‘Fall’ into the California Dental Association meeting in San Francisco

CDA Presents The Art and Science of Dentistry will hit the city by the bay Sept. 22–24 (Thursday through Saturday), and meeting organizers say the show is on tap to be one the best yet. The California Dental Association meeting’s premier convention experiences encompass dynamic speakers, an extensive tradeshow, numerous C.E. credit opportunities, and exciting social events in the heart of world-class destinations — Anaheim and San Francisco.

CDA Between will feature more than 400 exhibiting companies showcasing the latest in dental technology, products and services. Attendees can stay ahead of the curve by exploring the innovative new products being launched in the exhibit hall.

Hours are as follows:

- **Grand Opening**
  - Thursday, 9:30 a.m.
- **Exhibit Hall open**
  - Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
  - Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
  - Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- **Family Hours**
  - Daily, 9:30 a.m. to noon
- **Registration Hours**
  - Thursday, 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
  - Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
  - Saturday, 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**CDA Party**

It was created by a physicist and houses a geometry playground, microscope imaging station and a calculator powered by the force of gravity. It’s the Exploratorium, the destination of this year’s CDA Party. Attendees are invited to join CDA for a bountiful buffet, fascinating exhibits and live music from ‘80s cover band Tainted Love. The party is Friday from 7 to 10 p.m. The fee is $65 per person.

**Wine seminar and reception**

Meeting attendees can join CDA for a wine and food pairing demonstration, led by a chef, that illustrates how beautifully wine and food complement one another. This is a must-attend event for wine novices to aficionados. The event is Friday from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at The Spot. The fee is $25 per person.

**Plenty for kids**

While you’re in a lecture or on the tradeshow floor, your kids can have a blast in the KiddieCorp programs designed just for them. KiddieCorp professionals are bonded, qualified child care specialists who are carefully selected and trained.

Age-appropriate activities, games and movies will be provided in a structured environment for your child’s entertainment. Exhibit Hall family hours are 9:30-noon daily. For safety reasons, strollers are never permitted in the Exhibit Hall.

**About San Francisco**

San Francisco is famous for its scenic beauty, cultural attractions, diverse communities and world-class cuisine. This very walkable city is dotted with landmarks recognized throughout the world: the Golden Gate Bridge, cable cars, Alcatraz and the largest Chinatown in the United States.

September is usually a beautiful time of year and an ideal time to visit. The average high is 73 degrees, with an average low of 55 degrees.

(Source: California Dental Association)

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**10 things not to miss in San Francisco**

One of the nicest things about visiting San Francisco is that, although the city is big in terms of attractions and amenities, it is geographically small — only 49 square miles. Consequently, it is very easy to see and do a great many things in a short period of time. It is also easy to spend weeks in San Francisco and still not experience everything the city has to offer.

Here is a suggested list of the top 10 things not to miss in San Francisco, according to the San Francisco Travel Association:

**1. The Golden Gate Bridge**

The most famous bridge in the world, manages to impress even the most experienced travelers with its stunning 1.7-mile span. Approximately 120,000 automobiles drive across it every day. A pedestrian walkway also allows the crossing on foot, and bikes are allowed on the western side. The Golden Gate Bridge is said to be one of the most photographed subjects on Earth.

**2. Cable cars**

Cable cars have been transporting people around San Francisco since the late 19th century. The cars run on tracks and are moved by an underground cable on three routes. Their familiar bells can be heard ringing from blocks away. Tickets ($5) may be purchased at the cable car turnarounds at the ends of each route. Each one-way ride will provide spectacular views of the city's celebrated hills as well as the city's signature views.

(Source: San Francisco Travel Association)
exhilarating transportation.

3. **Alcatraz**, the notorious former prison, is located on an island of the same name in the middle of San Francisco Bay. Some of the United States’ most notorious criminals were incarcerated there. Though several tried, no inmate ever made a successful escape from “The Rock.” The prison was closed in the 1960s, and stories about Alcatraz are legendary. A visit to Alcatraz today is fascinating. Recorded cell-house tours are available, allowing visitors to learn about the prison as they explore the buildings and grounds. To reach the island, take an Alcatraz Cruises ferry from Pier 43. Advance reservations are recommended, call (415) 981-ROCK (7625) or visit www.alcatrazcruises.com.

4. **Fisherman’s Wharf** is also home to Pier 39, a festive waterfront marketplace that is one of the city’s most popular attractions. A community of California sea lions has taken up residence on the floats to the west of the pier, and visitors line the nearby railing to watch their antics. From there it’s a short walk to the Wax Museum, Ripley’s Believe It or Not! and the famous crab vendors selling walk-away crab and shrimp cocktails.

5. **Union Square** is the place for serious shoppers. Major department stores and the most exclusive designer boutiques line streets like Post, Sutter, Grant, Stockton and Powell. The Westfield San Francisco Shopping Centre houses the largest Bloomingdale’s outside of New York and the second largest Nordstrom in the United States.

6. **North Beach**, the city’s Italian quarter, isn’t a beach at all. It’s a neighborhood of romantic, European-style sidewalk cafes, restaurants and shops centered near Washington Square along Columbus and Grant avenues. The beautiful Church of Saints Peter and Paul is a beloved landmark. Coit Tower atop Telegraph Hill offers a splendid vantage point for photos of the bridges and the Bay. Inside the tower, floor-to-ceiling murals painted in the 1950s depict scenes of early San Francisco.

7. **The entrance to Chinatown** is called the “Dragon’s Gate.” Inside are 24 blocks of hustle and bustle, most of it taking place along Grant Avenue, the oldest street in San Francisco. This city within a city is best explored on foot; exotic shops, renowned restaurants, food markets, temples and small museums comprise its boundaries. Visitors can buy ancient potions from herb shops, relax and enjoy a dim sum lunch or witness the making of fortune cookies.

8. **Dining in San Francisco** is an attraction in itself. Known as America’s best restaurant city, San Francisco boasts chefs who excel at combining the freshest local ingredients, authentic international flavors and a touch of creative genius. Choose your cuisine — Chinese, Japanese, French, Italian, Spanish, Moroccan, Indian, Malaysian, Mexican, Greek, Russian or “fusion,” a combination of any or all of these influences. Visit TasteSF at www.sanfrancisco.travel/taste for a list of San Francisco’s hottest restaurants, a calendar listing of food-related news and events, the history of San Francisco’s many food firsts, chef profiles, and Foodie 411, a weekly insider’s blog by Marcia “the tablehopper” Gagliardi.

9. **Nightlife in San Francisco** is a constantly changing scene. The “hottest” clubs currently are in the South of Market and Mission districts, with live and recorded rock and Latin music. Jazz, blues, swing and “oldies” music can be found all over town. For a complete list of nightlife options, visit www.sanfrancisco.travel.

10. **Culture:** A visit to San Francisco would not be complete without a cultural experience. The city is home to internationally recognized symphony, opera and ballet companies. Playwrights such as Sam Shepard and Tom Stoppard introduce their works in San Francisco, and avant-garde theatre and dance companies dot the city. The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Asian Art Museum, the de Young Museum, the Palace of the Legion of Honor and other museums and galleries are devoted to the finest of classical and contemporary arts. For a complete museum guide, visit www.sanfrancisco.travel.

(Source: San Francisco Travel Association)