SUNSHINE TRAILS

ADVENTURING WITH AC TRANSIT ON SIGHT-SEEING TOURS OF DISCOVERY

ALAMEDA-CONTRA COSTA TRANSIT DISTRICT
TRANSIT INFORMATION—653-3535
With this booklet as your key to adventure, AC Transit invites you to park your cares and ride the “Sunshine Trails” to places that give the East Bay charm, interest, amusement — and atmosphere.

We want you to savor the fun of discovery, to relax in the sun, wander through the hills and look down on the Bay. We want you to see the many views, considered among the most spectacular in the world. You can bask in imagination, enter the world of enchantment, discover the East Bay rightfully wears a fragrant crown for its gardens and has achieved national recognition for its range of architectural accomplishment.

The accompanying tours are recommended as transit excursions — comfortable and unharrassed. They involve different buses; a variety of routes and areas; a bit of walking and enough time to enjoy a sight-seeing holiday.

They have been selected with the help of park and recreation experts; municipal officials; a special committee from the East Bay chapter of the American Institute of Architects; and residents who have made their own sight-seeing “finds.”

Though most lines operate throughout the week, some buses do not run on weekends. To facilitate your trip between East Bay points and San Francisco, we suggest checking ahead of time with Transit Information on schedules and transfer connections. You can reach Transit Information with these toll-free numbers: Oakland, 653-3535; Hayward, 582-3035; Richmond, 232-5665; and San Francisco, 434-4334.

The “Sunday and Holiday Excursion Fun Pass” provides a bargain. It sells for 60 cents and allows unlimited travel anywhere in the East Bay on the date of purchase. The pass may be purchased from any bus operator.

Regular fares are 25 cents cash or 20 cents token in the central zone, with added charges as travel extends into outer areas. Youngsters five through 16 may ride anywhere in the East Bay at 10 cents a trip, and at reduced rates between the East Bay and San Francisco. Children under five travel free when accompanied by an adult.

Now — relax, have fun — and a happy trip!

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Churches on the Mount

When Joaquin Miller, the “poet of the Sierras,” discovered the view of San Francisco Bay from the Oakland hills, he chose a homesite, named it “The Hights” and embarked on a vast tree planting project that was to become the spectacular woodland which now bears his name.

And still today, as a sculptured figure mounted on horseback above the “Abbey,” Joaquin Miller rises above one of the most overpowering outlooks of the area.

Two churches, each separate and different, have risen below his park to add new magnificence to the most magnificent of locations. Both offer soul-filling beauty.

The Greek Orthodox Church of the Ascension already is a pilgrimage for visitors, as well as an inspiration to the Hellenic community it serves. With the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints as a neighbor, adding its spires to the same area on Lincoln Ave., south of Warren Freeway, the hillside has become a spiritual goal-cause for a rewarding visit.

The Mormon temple is closed forever except to its own members. But the public may well enjoy its external architecture, its rippling reflection pool and its unsurpassed view from a roof garden surrounding the main center spire — highest of five golden spires. An information bureau provides interesting facts for public viewers.

The Greek church, with the same sweeping view of the Bay area, has an aesthetic perfection that reflects an ancient religion and timeless art, modernly exemplified and executed.

Tours can be arranged by appointment to include an explanation of church symbolism, which has been expressed both outside and inside the structure. And there is specific meaning to the encircling atrium, to the groves of olive trees at each corner, and even to the paving itself, with the smooth portions outside representing the arms of the cross.

The dome, glittering and copper-sheathed, is topped by a cross on a gold base — with pieces of crystal to catch the reflected sun. It’s an inspiring sight, matched in turn by the glittering city below with its ribbon of estuary and wider band of bay waters, spread out beyond the parapet.

Structure and light changes as the church is entered signify a separation between outer and inner worlds. Religious mosaics, executed in the Byzantine manner of the 5th and 11th centuries, will add a glow to the darkened vestibules as you enter.

The church itself has flawless splendor. On the golden dome are the figures of the 12 Apostles and Christ. The icons, influenced by master Byzantine painters, glow elusively in changing light. Crowning the marble and mosaic altar is a tabernacle of crystal, marble and pearls. There is beauty here for all visitors.

The church is open to visitors 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Line 15A (Skyline Blvd.) provides 30 minute service on weekdays.

Spires and Cross Against the Sky

Sharing architectural fame with the churches on the “mount,” but as one of Oakland’s smallest, is the Trinity Episcopal Church at 29th St. and Telegraph Ave. The structure is noteworthy as an outstanding example of Gothic revival wooden church architecture.

Constructed in 1890 when Telegraph was a boulevard of spacious country homes, the red-painted and red-carpeted church, with its original fruit trees and iron railings, remains as an unchanged testament of “village” days. It’s served by Lines 40 (Telegraph) and 43 (Shattuck).
Old Spanish Garden at Casa Peralta

VIVAN LOS PERALTA

San Leandro has made so much "hay" since its agricultural beginning — as a booming residential and industrial center — it becomes a special game to uncover touches of Spanish beginnings, a few remaining historical sites, and bits of lovely, unchanged countryside.

There still are abundant gardens — and the flower nurseries where nature's bounty is big business. There are industries to visit and recreation to enjoy. There is awareness that if active sun-blessed southern Alameda County doesn't now "have it" — it soon will.

There also is an active Chamber of Commerce to arrange special visits to commercial and industrial points of interest.

But for a feeling of discovery, you might start with the past — with the Spanish era formally dedicated in 1820 when Don Luis Peralta and two of his sons marked the boundary of their 46,800 acre grant by placing colored stones in a cave on the bank of San Leandro Creek.

Remaining from the Peralta period is the privately owned Alta Mira Club at 561 Lafayette Ave., San Leandro, residence of Ignacio Peralta, son of Don Luis. Although marked as a State historical monument, it is not open to the public — and its front parlors, with original furnishings, are to be imagined rather than seen. (Take Lines 80, 81, 81-A, 82, get off on East 14th St. at Dutton, walk one block west to Lafayette. Same lines will serve other San Leandro sites.

Near the City Hall, where East 14th crosses San Leandro Creek at Hays St., is Root Park. Here a statue pays tribute to the Portuguese immigrants who left whaling ships to establish a dairy indus-
For an island where seamanship always has been an important way of life, Alameda somehow has managed to retain a relaxed air of pleasant, tree-shaded living.

Somehow you don't hurry in Alameda, and somehow you identify the city with recreation, probably because it was one of the first California cities to have a recreation program.

For one thing, Alameda has water — all around. South Shore, accessible by bus, offers a warm beach and warm water for paddling. The kids can splash around safely in minute-sized waves while you can lie on the sand.

Something new has been added to the beach — a form of ankle-deep water skidding which involves tossing skid boards in the water, taking a running leap and sliding as much as 50 feet.

But before you consider the charms of sea and sand, a noted Alameda ingredient, why not go back a bit and look at the tree-lined streets, older homes — every one a different style — and the "Gold Coast" area which gave Alameda its original elegance.

Once a city of estates and prominent residents, Alameda still has this pleasant graciousness.

Take Lines 51 or 58, transfer at Webster and Santa Clara to Line 64 (or transfer to Line 64 on 23rd Ave. in East Oakland before it crosses the Park St. bridge). Get off at Caroline St., Bay St., Morton St. or Grand St. and walk toward the bay.

This is another world, where trees meet overhead, where homes and gardens are spacious. At the end of each shaded street you come smack into Alameda's newer world, the modern lagoon living which has provided a touch of Newport Beach and taken away a waterfront from the older homes.

At Grand St., you can turn down to the South Shore beach near a new large shopping center.

Mondays through Saturdays, incidentally, you can reach the South Shore direct by Line 63 to Willow St. and Shoreline Dr., a good idea if you have in tow youngsters, swimming equipment, lunch and something for shade. (From Lines 51 or 58, transfer to Line 63 at Park St. and Santa Clara Ave.)

The city has attractive parks. Although a new State park on the site of the old Neptune Beach has not yet been developed, the adjoining Washington Park has complete playground equipment, including a railroad locomotive to accommodate climbing youngsters. (Take Lines 51 or 58 to 8th St. and Santa Clara, walk two blocks south or take Line 64 to 9th and Central.)
TOWER TO THE SEA

From the tower to the sea has a nice sound. Yet the artist that beats in the heart of everyone has not often fluttered at the thought of the Oakland City Hall.

There it stands, the heart of the city, a towering wedding cake, visited only on business.

This time, consider the City Hall at 14th and Washington Sts. as a place to feel the heart beat of a city — to savor its splendor and some of its controversy. You’ll find loads of atmosphere from its plaza to the Estuary if you look for it.

Where else is it possible to proceed — by bus and foot — through such a variety. Start at the City Hall and roll through the latest in mall landscaping into an unmatchable Victorian area. Compare the splendor of new county buildings to a bit of Chinatown, a bit of the produce district to the eloquently developed Jack London Square, a water highway of busy shipping to sails against a sunset-painted Estuary.

At the City Hall, use the main entrance on Washington St. and enter through the revolving doors — they may be the last of their kind. Notice the “fruitful” motif on the outside, the elegance of the entrance and foyer. The design of the City Hall was the result of an international competition, and the cornerstone was laid in the presence of President Taft in 1911.
(Non-hikers can take Lines 42, 51 or 58, get off at 7th and Webster, walk east one block.)

Back on Broadway you can board Lines 11, 33, 34, 59 or 76, to ride past the new Hall of Justice, Probation Center, and Welfare Department buildings which have given both Oakland and lower Broadway an architectural uplift.

Peek at the fast-disappearing produce area, at restoration activities underway, at new buildings. And, at Jack London Square, leave your motor coach again for an area made for pleasant wandering, tinged with adventure.

It can't be surpassed on a warm, sunny afternoon - unless it's a warm sunny morning, depending on how you feel about sunsets. The square has much to admire including new yacht harbors where you can see both gentry and peasant craft.

Circle the entire area. Look at the landscaping, at restaurants where you can eat in most any language, at the Port of Oakland headquarters converted from an old warehouse. Don't miss the import shop and chandlery and, along the waterfront mall, the "First and Last Chance" saloon where Jack London spent his waterfront hours.

But keep at least one eye on the Estuary - never know when an ocean going freighter will silently glide by on her way to sea.

Save a good look for the Shipwrights' and Joiners headquarters at 115 Broadway. Oldest union west of the Rockies, the organization has a display dating back to gold rush days. (Lines 33 and 34 do not operate to the Square on Saturdays, and on Sunday settle for Line 11.)

**FISH AND SHIPS**

With clean water in the Bay and striped bass flipping around like mad - not to mention other monsters of the deep - there are at least two developed marinas in the East Bay where an expedition can pay off in the type of fishing that brings out parents and youngsters.

Even if you don't catch anything, both spots offer the chance to enter the world of boats. It's sure relaxing to watch weekend sailors at the usual task of working on their craft.

The Berkeley fishing pier, always a favorite, presents enough possibilities to make the walk worth while from the end of Line 51 at the Southern Pacific depot. There's a novelty, besides, in crossing the tracks, walking under the freeway ramp to reach stairs and a walkway that takes you over the whizzing Eastshore Freeway.

Of course, the stripers aren't always biting. But rod holders can expect to pull in bullheads and shiners and, at times, perch and flounders. Sometimes they come bigger, like a 208-pound sturgeon, sharks, stingrays. They even tell of a "snake-headed eel" at the bait and marine-shop, which has everything from sardines for bait to old anchors. It also has a parrot, nice spot for chatting.

At the nearby Berkeley Yacht Harbor are the yachts - little and big. And around 4 p.m. daily are the party boats, returning with catches.

In another direction, the San Leandro Marina has a free family fishing pier and a lot of activity on the part of pleasure boats, including water skiing. There's an office, rest room facilities, a series of regattas on schedule, a nearby nine hole, 29-par golf course, along with enthusiastic fishermen. Upcoming is the spectacular restaurant "Landmark." Take Line 55 weekdays and Saturdays to Marina Ave. and Aurora Dr. for the half-mile walk to the Marina.
You already must know that Children's Fairyland in Lakeside Park is a place of real enchantment — for it's impossible, isn't it, not to be happy in Fairyland?

Youngsters won't question the magic. It's the place where everything, far beyond dreams, comes true.

Adults may wonder at the imagination, the creative ability, and the perfection. But it shows what grown-up people can do when they put their mind to it. (Might help to pull the dragon's tongue — maybe you, too, can be a genius.)

This is always a star-spangled goal for an AC Transit bus tour, and for any age. New ideas are added each year, and no matter how many times you have visited Fairyland it's a "glad" visit. If it's a first trip, it must be blissful. Remember — lone adults are welcome, as well as children.

Childhood stories spring to life with a flair. At Hey Diddle Diddle, real baby calves nibble away while a cow (not so real) jumps over a moon. And a little dog laughs and a dish runs away with a spoon.

A Chinese tea house is perched, in the best of all possible places, 30 feet up in a tree. The youngsters will have no trouble in climbing the ramp and sliding down, through the mouth of a dragon and over his humps.

A white fluffy donkey has been added to the Pinocchio set. The three little pigs are there, in the flesh. Cute, too. Just like the people, the animals at Fairyland seem to take on a happy disposition. The goats — Billie Goats Gruff, of course — like to be scratched. Sometimes there's even a little spotted Bambi, anxious to nuzzle spectators — and escape the butting goats.

Mary's Little Lamb isn't always so little, but it (or they) will most certainly be willing to follow, in optimistic belief, apparently, that from those on the other side of the fence come all good things.

There's special events to remember, including free puppet shows at 11 a.m., 2 and 4 p.m. Pogo, the clown, is about everywhere, but with a special show of "fun and magic" at 11:20 a.m., 1 and 3—all in the puppet theatre.

On Saturdays at 1 p.m., youngsters can show their artistic reactions at free art sessions held by the Humpty Dumpty "poofs." Leave the results for display and they may win a prize. A little "wonder-go-around" of Alice in Wonderland figures provides a "merry-go-round" ride. The "Jolly Trolly" is the other "must" for a choo-choo whish in and out of the grounds.

You'll find sea lions performing for bits of fish. On Sundays at 1 and 3 p.m. you'll even hear a child organist playing on a specially built child-size organ in the little Chapel of Peace.

Fairyland is open 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., March through December. During summer school vacation, it's open 7 days a week, otherwise Wednesdays through Sundays.

To find Fairyland — and we can all wish that other dreams were as easy — take transbay Line B or local Lines 12 or 18 (and Line 34 Express on weekdays) to Grand Ave. and Park View Terrace. Admission is 15 cents for children and 35 cents for adults.

‘Escape’ by Cardman Maze
The University of California isn't only for students and the advancement of knowledge. It belongs to you — and you can enjoy its exhibits, a historical spot or two and the chance to think "collegiate" — although this may require a sort of bearded look. Even Ludwig, the dog, who takes his daily bath in the fountain by Sather Gate has it — and why not?

You'll probably find that Sunday, though, is the best day for a visit. You can picnic on the grass, and you can enjoy the campus look from the ground, the roof-top of the Student Union and at tip-top level from the Campanile.

Many of the exhibits are open on Sunday — as many probably as you want to sample in one day. The campus is exhilarating, though, at any time. Besides, it's educational.

A number of buses serve the campus, but for one approach, take Lines 51 or 58 to Bancroft Way and College Ave. You'll be right at Kroeber Hall. It has the totem pole outside. Inside it houses the Lowe Museum of Anthropology, open 1 to 5 p.m., except on Monday. It also has the Worth Ryder gallery, with displays of contemporary art works by students and faculty.

If you continue down Bancroft to Telegraph, you reach the traditional Sather Gate entrance. On the left is Student Union. Look at art displays in the lobby, rest in the lounge, and take the elevator to the roof garden for a surprising roof-top view. The building opens at 8 a.m. (noon time on Sunday). Available here is information to help you find your way around.

At Sather Gate, take a right turn to the art gallery, open 12 noon to 6 p.m. daily during exhibitions. From there, walk north and skirt South Hall. It dates from 1873 and is the university’s oldest building. You can't miss Sather Tower — popularly called the "Campanile." Visitors can ride to the top any day except holidays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 to 5 p.m. for a 10 cent fee — and it's worth it. Beyond the tower, across the way, is Bancroft Library, where you can see the famous Drake plate and other historic documents. The library is open during school hours and 1 to 5 p.m. Sundays.

Keep north, jog to the left a bit after passing the wooden buildings and you'll find the Earth Sciences building near North Gate. It has paleontology exhibits on the ground, 1st and 2nd floors, a seismograph writer on 1st floor, rock collection on the 3rd and map collection on the 5th. The building is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except on Sundays when it opens at noon. From here, you can leave by North Gate to pick up a Line 7 bus on Hearst Ave.

If you are real "walkable," however, detour up through the campus to the Greek Theatre — one of the most unusual meeting places in the nation. Or plan this for another visit.

A highlight of any tour of the campus is a hike to the little known botanical gardens at the head of Strawberry Canyon, a beautiful walk of about two miles from the Greek Theatre, along the upper side of the stadium, out North Canyon Rd., past Stern pool and recreational areas.

Dating from 1892, the gardens have collections of succulents, Central and South American and South African plants. It also has a few picnic tables, shaded walks, natural and landscaped beauty.
Hidden Cove at Point Richmond

Shoreline Art and Adventure

If you think of Richmond only in terms of oil refineries and industries—which it has—or as the ship-riveting boom town of war years—which it was—you’re in for discoveries.

At Point Richmond, where the city had its beginning, there’s a free-thinking variety of old and new—of art, curio shops, lace curtains, unexpected views, waves lapping the shoreline, contemporary homes, old-fashioned homes—an intriguing section with its own individuality.

All during the years, it remained an “old town,” with its square, Victorian firehouse, lamented drinking fountain and swimming plunge until SOMEBODY discovered that over the hill were views, a beach-front, protected weather.

To make your own discovery, ride transbay Line L or local Line 72 to the terminal. Walk around a bit; remember the Baltic with its tinkling piano and song for your return, along with the old-time Hotel Mac. Walk past the Richmond plunge, through a short tunnel (not the one used by trains) and you’ll emerge smack into a view of the Bay. Take the first road on your right and walk as far as you can. Eventually, you’ll find Washington Ave. and you can hike up over the hill and down again to the square and bus stop—one to two miles in all.

Or back track through the tunnel if the hill is too much. It’s worth every step.

You can see the “top of the world” from a new vantage point by combining a bus ride with a hiking expedition into the Charles Lee Tilden Regional Park.

Start your trip with pack lunch, walking shoes and bus Line 67 to Spruce St. and Grizzly Peak Blvd., to approach the park via the Spruce St. gate.

The surprising thing about this trip is to discover the park is there in the first place—a rare semi-wilderness, in the midst of a dense metropolitan area, with miles of hiking paths, a parkland of natural countryside spread along the hills.

If you walk its ups and downs, you’ll find nature’s payment—the many things you miss riding by. It may be animal tracks, wildflowers, the smell of eucalyptus or pine.

Here and there you will find facilities for other outdoor activities. And what a range—from pony rides to cricket matches!

From the Spruce St. gate, it’s an easy walk downhill to the pony and tractor rides, tennis courts, trout fishing pond, sports field, picnic facilities, nature area and farm, and a nature museum.

If you want to hike a little further, up the main road is the merry-go-round which is a very old, very famous, lovely and swift merry-go-round—the pride of a family of merry-go-rounders. The hand-carved horses are works of art.

Ready to cool off? Continue your hike to the “rehabilitated” Lake Anza, where you’ll be able to swim and sun-bathe in a mountain setting.

Another of the East Bay Regional Parks, Lake Temescal, also has more room than ever for swimming and beach loafing. It can be reached easily via Line 59 (Broadway Terrace) weekdays and Saturdays. Sunday take Line 76 to Florence and Broadway Terrace for short walk to lake.
Suppose you’re a seasoned traveler, a longtime resident, or else a new one just developing your venturous wings. Because it’s so obvious, you might not know the end of the rainbow can be as close as your own backyard — at Lake Merritt and Lakeside Park.

It’s hard to pick a favorite first destination, but one of the most popular on Sunday is at Edoff Memorial Bandstand. The 2:30 p.m. concerts are a tradition to enjoy and, surprisingly, a favorite with the children who can march to the music or climb on “The Thing” at nearby Bandstand Cove.

The adjoining Lakeside Park Garden Center has a small, but lovely Japanese Garden tucked away at the rear, plus a lath-house and greenhouse complex and gardens everywhere. It’s an interest-consuming spot for anyone who has tried to grow things, with or without a green thumb. Succulent and cactus displays, fuchsias, tuberous begonias and dahlias will tingle your admiration in summer months. Later the chrysanthemums put on their show, until December, then the flowers that bloom in the Spring. And it looks so easy!

As for the birds and the bees, walk through the gardens and you will be at the nation’s first State game refuge, established in 1870. You might know it better as the duck-feeding area and the Rotary Natural Science Center.

Try to make this spot in time for the 3:30 p.m. talk by a park naturalist, followed by a tour of the Junior Zoo. Never know what you’ll see, either on the wing or in cage apartments.

For younger visitors, the fanciful Kiwanis Kiddie Korner playground with its seahorse swings and play sculpture is nearby. And you can’t miss — unless you are resistant to rolling eyes and curly eyelashes — the huffing, puffing “Lakeside Lark” which provides a happy, rolling ride between the duck feeding area and Fairyland. (See Pages 14 and 15.)

If it’s vacation time and you want to take advantage of a favorite excursion, you can wrap this outing up in a bus and boat package. The bus takes you to the park and the excursion boats, with stop-over privileges, chug around the lake to different points of interest.

The boats, the “Cabrillo” and “Portola” run on half-hour schedules between 12 noon and 5 p.m. Departure and pickup points are at the main boat-house (take Lines 15 or A to Oak St.), the 12th St. dam, Athol Plaza, sailboat house, Bandstand Cove, Children’s Fairyland and Madison St. landing. To start your trip by bus from the duck-feeding area, take transbay Line B or local Lines 12 or 18 to Perkins and Grand. On weekdays, include Line 34 express.

Peralta Playland, at east end of Auditorium area, has the Oakland Acorn train ride, merry-go-round, ferris wheel, other rides and “Bulgy, the Whale.” Take boat to 12th St. landing or us bus Lines 14, 15, 18, 40, 41, 43, 80, 81, 82, 83 or A to auditorium stop.
IN CASTRO'S FOOTSTEPS

In Hayward, you can find a band of countryside as it was in Spanish times, by visiting Hayward Memorial Park, located on busy Mission Blvd., next to the Hayward Plunge.

Near the street entrance at Mission and Pinedale you'll find unusual park attractions, tennis courts, two play-grounds, and a small but interesting collection of animals. You'll also find a historically important site.

The buckeye tree in front of the refreshment stand, marked by a plaque, served as a survey mark 124 years ago to designate a corner of the vast Spanish grant given to Guillermo Castro. The cities of Hayward, Castro Valley and fringes have obliterated every trace of the original rancho, but the tree still stands as it once did at the foot of small, meandering Sulphur Creek, pointing the way up the canyon to sulphur springs.

It might be fun, as you walk along the banks, to consider the contrast — a quiet unchanged park strip where Castro and first settlers walked, and, a few feet away, one of the busiest thoroughfares in the entire area. (To reach the park, take local Line 82 [East 14th St.] or transbay Line R to Mission and Pinedale. On weekdays, visitors also can use Express Line 32 and local Line 91.)

ANCIENT DAYS OF MIZPAH

Always a city of individualism, Berkeley is especially beguiling north of the campus where brown-shingled culture contrasts pleasantly with "way-out" hill-hanging homes, informal gardens, sweeping views. This is the "Naples" of the East Bay — and standing on its own hilltop is the Pacific School of Religion at Scenic and LeConte Aves. (Take Line 7, get off at Euclid Ave. and LeConte, walk one short block westward.) This is the school's 100th anniversary.

This is a site of poetry, of special perception, of rare beauty. For a visitor, it also offers an opportunity to visit the Palestine Institute where time has been turned back to 3500 B.C. and where — if you need it — reality is given to people who lived in Bible times.

Look at the chapel on your left, surprising in its design. Walk around the campus to savor its completeness and its view. Under Benton Hall, incidentally, is the rock where Edward Rowland Sills, writer and an early University of California teacher (1874), sat to write his poetry. Through the far doors of the Gothic building on the north side is the Institute, open daily weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Weekend tours can be arranged.

The Institute contains artifacts excavated from the biblical city of Mizpah — and the words of the Bible take on reality as you look at cooking vessels, carbonized foods, a foot bath with its lava foot scrapers, the skeletal remains of a child of 5,000 years ago, simple saucer lamps with smokey scorch marks used 4,000 years ago to fight fear of darkness.

Nearby is the Howell Bible Room with a rare collection of Bibles, exhibited at the Golden Gate International Exposition in 1939-40 and now a valued resource of the school.

Christianity on the Berkeley Hills
Swimming and Fiestas

There's little left now to mark the role played by Don Luis Peralta, a grandee who gave much of the East Bay its Spanish background.

Don Luis would have been hard pressed to ride, in one day, over his Rancho San Antonio which lay between the crest of the hills and the Bay, and included today's cities of Albany, Berkeley, Alameda, Oakland, Piedmont and San Leandro. Buses make the trip in a matter of minutes — but you can capture an inkling of Don Luis' world if you take your imagination and enjoy the kind of an outing he would have enjoyed, on the same ground he knew in the early 1800's.

A creek-side stopping place is Dimond Park which has almost as much history as it has natural and planned beauty — along with excellent facilities for a family gathering among its giant oaks and Monterey pines.

Dimond Park, with its main entrance on Fruitvale Ave. and Lyman Rd. in East Oakland, actually is a long, woodsy arm of Joaquin Miller Park. Sausal Creek remains, and, in the upper park area, by the recreation department building, you can see the creek in its own "live" setting — instead of in a pipe or cemented enclosure.

If you take the Fruitvale line (No. 53) to the main entrance, you'll note that the park acreage was purchased by the city from a latter pioneer, Hugh Dimond, who planted the towering pine trees in 1893. Walk through the avenue of pines and you come to a building originally made from adobe bricks from the home of Don Antonio Peralta, son of Don Luis. A wall and a stone doorway remain; the rest of the bricks, with a protective covering, encircle the park's oldest oak, a veteran of 150 years. The bell on display was used in a car barn in 1893, then by the Dimond volunteer fire department. The steps to it remain from the carriage entrance to the Dimond home.

More active family members by this time will have discovered wonderful lawn areas and picnic facilities, tennis courts, a swimming pool and, beyond the pool, the recreation building and playground. Natural areas leave lots of room for hillside hiking. Easy access also is provided by buses on MacArthur, a short walk away.

In the Peralta mood, you might want to stop at San Antonio Park at Foothill Blvd. and 16th Ave. Originally used for bull-fights and rodeos in the days of the Peraltas, it was Oakland's first "public ground," established in 1854 and known as "Independence Square." The lookout at the top of the park — the pride of the early town of Brooklyn, offered a clear view of sailing ships and the first ferries, making their way up San Antonio Creek — today's Estuary. The scenery has changed, but it's still a view which dabbles its toes in the past. The park is reached by the Foothill lines (Nos. 40, 41, 43.)

In another direction, Mosswood Park at Broadway and MacArthur offers an excellent Junior Center of Art and Science. It's served daily by the college Ave. lines (Nos 51 and 58) and MacArthur Blvd. line (No. 57).
AN AGE OF OPULENCE

There’s hardly a more traditional or pleasant place to start — or end — a sight-seeing expedition than at the Hotel Claremont in the Oakland-Berkeley hills.

Termed an “architectural explosion of 1914,” it erupted in time to capture fashionable crowds from the 1915 Panama-Pacific Exposition and the hotel has been capturing visitors and residents since — some dating back to originals.

Much re-decorated, re-landscaped, re-modernized, it remains an important landmark, dominating a neighborhood of wealthy homes, a center of old and new, of uncertain architecture, but with its own personality. It has shops, terraces for views and sitting, and a happy relaxed feeling.

The hotel is served directly by transbay Line E-Claremont Ave., daily and by Line 74-Ashby Ave. Monday through Saturday. But if you want to expand into further exploration, you might think of the Claremont as a place for a weekday breakfast and a walk — almost into yesterday.

The breakfast must be leisurely, of course. Then saunter through the gardens and past the ponds and pools — for swimmers and trout.

At Claremont Blvd. and Russell St., turn right through the iron gates which gave elegance to the Claremont Court tract when it was subdivided from the Ballard Gardens. They enclose an especially beautiful area of spacious homes and gardens and somehow, seem to have kept the world outside.

Continue along and you’ll be on Belrose Ave. At the corner of Derby St. (2700 Belrose) is one of the better known designs of Bernard Maybeck, who in his span — 1862 to 1957 — became one of the most interesting and influential architects in the West.

With typical joyous flair, he designed the structure as a school, with a collection of steep roofed pavilions turned at angles to each other. The same pitch is repeated in the gate structure. The building is now a private residence.

Turn towards the Bay and walk down past the California Schools for the Deaf and Blind — separated into two parts as a precautionary measure after a fire in 1875. At Warring and Parker Sts., board Line 65 (ask for a transfer) and ride to Haste and Bowditch St. Walk one block south to Dwight Way and the First Church of Christ Scientist, one of the best of Maybeck.

The edifice is remarkable for its imaginative use of materials new to the building industry in 1910, united with redwood to produce a building of incomparable artistry. You’ll find it’s “right” from every angle. Enjoy the colonnade, the roof lines, and other uncountable Maybeck touches.

On another day, a Sunday, return to view the inside on a special church tour, 12 to 1 p.m. (Take Line 51 or 58 on College Ave., get off at Dwight Way and walk west one block.)

But today, return to College Ave. and use your transfer to take Line 51 to Bancroft Ave. and Ellsworth St. Along the way enjoy views of the University of California campus, new resident halls, other university buildings (they never stop).

At Bancroft and Ellsworth, walk one block south to Durant to admire the genius of Julia Morgan, associate of Maybeck, whose use of the Romanesque-Gothic castle-like mood is exemplified at the Berkeley Women’s City Club, 2315 Durant. At the city club you can enjoy the same lavish detail of an old world medieval palace that was to win her everlasting fame as the designer of Hearst Castle at San Simeon.

Artistry of Bernard Maybeck
A BIT OF FUN AND CULTURE

Now for Art with culture and kids, the four-footed and two-footed kinds. If this is to be a Richmond outing with youngsters or one where you want to dilute culture with activity, start with Nicholl Park at 30th and Macdonald. (Lines 72M or L).

The park has everything — from kids to kids — for everyone in the family. There's a miniature farm and a big play area, exceptional in that it has enough slides (five) and other equipment to please multitudes. The animals grow up and change, but they all seem to like children — and something to eat. Remember to bring snacks for them, and for your own family.

The park has aviaries, golf putting green, lawn bowling, newly-lighted tennis courts, baseball diamonds, football fields, picnic facilities. Add them together and you have a simple, uncomplicated, inexpensive fun-together time.

As to art, it's a short walk from the park to the Civic Center at 25th and Macdonald, a handsome and well-planned complex of buildings. The city offices, library and art center are outstanding. Might also note the view under the City Hall from Barrett to Nevin.

On the far left is the Art Center, small, but with galleries, workshops and a schedule of tip-top shows.

Scheduled exhibitions include the best from Bay area colleges and universities, sculpture and drawings, contemporary toys and ceramics, annual painting competition, and religious art. The galleries are open weekdays 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday nights, and Sundays from 2 to 5 p.m.

To top off the day, if it's Sunday and sometime between 2 and 5 p.m., board Lines 72 or L to ride to Macdonald and Fourth St., and walk one block to Nevin Ave. Richmond's new museum is open in the old library building at the corner.

The museum includes, among other things, a sparkling 1931 Model A Ford — the first one to roll off the assembly line when the Ford plant was located in Richmond.

A memorial to volunteer efforts, the museum also includes transportation exhibits, an old-fashioned kitchen, an antiques room, a variety of collections, and a warm welcome.

If you want to add a spot of shopping on your return, it's worth an extra token to stop at the new El Cerrito Co-op Shopping Center. In an area of outstanding shopping centers, it's considered unusual for its hexagon treatment. The buildings have six sides, come to a tent-like point and feature a new type of lighting. You can pay a visit by getting off Line 72M at San Pablo Ave. and Hill St., walk a block toward the bay. Or look for it as you whiz by.

El Cerrito also has, at San Pablo and Fairmont Aves., the El Cerrito Plaza. It's on historical ground, site of the adobe hacienda of Don Victor Ramon Castro. The hacienda was destroyed by fire in 1956, halting a community debate on whether it could be an architectural compliments to the center. One of the Castro adobe bricks has been left behind as a marker in a glass case on a monument fronting Capwell’s department store.
A Giant in the Oakland Skyline

MONUMENT AGAINST THE SKY

If Oakland has a more interesting skyline these days, credit can be given to the arc-shaped Kaiser Center which stands up against the sky and stands out as a tourist attraction.

One of the West’s largest office buildings, the Center not only goes up 28 stories, it spreads out to include a five-level garage, roof garden and connecting buildings with shops and stores.

The view from the 28th floor of the office building is a gasp for any visitor, especially if you look down—way, way down.

To “do” the building, take one of the free conducted tours which leave the lobby information desk at 2 p.m. on weekdays. The tour, which takes 45 minutes, is topped off with the otherwise “off limits” lift to the 28th floor and birdseye view.

If you don’t want the pilot’s peek, you can enjoy the Center on your own, Monday through Saturday. Start with the building lobby and its shops. Take the escalator to the second floor and you will find excellent art exhibits, excellent dining facilities, and an excellent view over Lake Merritt. You’ll also see “Kaiserama,” a “world’s fair” of Kaiser Industries.

Open weekdays, 9 to 5, the exhibit hall utilizes video-audio techniques to illustrate amazing diversified activities of Kaiser Industries around the world.

After walking on a red carpet, like royalty, to look at the Lanai shops, cross over the bridge to the garage, take the first elevator on your left, and you’ll step into another wonderland — the roof garden. Shows what professionals can do!

To reach Kaiser Center, take the MacArthur Express (No. 34) on weekdays, Line 12—Grand Ave., Line 11—Oakland Ave. or transbay Line B.

As long as you’re there, look around the lake front to the Snow Museum of Natural Science at 19th and Harrison — a popular “jungle” which soon will be moved to a new museum complex. The result of trophies collected by the late Henry A. Snow while on African big game hunting expeditions, mixed with other collections, the museum is much beloved by children. It’s cluttered, different and fun. And if you want an educational tour or to arrange for a birthday party visit, just phone and make an appointment.

Around from Kaiser Center (other way now) on Harrison and 21st, save a look for the Buick showroom. Designed by noted architect Bernard Maybeck in 1928, it was one of the first buildings to be planned as a showroom for cars. And even with the march of time, the Maybeck touch is there, perhaps because he planned it from a boat in the lake, with consideration for its reflection as well as its structure.
Picnic at the Zoo

If you haven't seen the gibbons swing, the buffaloes stomp, and Effie, Oakland's own teen-aged elephant, do a joyful twist, you haven't seen anything yet.

This makes it time to pay a visit to Knowland State Arboretum and Park — and to enjoy a building zoo, that's beginning to swing in its own right, with a happy, creative flare.

Effie, now a grown-up elephant, remains the star at the park. But there's a new baby around, Kimi, who has given Effie a maternal personality as well as an adoring image, trying real hard to match an elephant bag of tricks.

If you need a bigger reason (than an elephant?) to plan a bus junket to the park, it's one of the few ideal places, close by, to have an old-fashioned picnic, with acres of lawn and pleasant out-of-doors. There you are, right in the middle of a city, with bus service to the gate and, on the other side, rolling countryside, dotted with unusual trees and carpeted in green.

To reach the park — and avoid traffic and parking problems — take Line 56 to Mountain Blvd. and Golf Links Rd. — and leave your troubles at home. San Francisco sun-lovers can take Line N and transfer to Line 56 at 90th Ave. and MacArthur Blvd. It's a short walk to the picnic and barbecue area, where youngsters can climb on "fantasy" sculpture, while mama does the honors at the table. From the picnic area, a walk up the ridge or the road leads to the entrance to the zoo.

Here, like frosting on the cake, the "Skyline Daylight" railroad toots into view on its skyhigh roadbed around the park. Pick a clear day and you can see Mt. Tamalpais and San Jose. What other zoo can make THAT statement?

The kids will discover other rides and the refreshment stand, so go prepared. Enter the zoo and you'll come face to face with the award-winning gibbon cage, where the free-wheeling acrobats of the ape world swing 40 feet at a whack.

Below, the elephant compound is a part of the India-Burma complex, which also includes a tiger, sun bear and python.

Primate cages, flamingo and penguin pools; an Australian set with wallaroos, deer, wild boar; a grove with buffalo, elk and deer, will lure you along. There's also llamas, mountain sheep and more deer—all happily integrated—and kiosks of birds to add a dollop of color.

Don't miss Effie's shimmy and other fetes of skill. She's a large-sized "ham," according to park attendants, and will perform anytime for applause. But she's on definite schedule at 2:30 and 4:30 daily during the summertime and on Sundays the year around.

In the making is another "must," a children's hold-it-yourself baby animal zoo—reason for another visit later on to the sun-dappled park.

'Effie' Takes a Bow
NEW LOOK AT MUSEUMS

Now that Oakland is going to have the art center it so long deserved, the time is here to make a pilgrimage to the civic center area west of Lake Merritt.

Especially, there’s the Alco-Park garage which you can look at, having arrived by a choice of Lines 14, 15, 18, 40, 43, 80, 81, 82, 83 or transbay Line A. The structure of nine spirals, bounded by 12th and 13th, Oak and Madison Sts., presents a startling sight, with the sun glittering on its caged automobiles, stuck like spokes in a futuristic wheel. On the top, incidently, is a heliport — whirling in action.

Even before you look at the exhibits in the Oakland Art Museum, at the west end of Oakland Auditorium — and that’s a fun jaunt — stop to watch work on the terraced building complex which will house Oakland’s three museums. Foundations are arising! While awaiting new quarters, the art museum will continue with its informal, relaxed atmosphere. For one thing, it has tables, coffee and cookies to rest the body while the spirit drinks in the environment. It has art in all forms, and very good art.

It isn’t TOO far to walk from here to the Oakland Public Museum at 14th and Oak Sts. on the shore of the lake. But if this is too much for all but the heartiest in aesthetic spirit, you can visit it another day — via Line 15 or transbay Line A. This museum, especially, represents a scene of long tradition, an era which may no longer exist when it becomes a “museum with facilities” instead of old fashioned rooms.

The museum took up “temporary quarters” in its old house in 1907 after one civic group was buying some stuffed birds and the mayor of the city was engaged in buying another collection. The two results were combined, and other collections added. A lot of the “assets” are stored away, but the exhibits are put up and taken down in a mansion that’s a museum in itself. Built in 1870, the house was the home of Josiah Stanford for many years and receptions for two presidents were held in its rooms.

It has colonial rooms on the ground floor, changing exhibits on Northwest Coast and Alaskan Indians, “black light” exhibits of shells and minerals on the top floor, plus intriguing displays in between. There are movies every Saturday at 2 p.m., and Sundays at 1 and 3 p.m. During the summer months, special movies for youngsters are held at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays.

As long as you’re in this area, don’t forget to pay a visit to the Keith gallery in the main public library at 14th and Oak. The gallery, which contains a fine collection of paintings of the early California landscape artist, is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and noon until 6 p.m. on Sunday.
Architects and Views

On a sunny, joyous sort of a day, when you want to wander and wonder and let the hills work their magic, add walking shoes to your mood (don't forget bus tokens) and plan a look at the world architecturally.

On this tour, if you climb a bit, you'll find some of the simple, shingled bungalows of Beriard Maybeck (there's more about the famous architect on pages 26 and 27). These are the homes of the style "Early Berkeley." Combined with them in the same area above Euclid Ave. along Buena Vista, are other outstanding designs, including some so modern they seem to hang on air.

Take Line 7 to Euclid Ave. and Buena Vista for a start. The Spanish tile and stucco double residence on the northeast corner has typical Maybeck touches in its Gothic detail and split gable roof. Walk up Buena Vista a block or so, enjoying the view on the way, and you'll come to a surprise - Greenwood Terrace.

Originally the grounds of the Gregory residence, designed by John Galen Howard in 1903 (it's at 1459 Greenwood Terrace, on the hill above), the roadway leads to Greenwood Common, a private community where the old and the new have been gloriously blended with a cooperative nature and the best of views. Remember this is private property, so walk nicely and peek carefully around the square, owned and landscaped in common. All of the houses are interesting. Among the "mostest" is No. 7 at the end. Designed by R. M. Schindler in 1932, it shows the cubistic quality which distinguishes his work.

Further up Buena Vista, above La Loma, is one of Maybeck's own homes (2701 Buena Vista). Its walls are made of burlap bags dipped in "bubble" concrete and hung on wire mesh — see what a free-thinker he was! Other Maybecks are at 2704 and 2733 Buena Vista.

The architect's name also has been given to Maybeck Twin Drive. For a contrast, detour around it to gulp at airborne homes and outlook.

Back on Buena Vista - all downhill now - you can make a decision at Euclid — whether to walk (or board Line 7 again) for the half-mile to the entrance of the Berkeley Rose Garden at BayView Place. If it's rose blooming time, you'll be wafted along by fragrance. The garden, with 2500 lush blooming roses — is terraced, with pergola, lily pool, waterfalls, rustic bridges, native shrubbery, rhododendrons — and that view again. Nice place to rest, too.

For more view, more gardens, more homes, board Line 7 again and relax while the bus winds around Grizzly Peak Blvd. loop. While still on Euclid, just before Marin Ave. (911 Euclid) try to look way up on the right side — the residence (two wings with a deck-like insert in the center) is a well-known contemporary achievement of architect Joseph Esherick.

Stay on the bus for the entire loop. It will cost another fare, but worth it. When you pay the second time, however, ask for a transfer and get off at Creston Rd. near Euclid after the bus starts back down the hill. Walk a few feet up Creston, turn left on Rosemont Ave. and left on Woodmont. Down Woodmont you'll see the Carbone orchid nursery—open daily from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. This will give you a chance for an eye to eye acquaintance with exotic blooms.

Continue down Woodmont to Grizzly Peak Blvd. and Spruce St. where you can use your transfer to board a Line 67 bus for a return to downtown Berkeley via Kensington.
Metropolitan Oakland International Airport — the name has gotten longer in its space flight from 1927 to the jet age — can offer some jet excitement now to match its history in the days when it was take-off point for first Pacific flights. It has the newest in facilities, planes to watch, and a cantilevered top-flight cocktail lounge. Take Line 83-A direct weekdays and Saturdays, and as a shuttle from East 14th St. trunk lines at 98th Ave. on Sundays.

Wings over Oakland

In the mood for a little reading or a spot of sun-soaking while the youngsters climb around in sight and temporarily out of mind? Try the park on Moraga Ave. in Montclair served by Line 76. It has a “frontier town” for city dudes, where they can climb and play cowboy. Might even hold up the stage or shiny up a stationary horse. There’s a pond with ducks to feed, grassy slopes, picnic tables and playground equipment.

Just a “long cast” from anywhere in East Oakland is a kind of High Sierra wilderness where anglers of any age can catch rainbow trout for a price or practice the know-how for free.

The McCrea Memorial Park on Carson St. near Mountain Blvd., is served by bus Lines 15 or 15D, which means that Mama, with a little thought, can easily become the Izaak Walton of the family. The park has two ponds stocked with trout, a simulated stream, casting pools, and barbecue and picnic facilities. Equipment is supplied though you will be required to pay for what you catch.

It’s possible you have yet to visit Oakland’s Morcom Amphitheatre of Roses, one of the most beautiful in the world with thousands of bushes putting on a fragrant show from mid-Spring through December. It also has a walk dedicated to pioneers and to mothers, a fountain-like stream, a noted collection of trees, and free advice from a staff of “rosarians.” It’s at the head of Jean St., off Grand Ave. (Take Line 12 to Grand and Jean or Line 11 to Oakland and Olive Aves.)

Bret Harte Boardwalk

Want to see what can be done with older buildings — if approached with an artistic eye? Step back into another era and visit Bret Harte Boardwalk on Fifth St., between Jefferson and Clay Sts. (Take lines which serve Jack London Square, get off at 5th, walk two blocks west.) The group of shops are a monument to basic design and the right flair. Besides, you look at antiques, gifts, imports — everything from doodlebugs to expensive knits. And there’s refreshments too, from tea to stronger.
Next time your group plans an affair calling for transportation, have more fun! Keep everyone together the whole time. Charter an AC Transit "Traveliner." You'll have your own professional driver and "club car" facilities for refreshments. Rates are lower than you think when everyone shares the cost. Call for an estimate. Courteous and experienced people will help in planning your next group trip.

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