

Celebrate the Year of the Ox with BART



Take BART to the Southwest Airlines Chinese New Year Parade in San Francisco, Saturday, February 7 at 5:15 p.m.

Exit BART at Montgomery or Powell Street Station and you're there.

Named one of the top ten parades in the world and a San Francisco tradition since the 1860's, the parade continues to delight and entertain the many thousands of people who attend. Don't battle them in traffic or for a parking spot, take BART to the parade.

Parade highlights include elaborate floats, gorgeous costumes and, of course, the 201-foot long Golden Dragon.



Corbett Lee, Knight Lights Photography

For more parade info, or to buy bleacher seats, visit chineseparade.com. To plan your BART trip, visit bart.gov.

Celebrate Lunar Year 4707, the Year of the Ox, with BART. People born in the Year of the Ox are honest, placid and always considerate. The Ox never acts on a mere whim. He or she refuses to be influenced by gossip or trivia, and ponders all angles of every situation. Once the Ox has completed a thorough assessment of any situation, they carry their course of action through to the appropriate end. The Ox is a faithful and trustworthy friend and will always be helpful in times of need.

Gung Hay Fat Choy!

Ride BART to MLK Day celebration

BART will carry riders from throughout the Bay Area to Civic Center Station on Monday, January 19 for Northern California's largest celebration of the life and achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium.

For the tenth consecutive year, BART will provide a limited number of commemorative Martin Luther King Day Flash Passes, distributed free through the Northern California Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance Committee. Flash passes are good for BART rides to and from the event.



For flash pass and MLK Day celebration info, visit norcalmlk.org, or call 510/562-3372. To plan your BART trip, visit bart.gov.

BART will be running on a regular weekday schedule on January 19.

Fun new features online at bart.gov

What's new on bart.gov? Posters going up this month on trains and in stations will highlight some of BART's coolest online offerings:



Seen and heard on BART: riders share anecdotes and photos, new every week at www.bart.gov/seen.

Info on the go: get schedules, real time arrivals and other info on your mobile at www.bart.gov/wireless.

Virtual water cooler: follow BART's microblogging updates on Twitter at www.twitter.com/sfbart.

Ride BART. Shop SF. Get more.

Take advantage of San Francisco's fabulous shopping, world class dining and exciting museums and entertainment, all just a short BART ride away.



The "Shop SF. Get more." program offers residents in the nine-county Bay Area (San Francisco, San Mateo, Marin, Napa, Sonoma, Contra Costa, Alameda, Solano and Santa Clara) special discounts and other incentives when you show your Zip code at over 170 participating local merchants.

For more info, visit onlyinsanfrancisco.com/shopsf.

Save money with pre-tax transit benefits

The IRS has upped the transportation benefit for 2009 to \$120 per month. You can now use up to \$120 of pre-tax income monthly to pay for transit expenses (like BART tickets!) through programs such as Commuter Check or WageWorks.

You can even use additional pre-tax dollars to pay for parking at your BART station. There's a separate \$230 per month benefit for parking at transit facilities that can be given in addition to the monthly transit benefit.

For complete transit benefit information, visit irs.gov and download form 15-B.

Sign up for transit benefits with your employer and start saving money today. If your employer isn't already enrolled in a transit benefits program, tell your boss transit benefits can save hundreds of dollars in payroll taxes per employee per year.

Earn points fast with BART Rider Rewards MasterCard

The BART Rider Rewards MasterCard® allows cardholders to earn points faster than most other rewards cards.



You can earn five points for each dollar spent on eligible BART purchases: at BART ticket vending machines, tickets purchased online through bart.gov, linking your BART Rider Rewards MasterCard to a BART EZ Rider smart card, and reserved parking permit purchases made at bart.gov/parking.

In addition, cardholders can earn two points per dollar on purchases made at qualifying entertainment locations and one point per dollar on all other purchases.

Points can be redeemed for BART tickets or cash.

There is no annual fee. Apply today at www.bart.gov.

January Good Times calendar

Chinese New Year Spectacular

Divine Performing Arts, San Francisco Opera House
301 Van Ness at McAllister, San Francisco
www.sfshow.net, 415/392-4400 or 888/JOY-2009

> **BART: CIVIC CENTER**, three-block walk

Jan. 7-14: *The beauty and grandeur of centuries of Chinese culture are brought to life by a cast of classical Chinese dancers, international vocalists, and an orchestra composed of both traditional Chinese and Western instruments.*

Abraham Lincoln's Big Gay Dance Party

The SF Playhouse, 533 Sutter St., San Francisco
www.sfplayhouse.org or 415/677-9596

> **BART: POWELL**, four-block walk

Through Jan. 17: A "Trial of the Century" determines the fate of a rural third-grade teacher who outs Abe Lincoln as gay in the annual Christmas pageant. Abe and the rest of the cast dance in styles from ballroom to salsa, yet the title belies the seriousness of the message about addressing our deep national divide and redefining what it means to be an American.

In the Name of Love: Seventh Annual Musical Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Oakland Scottish Rite Center
1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland
www.mlktribute.com or 800/838-3006

> **BART: LAKE MERRITT**, three-block walk

Sunday, Jan. 18, 7:30 p.m.: A musical event that celebrates the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This year's performances feature the Marcus Shelby Jazz Orchestra

with Faye Carol, Kenny Washington, Jeannine Anderson, and Nicolas Bearde; the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir; Destiny Arts Youth Performance Group; and the Oakland Children's Community Choir, backed up by Khalil Shaheed's Oaktown Jazz Workshops.



Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures from the National Museum, Kabul

Asian Art Museum, 200 Larkin St., San Francisco
www.asianart.org or 415/581-3500

> **BART: CIVIC CENTER**

Through Jan. 25: Nearly 230 priceless artifacts from three archeological sites explore the rich cultural heritage of ancient Afghanistan from the Bronze Age through the rise of trade along the Silk Road in the first century CE.



Afghanistan 1970-1975: Images from an Era of Peace

San Francisco Main Library, 100 Larkin St. Sixth Floor, Skylight Gallery, www.sfpl.org

> **BART: CIVIC CENTER**

Through Jan. 18: Striking black-and-white pre-war 1970s photographs by Joseph Hoyt depict people of all ages, landscapes and ancient ruins in a poor but culturally and historically rich nation before the start of conflict and turmoil. The library is located directly across Grove Street from the Asian Art Museum, so while the photo exhibit is still on display visitors can see both exhibitions in one outing.

Gilbert & Sullivan's "Iolanthe"

Lamplighters Music Theatre, Lesher Center for the Arts
1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek
www.lesherartscenter.org or 925/295-1400

> **BART: WALNUT CREEK**

Jan. 30-Feb. 1: Just in time for a new administration comes Gilbert & Sullivan's subversive political satire on how a government should be run. Featuring the tour de force "Nightmare Song" and a band of dancing fairies doing battle with a dim-witted Parliament.



Civic Center elevator repairs begin this month

To improve the reliability of elevator doors, extend the life of equipment and bring elevator enclosures up to current standards, BART will be closing street elevators at BART/Muni stations in downtown San Francisco and replacing the elevator entrance structures.

The repairs begin this month with the Civic Center UN Plaza elevator which will be closed from Jan. 5-April 2009.

For more information, visit bart.gov or sfmta.com.

BARToon grimescartoons.com

For years I've enjoyed a great quantity of life, but now I'm shifting into quality: eat less, taste more; spend less, save more; stress less, smile more; drive less, BART more, and so on.



More or less!

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