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ANNUAL EVENTS

International AIDS Candlelight Memorial
3rd Sunday in May

Harvey Milk Day
May 22nd

**Frameline Film Festival /
S.F. LGBT International Film Festival**
June, www.frameline.org

S.F. LGBT Pride/Pink Saturday
Last weekend in June
www.sfpride.org / www.thesisters.org

Leather Week/Folsom Street Fair
End of September
www.folsomstreetevents.org

Castro Street Fair
1st Sunday in October
www.castrostreetfair.org

**Harvey Milk & George Moscone
Memorial March & Candlelight Vigil**
November 27th

**Film Festivals throughout the year
at the iconic Castro Theatre**
www.castrotheatre.com



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Out

and

About

HISTORIC+LGBT SIGHTS IN THE CASTRO/ UPPER MARKET AREAS

About Castro / Upper Market

TODAY'S CASTRO: In the late 1960s and early 1970s, the neighborhood's Victorian homes attracted gay homeowners who spent countless hours lovingly restoring them. Gay business owners opened shops along Upper Market, 18th, and Castro Streets, and the area became a gay enclave known as "The Castro."

In 1973, Castro Street camera store owner Harvey Milk began running for local office. After his fourth run for office, in 1977, Milk became the first openly gay elected official of any large U.S. city. In 2009, he was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. "Milk," the 2008 Academy Award winning movie about his life, was filmed in The Castro.

Today's Castro is an evolving, vibrant, world-reknown neighborhood. Thousands of gays and lesbians call it home, and thousands of visitors (gay and straight) come to the Castro every year to enjoy its bars and restaurants, shop at its unique stores, visit its landmarks, and enjoy the gay-friendly atmosphere.

STEPS THROUGH HISTORY: As you visit be sure to look down to the sidewalk so you can stroll back in time with The Castro History Walk.

Starting near 440 Castro, follow a trail of engravings in darkened pavement panels near the curb. In chronological order, south to 19th Street and then crossing to the other side and back north toward the Castro Theater, each panel contains a revelation about the neighborhood's past.

Find all 20 panels and you'll learn the origins of the name Castro, the neighborhood's first appearance in popular culture, and the dramatic events that led to the Castro's transformation into an LGBT mecca.

Also embedded in the sidewalk are the stunning bronze plaques of The Rainbow Honor Walk, celebrating iconic figures from LGBT history, including Oscar Wilde, Virginia Woolf, Tennessee Williams, Gertrude Stein and Alan Turing. As you marvel at their many accomplishments, ask yourself: who should be added next?



The Best of Castro / Upper Market

1 Harvey Milk Plaza/Giant Rainbow Flag (Castro & Market Sts) This two-level plaza has on the lower level, a small display of photos and a plaque noting Harvey Milk's accomplishments, and on the upper level flies a giant rainbow pride flag (20' x 30') on a 70' high flagpole.

2 Pink Triangle Park (Intersection of Castro/Market/17th Street across from giant rainbow flag) This mini-park is the first permanent, free-standing memorial in the U.S. to the approximately 15,000 LGBT people sent to Nazi death-camps in World War II.

3 AIDS Memorial Quilt's First Home (2362 Market Street) From 1987 to 2001, this storefront on Market Street, now housing a restaurant, was filled with volunteers stitching away on the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt. Look for the 12-by-12 foot square from the quilt hanging inside the entrance of the restaurant, and a small plaque on the building's front wall.

4 Jane Warner Plaza (Intersection of Castro, Market and 17th Streets, across Castro Street from Harvey Milk Plaza) Small oasis offering greenery, a place to sit, and live performances from bands, and dancing to theatrical performances.

5 F-Line Historic Streetcars: Castro End of the Line (Intersection of Castro, Market and 17th Streets) Drawing 20,000 plus riders per day since it opened in 1995, the F-Line is the most successful vintage rail line ever opened.

6 Twin Peaks Bar (401 Castro Street) In 1973, the Twin Peaks Bar took the bold step of uncovering its large, wrap-around plate glass windows, becoming the first openly gay bar in San Francisco whose customers could be seen by passersby on the street.

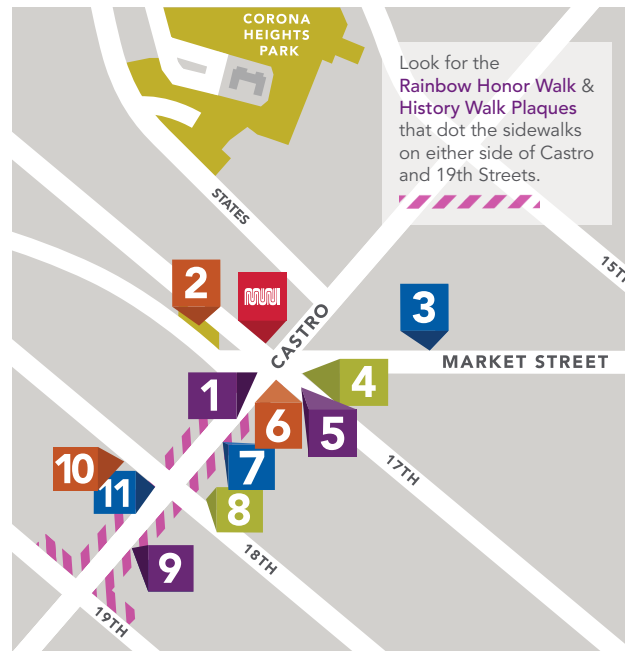
7 The Castro Theatre (429 Castro St. / 415-621-6120 / www.castrotheatre.com) This 1920's movie palace designed in ornate Spanish revival style by Timothy Pflueger has an interior boasting colorful Italianate murals, a huge chandelier, and an art deco Moorish ceiling. The beloved theatre is known for its unique program of movies, and nightly mini-concert on the theatre's Wurlitzer pipe organ.

8 Leonard Matlovich's Former Residence (4096-18th Street) Home of Leonard Matlovich (1943-1988), a Vietnam veteran who challenged in court the military's ban on gays and spoke out as an AIDS activist. Look for a large plaque by its front door discussing his life.

9 Harvey Milk's Former Camera Shop (575 Castro St.) Gay activist Harvey Milk (1930-1978) had his store here and lived over it. The academy award winning movie "Milk" was also filmed here. Look at the murals of Harvey outside and inside the building, and read the memorial plaques in the sidewalk. Location of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) store.

10 GLBT History Museum (4127 18th St. near Castro / 415.621.1107 / www.GLBThistory.org) The first museum of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender history in the United States. Celebrating 100 years of San Francisco's vast queer past through dynamic and surprising exhibitions and programs.

11 Harvey's (500 Castro Street @18th) The site of Harvey's bar is famous in SF gay history as the location of a March 21, 1979 head-bashing, window smashing rampage by the city's police in what many believed was an act of retribution for the public rioting following the manslaughter verdict in the Harvey Milk/George Moscone murder trial.



12 Eureka Valley/Harvey Milk Memorial Branch Library and José Sarria Court (1 José Sarria Court at 16th and Market Streets) Renamed in honor of Milk in 1981, the library houses a special collection of GLBT books and materials, and often has gay-themed history and photo displays in its lobby. The plaza in front of the library is named José Sarria Court in honor of an S.F. drag performer and gay activist.

13 Hope for the World Cure (AIDS) Mural (16th and Market Streets) This 23' x 117' mural, features images from S.F. gay history and scenes from the AIDS crisis. It was created in 1998 by SF Precita Eyes and Art From the Heart Heals artist group, a group of local artists affected by HIV/AIDS.

14 The Blue House (3841 18th St.) French singer/songwriter Maxime Le Forestier spent the summer of 1971 living in this Victorian house in the Castro, and his 1973 hit song about it ("La Maison Bleue") has made the house a much photographed stop for French tourists.

15 Dolores Park (18th & Dolores Sts.) Notable for its views of the Mission district and city at large, this 13 acre park with a wonderful children's playground and lots of lawn space is a popular place for sunbathing and picnics as well as a gathering spot for rallies, festivals and celebrations.



16 Mission Dolores (AKA Mission San Francisco de Asis, 320 Dolores St. @ 16th St.) Built between 1785 and 1791, this church with 4-foot thick adobe walls is the oldest building in San Francisco. The construction work was done by Native Americans who made the adobe bricks and roof tiles by hand and painted the ceiling and arches with Indian designs rendered in vegetable dyes. A small museum of Indian and Spanish artifacts is located behind the church.

17 The United States Mint at San Francisco (155 Hermann St. at Duboce) The well fortified and imposing 1937 four-story San Francisco branch of the US Mint no longer produces circulating coins but manufactures just commemorative coins and proof coin sets. No tours are allowed.

18 California Volunteers' Memorial Statue (Dolores and Market Sts.) Considered the city's finest equestrian statue, this memorial depicting the goddess of war, Bellona, astride the winged horse Pegasus was designed by the city's greatest outdoor sculptor, Douglas Tilden.

19 The LGBT Center (1800 Market St. @ Octavia/415.865.5555/www.sfcenter.org) SF's Center, the first in the world to be built from the ground up specifically for the LGBT community, boasts 40,000 square feet of lounges, classrooms, meeting rooms, performance and art exhibition spaces, and more. Launched in 2002, the Center is open six days a week; it is closed on Sunday.