

From the North on I-5

The most direct and fastest route:

Turn off I-5 at Dunnigan onto I-505 South,

I-80 West (toward SF),

CA-37 West (toward San Rafael),

US-101 South to San Rafael.

Take the Terra Linda/Freitas Parkway (Go through the stoplight at the exit- there are four filling stations right there- then turn left at the next light.

Stay on this road as it curves right past the shopping center, then left at the next light (Merrydale) to go over the freeway.

After passing over the freeway, turn right at the light (Civic Center Dr), down the hill, turning left at the light (McInnis Pkwy).

The hotel is 200 yards on the right.

Scenic alternative:

exit I-505 South to Winters onto CA-128 West past Lake Berryessa,

left onto CA-121 South past Vichy Springs to cross the Napa River at the south end of Napa onto 121/12 West.

To CA-37 West and then

To 101 S (only a few minutes to the hotel).

Take the Terra Linda/Freitas Parkway (Go through the stoplight at the exit- there are four filling stations right there- then turn left at the next light.

Stay on this road as it curves right past the shopping center, then

left at the next light (Merrydale) to go over the freeway.

After passing over the freeway, turn right at the light (Civic Center Dr), down the hill,

Turn left at the light (McInnis Pkwy).

The hotel is 200 yards on the right.

Longer scenic alternatives from I-5 to San Rafael.

Exit I-505 at the Hwy 20 exit in Williams. Head west on 20 toward Clear Lake,

Take Hwy 53 S to Lower Lake.

Then take 29 S thru Middletown to Calistoga.

From Calistoga, you can take 128 W to Geyserville.

Connect to 101 S to San Rafael. This is scenic, goes past vineyards and takes you north before returning south.

Or, from Calistoga, you can take Petrified Forest Road West to Calistoga Road all the way to Hwy 12 S until it hits 121, then continue until it meets Hwy 37 W, then 101 S.

Or, again from Calistoga, you can take 29 S through the Napa Valley to Hwy 12 W, then 121 S, 37 W, then 101 S.

Regardless of whether you stay on the freeway or take side roads, you will end up on 101 S towards San Francisco. When you pass Ignacio, Marinwood and then Lucas Valley, be prepared to exit at Terra Linda/Freitas Parkway.

Take the Terra Linda/Freitas Parkway (Go through the stoplight at the exit- there are four filling stations right there- then turn left at the next light.

Stay on this road as it curves right past the shopping center, then left at the next light (Merrydale) to go over the freeway.

After passing over the freeway, turn right at the light (Civic Center Dr), down the hill,

Turn left at the light (McInnis Pkwy).

The hotel is 200 yards on the right.

From the East on I-80

Exit at Highway 37 West to San Rafael. Road skirts the north end of Vallejo and becomes a two-lane causeway across the marsh at the north edge of the SF Bay.

Stay on 37 W to 101 S.

Take 101 S. to the Terra Linda/Freitas Parkway (Go through the stoplight at the exit- there are four filling stations right there- then turn left at the next light.

Stay on this road as it curves right past the shopping center, then

left at the next light (Merrydale) to go over the freeway.

After passing over the freeway, turn right at the light (Civic Center Dr), down the hill,

Turn left at the light (McInnis Pkwy) before the tracks.

The hotel is 200 yards on the right.

From the South on I-5

The most direct route to San Rafael from I-5 Northbound

to I580. This route takes you over Altamont Pass, through Livermore and Oakland (merges with 880 N in Emeryville until 580 N exits toward the Richmond San Rafael Bridge.)

Stay on I580 W over the Richmond San Rafael Bridge and

merge onto 101 N. Move over to the left at least one lane to continue. The freeway crosses above downtown San Rafael, then goes through a four lane walled section. At the top of the hill, be in the right lane to

exit at San Pedro Road/Civic Center.

Turn right at the fork of the exit.

Go down the hill to the stop light and

turn left onto Civic Center Drive. The Frank Lloyd Wright designed Marin Civic Center is on your left. Wind along the lagoon, straight through the roundabout and cross the tracks.

Turn right just past the tracks on to McInnis Parkway. Hotel is about 200 yards on the right.

Of course, this route carries the highest volume of traffic. Try to avoid the section from highway 5 to the Richmond Bridge between 7 and 9 a.m. as well as between 3 and 6 p.m.

Some alternatives from I-5 to San Rafael include:

I-5 North to I580 W then

Exit at Vasco Rd (east of Livermore). Vasco heads north into the Delta and connects with Hwy 4 West. Take 4 W toward Hercules, then

merge briefly onto 80 W and

exit at Fitzgerald/ Richmond Parkway/San Rafael. Right turn at the stoplight.

Continue through all stop lights until you cross the tracks (several miles) and are next to the rail yard on the left and refineries on the right.

Take the next left at the light to get onto 580 W to San Rafael. Cross through the toll plaza, over the bridge. Part way over the bridge you are into Marin. On the left you will see the Golden Gate Bridge and then San Quentin.

merge onto 101 N. Move over to the left at least one lane to continue. The freeway crosses above downtown San Rafael, then goes through a four lane walled section. At the top of the hill, be in the right lane to

exit at San Pedro Road/Civic Center.

Turn right at the fork of the exit.

Go down the hill to the stop light and

turn left onto Civic Center Drive. The Frank Lloyd Wright designed Marin Civic Center is on your left. Wind along the lagoon, straight through the roundabout and cross the tracks.

Turn right just past the tracks on to McInnis Parkway. Hotel is about 200 yards on the right.

From the South (San Jose)

When there is little traffic, the fastest route is often north on I-880 to I-580 West, which crosses the San Rafael bridge (there is a toll in this direction).

It is often less stressful, but a few minutes longer, to take I-680 from San Jose, then I-580 West. Of course, this being the Bay Area, there is always traffic.

merge onto 101 N. Move over to the left at least one lane to continue. The freeway crosses above downtown San Rafael, then goes through a four lane walled section. At the top of the hill, be in the right lane to

exit at San Pedro Road/Civic Center.

Turn right at the fork of the exit.

Go down the hill to the stop light and

turn left onto Civic Center Drive. The Frank Lloyd Wright designed Marin Civic Center is on your left. Wind along the lagoon, straight through the roundabout and cross the tracks.

Turn right just past the tracks on to McInnis Parkway. Hotel is about 200 yards on the right.

Crossing the Golden Gate Bridge

Top-down driving across the Golden Gate Bridge is a wonderful experience, but you will have to be mindful of the San Francisco traffic. If at all possible, try to cross the bridge from San Francisco before 2pm, as the drivers become more enthusiastic after that hour.

When coming from the South, we recommend approaching the city on I-280, taking either 19th Avenue (lousy pavement and stoplights, but direct) to the GGB, **or** by taking

CA-35 N/ Skyline Boulevard. Skyline is the old road in the hills before 280 was built.

You can stay on Skyline as it heads through some lights and past the Olympic Club and then Lake Merced

right turn that takes you onto Sunset Blvd North.

Follow Sunset until it goes under the Lincoln over crossing and dead ends at Martin Luther King Jr Blvd

Turn right on Martin Luther King Jr Blvd into Golden Gate Park and where you will go over several speed humps.

Left on CA-1 N, which is called Crossover Drive at this point.

Follow CA-1 N, which becomes Park Presidio Boulevard, until it merges with US-101 N

Continue across the Golden Gate Bridge (no toll in this direction) and on to San Rafael.

This route avoids steep hills and minimizes traffic (but there will be some, of course). Recommend when coming down the hill on 101 into San Rafael to be in the second or third lane from the right. If you are making this drive at 3pm or later, the traffic is challenging and cars use this route to get to 580 E and the East Bay. The slow lane is a mess as a result of this traffic.

Take 101 N past Central San Rafael over downtown

Move over to the left at least one lane to continue. The freeway crosses above downtown San Rafael, then goes through a four lane walled section. At the top of the hill, be in the right lane exit at San Pedro Road/Civic Center.

Turn right at the fork of the exit.

Go down the hill to the stop light and

turn left onto Civic Center Drive. The Frank Lloyd Wright designed Marin Civic Center is on your left. Wind along the lagoon, straight through the roundabout and cross the tracks.

Turn right just past the tracks on to McInnis Parkway. Hotel is about 200 yards on the right.

Bridge Tolls

There are no toll takers on Bay Area bridges. If you have a toll transponder, they will bill your account. If you don't they will mail you a bill. Just roll through.