

Hardly Strictly Bluegrass Festival 2012: Music, Food and Fun in Golden Gate Park

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By Jan Ross

So you like Bluegrass music.

Or you think you might sorta like Bluegrass music.

Or maybe you like music that is similar to Bluegrass music.

Or maybe you just like hanging in Golden Gate Park on your blanket in the grass, eating some great food and enjoying the company of the hundreds of other people who think they might sorta like Bluegrass music as well.

Well, you are in luck. Because The Hardly Strictly Bluegrass event will be held in Golden Gate Park on October 5, 6 and 7th for the 12th time this year.

The best news about this event, aside from the fact that performers like Emmylou Harris, Boz Scaggs, and Dwight Yoakum will be on stage, is that the event is totally free.

That's right, free as the wind that will be blowing over the park from the San Francisco Bay.

About 50 food vendors will be on hand to provide you with pretty much any sort of sustenance you might require or you are welcome to bring a cooler full of your own sustenance.

Bring your dog, bring your kid, bring your bike. and you can even bring your own alcohol.

Once you have enjoyed pretty much all the hardly strictly Bluegrass music any one person can take, spend some time getting to know the beautiful City by the Bay. Take a walking culinary tour with Local Tastes of the City Tours – I recommend the North Beach/Little Italy tour where you will have probably the best pizza of your life, taste bread fresh out of the oven and might possibly swoon over the chocolate éclairs.

If you are more of a nature lover, you have to pay a visit to Muir Woods, right out of the city on the other side of the Golden Gate Bridge. You can easily drive there yourself but Tower Tours will take you there in easy and air-conditioned comfort and

give you plenty of time to roam around. Be sure to take the trail that gives you a view of the bay – it's truly incredible.

Spend a day and evening at Fisherman's Wharf where you can visit the San Francisco's Bay Aquarium and check out the sea lions in the wild that hang out at Pier 39. You can get fabulous chowder at most of the restaurants on the pier, but I recommend the chowder at The Blue Mermaid. You will not be sorry you ordered it, I promise.

If you have one more day, spend it visiting Alcatraz. Ferries run regularly, are very inexpensive and it's an experience you should not miss if you are in San Francisco. Listen to the entire audio tour because the history of the place is incredible.

So, start your visit to San Francisco listening to Bluegrass music and end it listening to stories about convicts who were imprisoned on a rock in the middle of the icy bay.

Sounds like the perfect trip.

Hardly Strictly Bluegrass Festival 2012

October 5, 6, 7

Golden Gate Park, San Francisco

<http://www.hardlystrictlybluegrass.com>

Before you pack your banjo and slide guitar check out the [DealAngel hotel results for San Francisco](#) here.