



y sister and I haven't had a kid-free weekend, just the two of us, in about twenty years. With my last bird leaving the nest to pursue his dreams in San Francisco, and my sister's youngest now at an age where a weekend without mothering promised uninterrupted playtime on her iPad, it seemed as if the stars had finally aligned - we were granted the gift of two days of "Me Time," or in this case, "We Time." A sister weekend twentyplus years in the making deserved something special - something spectacular. What to do, what to do? Let's go to Sausalito - less than two hours away, we would be able to enjoy our precious hours together ASAP.



Sausalito is a picturesque enclave just across the Golden Gate Bridge. With the rolling hills dotted with colorful homes and the stunning views, Sausalito is said to remind one of a seaside town in the Mediterranean. So, for less than a two-hour drive, you can have an Italian-esque vacation without having to go through customs. As for us, we just felt lucky to be Californians because we got it like that.

We had an ambitious list of things to do:

- 1 Take the ferry to San Francisco and go shopping at the Ferry Building Farmers Market
- 2 Hike at least one of the many trails in the area
- 3 Hit a local bar or two and/or go wine tasting (we were kid-less after all)
- 4 Eat at only restaurants with a good view
- 5 Walk across the Golden Gate Bridge To name a few.

We did exactly none of those things. Why? Because we were staying at The Inn Above Tide, a deceptively modest-looking wooden structure that sits at the edge of the water. We already knew, of course, that all of the rooms and suites at the inn would be first-class with beautiful views of the bay. We do have the internet and the pictures were impressive. So, we entered the tiny lobby where we were warmly greeted by the

friendly staff and within a few short minutes, we were led to our suite.

Once we walked through the doors of the Founder's Suite, the first thing we saw through the expansive wall of glass was an enormous deck which sat directly on top of the water and where an incredible view of the San Francisco skyline was picture perfect. Notably, the suite itself is the epitome of luxury. To say it is spacious at 1,000 square feet, is an understatement. There's a full-size kitchen, a powder room, a tastefully decorated dining room, living room, and bedroom with en suite bathroom. And then there's that deck.

The deck is massive with two seating areas and a dining table, and of course, the stunning view of San Francisco, the Bay Bridge, Angel Island, and the East Bay. The Founder's Suite is certainly a splurge at over \$1,800 a night, but there aren't many places anywhere along the coast of California where you will feel like you're floating on the water. For a special occasion, a romantic weekend, a milestone birthday - any room or suite at the Inn Above Tide would exceed expectations but the Founder's Suite is the crème de la crème of waterfront luxury. It's worth the splurge. Besides the amazing views, there are the details: breakfast in the morning and wine in the evening delivered to your room each day of your stay, custom bed linens, complimentary



slippers that you can take home, plush robes, binoculars, Bluetooth enabled sound system, and Bylgari toiletries. Be prepared to feel spoiled.

After relaxing on the deck for a while, we realized that *luxuriating* in the suite, was what we wanted to do most. Hiking, taking a ferry, walking across a bridge? For peasants! We donned our plush robes and our complimentary slippers and shared a bottle of a good red wine and fine cheeses (complements of the inn) on the deck while reminiscing about our childhood. We had made reservations at a few nice restaurants nearby but decided to DoorDash our meals as soon as we realized that there was no way any restaurant would have a view more breathtaking than the one we already had. This became de rigueur for the remainder of our stay. In the morning we would enjoy flaky croissants, quiche, fresh fruit, coffee, and tea on the deck. After a leisurely breakfast, we would walk from one end of town to the other. My sister, an avid runner, had scoped out the town during her 6AM run, so she had already created a mental map of cafés, restaurants, and shops that we could inspect more closely

later on in the day. We went shopping and bought a candle and some books to enjoy in front of the fireplace to further luxuriate in our fabulous room. I contemplated the purchase of a pair of Jimmy Choo's from a well-curated consignment store. We enjoyed coffee from a small café that took their coffee seriously. And we walked. We walked through the neighborhoods, past the houseboats, through the busy tourist-busy waterfront. It's a small town, but there's a lot to see. At dinner, we would order from one of the many restaurants nearby and dine on the deck with the twinkling lights of the city as our backdrop. We could get used to this. We did get used to this. But kids and husbands, work and reality were waiting for our return. We were already planning to come back soon. Maybe we'd even bring the family, or at least the husbands. Or maybe we'll come back just the two of us again. Two sisters luxuriating at The Inn Above Tide. %

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