

San Francisco Chronicle

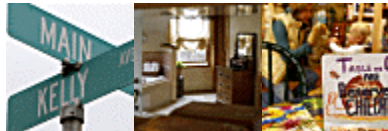
Travel



Street Date Stephanie Wright Hession
Thursday, October 2, 2008

As you round the curves of Highway 92 on the way to Half Moon Bay's downtown, inhale the sweet fragrance from a field of pastel stock flowers in a stunning fall landscape. With pumpkin season upon us, it was time to revisit this San Mateo County coast city to further explore Main Street.

IMAGES



1. Sujaro

400 Main St.: Stop in for an up-close view of the African masks lining the walls and occupying the windows of this gallery, which specializes in ancient and modern artifacts from Africa. Intriguing pieces include an ancestor altar head mask with a thatched bamboo base from the Tikor tribe in Cameroon. (650) 726-4316. www.sujaro.com.

2. Harbor Seal Company

406 Main St.: Children will be drawn to the puppets - penguins and other creatures - at this store, which has a marine and wildlife theme. There are also field guides and educational books about insects, ocean creatures and more, geared toward the younger set. (650) 726-7418. www.harborsealcompany.com.

3. Unique Clothing

407 Main St.: At first glance, this women's boutique might appear a bit stuffy. But its racks contain some cool clothing, including velvet-edged wraps adorned with pairs of sparkling peacocks; and a black knit suit accented with silvery thread and a feathery collar. (650) 726-6062.

4. Quail Run

412 Main St.: Seeds, garden tools, floral night-lights, glass hummingbirds, honey soap, picnic sets and Vera Bradley handbags embellish this garden- and nature-inspired gift shop. (650) 726-0312.

5. Fengari

415 Main St.: This homey store is packed with vivid yarn from around the world in every hue imaginable. It also offers classes and instructional books, such as "Knitting for Peace: Make the World a Better Place One Stitch at a Time" by Betty Christiansen. Be sure to check out the bargain table, bins and boxes out front for great deals. (650) 726-2550. www.fengari.net

6. Coastside Books

432 Main St.: This store includes local history books about the towns sprinkled along the San Mateo County coast, racks of creative and amusing greeting cards and trippy magnets with inspirational sayings. (650) 726-5889.

7. Old Thyme Inn

779 Main St.: Want to turn your day trip into an overnigher? Check for a vacancy at this bed and breakfast, a former private residence dating to 1898. It features a parlor and seven individually decorated guestrooms with names such as the Lavender Room and the Rosemary Room. Sip a glass of wine during afternoon wine and hors d'oeuvres time, and enjoy a full breakfast in the morning. (800) 720-4277. www.oldthymeinn.com.

PARKING

Free two-hour street parking 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

GETTING THERE

By train and bus: From San Francisco, take a southbound Caltrain to the Hillsdale Station in San Mateo. Walk to El Camino Real and 31st Street. Board the SamTrans bus No. 294 and exit at Main Street and Kelly Avenue in Half Moon Bay. (800) 660-4287. www.caltrain, www.samtrans.com.

By car: Take Highway 1 south, turn left onto Highway 92 and turn right onto Main Street. From Highway 92 west, turn left onto Main Street.

GOOD TO KNOW

The 38th annual Half Moon Bay Art & Pumpkin Festival takes place 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Oct. 18-19, Main Street, Half Moon Bay. Festivities include the Great Pumpkin Parade with honorary grand marshal Will Clark, former first baseman for the San Francisco Giants; an exhibit of champion pumpkins; food; crafts; live music; a haunted house and more. Free. www.miramarevents.com/pumpkinfest.

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