



BOOM STAFF

The *Boom* List

Things to read, see, and do this summer in California

Read Wendy MacNaughton's *Meanwhile in San Francisco: The City in Its Own Words* (Chronicle Books, 2014). If San Francisco could talk, what would it say? MacNaughton, an illustrator based in the city, writes: "People are often put off by a stranger with a camera in their neighborhood, but when they see someone standing on a street corner drawing with pen on a pad of paper, they stop. They ask what I'm doing, and a conversation starts." MacNaughton's street corner sketches and fragments of conversations animate each neighborhood, institution, and icon in her new book, from the Dolphin Club to the Farmers Market to the San Francisco Burrito. In her own quirky style, so well matched to this quirky city, MacNaughton brings together the many voices of the San Francisco we love.

Drawing above from *Meanwhile in San Francisco*. COURTESY OF CHRONICLE BOOKS.

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Celebrate the sesquicentennial of Yosemite and California State Parks. On 30 June 1864, Congress enacted the Yosemite Grant Act, making Yosemite California's first state park and later a national park. Since then, California's extensive system of state, federal, and local parks has become integral to our identity, but something it's easy to take for granted. This summer, don't! Celebrate our abundance of natural wonder by getting out and visiting one (or ten). With nearly 13,000 parks and open spaces of every possible shape and size to choose from, the only problem is where to begin. A new website at parks.stamen.com might be able to help you there: the site pulls in photographs and social media updates created within California park boundaries and lets you explore each park by name, by rank (size, most photographed, most tweeted), or wander at random.

Contemplate Sacramento: *Homage to a River at the California Museum in Sacramento.* Running from 10 June to 1 September with a companion book published by Heyday, this exhibition's large-format black-and-white photographs offer testament to the power and beauty of the Sacramento, California's largest river. Geoff Fricker's photographs convey the river's importance to the state's economy and environment and reveal how all Californians, from farmers and ecologists to fishermen and household consumers, have a vested interest in the watershed's future. Author Rebecca Lawton's accompanying text explores the natural and cultural forces that shape the river.

Time travel with a visit to The Rancho Los Alamitos. The seven-and-a-half acre site is home to the Tongva village of Povuu'ngna—the traditional birthplace of the native people of the Los Angeles Basin, an adobe ranch house built around 1800, gardens from the 1920s, and a mid-twentieth-century barn. In other words, it's a time capsule of Southern California life going back centuries. And while any time is a good time for a visit, The Rancho's annual Conversations in Place series kicks off on 10 August with "The Past in the Twenty-first Century," a discussion with Richard West, president of the Autry National Center of the American West; Wayne Donaldson, chair of the United States Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; Pamela Seager, executive director of The Rancho; and writer D.J. Waldie.

Find your way to Gaviota Hot Springs. A *Boom* subscriber in England wrote in to suggest a trip to these natural hot springs, a short hike from the 101 in Santa Barbara County: "The idea of a hot spring appearing in an otherwise isolated spot in the mountains to the north of Santa Barbara was too thrilling an opportunity to pass over, so back in 2012, I took a day trip out from Santa Barbara through the Santa Ynez Valley. They are quite hard to find; although there's a well-trodden trail through the park, the directions on the board in the parking lot were preposterously misleading. In fact, I could smell the hot springs long before I saw them: they produce a fair bit of sulphur dioxide, the classic 'rotten eggs' smell, so I followed my nose and soon found them. There are two fairly well maintained springs, which empty into small pools suitable for bathing/paddling. The water is almost too hot to touch near the source but is agreeably warm elsewhere and it feels healthful, presumably due to the mineral content."

See *Anthony Friedkin: The Gay Essay at San Francisco's de Young museum.* Coinciding with the forty-fifth anniversary of New York City's Stonewall Riots, the de Young is showing this set of seventy-five photographs by Californian photographer Anthony Friedkin chronicling the gay communities in Los Angeles and San Francisco between 1969 and 1973. "The Gay Essay" was a self-assigned project of Friedkin's and has never before been shown so completely. Friedkin's portraits, taken in streets, hotels, bars, and dance-halls, are suffused with sensitivity and understanding, which gives the series a touching and enduring resonance. The exhibit opens 14 June.

Visit *Route 66: The Road and the Romance at the Autry in Griffith Park in Los Angeles.* Nearly thirty years after the iconic route between Chicago and Los Angeles was officially decommissioned, the Autry has gathered 200 artifacts from around the country in a first-of-its-kind exhibition. Route 66 is inextricably linked with California car culture, tourism, and twentieth century migration into the state. With neon signs, John Steinbeck's handwritten manuscript for *The Grapes of Wrath*, Woody Guthrie's Martin guitar, and a Corvette on display, the exhibit will trace the history of the road and examine its role in pop culture. *Route 66* opens on 8 June. **B**