

Places we call home

Showcasing | **Daly City & Colma**

Daly City – The Peninsula's Center for Diversity

Daly City is one of the nation's most diverse cities and a great place to learn about other cultures.

BY MEGAN LYNCH

As the world grows smaller thanks to the Internet, cell phones and airplanes, people are becoming more connected and are coming together in new ways. This new global environment is especially evident in the Bay Area, which is a center for international business and technology. Moving forward into the twentieth century, being comfortable in a multicultural community and learning from other people is becoming even more important. One great way to reach this stage is to immerse yourself in a diverse community that embraces learning and growing from others.

As one of the most diverse cities in the nation, Daly City is a great place to start.

Although the Peninsula is a diverse community as a whole, Daly City is truly the center for diversity. According to the 2000 census, Daly City is composed of a majority of minorities. As a whole, the City is 50% Asian, 26% Caucasian, 5% African American and 19% other ethnicities. Daly City also has the second largest Asian community in the United States and the largest Filipino community outside of Manila.

"We are one of the most diverse cities in America," said Daly City's vice mayor, Gonzalo "Sal" Torres. "Our children especially benefit from this diversity; it helps them learn about other customs and makes



PHOTOS BY ANSON CHAN, THE EXAMINER

them more open-minded. It shapes them into our future leaders."

Daly City is located on the northern edge of San Mateo, directly adjacent to San Francisco. The City spans from San Bruno

offers residents unparalleled opportunities for culture and fun. "If you live in Daly City, everything you need is at your fingertips," said Torres. "We have shopping, great schools, medical facilities, an entertainment complex and recreational facilities."

Especially unique are the opportunities for growth and learning. Six colleges or universities are within a 10-mile radius, and 12 more are within a 50-mile radius. The City is also served by five public school districts, which gives parents a myriad of choices when it comes to their children's growth.

The City also offers residents opportunities to grow outside of a school environment and after work. Daly City offers over 500 classes and sponsors a myriad of sports teams, aquatic programs, youth and teen services as well as a comprehensive senior adult program. "Our preschool program is a testament to the quality of our services," said Torres. "People from all over the Bay Area bring their children here because they trust the program."

These services and educational programs make Daly City a great place to raise a family. Beyond that, it is also a safe place to live and is rated as one of the safest cities for its size. Children also benefit from living in a diverse community where they can learn from their neighbors. "Our schools reflect our community, they are diverse and students are from all walks of life," said Torres.

For small business owners, Daly City is a great place to be. The government is focused on helping small businesses flourish and owners have a myriad of opportunities and resources available to them. The City even has a micro loan program that provides up to \$25,000 to help business owners get started.

As the largest city on the Peninsula, Daly City offers unparalleled opportunities for education, business and recreation. But more importantly, it offers a community of people from all walks of life that grow and learn together.



Mountain to the coast and as a result has a varied landscape that offers housing for people with varied tastes.

The City is known as the "Gateway to the Peninsula" and literally paves the way to the rest of San Mateo County. It has an extensive public transportation system with its own BART stop and is serviced by both MUNI and SamTrans. For those who prefer to drive, Daly City is sandwiched between both the 280 and 101 highways, which provide a link to downtown San Francisco, the East Bay and the Peninsula. It is also conveniently located nine miles from SFO airport, which can be accessed in minutes.

"The top reason to live in Daly City is its accessibility to both San Francisco and the Peninsula through BART and SamTrans," said Realtor Rick Whipple.

Whipple is a member of SAMCAR (the San Mateo County Association of Realtors). SAMCAR is a professional trade organization that organizes Realtors on the Peninsula. The Association provides members with opportunities for community involvement and access to a network of professional resources and business contacts. Realtors must abide by a strict code of ethics and participate in additional training above and beyond state real estate license requirements.

As the largest city in San Mateo County (the current population is estimated at approximately 103,000 people), Daly City

Colma: The Peninsula's Small-Town Community

BY MEGAN LYNCH

Looking for a small town to call home? Colma offers a country feel in the midst of San Mateo County.

Although it is best known for its cemeteries, Colma is also a peaceful, residential community in the midst of the hustle and bustle of the Northern Peninsula. "Colma is a quiet town with quiet neighbors and a small-town feel," said Realtor Rick Whipple.

The Town of Colma is located in Northern San Mateo County neighboring Daly City and South San Francisco. The land is only two square miles wide so getting around town is easy and painless. It is accessible via the 280 and has its own BART and SamTrans stops.

As a whole, Colma is a uniquely diverse community. It has an estimated population of around 1300 residents of which about 50% are Caucasian, 25% are Asian and 25% are other ethnicities. This diversity creates an interesting community with a variety of talents and traditions.

Living in Colma also means living near one of its 17 cemeteries, which make up

approximately 73% of the town's land area. The Town incorporated in 1924 primarily to protect this land use and cemeteries are still a large part of this neighborhood today. The cemeteries are home to the graves of many important figures in local history.

Colma is a self-supporting town thanks to revenue from local businesses, shopping malls and car dealerships. The tax revenue helps support the Town's services, which include Police, Fire and Planning. Colma also has a Capital Improvement Program that has allowed the Town to upgrade and beautify residential and commercial areas.

The town is very family-oriented and offers a variety of recreational facilities including a public Recreation Center with basketball courts and a playground for children. It is also home to Cypress Golf Course, a 9-hole, privately owned course. Children attend neighboring public and private schools in the Jefferson Elementary School District.

As one of the smallest towns in the Peninsula, Colma offers residents the opportunity to live in a quiet, peaceful, neighborhood nestled in the midst of busy San Mateo County.

Information in this series of community profiles is provided by the San Mateo County Association of REALTORS® (SAMCAR). Megan Lynch is a freelance journalist based in San Francisco. Please send questions, suggestions or feedback by e-mail to samcar@samcar.org or call 650.696.8200.

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