Sensory Guide for San Francisco Museum of Modern Art

For finding quiet, less crowded spaces.
Introduction

Welcome to the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art!

We know our museum can be overwhelming at times. With this guide you will be able to find sensory-friendly places of respite throughout the museum. These spaces tend to be quieter and less crowded.

You can ask any of our staff wearing a red lanyard to help you find these spaces.

Note: We always have something new in the works here at SFMOMA, so keep in mind that some areas may not be accessible due to exhibition closures.
Planning Ahead

To avoid a crowded lobby, loud noises, and the ticket line, we suggest buying your tickets ahead of your visit at sfmoma.org/tickets.

*Note: There may still be a wait at certain entry points.*
The bathrooms at SFMOMA are painted in a single bright color. Each floor is different. Pictured on the right is the Floor 2 red bathroom. Other bathrooms are bright blue, gray, green, pink, and purple. For bathrooms with more muted tones, we can go to Floors 1, 3, and 5.
Entering the Building

Our entrance at Third Street leads into our Botta Atrium which can be a bustling hub of people preparing for and departing from their visit.

We suggest using the entrance at Howard Street, pictured here. This space is a little more peaceful, has an elevator, and lots of open seating. It’s a great way to transition from the outside in.
Uncrowded and Quiet Spaces on Floor 2

The Koret Education Center is located behind the Silver Elevators. To enter, use the doors to the right of the Membership Desk. This area has comfortable couches and is perfect for resting your feet, eyes, and mind.
Uncrowded and Quiet Spaces on Floor 3

The Sculpture Terrace and Living Wall can provide a nice, serene break if you need some fresh air.
Located at the back of *Freeform: Experiencing Abstraction* on Floor 4, the Agnes Martin Gallery can provide a quiet, art-filled space to relax.
Uncrowded and Quiet Spaces on Floor 5

We have two lounge areas where you can relax, read, and charge your devices.
Crowded Spaces on Floor 2

Charles Schwab Hall is where visitors gather before entering the galleries. This space is often loud and crowded.
This floor is often our most crowded. It acts as an intersection between the top and lower floors, meaning that the hallways can be busy, and the galleries are loud.
City Galleries

Running alongside the galleries on the east side of Floors 4 and 5 are hallways that tend to be quieter.

You can also feel free to sit on the windowsill and soak in some natural light.
Tactile Opportunities

As an art museum, there are not many opportunities to touch artwork in our collection.

While in the galleries, do not touch the artwork. Remain behind floor markers or 18 inches away from artwork.

If an object can be touched, the label next to the work will say so. You can ask a security guard if you are not sure.
Lighting

Lighting within the galleries is closely controlled to protect the artwork.

Low and subdued lighting may be found in the following spaces:

- Floor 2: Works on Paper
- Floor 3: Photography

Natural light is available in the following spaces:

- Floor 3: Calder Galleries + Sculpture Terrace
- Floor 5: Sculpture Garden
- Floor 7: Sculpture Terrace
- Floors 4, 5, and 6: City Galleries
More Information

SFMOMA is dedicated to providing an accessible space that is welcoming to everyone. We offer a range of free programs and resources to make the museum a more inviting and enjoyable place for our visitors.

If you have any questions, please contact us at visit@sfmoma.org or 415.357.4000.