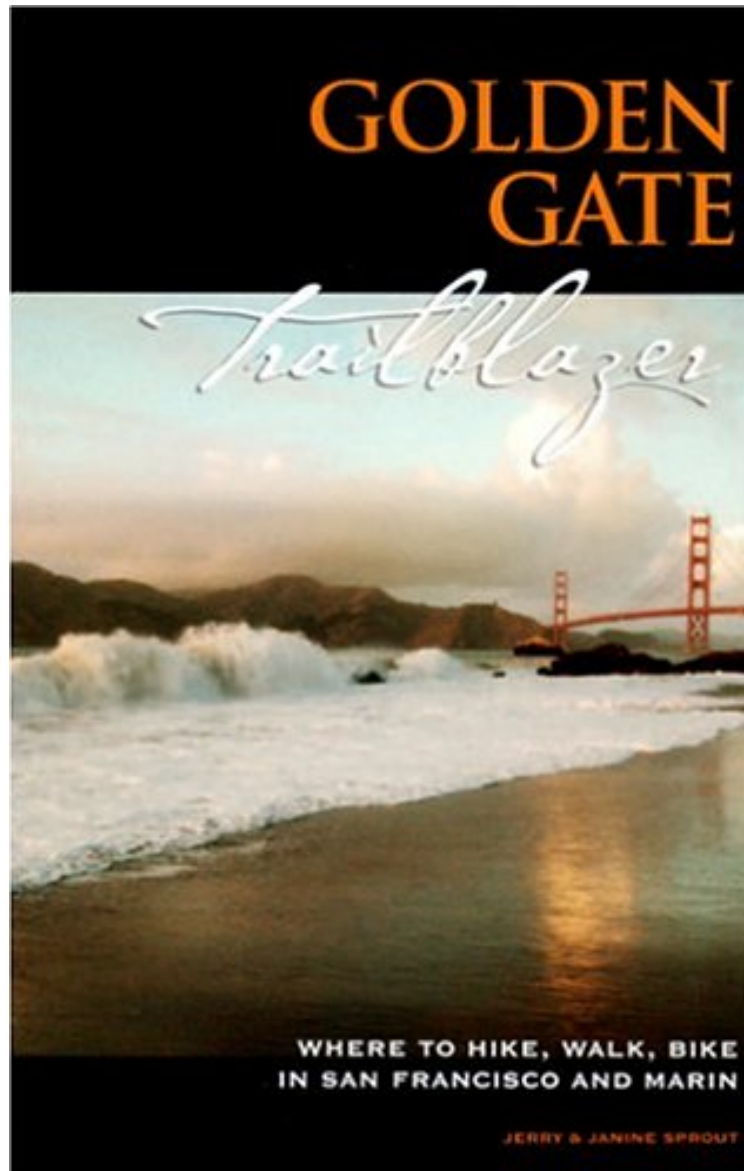


(Free) Golden Gate Trailblazer: Where to Hike, Walk and Bike in San Francisco and Marin

## Golden Gate Trailblazer: Where to Hike, Walk and Bike in San Francisco and Marin

*Jerry Sprout, Janine Sprout*  
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**Jerry Sprout, Janine Sprout : Golden Gate Trailblazer: Where to Hike, Walk and Bike in San Francisco and Marin** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Golden Gate Trailblazer: Where to Hike, Walk and Bike in San Francisco and Marin:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Just OK. Not easy to read/follow directions. By Customer layout and write up of various hikes not very easy to read/follow. there are other books out there like the Moon Outdoor series 101 Hikes in the San Francisco Bay Area that are superior in layout and ease of reading/following which is really the point of getting a guide book. If the guide book is not that easy to follow what is the point of getting that guidebook? 1 of 4 people found the following review helpful. a big disappointment By David Cox I bought this book based on reviews on this site and others. The descriptions are better than average, but the maps are of poor quality. Sorry, but good maps are ESSENTIAL for hiking in unfamiliar places! I've seen better maps of neighborhood walks in Frommer's and other general-use guides, and the maps of the trails in the SF part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (specifically the Coastal Trail), which were what I bought the book for, were inadequate. From experience, it is not good when you are reduced to hiking with a book in one hand for the description of the trail, because if that's all you have, you'll get turned around at some point. I'm still looking for a better guidebook. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Best Activity Guidebook to San Francisco and Marin By Greg Hayes As with every guidebook in the respected Trailblazer travel book series (Alpine Sierra Trailblazer, Kauai Trailblazer, Maui Trailblazer, Oahu Trailblazer, Hawaii the Big Island Trailblazer, and No Worries Hawaii: A Vacation Planning Guide), the Golden Gate Trailblazer is fun to read, beautiful to look at (the remarkable black-and-white photography provides a wonderful sense of place), and ever so useful. A large number of hikes, walks, jogs, and bike rides are thoughtfully organized not only by location but also by the characteristics that set them apart from each other. The "Best Of" section lists choices for a wide variety of preferences: wildflowers, forested creeks, shorebird watching, coastal bluffs, bay side strolls, gardens, city life, and family rides, to name a few. Each selection is further detailed with carefully crafted directions both for getting to the starting point and for heading down the road or trail (I find the author's directions more than adequate--they flat out get the job done, but map freaks may feel more comfortable supplementing their guidance with the appropriate map). The Sprouts know the neighborhood like the back of their hand and have walked and hiked this area for many years. Their deep knowledge of their subject enhances the activities they describe--you'll learn a lot of history along the way, that's for sure. Practical details are in abundance, from things to do with the kids to cleverly presented advice and opinion based on years of experience. You're unlikely to just bump into many of the activities they've included--the Golden Gate Trailblazer will help you find and enjoy an array of experiences most tourists will forever miss. Even long-time locals will find lots of exciting new ideas they had no idea were in their own backyard. A great resource. Pick up one and enjoy.

Trailblazer is the only outdoor adventure guide that details all the parks and wild lands north and south of the Golden Gate in San Francisco and Marin. With more than 200 photographs and concisely written histories and cultural tidbits, Trailblazer gives travelers a unique look at both parklands and towns alike. You'll get to know the place and to share the authors love for it. First-time visitors to the Bay Area will have a trusty guide to hit the highlights; life-long residents are guaranteed to find new ways to make weekends more exciting. Inside are clear directions for more than 300 hikes and walks, both in nature's wonder and to the cultural attractions that lure international tourists. Presented are the Presidio, Golden Gate National Recreational Area, Golden Gate Bridge, Marin Headlands, Point Reyes National Seashore, and several state parks, including Mount Tamalpais, Angel Island, and Samuel P. Taylor. You'll also find the tucked-away treasures in the Marin Open Space, including high peaks of the oak savannah and the wetlands on the Richardson, San Pablo, and San Rafael bays. All noteworthy city parks are also covered, starting with San Francisco's renowned Golden Gate and continuing with a long list of neighborhood gems. All these place names translate into redwood and conifer forests, waterfalls, peaks, lakes, beaches, coastal bluffs, bays, lagoons, gardens, woodland forests--all of the amazing scenic diversity that makes the Golden Gate region a world-class natural treasure. City strollers can choose from several walks in San Francisco to take in Chinatown, Fishermens Wharf, Nob Hill, Union Square, North Beach, Haight-Ashbury, Palace of Fine Arts, Alcatraz, and the rest of the all-star attractions. Walks are also offered for Marin County's host of remarkable towns, from upscale Tiburon, Sausalito, and Mill Valley, to funky Bolinas, Point Reyes, and Fairfax. You'll be entertained as well as exercised. With all these offerings, it's easy to overlook Trailblazer's cycling sections. The knarly mountain trails are all there, along with the more leisurely pedals on bike paths and roads. Cross-town routes are also given, making it possible to find the best and most-scenic route available across the entire landscape. Seventeen maps and spot-on driving directions and trail descriptions make getting there easy. Navigating the text is made simple by sharp graphics and thoughtful organization. Trailblazer trademark. Trailblazer's extras include a special list of Doggie Trails and a Trailblazer Kids section that will keep families busy from when the kids are in strollers until they're old enough to drive (stroller paths, neighborhood parks, bike rides, hikes, day trips, museums, and more). The book's Best Of section asks "What do you want to do today?" and then provides responses in the form of activities to suit the day and your mood. A welcome resource considering the book's wealth of activities. You'll also find a list of contact numbers for camping, parks, museums, attractions, as well as favorite restaurants and accommodations.

About the Author From their intimate treatment of the subject, it's clear that Jerry and Janine Sprout are Marin and San

Francisco natives. They have been exploring the American West together for more than twenty years, and have distilled their experiences in the highly respected Trailblazer Travel Book series. Other guides cover Kauai, Maui, Hawaii the Big Island, and the Alpine Sierra from Tahoe to Yosemite all featuring muscle-powered sports and emphasizing the cultural and natural history, along with recreational opportunities. Janine is a graphic designer and photographer; Jerry is a former newspaper reporter and novelist. In 1995, they combined their professional backgrounds with their love and knowledge of the outdoors and began producing their guides.