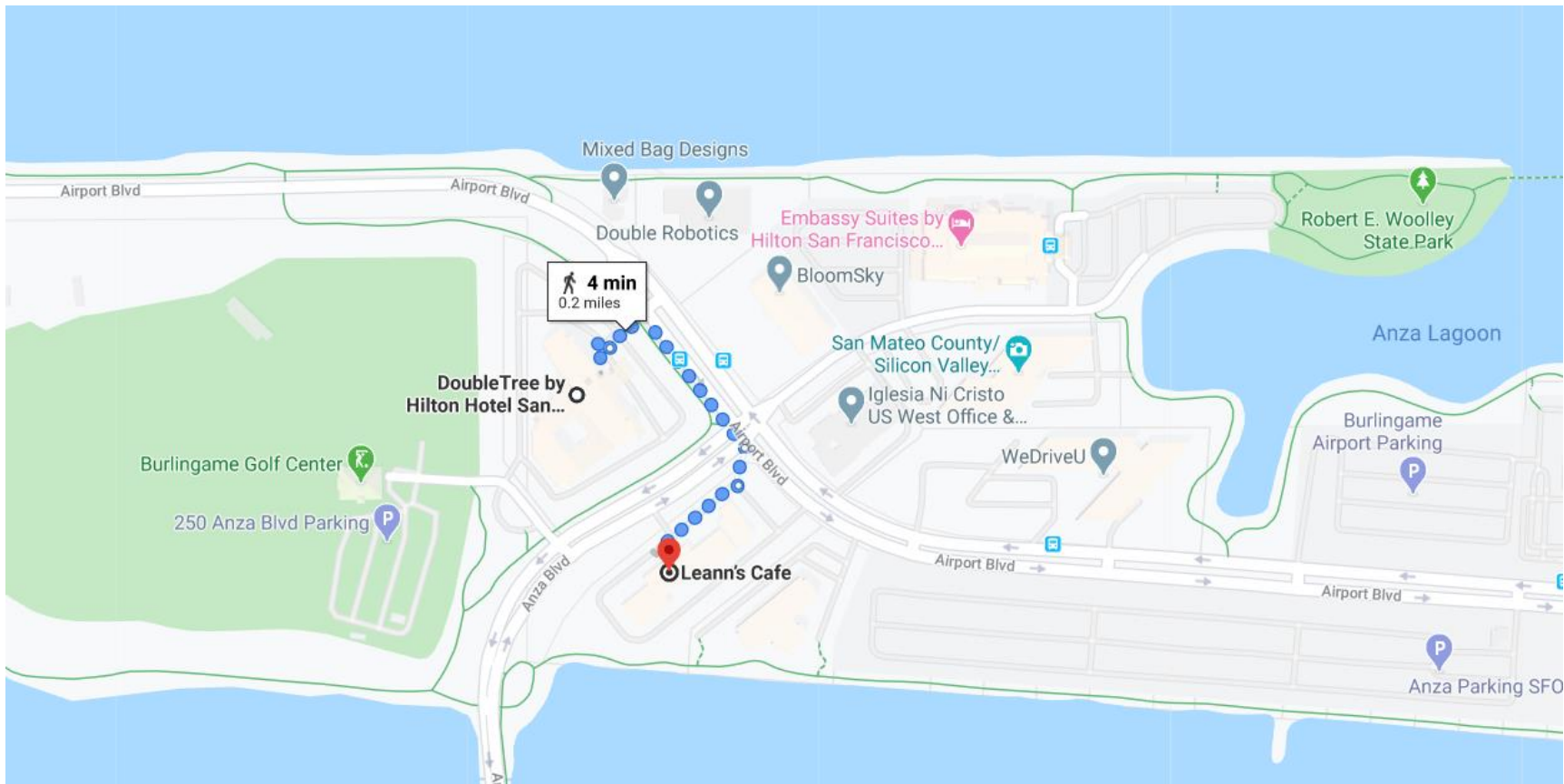
Next goal was to drop off the car at SFO airport getting ready for the trip back. Total of 916 miles driven on this trip.



After dropping off the car at the airport, we shuttled to the Doubletree where we could easily shuttle to the airport the next morning. About 7:30p we walked to Leann's Café for some dinner.



DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON



Mixed Bag Designs

Airport Blvd

Airport Blvd

Double Robotics

Embassy Suites by Hilton San Francisco...

Robert E. Woolley State Park

4 min
0.2 miles

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel San...

Burlingame Golf Center

250 Anza Blvd Parking

San Mateo County/Silicon Valley...

Iglesia Ni Cristo US West Office &...

WeDriveU

Anza Lagoon

Burlingame Airport Parking

Leann's Cafe

Airport Blvd

Anza Blvd

Airport Blvd

Anza Parking SFO

While having dinner we had a rather lengthy and detailed discussion about Chip & Joanna Gaines. Go figure. Then back to hotel bar for night cap.

Leann's **24**  *Café*
Breakfast . Lunch . Dinner


FAT TIRE

777
OPEN

Budweiser
GIANTS



Leann's 24hrs Cafe
Breakfast. Lunch. Dinner

**Day #6, 13 July 2019. Was
a beautiful morning to walk
back to Leann's for
breakfast before the flight
back.**

Other trips these guys have made





Great Lakes 2008



Euro 2010 (Little Circle)



Northeast 2009



Mid-Atlantic 2011



Scandinavia 2012 (Big Circle)



Out west road trip 2013



Oklahoma "trunk trip" Nov 2013



**Check the box
- a.k.a. Deep
South 2014**



50th state beer – Alaska 2014



San Diego 2015



Euro 2015





Euro 2016



Costa Rica 2017

Philadelphia 2018



And of course, 2002 and 2004 the car-lined banks of the Little Flora Creek in Egypt Mills (north of Cape Girardeau, MO)



And our new Wednesday night hangout: Copper Top Tavern





Marriage is like music
Both are playing different
instruments and different parts,
but as long as you're playing
from the same sheet of music,
you can create something
beautiful



Once again, thanks to our lovely wives for blessing our annual mancation adventures.

HMC

Productions

