

Fun in San Francisco and the Clift Hotel

Written by Jenny Kerr

Thursday, 21 April 2011 00:00 - Last Updated Friday, 22 April 2011 09:39

Finally at 30 years old, I realized firsthand why San Francisco is so amazing.

This was my first trip to the famed city and I cannot believe it took me this long to make it happen. True, the city can be cold and damp at times, but that pales in comparison to its rich history and breathtaking scenery.

I've realized my childhood consisted of iconic scenes of this city on the bay. One of my favorite Alfred Hitchcock films, *Vertigo*, features Jimmy Stewart trailing the beautiful Kim Novak throughout the city streets and eventually to a foggy Golden Gate Park. It's a city of opportunity, glamour, culture and in this case, mystery.

Another classic altogether, *Bullit*, starring "The King of Cool" Steve McQueen features the most exciting chase scenes ever filmed. I grew up watching this more times than I can remember. My father loves cars and he has narrated that sequence to me so many times. "Notice the roar of the engine and McQueen double pumping the clutch." I still have a crush on this Hollywood legend. He performed most of his stunts in his 1968 Mustang GT while chasing down the nerdiest looking bad guys driving the 1968 Dodge Charger. This scene may seem hokey to some people watching it now, but at the time it was considered cinematic genius. There have been many imitators of this sequence over the years. The cars are literally making a high speed chase down the insanely steep terrain of the city on the hill. They drive over Russian Hill and streets like Chestnut and Lombard, all the while catching air after every plateaued intersection. It's tradition amongst my sisters if we bring a boy home to meet the parents that my dad makes them watch this scene from the movie. It's my dad's way of connecting to the guys and lets face it, he needs as much testosterone as he can get having all girls in the house.

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{youtube}Z-7IEPTAoTg{/youtube}

With all these images of San Francisco from the movies, it was about time for me to make a visit.

Thanks to some good timing on Travelzoo.com I was able to snag a great room rate at the [Clift](#) in San Francisco. Just steps way from the famed Union Square, this gem is a can't miss.



The facade of the **Clift**, in classic century-old architecture, welcomes guests with perfectly manicured topiaries and warm inviting hues of colorful lighting. When entering the lobby, in true Morgan's Hotel Group fashion, you get the unexpected. Designed by the Frenchman Philippe Starck, whose credits include the Delano and Mondrian, the Clift delivers with the trendy, whimsical and upscale. In the center sits an oversized chair that can comfortably fit six, if you can find a way to climb up into it. No doubt a sure photo op for every visitor. I felt like a modern version of Lily Tomlin's five year old character Edith Ann in her giant rocking chair. The collection of eclectic furniture and sculptures from artists such as Beirut native William Sawaya and a coffee table by none other than Salvador Dali, the guest will feel like they've entered the

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MOMA but here you can, in fact, actually touch the art.



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Agreeing to have a meal in a place he had a nearby place in mind.

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