



TOTALLY TECH

TechFusion: Physics, Math & Engineering Series

A dynamic series of STEM programs connecting physics, mathematics, engineering, robotics, aerospace, and emerging technologies through applied learning, innovation, and real-world problem-solving.

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TechFusion: Physics, Math & Engineering Series

San Francisco & Silicon Valley, California, USA

Day	Meals	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
1	D	Travel to San Francisco, California; transfer to Hotel in Fisherman's Wharf		Welcome, Safety & Orientation
2	B, D	Silicon Valley Guided Tech Tour: Intel Museum & Tour, Computer History Museum, Apple Park Visitor's Center, Stanford University, Palo Alto, Google Charleston East Building and more		Welcome Dinner
3	B, D	Chabot Space & Science Center with Mission Design Lab & Observatory Experience	Center US Army Corps of Engineers	Pier 39 Dinner
4	B, D	The Tech Interactive + Master Class	San Francisco Walking Tour	San Fran Flyer
5	B, L, D	The University of California Berkeley Campus Tour + Lunch on Campus	Hiller Aviation & Flight Simulator Lab	Dinner & Musée Mécanique (Vintage Arcade)
6	B, D	Lawrence Berkeley National Lab - Energy & Particle Science Exploration	San Francisco Bay Cruise	Dinner & Ghirardelli Square
7	B	Free time until departure; transfer to San Francisco International Airport and depart for home		Dinner & Rock Climbing Center Adventure
				Reflections



As with all sample itineraries, please be aware that this is an "example" of a schedule and that the activities and hotels shown may be variable dependent upon dates, weather, special requests and other factors. Itineraries will be confirmed prior to travel.



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A Message From Our Team

At STEM Study Tours, we believe students learn best when they're immersed, engaged, and inspired. Every program is built with intention - blending hands-on discovery, academic depth, and meaningful experiences that help students see the world (and themselves) in new ways. Our goal is for each itinerary to spark curiosity, build confidence, and create moments students carry long after the trip ends. We're honored to partner with schools who share that vision and to help bring learning to life beyond the classroom.

— Michele & The Hammock Expeditions Team

Why Travel With Hammock Expeditions & STEM Study Tours

Schools choose us because we design programs that are organized, intentional, and built around real learning. Our itineraries combine strong academics with smooth logistics, giving teachers confidence and giving students opportunities to explore, ask questions, and grow. We partner with trusted local experts, communicate clearly, and support groups every step of the way so educators can focus on their students - not the logistics.

What Sets Us Apart

- **Purpose-Driven Itineraries** - Students actively participate in meaningful, real-world learning.
- **Safety, Structure & Professionalism** - From 24-hour support to vetted partners and clear communication, we ensure teachers can focus on their students while we handle the logistics.
- **Hands-On, High-Impact Learning** - Our programs emphasize field science, conservation, and experiential learning - the kind that sticks with students long after the trip ends.
- **Student-Centered Design** - We balance learning with fun, reflection with adventure, and structure with flexibility. Every day is crafted to keep students engaged, energized, and supported.
- **A Team That Travels With Purpose** - We're educators, planners, naturalists, and travel professionals who care deeply about student growth. Your goals become our goals.

Our Commitment to You

When you travel with us, you gain a partner who understands your vision, anticipates your needs, and delivers an experience your students will remember for years to come. We're here to support your school, empower your students, and make every moment meaningful.

We want to be your educational partner. Let us know how we may serve you.

Michele, Christina, Izzy, Dana, Taylor, and the Team

Day 1: Touchdown in the City of Big Ideas

Dinner

TechFusion: Totally Tech San Francisco & the Silicon Valley, California

Where Innovation Meets Imagination: San Francisco and Silicon Valley form a landscape where creativity and technology intertwine. Here, physics and engineering leap off the page and into the labs, museums, and research centers that define global innovation. Students explore how ideas evolve into inventions - from robotics and aerospace design to renewable energy and particle science. Whether experimenting at The Tech Interactive, touring Stanford's cutting-edge facilities, or stepping inside Berkeley's research labs, each experience reveals how curiosity drives progress. Every stop becomes a window into discovery - dynamic, collaborative, and endlessly inspiring.

A Journey for Builders and Visionaries: This program invites students to think boldly and build fearlessly. They meet engineers, designers, and scientists shaping the future of technology, exploring how theory transforms into real-world solutions across energy, flight, and design innovation. Alongside these immersive STEM experiences, students walk the historic streets of San Francisco, cruise its bay, and reflect on how imagination fuels invention. Through hands-on labs, expert-guided sessions, and meaningful conversations with innovators, students gain more than technical insight - they gain confidence, creativity, and the spark to design their own breakthroughs.



Did you know?

- › Silicon Valley wasn't named for computers - it was named for the silicon used to make early microchips.
- › Stanford University is home to the world's first operational linear accelerator, stretching nearly two miles underground.
- › The Exploratorium invented the idea of "hands-on science museums." Before it opened, science museums didn't let you touch anything.
- › Google's first server was built from LEGO bricks because they needed a cheap, customizable casing.
- › Lawrence Berkeley National Lab helped discover 16 new elements on the periodic table - more than any other lab in the world.
- › The Bay Model in Sausalito is so large it uses 1.5 acres of water to simulate tides, storms, and sea-level rise.
- › The Tech Interactive's earthquake platform is modeled after real seismic data from California's biggest quakes.
- › Fisherman's Wharf used to be the center of San Francisco's fishing industry. Today, the sea lions draw more visitors than the boats ever did.



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After your arrival in San Francisco, you'll meet your Tour Director and transfer to the hotel to get settled before our Welcome, Safety & Orientation Briefing. During this briefing, our team will walk you through the week's plans, share tips for navigating the city, and outline how we stay safe and organized throughout the program.

Day 2 – Diving Into Silicon Valley's Innovation Stream

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Today's activities include:



Silicon Valley Guided Tech Tour - Students explore the landmarks and campuses that shaped the modern tech world as a local guide brings Silicon Valley's stories to life. They visit the Intel Museum, browse the Computer History Museum's highlights, stop at the Apple Park Visitor's Center, and walk the iconic grounds of Stanford University. The tour continues through Palo Alto and past Google's Charleston East Building, giving students a fun, behind-the-scenes look at the places where today's biggest ideas are dreamed up and designed.



Pier 39 Experience - A visit to Pier 39 brings the group right into the heart of San Francisco's waterfront energy, where colorful shops, lively performers, and the famous sea lions create a fun, easygoing atmosphere. It's a chance for students to unwind, explore at their own pace, and enjoy the classic sights and sounds of the Wharf before heading into the next day's adventures. The stop adds a light, memorable moment to the trip, giving everyone time to relax and take in the city's signature vibe.



Flyer Thrill Zone & 7D Experience - This high-energy stop brings the group into a world of motion, speed, and immersive storytelling. The Flyer's soaring simulation takes students above San Francisco's most iconic sights, while the 7D Experience amps things up with interactive thrills, special effects, and fast-paced fun. It's a lively break in the itinerary that blends adventure, teamwork, and plenty of laughs, giving the group a memorable dose of pure, tech-powered excitement.

Day 3 - Launch Day: Space, Science, and Sky-High Thinking

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Today's activities include:



Chabot Space & Science Center with Mission Design Lab & Observatory Experience

- This visit gives the group a deeper look at space science and exploration as they move through Chabot's engaging exhibits and guided learning spaces. The Mission Design Lab introduces big-picture thinking around how missions are planned and engineered, while the Observatory Experience lets students step into a real research environment and view the instruments used to study the night sky. It's an inspiring stop that blends accessible STEM concepts with the excitement of discovery, leaving students energized about the science behind space exploration.



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Bay Model Visitor's Center: US Army Corps of Engineers - The Bay Model offers the group a rare chance to see environmental engineering on a massive, real-world scale. Inside this working hydraulic model of the entire San Francisco Bay and Delta, students watch how tides, storms, and sea-level changes move through the region and impact communities. Guided by experts from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, they learn how scientists use the model to test ideas, plan for the future, and protect fragile ecosystems. It's an engaging blend of science, engineering, and environmental stewardship.



Musée Mécanique - An evening at Musée Mécanique gives the group a chance to unwind with one of San Francisco's most charming hidden gems. This vintage arcade is packed with historic mechanical games, quirky coin-operated machines, and nostalgic curiosities that invite students to play, laugh, and explore. It's a relaxed, memorable way to end the day with a bit of old-school fun along the waterfront. Please alert students to bring personal funds if they want to play!

Day 4 - Hands-On Tech With a Classic San Francisco Twist

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Today's activities include:



The Tech Interactive & Master Class - A visit to The Tech Interactive immerses the group in hands-on innovation, creative problem-solving, and the real-world impact of technology. Students move through interactive exhibits that highlight robotics, biotech, engineering, and digital design, all while discovering how these fields shape the future. The Master Class adds a deeper layer of learning, giving the group a guided, expert-led session that connects big STEM concepts to practical applications. It's an inspiring combination of exploration and structured discovery that leaves students energized about the possibilities of tech-driven careers.



San Francisco Walking Tour - This guided walking tour gives the group a chance to experience San Francisco's character up close, exploring the city through one of three distinct neighborhoods. Whether they choose the energy of downtown, the cultural richness of Chinatown, or the waterfront charm of Fisherman's Wharf, each route offers its own blend of history, architecture, and local stories. Students learn how the city's past and present shape the neighborhoods they're walking through. It's an active, immersive way to connect with San Francisco's identity.



San Francisco Bay Cruise on the Red & White - The Bay Cruise gives the group a sweeping, unforgettable look at San Francisco from the water, offering views that simply aren't possible from land. As the boat moves past Alcatraz, under the Golden Gate Bridge, and along the city's iconic shoreline, students get a sense of the region's geography, history, and engineering on a grand scale. The narrated journey adds context and storytelling that bring the bay's landmarks to life, making this a relaxing yet meaningful experience that blends scenery, learning, and classic San Francisco adventure.



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Ghirardelli Square - Ghirardelli Square gives the group a relaxed, classic San Francisco moment as they wander through its historic brick courtyard and enjoy the city's most famous chocolate shop. Students can sample treats, browse small boutiques, and take in the waterfront atmosphere that makes this spot such a local favorite. It's an easygoing break in the itinerary that adds a touch of sweetness and a bit of iconic SF charm to the day.

Day 5 - Build, Create, and Take Flight at Berkeley

Breakfast, campus lunch & dinner included

Today's activities include:



The University of California Berkeley Campus Tour - A visit to UC Berkeley gives the group a firsthand look at one of the world's leading public universities, offering a chance to walk through its historic quads, cutting-edge research spaces, and vibrant student areas. As they explore campus with a guided tour, students learn about Berkeley's academic strengths, campus culture, and the pathways that lead from high school to a major research institution. Lunch in the dining hall adds an authentic touch, letting the group experience daily student life while enjoying a relaxed break together.



Makerspace Lab at UC Berkeley: Jacobs Institute for Design Innovation - Students step into Berkeley's flagship makerspace for a guided, hands-on design session led by Jacobs Institute staff. Over two hours, they experiment with fabrication tools, rapid-prototyping materials, and design thinking methods while tackling a collaborative build challenge. Whether the focus ends up being 3D printing, laser cutting, or electronics, the experience is creative, fast-paced, and deeply engaging - giving students a real feel for how ideas become prototypes on a top engineering campus.



Hiller Aviation & Flight Simulator Lab - Students dive into the world of aviation through an energetic, instructor-led program at Hiller Aviation Museum. The session blends real engineering concepts with hands-on exploration, guiding students through aircraft design principles, aerodynamics, and modern flight technology. The highlight is the Flight Simulator Lab, where students step into professional-grade simulators to practice takeoffs, landings, and in-air navigation just like real pilots. It's an engaging mix of STEM learning, teamwork, and high-energy fun that gives students a true taste of aviation in action.



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Indoor Rock Climbing Adventure - Students jump into an energetic indoor climbing session that blends physical challenge with teamwork and confidence-building. After a quick orientation on gear and technique, instructors guide the group through a series of routes where students climb at their own pace, encourage one another, and push past their comfort zones. It's an active, high-spirited experience that leaves everyone feeling accomplished, connected, and proud of what they were able to tackle together.

Day 6 - Energy, Insight, and the Science of Tomorrow

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Today's activities include:



Lawrence Berkeley National Lab - Energy & Particle Science Exploration- Students visit one of the nation's leading research labs for an engaging, scientist-guided STEM experience focused on energy, climate, and particle science. During the session, they explore how researchers study renewable energy systems, advanced materials, and the physics behind the universe, with demonstrations or lab walk-throughs tailored to the group. It's a rare, high-impact opportunity to see real science in action and learn how cutting-edge discoveries are made at a world-class research facility.



The Exploratorium - Students get time to freely explore one of San Francisco's most iconic hands-on science museums, diving into exhibits that blend physics, perception, engineering, art, and curiosity. With hundreds of interactive stations to test, touch, and experiment with, the experience is energetic, playful, and endlessly engaging. It's a chance for students to follow their interests, discover surprising phenomena, and enjoy science in its most creative, open-ended form.



Trip Reflections - Students come together for a relaxed, end-of-week reflection session to look back on everything they've experienced throughout the trip. Guided prompts help them revisit standout moments, meaningful interactions, and the STEM concepts they explored, while small-group sharing encourages connection and thoughtful conversation. It's a calm, grounding way to close out their adventure - giving students space to process what they learned, celebrate what they accomplished, and carry those insights home with them.

Day 7 - Wrap-Up With Inspiration Packed for the Journey Home

Breakfast included

It's time to pack up and begin the journey home. After breakfast and depending on our flight or motorcoach departure time, we'll enjoy a bit of relaxed free time before saying goodbye to San Francisco. As we head out, students carry with them a week's worth of discoveries, friendships, and memories that will stay with them long after the trip ends.



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Farewell San Francisco!



Important Note: Many Master Classes and Workshops are based on availability and while most are available during the school year, some may not be available over holidays nor the summer months. Additionally, many workshops are based on a first-come / first-served basis. Essentially, the sooner you can confirm your tour, the sooner we can confirm your workshops with the individual suppliers.



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Weather in San Francisco, California

Spring (March–May): Fresh, Fog-Kissed, and Waking Up

- › Temperature: 50–65°F (10–18°C)
- › Conditions: A blend of bright skies, cool breezes, and the city's signature morning fog that gradually lifts into mild afternoons. Light rain still appears in March, but by May the days feel clearer and more vibrant.
- › Highlights: Great for waterfront walks, neighborhood exploration, and campus visits. Parks and gardens begin to show color, and outdoor spaces feel lively again.
- › Packing Tips: Layers, a waterproof jacket, comfortable walking shoes, and an umbrella for occasional showers.

Summer (June–August): Mild, Misty, and Breezy

- › Temperature: 60–70°F (15–21°C), cooler near the coast and warmer inland.
- › Conditions: Expect long daylight hours with cool mornings, pockets of fog, and breezy afternoons. Humidity stays low, and heat waves are uncommon, making outdoor exploration comfortable.
- › Highlights: Perfect for Golden Gate viewpoints, waterfront adventures, and exploring the city's iconic neighborhoods. Evenings are crisp and ideal for group outings.
- › Packing Tips: Light layers, sun protection, a refillable water bottle, and a warm layer for evening breezes.

Fall (September–November): Clear, Golden, and Pleasant

- › Temperature: 65–75°F (18–24°C) early fall, cooling into the 50s by November.
- › Conditions: San Francisco's sunniest season, with warm afternoons, clear skies, and cooler evenings. Rain begins to return late in the season, but most days are comfortable and bright.
- › Highlights: Ideal for campus tours, outdoor exploration, and scenic viewpoints without summer fog.
- › Packing Tips: Layers for shifting temperatures, a light jacket, and sturdy walking shoes.

Winter (December–February): Cool, Rain-Dotted, and Windy

- › Temperature: 50–60°F (10–16°C), with colder mornings and evenings.
- › Conditions: Expect overcast skies, periodic rain, and breezy days—especially near the waterfront. Fog is less common, but damp air can make temperatures feel cooler.
- › Highlights: Great for museum visits, indoor STEM sessions, and exploring neighborhoods without heavy crowds.
- › Packing Tips: Warm layers, a medium-weight jacket, waterproof footwear, gloves for windy days, and an umbrella.

Civics & Courtesy in San Francisco

Innovation Spaces & Museums - Follow staff instructions, stay with your group, and keep voices low inside labs, galleries, and hands-on exhibit areas.

Campus & Research Visits - UC Berkeley and Lawrence Berkeley National Lab are active academic environments. Use polite language, avoid running, and be respectful during tours and Q&A sessions.

Photography & Quiet Zones - Photos are welcome outdoors, but some labs and museum exhibits restrict photography. Follow posted signs and maintain quiet in designated spaces.

City Navigation - San Francisco's busy sidewalks, hills, and waterfront paths require awareness. Move as a group, stay alert at crosswalks, and keep backpacks zipped in crowded areas.

Respect for Landmarks - Treat iconic sites and scenic viewpoints with care. Stay on marked paths, avoid climbing on structures, and speak quietly in memorial or reflective areas.



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Taste of San Francisco – Local Favorites to Try

San Francisco blends West Coast flavors with international influences, offering students plenty of familiar, fun, and easy-to-love food options throughout the city. Whether grabbing a quick bite between activities or exploring during free time, they'll find iconic dishes and crowd-pleasers across the Bay Area's diverse neighborhoods.

1. **Sourdough Bread & Clam Chowder Bowls** – A classic San Francisco staple, especially along Fisherman's Wharf.
2. **Mission-Style Burritos** – Oversized, flavorful, and packed with rice, beans, and fresh fillings; a local favorite.
3. **Ghirardelli Chocolate Treats** – Sundaes, brownies, and chocolate squares from the city's famous chocolatier.
4. **Dim Sum in Chinatown** – Dumplings, buns, and small plates that are fun to share and great for groups.
5. **Pier 39 & Wharf Food Stands** – From seafood snacks to sandwiches and international street foods.
6. **Fresh Seafood Baskets** – Crispy fish, shrimp, or calamari served with fries - found all over the waterfront.
7. **Classic American Burgers & Fries** – Available everywhere and always a reliable go-to for students.

Entry Requirements for Travel to the USA

Entry requirements for entering the United States vary by nationality, and all travelers are responsible for checking the most current information during planning and before departure. The guidelines below are accurate at the time of writing and are subject to change without notice. Always verify requirements through your government's travel authority and the official U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) or U.S. Department of State websites prior to travel.

General Requirements (All International Travelers)

- ✓ A valid passport
- ✓ Proof of onward or return travel
- ✓ Compliance with U.S. Customs and Border Protection screening
- ✓ No active travel restrictions or inadmissibility flags

Visa or ESTA Requirements - Visa Waiver Program Travelers (Including many European and Asian countries)

- ✓ Must obtain ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorization) prior to travel
- ✓ Passport must be an approved e-passport
- ✓ ESTA is valid for short stays (up to 90 days)

Visa or ESTA Requirements - Non-Visa Waiver Travelers

- ✓ Must obtain a B-1/B-2 visitor visa
- ✓ May be asked to show proof of accommodation, program details, or financial means

U.S. Citizens & Permanent Residents

- ✓ No passport or visa required for domestic travel
- ✓ Government-issued photo ID required for flights (REAL ID compliant)

Important Notes

- Entry requirements can change; travelers must check for updates before departure.
- Some nationalities may require additional documentation or interviews.
- Schools traveling as a group should ensure all passports meet validity requirements.



TECH-FUSION: TOTALLY TECH

Minimum Booking Numbers: 20 students

What's Included:

- ✓ Round-trip flights or motorcoach transfers
- ✓ Airport transfers & motorcoach transportation to included activities
- ✓ 6-nights' accommodation in San Francisco (we typically like to Lodge in Fisherman's Wharf area)
- ✓ Breakfasts & dinners daily starting with dinner on arrival and ending with breakfast on departure (dependent upon travel times), plus a campus lunch on day 5 at the University of California Berkeley
- ✓ Private Guided Tour of Silicon Valley to include major tech locations
- ✓ Pier 39 & the Flyer
- ✓ Chabot Space & Science Center with Mission Design Lab & Observatory Experience
- ✓ University of California Berkeley Campus Tour
- ✓ UC Berkeley Makerspace Lab at Jacobs Institute for Design Innovation
- ✓ Bay Model Visitor's Center / US Army Corp of Engineers
- ✓ Hiller Aviation & Flight Simulator Lab
- ✓ Lawrence Berkeley National Lab - Energy & Particle Science Exploration
- ✓ Indoor Rock Climbing Adventure
- ✓ The Tech Interactive & Master Class
- ✓ San Francisco Walking Tour – Downtown, Chinatown or Fisherman's Wharf
- ✓ San Francisco Bay Cruise
- ✓ The Exploratorium
- ✓ Musée Mécanique visit
- ✓ Ghirardelli Square excursion
- ✓ Personal Tour Director
- ✓ 24-hour emergency cover

What's Not Included:

- ☒ Fully comprehensive insurance (**mandatory**)
- ☒ Baggage costs, pay directly to airline if required
- ☒ Baggage handling - everyone should be able to pull / load their own bag
- ☒ Transfers to/from home airport
- ☒ Lunches nor snacks and beverages other than at designated mealtimes
- ☒ Meal selections other than ones provided for the entire group (we are generally able to cater for allergy conditions, vegetarians, halal and in some cases vegan)
- ☒ Cost of visas, visa waivers, passports or other legal requirements for entry/return
- ☒ Cost of inoculations or medication required for travel
- ☒ Sightseeing / Entertainment / Transport not shown in Itinerary
- ☒ Hotel incidental deposits & bills – mini-bar, movies, etc.
- ☒ Gratuities – drivers, hotel services, local guides, tour director
- ☒ Credit card fees if individuals wish to pay via credit card instead of ACH
- ☒ Additional taxes, fuel surcharges or fees levied by governments / suppliers

As always, our staff are available to you to answer any questions you may have regarding programming. If we may serve you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.



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