

## Port Walk #27



### Island View

You can see two islands from here. The smaller one is Alcatraz, and beyond it lies Angel Island. Across the Bay is the Marin County coastline and Mount Tamalpais. The two islands, much of the shoreline, and the mountains that can be seen from here are parks and open-space districts protected for public use.



### The Rock

Over a million people visit Alcatraz every year, and so do hundreds of birds that enjoy protected status on this windswept wildlife sanctuary. The island's colorful human history includes the period from 1934 to 1963, when a high-security prison was located atop "The Rock." Later, a group of Native Americans laid claim to Alcatraz and occupied it between 1969 and 1971. In 1972, the rugged island became part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.



### First Stop for Immigrants

Angel Island was once known as the "Ellis Island of the West." By 1940, more than a million immigrants, mostly from China, had passed through its quarantine station. Thousands were detained here, waiting for permission to live and work in the United States. Today, you can take a ferryboat to Angel Island State Park to picnic, hike, cycle, and tour the historic buildings



### Laura Burtch Zovickian, Bay Swimmer

"I've swum between Alcatraz and San Francisco over 20 times – always without a wet suit and often in winter when the water can be as cold as 48F. It's something I do for my spiritual well-being. Sometimes the cold, the currents and vast distances of the Bay can be intimidating but the greater feeling is of dynamic tranquility. I feel like I've left our busy urban world and entered a living realm of natural forces and ocean creatures. Harbor seals or sea lions will often swim along with me. When they pop their heads out of the water and bark to me it's an incredibly exhilarating experience."