

Getting from the airport to Downtown San Francisco

The best way to get from the San Francisco Airport (SFO) and Oakland Airport (OAK) to Downtown San Francisco is to use our (mostly underground) subway system "Bay Area Rapid Transit" also called "BART."



BART avoids traffic and costs less than any alternative (except for a friend's car ride or *maybe* sharing Uber/Lyft with four people).

These directions are specifically for SFO. BART can also be used from OAK though it has been a long while since I have done so.

Within SFO

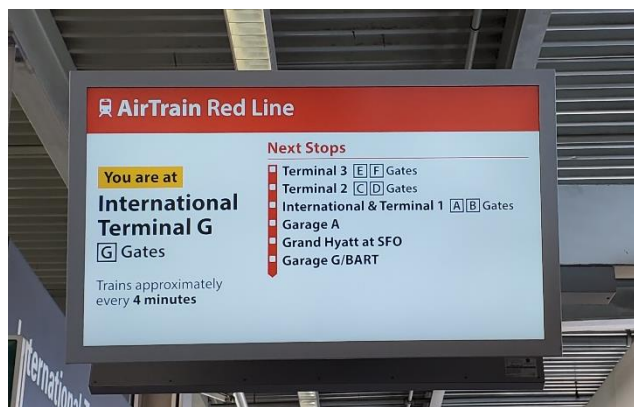
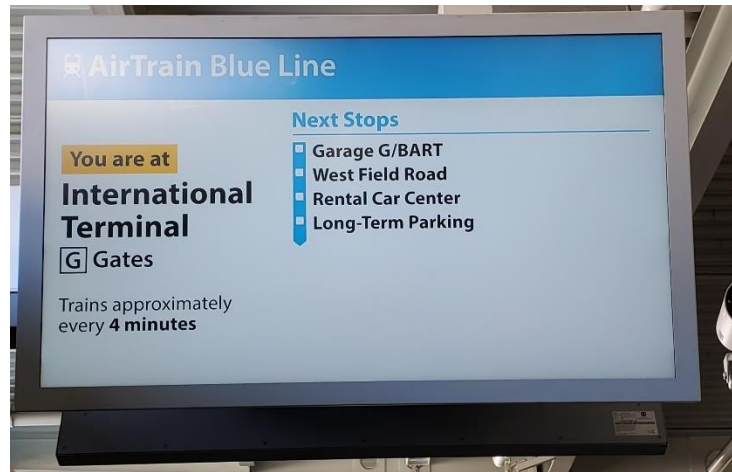
There are four terminals at SFO. Terminals 1, 2, & 3 extend radially from the parking garage in the middle, so expect long walks.

(If you prefer to take a ride share such as Uber/Lyft, there are designated pick-up areas on the roof / Level 5 of the parking garage for Terminals 1 – 3. From the International Terminal, pickups are on the "2nd curb" on the third floor/Departures Level. Sorry I did not research that one.)

To take BART, you should go toward the "International Terminal." One can walk from Terminal 3 to the International Terminal. Otherwise, there is a free Air Train at Level 4. Look for signs at departures/ticketing as you exit.



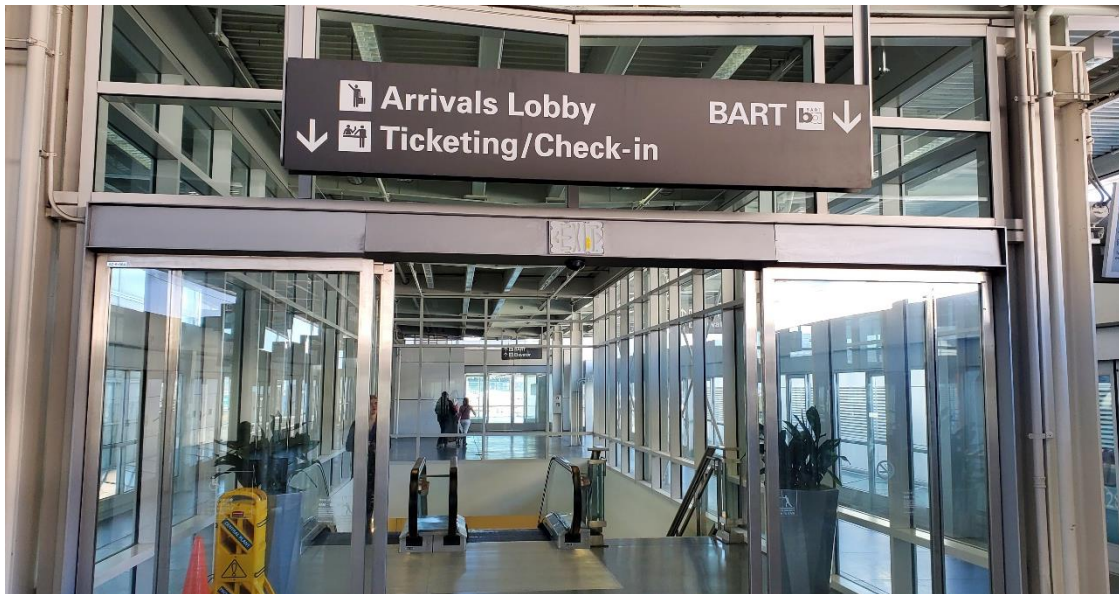
Air Train has two directions—Red Line and Blue Line. Both work to get you to International Terminal / "G" Gates



When you emerge from the Air Train, you will see:



Then head down the escalator:



You will pass the information desk and see the BART Station.



How to pay for BART

You can use Apple Wallet or Google Wallet to purchase fare in advance by visiting this website: <https://www.clippercard.com/ClipperWeb/pay-with-phone#lets-get-started>. Fare must be purchased for each rider age 4 or older.

Alternately, on the left side of the station you will see a series of ticketing machines. If you use the machine, we strongly recommend that you purchase roundtrip fare (\$21 as of this writing) on a printed paper ticket. Tickets (i.e., not Apple Wallet or Google Wallet) elsewhere are **more expensive** (requiring a reusable stored-value debit plastic card for \$3 more).



There are turnstiles designated for entry (with a green arrow) and some for exit. Paper tickets are inserted into slots at entry turnstiles, ejected at the top of the turnstile, and intended for you to redeem for later exit. Friendly agents are nearby for questions.



Lighted signs will direct you to the side of the station (likely the right side) to head toward San Francisco, Richmond, and/or Antioch, all of which take you to Downtown San Francisco.

At almost all times, take BART eleven stops to Montgomery Street station in about half an hour. The station immediately before Montgomery is Powell Street.

In San Francisco



Exit the train and look left. If you do not see the above single escalator and stairs, walk toward the front of the train and locate it.

Insert the ticket (you kept it, didn't you?) into the exit turnstile. If money remains on the ticket, it is returned to you at the top of the turnstile. Save it for your return trip.

Exit A2

If you have luggage, exit right at Exit A2 when you reach the exit.



Once at the street level, walk back a block and turn left at Ghirardelli Chocolate.



Exit A1

If you do not mind carrying baggage up stairs versus using an escalator, from the BART exit proceed straight to Exit A1. When you emerge at street level, look to the right.



You will see the entrance to the Palace Hotel with flags along the side of New Montgomery Street.

Exit B3



Whoops, you exited BART at the two-escalator exit. Emerge at the street and walk 1½ blocks behind you, passing LendingClub, Chase Bank, Wells Fargo, McDonald's, and Bank of America. Cross the street to Ghirardelli Chocolate at the corner and turn left; you will see the hotel's entrance in no time.

To Return to SFO

(From the hotel, sharing a rideshare among three or four people might be less expensive than BART.)

BART works as well in reverse. Enter at Montgomery Station again.

- Select the side of the platform headed toward SFO/San Bruno/Millbrae and away from Richmond, Antioch, Dublin, or Fremont.
- The station after Montgomery should be Powell. If it is Embarcadero, exit the train and take the next train headed in the opposite direction.