

Field Trip to the Musée Mécanique and Legion of Honor, San Francisco

Legion of Honor

Admission: free
100 34th Avenue (in Lincoln Park, off Clement St)
San Francisco, CA 94122 Tel: (415) 863-3330
www.legionofhonor.org
Open Wed-Sun 9:30am-5pm
Free admission on Tuesdays

Beach Chalet & Park Chalet, 1000 Great Highway, San Francisco. (415) 386-8439.

Musée Mécanique

Admission :free (bring about \$5 for the machines)
Pier 45 at end of Taylor Street, Fisherman's Wharf
San Francisco, CA 94133 Tel: (415) 346-2000
museemecanique.citysearch.com/
www.sanfranciscocomemories.com/musee/mechanique.html
Open Mon-Fri 11am-7pm; Sat-Sun 10am-8pm

Travel to San Francisco's Musée Mécanique at Fisherman's Wharf and also to the Legion of Honor art museum in Lincoln Park. The purpose of the visit is to explore the use of symbols in communication, from the art museum to the carnival arcade. We also want to view examples of various notions of "art" and "culture" as mentioned in many of our class readings and discussions.

You should actively work on making connections between what you see and class material – so if you think you are "finished" after just a few minutes, you should push yourself to work a bit harder to think about what you are seeing and make the connections..

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MUSEE MECANIQUE

While you are visiting the Musée, make connections between the signs, symbols, messages -- and the related values and beliefs -- of a bygone era in San Francisco and America. Many of the ancient arcade games are from a carnival/arcade called "Playland at the Beach" that used to be on San Francisco's Ocean Beach (near the Cliff House) where there are now condos. Playland was torn down in the 1970s. For a historical context for the stuff in Musée, look for the photos inside the Musée that show Playland. According to your "reading" of the signs and symbols in front of you, what are the values and beliefs of the culture from which these "artifacts" come? What leads you to these conclusions -- what support do you have for your "reading"? What connections can you make to ideas presented by Benjamin, Adorno, *Postmodernism*, *Understanding Comics*, or other course material? If you were to consider artifacts in the Musée as "art," what kind of "art" might they be? What leads you to your conclusion?

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LEGION OF HONOR

While you are visiting the exhibits in the galleries at the Legion of Honor, keep in mind the creation of "language" using signs, symbols . . . myths. What are the symbols, signs used -- what is the message they are conveying? What leads you to your conclusions?

Look for both traditional and modernist representations of art (to tie in with our readings related to Modernist and PostModernist art and culture). Modernists are probably in galleries #18 & 19: Expressionism, Impressionism, Post-Impressionism, Surrealism, Dadaism,, 20th century art: Manet, Monet, Degas, Renoir, Van Gogh, Seurat, Cezanne, Pissarro, Picasso, Matisse, Dada, Miro, etc.

According to your "reading" of the signs and symbols in front of you, what are the values and beliefs of the culture from which these "artifacts" come? What leads you to these conclusions--what support do you have for your "reading"? What connections can you make to ideas presented by Benjamin, Adorno, *Postmodernism*, *Understanding Comics*, or other course material? In what way did the invention of photography change the nature of art – and what examples can you see that reflect this?

Getting to Musée Mécanique and the Legion of Honor

Musée Mécanique is at Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco and accessible by public transit. The Legion of Honor is at the far Western end of the city by Lincoln Park. Taking public transportation to both of these destinations would take too long for this trip. But, if you're visiting again on your own using public transit, use www.511.org to plan your trip. Also helpful: "Arts/Media Activities in San Francisco Bay Area," found under "classes" at www.mediaprof.org/.

Public Transit / Ride

- Take Caltrain to the last stop in downtown San Francisco. [schedules at www.caltrain.org]
- Then take Muni rail line (to the right when you exit the Caltrain station) to Embarcadero station (the first stop underground).
- Go up to Market Street and walk toward the Ferry Building one block away on the water. Stop when you reach the tracks.
- Take the "F" streetcar heading toward Fisherman's Wharf (heading to your left as you face the Ferry Building).
- Get off at Fisherman's Wharf, walk over to Musée Mécanique.
- The return ride on the "F" streetcar is a block away from the waterfront.
[check connections at www.511.org]

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DIRECTIONS – DRIVING: (Directions are NOT guaranteed! Bring a map!)

Note that the directions below have been checked, but mistakes are possible – so bring along a map or use Google Maps to plan your trip. Give yourself plenty of time – there are many exit closures in downtown San Francisco because of construction!

MENLO COLLEGE TO MUSÉE MÉCANIQUE (allow at least 1 hour for driving and parking):

- Take US 101 NORTH toward San Francisco.
- Take I-80 East toward the Bay Bridge. Follow signs to Fisherman's Wharf.
- Musée Mécanique is in the back of the parking lot at Fisherman's Wharf – Taylor Street points directly to the Musée.
- (Another route might be to take US 101 North; then I-280 North. Exit when the freeway ends on King Street. Follow King Street around the Embarcadero to Fisherman's Wharf (past the ball park, under the Bay Bridge, past the Ferry Building, past Pier 39). Do NOT take this route during rush hour or when there is an event at the ball park!)
- Parking options: Park nearby at a meter, or find a parking garage. There is a major parking garage located at Pier 39 along the Embarcadero at Beach St. You'll have to walk a few blocks from there to Fisherman's Wharf and Musée Mécanique.

MUSÉE MÉCANIQUE TO LEGION OF HONOR:

- Going straight out the door of the Musée Mécanique, continue straight on Taylor Street away from Fisherman's Wharf.
- Turn RIGHT on Bay Street (about 2 blocks).
 - Follow Bay
 - Through the Wharf area;
 - Cross Van Ness, get in the right lane;
 - Pass Fort Mason park, follow most of the traffic as the road turns RIGHT around the park (onto Laguna) and past Safeway (Bay continues straight—don't go that way)
 - The main road becomes Marina Boulevard;
 - Stay on this road – it goes through the Marina, and leads toward the Golden Gate Bridge;
 - The road becomes a freeway as it leaves the Marina;
 - Take the sudden (hidden) right turn to Park Presidio/Rt 1 South near the top of the incline;
 - Follow Park Presidio/Rt 1 to Geary Ave, (the street after Clement);
 - Turn RIGHT on Geary;

- Follow Geary until 34th Ave.
- Turn RIGHT on 34th Ave;
- Go straight, 34th becomes Legion of Honor Drive, continue into Lincoln Park, through the golf course;
- Park at the top of the hill or just beyond; wait outside at the entrance for the rest of the class to gather (if it is raining or cold; wait just inside the building at the admission counter).

LEGION OF HONOR TO CLIFF HOUSE OR BEACH CHALET – fun places to eat!

- With your car facing the front entrance of the Legion of Honor, turn LEFT. This is Legion of Honor Drive/34th Ave. (If you see the Golden Gate bridge or the Bay in the distance when you are going down the hill, you are headed in the wrong direction). Take Legion of Honor Drive/34th Ave. across Clement St. to Geary Blvd.
- Turn RIGHT onto Geary. Continue on Geary -- it will turn into Point Lobos (and later, Great Highway).
- When the ocean is visible ahead of you and the road curves to the left, you are near the Cliff House. Continue South down Great Highway along Ocean Beach, passing the Beach Chalet on your left – at the end of Golden Gate Park.

BEACH CHALET OR CLIFF HOUSE TO MENLO COLLEGE:

- Continue South down Great Highway along Ocean Beach.
- Turn LEFT onto Lincoln Drive (stop light after Golden Gate Park ends on your left)
- Go straight on Lincoln for about 12 blocks.
- Turn RIGHT onto 37th Ave (at stop light)
- Immediately get in the left lane and take the exit onto Sunset Blvd.
- Stay on Sunset for a few miles – use the center or left lanes. Sunset will curve around to the left and become Lake Merced Blvd. Soon after this (near SF State U), move to the left lane.
- Turn LEFT at the traffic light at the bottom of the hill (Brotherhood Way). Stay in the right lane.
- Just after the 2nd traffic light, go up the ramp to the right toward I-280/Junipero Serra/Rt 1. Be very careful – this is a dangerous merge into fast-moving traffic.
- Move to one of the 3 lanes on the left to enter I-280.
- Continue on 280 South to Woodside Rd./Rt 84.
- EXIT at Woodside Rd./ Rt 84. Turn LEFT at bottom of exit onto Woodside Rd.
- Continue on Woodside Rd. to El Camino Real.
- Bear RIGHT at signs to El Camino Real south.
- Turn RIGHT on to El Camino Real. Continue on El Camino Real to Menlo College.

• BEACH CHALET OR CLIFF HOUSE TO MENLO COLLEGE -- SLIGHTLY LONGER ROUTE, BUT NICER SCENERY:

- Continue South down Great Highway along Ocean Beach.
- Pass Sloat Blvd and the SF Zoo.
- Bear/Turn RIGHT (south) onto Skyline Blvd (Rt 35)
- Go LEFT on John Daly Blvd and follow signs to Interstate 280 SOUTH
 - OR: Continue South on Rt 35 for several miles until it joins with Interstate 280 south
- Continue on 280 south until Woodside Drive exit;
- Turn LEFT at the bottom of the Woodside Drive exit;
- Go straight on Woodside Drive;
- Turn RIGHT at the exit for El Camino Real south.