

Traveler rating: 

San Francisco: [The Stratford](#): "Great room, great rate, friendly staff!"

 [juliedmc](#), Tahoe Vista, CA Apr 25, 2007

I loved staying at the Stratford. We had a nice little room, one of their standard queen bed rooms, towards the back of the property. We didn't have much of a view, but that didn't really matter to us.

The room was small, I won't lie on that point, but we didn't go to San Francisco to spend the whole time in our room. The room was clean and the furnishings were nice. It looked like it had been recently remodeled, the paint was nice and clean looking. Our bed was very comfy and my husband and I slept like a dream, even though neither of us sleep well in hotel rooms.

I love how close this place is to all the fun things to do on Market Street. We were right across the street from all sorts of restaurants on Powell and were just a short walk from the Westfield mall and all the shops around there. It was also very easy to get around to the other places in the city as well. We were close enough to walk all the way to Chinatown and back.

The Stratford is right on the cable car line, and you can catch it right outside the hotel's door. It's also very close to the underground train and the bus line.

It wasn't noisy at all, like other guests have mentioned, but, we were at the back of the property. We left both windows open all night both nights and didn't have a problem at all, and I'm an incredibly light sleeper.

The elevator did seem to move a little slow sometimes, but it's an old building so I didn't expect it to go rocket fast! Plus, I wasn't really in any sort of a hurry. The staff was incredibly helpful when we asked about buying MUNI passes and places to eat and thrift shops to go to in the area! It was nice to have someone to valet park our car too, then we didn't have to worry about it for two days!

This TripAdvisor Member:

Liked: It's close to great shopping!

Disliked: The room was a little small.

Traveler rating: 

San Francisco: [The Stratford](#): "Great little hotel, superb location, friendly staff, good room"

 [mpwheatley](#), Hampshire, England, UK Mar 16, 2007



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This hotel is in the most amazing location in San Francisco, a few yards from Union Square. If you don't know San Francisco, Union Square is at its heart, more so than Fisherman's Wharf, the Financial District or the Chinatown/North Beach area. Union Square is a newly remodeled square with the biggest department stores, some of the best hotels and many restaurants, bars and fast food joints around it. It really is a very bustling area, even into the night. About a two minute walk to the south of the hotel is another fantastic draw - the San Francisco Shopping Center on Market Street, which is a newly opened mall with a multiplex Cinema. Chinatown is about a ten-minute walk away to the north. Fisherman's Wharf is about two miles away and is an easy half hour walk through Chinatown. The city's main Disney, Apple and Virgin stores are all within a minute or two of the hotel.

From the hotel you can get to almost anywhere in the city with ease. You have direct access to the cable cars, which run outside the hotel for about 18 hours a day and take you to Nob Hill, Chinatown, North Beach, Fisherman's Wharf, Aquatic Park and Russian Hill. Also within a couple of minutes walk is the Muni Subway (the city's tram system that runs underground for part of the city) as well as the BART rapid transport system, which takes you direct to the airport for a \$5.15 half hour trip. Of course the area is also

served by the regular bus service and the open-top double decker tourist buses have a stop a 30 second walk away outside Macy's department store.

The hotel itself is a bargain for the price; I paid \$69 for a fairly good-sized room (nowhere near as cramped as some reviewers state) with a newly refurbished bathroom. I had a built in closet and a writing desk with drawers. The only downside to the room I had at the back of the hotel was no view and I mean no view, unless you count a brick wall about three feet away from the window a view! The brick wall seems to be about 100 feet high and I think it is the back of Macy's department store. However, generally this isolates you from the noise of Union Square (people sometimes play electric guitars connected to amps in the evening near the hotel!!) and you can get a nice quiet night's sleep. One thing though, I stayed at the hotel for six nights, and the noise from other guests on the Friday and Saturday was quite loud i.e. some of them were drunk and were occasionally loud about it (slamming doors, loud talking/laughing in the early hours). If you have the window open, the wall outside the window tends bounce the sound into your room from the other guests if they too have their window open. However, from Monday through Thursday it was peace and quiet even with the window open all night. On Friday and Saturday I wore some earplugs though and that did the trick. The noise from other guests wasn't really a problem and nowhere near as bad as the loud traffic or nocturnal street noise (i.e. shouting and fights) that you would no doubt experience from the street facing rooms. The hotel is in the entertainment district of the city after all and there are lots of bars about.

The breakfast served by the hotel was very good bearing in mind the cost of the room, and consisted of three different types of muffins plus toast, yogurt with optional dried fruit, granola (oat crunch for us Europeans), tea, coffee and fruit juices. The breakfast room overlooked Powell Street and was spacious with plenty of tables. Free copies of the San Francisco Chronicle were available in the breakfast room.

The hotel will expect pre-payment of at least one night's stay upon arrival. There is an Internet area in the small lounge behind reception; this was about \$5.00 for 30 minutes. The service used new equipment on a broadband connection. There is a swipe-card reader for a credit card built into the PC to activate the connection.

Some people complain about the smell of cleaning fluid in their room, I think they are mistaken. There is a 'Lush' hand made soap store next to the hotel, which makes its products on the premises, the rather nice smell from this place seems to permeate some of the hotel.

The hotel is happy to store luggage for you, which they did for me when I checked out, as I wanted to spend some time in the city before my flight. Apparently they can offer an airport shuttle but as there is a BART station offering a direct fast service to the International terminal at San Francisco Airport about two minutes walk away I don't think the airport shuttle is necessary.

The staff at the hotel were all very friendly, especially the check in staff.

For the price, this hotel is an absolute bargain. The rooms are a good size and they look recently refurbished, you have a decent new bathroom (no bath, a nice hot powerful shower though), a good breakfast, friendly staff and a location to die for. This isn't a hotel that you will lounge around in, but when you are visiting a city why would you want to spend any time at the hotel? If you want to lounge about go to any of the swanky lobby bars of the nearby four or five star hotels. I suggest the Polynesian Tonga room at the Fairmont hotel on Nob Hill, it is an absolute hoot, especially when the fake thunderstorm gets going!

This TripAdvisor Member:

Liked: Location, Friendly Staff, Nice Room,, Excellent Price

Disliked: View from room not so good, made for peaceful sleep though!

Traveler rating:  5.0

San Francisco: [The Stratford](#): "Can't wait to return!!"

✉ [The_OC_Bride](#), Orange County, California Dec 29, 2006

My fiance and I wanted to attend the Emerald Bowl, but did not want to spend a lot of money on our hotel stay. So, we chose to stay at the Stratford Hotel from Dec. 26-28. What a great choice and value!! We loved the Stratford and will stay there again!

When we arrived at the Stratford, we unloaded and parked the car and did not get back into the car until we checked out of the hotel! Everything we needed was at or around the hotel! We walked everywhere! We walked to AT&T Park, Fisherman's Wharf, to the shops, bars, and restaurants.

The room was very small, but nice. We loved the comfortable bed, earth tone decor, yellow walls, and roomy bathroom.

The view from our room was fantastic! We saw the cable car, shops, and food venues. I was a little concerned about the noise from the street below, but the windows kept all the sound out. The second night we actually slept with one window open!

The only downside is the slow elevator, but please remember this building is very old.

If you're looking for a hotel in a great San Francisco location, great value, and comfortable stay, please choose the Stratford. =)

This TripAdvisor Member:

Liked: Value, decor, location, service.

Disliked: Slow elevator.

Tips/Secrets: Bring conditioner.

Traveler rating:



San Francisco: [The Stratford](#): "Excellent Hotel !!"

 [SeanFromReno](#), Reno, NV Nov 21, 2006

Located in Reno, a visit to San Francisco is just a few hours away. As I visit the city frequently, I have my favorite places to stay. Before making the trip I decided to surf the internet and see what hotel options were out there. If you have ever been to San Francisco, you will know that hotels are either affordable (and you wouldn't send your worst enemy their way) or extremely overpriced (and you wouldn't have enough money to enjoy any of the amazing things the city has to offer). Rarely does a hotel come along that has an excellent location, great amenities and affordable ~ until the Stratford. Upon arriving at the hotel I was quite suprised. You could not find a better location in Union Square. I was checked in right away and was quite pleased with the room. Although small (as every hotel room is in San Francisco) it was very clean and modern. There was in-room internet access, an I-Pod docking station and a stand up shower. The room had recently been remodeled and was much nicer than I ever expected. I was in room 701 and had an excellent view of Powell street. As this is one of the most lively areas in San Francisco, the nightlife was bustling right outside the window. It was great to open the windows and listen to the street musicians and the bells of the trolley's passing by. In the morning you can smell the fresh air of the city as the fog is rolling away and hear the laughter and relaxed conversaion of other visitors as they go about their visit to this amazing city. At the Stratford, you are within walking distance to premier shopping, China Town, the Muni (Underground subway system that will take you anywhere you want to go) and a huge variety of restaurants and entertainment. After my visit to the Stratford, this has become my hotel of choice. I will not stay anywhere else in the city ever again. If you are looking for a quiet out of the way restful vacation, this is not your place. If you want to feel the pulse of the city and be amongst it all, try the Stratford. Price, location & personality all make this a perfect hot spot. Previous posts mention the slow elevator. There is only one, and it is quite slow. The wait is not extreme, however, I found myself using the stairs during busy lobby times and was not inconvenienced in any way. To me, the small, slow elevator was just another piece of rustic charm this great boutique hotel has to offer!

This TripAdvisor Member:

Liked: Location

Disliked: Slow elevator

Tips/Secrets: Make sure to sleep with your windows open and listen to the passing trolleys and life of the city ~ although noisy, you will enjoy the sounds to be heard!

Traveler rating:



San Francisco: [The Stratford](#): "Great Value"

[NeverStandStill](#), Philadelphia, PA Oct 19, 2006

First let me say, I was traveling on a budget and alone! I found this hotel on hotels.com for approximately \$100.00 per night. I checked other reviews here on TripAdvisor and decided to go for it. I was pleasantly surprised. The staff was very accomodating in finding me a room that was in a main hallway so that I would feel comfortable in the fact that I was a female traveling alone. The breakfast that was included was not gourmet, but certainly a luxury that we Americans do not see very often. The room was very clean. Yes, it was small and the comforter wasn't down filled, but you should expect that if you are paying \$100.00 a night. The decor of the lobby and the sitting area was nice. There were three computers and a printer available with a swipe of a card. I found this particularly convenient the day I was leaving. I was able to check-in online for my flight and print my boarding pass. Finally...I was right around the corner from Union Square and plenty of desiriable restaurants. I would recommend this hotel to anyone that doesn't feel the need to spend \$400.00 per night for a room.

This TripAdvisor Member:

Liked: The value.

Disliked: The comforter on the bed was a little old.

Tips/Secrets: Early check in is available if you ask. Try to get there around noon or so. You may have a better room selection.

Traveler rating:



San Francisco: [The Stratford](#): "Excellent value"

[cvmk](#), Leicestershire Sep 19, 2006


We had an a good stay at the Stratford. The staff were friendly and helpful. The rooms were clean & tidy. The breakfast was a good start to the day. The location is a the heart of everything. We would recommend this hotel to any friends or family who may be going to SF.

This TripAdvisor Member:

Liked: Location / Helpfulness

Disliked: Internet use would cost \$4 for 20mins

Tips/Secrets: Use a phone card from an external phone

Traveler rating:  **San Francisco: [The Stratford](#): "Excellent Location and Value"**
✉ [WelshTravellers](#), Wales Aug 7, 2006

This was the first hotel my friend and I stayed at when we arrived for a two week holiday in San Francisco. You can not beat it's location especially if you are new to the area it is right on Powell street next to shops, transport links, restaurants etc. We had a room at the back of the hotel as well as on the end of a row. After reading past reviews of the hotel we weren't expecting much and we knew we hadn't paid a huge amount; however we were pleasantly surprise the room was plenty big enough and had a decent size bathroom. The sink was in the main room with a nice mirror and space to store your toiletries.

The breakfast was a nice touch and we filled ourselves up on toast, muffins, cereal etc. If you don't fancy this there are plenty of options for other food close by.

As I mentioned the location is excellent right by the shopping centre, Macy's and the lovely Union Square is a few strides away.

We found the staff to be very friendly and helpful; even making a phone calls to our tour providers to sort out some problems we were having.

There is a small lounge on the ground floor at the back as well as two computers where for a small charge you can access the internet.

Overall I would recommend this hotel for a first stop off in the city; it is a budget hotel so if your staying for more than a few days you may want some more luxury; but for what you pay you get a good service and stay.

Tips: request a room at the back of the hotel.

The smell you may experience as you enter the hotel is only coming from Lush next door.

Make the most of the helpful staff and ask any questions you may have; they are happy to help and make Recommendations for restaurants etc.

Traveler rating:  **San Francisco: [The Stratford](#): "Location can't be beat!"**
✉ [PScruiser](#), PA Apr 20, 2006

Stayed at the Stratford for 5 nights for a convention, and very satisfied for the price we paid (\$80). First of all, the location is great - Convention Ctr. is 4 blocks, 2 blocks to cable car station, BART, and Visitor Ctr. Just off Union Square - great shopping, if that's your thing.

The cable car allows direct access to Chinatown and Fisherman's Wharf. Tip: to get a multiday pass for the cable car and buses (a big moneysaver), go to the Visitors Ctr., don't wait in the line at the nearby cable car station. We arrived from the airport by BART (\$5), no hassle, and an easy walk even with luggage. The hotel itself reminded me of the kind of little place you will find in a European city. Staff was friendly enough. The room was tiny but cozy, clean, shower large with good pressure. The breakfast is VERY basic, but with SF prices, might as well wolf down those muffins to fill up! Coffee and orange juice were both decent. Would definitely stay here again.

Some tips: 1. Don't hesitate to use BART to get to this hotel, it's close. 2. Union Square has a booth selling half price theater ticket. We went to 2 shows within easy walking distance, and they were great. 3. Just up the street and around the corner is a place called Lefty O'Doul's that has meals and sandwiches served cafeteria style - good, filling, and very inexpensive. Same place is also a good pub, and has a piano bar every night - it was our hangout!

