



A Literature Lover's Guide to the Bay Area

Literary Sites Nearby:

- See map for San Francisco
- Jack London Square, Oakland
- 1624 Milvia Street (former residence of Allen Ginsberg) and 1943 Berkeley Way (former residence of Jack Kerouac), Berkeley

Books set in the Bay Area:

- *The Confessions of Max Tivoli* by Andrew Greer (2004)
- *McTeague* by Frank Norris (1899)
- *Carter Beats the Devil* by Glen Gold (1922)
- *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan (1989)
- *Valencia* Michelle Tea (1990)
- *You Can Say You Knew Me When* by K.M. Soehnlein (2005)
- *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius* by Dave Eggers (2000)
- *Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore* by Robin Sloan (2012)
- *Infinite City: A San Francisco Atlas* by Rebecca Solnit (2010)
- *Red Message* by Peter Abrahams (1986)
- *The Infinite Plan* by Isabel Allende (1991)
- *Berkeley's Best Buddhist Bookstore* by Charlene Anderson (2001)
- *Telegraph Avenue* by Michael Chabon (2012)
- *Martin Eden* by Jack London (1909)
- *Humpty Dumpty in Oakland* by Philip Dick (1960)

Best Bookstores in the Berkeley area:

- **Half-Price Books:** Located on Shattuck, Half-Price Books is a great place to find some secondhand texts.
- **Moe's Books:** Often called the last of Berkeley's great bookstores, Moe's is a Bay Area institution and a must-visit for any book aficionado.
- **Mrs. Dalloway's:** Home to an incredibly wide selection, Mrs. Dalloway's is a great place for newer releases.
- **Pegasus Books:** Pegasus has multiple locations in the area, but the Shattuck location in downtown Berkeley has store cats.
- **Walden Pond Bookstore, Diesel, a Bookstore, and Laurel Bookstore:** These three cozy independent bookstores are all located in Oakland, and come highly recommended if you want to venture a little further away from campus.

Looking for events?:

- Litquake.com: officially a literary festival for the Bay Area, Litquake's website has all sorts of literary events for you to attend.
- Bookstores like City Lights, Moe's, Pegasus, and Mrs. Dalloway's all host readings and workshops. Check their websites for upcoming events.
- San Francisco Art and Poetry Calendar, <http://www.sfheart.com/ArtPoetryEvents.html>
- Lunch Poems in Doe Library, <http://lunchpoems.berkeley.edu/>
- Story Hour in Doe Library, <http://storyhour.berkeley.edu/>
- Booksmith.com/shipwrecksf: every first Thursday of each month, six writers gather in The Booksmith in SF to create and share the worst fanfiction of notable novels in front of a dirty minded crowd.
- Baybookfest.org: takes places each year in downtown Berkeley, showcasing the best books, films, and writers.

Other fun sites:

- Try following Guy in Your MFA, Merriam-Webster, Joyce Carol Oates, the Poetry Foundation, and Electric Lit on Twitter.
- www.sfchronicle.com/theliterarycity/: This website has an interactive site with details about nearly every literary location in San Francisco.

San Francisco Walking Tour: 2 miles

1. 1 California Street: Hop right off the Embarcadero BART to visit a monument to poet Robert Frost. Although he loved writing about winding roads in deserted countryside woods, Frost was actually born and raised in San Francisco.
2. Transamerica Pyramid/Montgomery Block: It might be the financial hub now, but the Montgomery Block used to be home to a number of notable authors, including Robert Louis Stevenson, Jack London, and Mark Twain. It was on this street that Twain met someone named "Tom Sawyer" - a name he later borrowed. A plaque inside the Pyramid commemorates the history of the block and a tiny park next to it has a frog statue inspired by Twain, along a plaque commemorating two stray dogs, one of whom Twain wrote an obituary for.
3. Robert Louis Stevenson Monument: Portsmouth Square is home to a monument dedicated to the author of *Treasure Island* and *Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde*. Just across the street from Portsmouth Square is 19 Walter U Lim Place, home to San Francisco's first bookstore.

4. The Beat Generation: If you want to drink where the Beats drank, grab a seat at Vesuvio Cafe. Kerouac, Ginsberg, Cassady, and the
5. entire crew used to sit, drink, and talk here, forming a community that would become famous in literary history. Then, look next door to Jack Kerouac Alley, a tiny alley home to murals, quotes, and general commemoration of the literary world. On the other side of the alley is City Lights Bookstore. Perhaps best known as the publisher of *Howl*, City Lights is one of the most famous independent bookstores in the literary community. Take a moment to sit and read a book in the chairs upstairs in the poetry section, or check out their recent publications.
6. The Beat Museum: Once you've gotten your fill of haunting the Beats' haunts, try checking out the museum centered around them. It's small, but worth the visit.
7. Caffè Trieste: Only steps away from the Beat Museum is Caffè Trieste, a North Beach landmark, and where Francis Ford Coppola wrote most of the screenplay for *the Godfather*.
8. First Chinese Baptist Church: While not technically a literary landmark, this church is in name the same place where the ladies of the Joy Luck Club met.
9. Hotel Union Square: If you're a detective novel fan, chances are you've read something by Dashiell Hammett, another Bay Area writer. He wrote several of his books while staying at Hotel Union Square. Continue the detective work and stop by John's Grill. Hammett set several of his books in San Francisco. The most famous, *the Maltese Falcon*, visits John's Grill during the course of the novel. If you decide to finish here, the Powell Bart is a block over.
10. 490 Brannan Street: While this location is a bit out of the way, it might be worth the trek to see the birthplace of one of the Bay Area's most famous authors, Jack London. Going here will add 0.8 miles onto the walk one way, so you may want to hop on a bus.