



S. J. Sharkie, the San Jose Sharks mascot.

EXPLORE SOFA

For a creative night on the town, check out the **South First Area District** for unique art spaces, bars and music venues. Catch the nearly monthly **South First Fridays Art Walk** to immerse yourself in this creative community. For a drink or meeting place, visit **Forager Tasting Room & Eatery**, a former billiards hall turned coffee shop, tap room and art space.

JAPANTOWN

San José's historic **Japantown** has a reputation for friendliness, propelled by its mix of classic family-owned restaurants, unique boutiques and hip galleries. Visit the **Japanese American Museum of San Jose** to learn about contributions made by Japanese families in California and remember a dark chapter in U.S. history: the mass imprisonment of Japanese American citizens during World War II.

GET OUTDOORS

Head into the rugged foothills east of the city to **Alum Rock Park** or **Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve** for a hike with expansive views of Silicon Valley and San Francisco Bay. To get up close to local wildlife and birds, rent a kayak and paddle on the Bay's southernmost wetlands at **Alviso Marina County Park**.

FOOD & DRINK

The **San Pedro Square Market** and **SoFA Market** food halls are lively places to dig into noodles, poke, Cuban sandwiches and more from upstart local food crafters. For a downtown beer crawl, start at **Up roar Brewing Company** for a barrel-aged or sour beer, move on to **Camino Brewing Company** for a pint inspired by San José's agricultural heritage and end at **Clandestine Brewing** to taste one of its creative collaborations with other breweries.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Silicon Valley; Clandestine Brewing; San Pedro Square Market; Taiko drumming in Japantown; Alviso Marina County Park; A dish from Vietnoms at SoFA Market.



SAN JOSÉ

You've got a day to check out the capital of Silicon Valley. Here's what you do. **BY CASSIE KIFER**

THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA'S biggest city, San José, sometimes feels like it's hiding in plain sight. Locals love its cultural diversity, easy access to the outdoors and friendly neighborhoods. And in the fall, this hockey-crazed city bleeds teal for the San Jose Sharks at the SAP Center at San Jose, aka the "Shark Tank." Changes are on the horizon, however. Google is planning a major development near downtown, and the long-awaited Bay Area Rapid Transit expansion to north San José is set to open by the end of the year, improving access from Oakland and San Francisco. If you have a day to spend in the Bay, spend it discovering why the focus is now on San José.

BY FRANK CHEN/GETTY IMAGES (SILICON VALLEY); ANDREI STANESCU/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO (ALVISO MARINA COUNTY PARK); LANNY NGUYEN (SOFA MARKET)