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**ARGONAUT HOTEL**  
**AT THE SAN FRANCISCO MARITIME NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK**

**Overview**

*San Francisco*—Whether seeking great fortune or following a dream, travelers and thrill-seekers throughout history have set sail for the vibrant, bustling port city of San Francisco. Today, modern explorers looking to experience the essence of San Francisco check into the **Argonaut Hotel** at the corner of Jefferson and Hyde Streets. Located on the world’s most famous waterfront, in the historic Haslett Warehouse at The Cannery, the 252-room destination hotel overlooks the Bay and a fleet of historic ships. Here, guests can savor a true taste of the history and soul of the City.

In Greek mythology, the term **Argonaut** referred to sailors in search of the Golden Fleece. Over time, it came to refer to a person engaged in a dangerous but rewarding quest. Then, in 1849, the influx of adventurers who journeyed from every part of the world to join the California Gold Rush became known as the *New Argonauts*. So it is fitting that the evocative name now refers to one of the City’s most unique hotels—one that celebrates its portside setting and embraces the timeless desire for adventure and exploration. While the **Argonaut Hotel’s** original 1907 style architecture still embodies elements of the nautical history of San Francisco in its heyday, its plush, stylish décor nestles guests in an accommodating, stimulating environment that is both modern and comforting.

Tantalizingly close to such classic San Francisco landmarks as Fisherman’s Wharf, Ghirardelli Square, The Cannery and Pier 39, the **Argonaut Hotel** also puts guests just steps away from walking paths and running trails that lead through Fort Mason, straight to the Golden Gate Bridge and beyond. Cable cars and the cafes and nightlife of North Beach are short walk from the hotel, as is the City’s financial district. With its enviable location and views as well as proximity to the rest of the City by the Bay, the **Argonaut Hotel** is alluring to all types of travelers, from pleasure seekers to business executives. It also welcomes children and well-behaved pets, providing cribs strollers for the children.

The former warehouse, typical of the genre of building in the area at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, has been exquisitely refurbished to show off its red brick walls, high ceilings and original redwood columns and beams. Classic harbor styling, complete with wide plank flooring, greets guests as they enter the high-ceilinged lobby/living room. Compass point elements and vibrant, colorful interiors playfully evoke the glamorous San Francisco of 1907, when the harbor was the cultural center of a city in its golden age.

One of the **Argonaut Hotel’s** most intriguing features is its association with the San Francisco Maritime Park’s new 10,000 square-foot Visitor’s Center, located on the ground floor of the hotel. In fact, the **Argonaut Hotel** is actually a part of the Maritime National Park, home to the historic ships at the Hyde Street Pier, including the square rigged *Balclutha* and the side-wheel

ferry *Eureka*. Rent paid by the hotel directly benefits the Maritime Park and its ongoing preservation efforts of the historic ships.

### **Guestrooms**

Many of the **Argonaut Hotel's** first-class accommodations feature outstanding views. A large percentage of the 252 spacious guestrooms have unobstructed sight lines to the entire Bay, including the Golden Gate Bridge and Alcatraz. Others look toward Coit Tower, the tip of the TransAmerica Pyramid or The Cannery. Guestroom windows at the **Argonaut Hotel** can be opened so that visitors can drink in the sea air, hear the clang of the cable cars and the calls of the seagulls, barking sea lions, and foghorns, if they wish. If not, they can close the windows and enjoy the quiet.

All the rooms include fully stocked mini bars filled with San Francisco treats, as well as Sony DVD/CD stereos, high-speed Internet access, private voicemail, copier and fax, and portable phones with data ports.

The **Argonaut Hotel's** 13 Suites, complete with brass telescopes and world-class amenities, such as spa tubs, DVD/CD stereos, have the grace and style worthy of a captain's quarters. Overall, the hotel is infused with the classic elegance of the Golden State's most famous harbor town without losing sight of the modern luxuries today's traveler demands.

### **Amenities**

The **Argonaut Hotel** also offers a wide array of additional amenities. The exercise room comes complete with cardio and strength equipment. The lobby offers WI-FI for high-speed Internet access and serves complimentary Starbucks coffee in the morning and wine in the evening. For extra tall visitors, 18 rooms with long beds and high showerheads are available.

### **Restaurant**

**The Blue Mermaid Chowder House**, a lively dining destination adjacent to the **Argonaut**, serves casual San Francisco fare. It specializes in a variety of homemade chowders such as Dungeness crab and sweet corn, and Hog Island oyster and leek, all served from large cauldrons. The menu also emphasizes classic preparations of fresh seafood, including sautéed petrale sole, crab Louie, linguini and clams, cioppino, po' boys, and crab cocktails. Lunch is casual, with guests ordering from the counter; dinner is full service. The 145-seat space, complete with courtyard dining for warm weather, features a full bar with Irish coffee and a wide selection of beer and California wines. Designed by the award-winning Robert Puccini Design and Development of San Francisco, the **Blue Mermaid Chowder House** is filled with nautical antiques and maritime pictures in a setting that incorporates original wood beams and an old-time Mahogany bar, recalling the Gold Rush era.

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Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants is a San Francisco-based company known for its collection of stylish boutique hotels that are coupled with fine chef-driven restaurants. Founded in 1981, the company currently operates 38 hotels and 34 restaurants across the United States and Canada and its combination of boutique, four-star service and an adjacent destination restaurant have proven a great success. Kimpton's signature elements are Care, Comfort, Style, Flavor and Fun. The company recently opened the Onyx Hotel in Boston, and the 70 Park Avenue Hotel in New York City. The Hotel Salomar opened in San Diego in April of 2005. Kimpton will re-launch the Mayfair Hotel and Spa in Coconut Grove, Florida in Summer of 2005. Kimpton will also be

expanding to South Beach, Florida in 2005 and additional projects are also underway in Dallas, Virginia and the Washington, DC area. For more information or to make reservations, please visit [www.kimptongroup.com](http://www.kimptongroup.com) or call 1-800-KIMPTON.

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## ARGONAUT/HISTORIC HASLETT WAREHOUSE

### Building History

A historic landmark, the Haslett Warehouse was originally built between 1907 and 1909 as a warehouse for the California Fruit Cannery Association, which distributed its goods under the Del Monte brand. The four-story timber and solid brick building, now Kimpton Group's Argonaut Hotel is located at Hyde and Jefferson Street at San Francisco's Cannery on Fisherman's Wharf. It was once near the water's edge, so that ships laden with produce from California's Central Valley could unload their cargo directly into the building. Today, the water's edge is a half block away, and it's likely that the landfill around the **Argonaut Hotel** covers the remains of many old ships that never made it out of the bay. A train yard once sat between the Haslett Warehouse and The Cannery, and railroad tracks ran down Columbus Avenue and along Beach Street, eventually transporting canned Del Monte fruits and vegetables to the rest of the country. For approximately 25 years this warehouse was the site of one of the City's principal industrial operations. At its inception this cannery was the largest cannery in the world.

In the mid-1930s, as the canning and shipping industries were shifting to the eastern shores of the Bay and World War II was looming, William Randolph Hearst leased part of the warehouse for storage of the disassembled stones of a Spanish monastery. Over the years it served as a warehouse for various items, then was home to 107 offices. Eventually the building was left vacant, in need of renovation. Fortunately, because it exemplified the genre of warehouse that once was typical in the northern waterfront area, the City of San Francisco declared the Haslett Warehouse an historic landmark in 1974. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975. But the building's fate was still uncertain. Fire damage threatened the magnificent warehouse many times in its life, the most recent being in early 2002, just as the Maritime Hotel Associates, LP, an affiliate of the Kimpton Hotel and Restaurant Group of San Francisco, began its \$40 million renovation and conversion of the building. The fire damage delayed, but did not deter the project to transform the Haslett Warehouse to one of the City's most unique hotels.

The Argonaut Hotel is opened on August 18, 2003. For more information or to make reservations, please visit [www.kimptongroup.com](http://www.kimptongroup.com) or call 800-kimptongroup.