

→ where next

Exploring the Bay Area's exciting surrounding regions

Marin County

Just a quick car, boat or bike ride north from San Francisco, three Marin County communities welcome guests with captivating coastal charm and small-town comforts. Whether you spend hours strolling the postcard-perfect streets of Sausalito, Mill Valley or Tiburon, or stop for lunch en route to Muir Woods, you'll find all the elements of a great getaway: scenic beauty, outdoor adventure, history, art, fresh fare and more. —By Renee Brincks

CULTURE View independent and international releases during the 36th Mill Valley Film Festival, happening October 3-13 throughout Marin County (*mvff.com*). After attending screenings and rubbing shoulders with stars, swing by Mill Valley's Sweetwater Music Hall for a live show (*sweetwatermusicall.com*). Or, take time to play at the family-friendly Bay Area Discovery Museum in Sausalito (*baykidsmuseum.org*).

RECREATION Marin's proximity to San Francisco makes it a natural choice for outdoor fun. Pedal across the Golden Gate Bridge to bike trails that trace the coast. For splendid landscapes, hike Rodeo Beach or Mount Tamalpais (*Mt. Tam to the locals*). Explore by air with Sea-

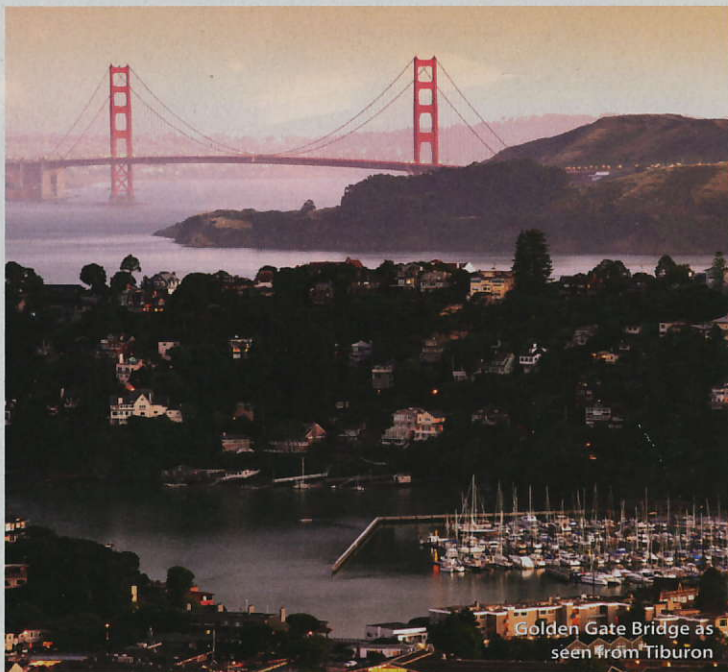
plane Adventures (*seaplane.com*) or, for an on-the-water experience, rent kayaks or stand up paddleboards from Sea Trek (*seatrek.com*).

DINING Sausalito's restaurant scene features recent waterfront additions like Barrel House Tavern (*barrelhousetavern.com*) and the Trident. Once a favorite of famous rockers, it's been restored to its 1960s-era splendor (*thetridentsausalito.com*). Musician Sammy Hagar and celebrity chef Tyler Florence operate El Paseo over in Mill Valley, serving guests in a stylishly renovated 1940s steakhouse. Craving fresh seafood? Ferry to Sam's Anchor Cafe in Tiburon (*samscafe.com*), or snag a patio seat at Sausalito stand-

bys Fish (*331fish.com*) or Salito's (*salitoscrahouse.com*).

SHOPPING Sausalito's shopping district promises everything from keepsakes to clothing to art. Look to Heath Ceramics for a slice of California style (*heathceramics.com*). In Mill Valley, buzz-worthy boutiques such as The Store (*thestoremillvalley.com*) and Summer House (*summerhouse57millvalley.com*) carry designer clothing and creative home accessories. Try Tiburon's retailers for books, jewelry and the latest by area artists.

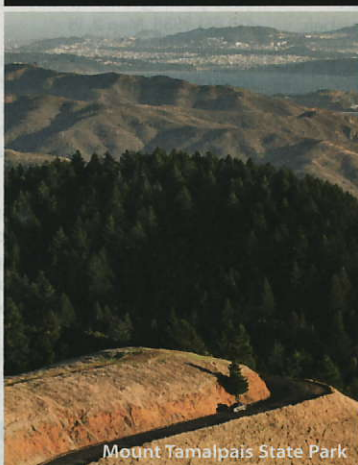
GETTING THERE From San Francisco, head north on Highway 101, board a ferry (most depart from the Ferry Building or Pier 41) or bike up and ferry back.



Golden Gate Bridge as seen from Tiburon



Barrel House Tavern



Mount Tamalpais State Park



The Trident

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: ©DELLA HUFF/ALAMY; ©TOKI CAVENERZ; ©THE TRIDENT; ©MARTIN BEEBEE/ALAMY