

Angel Gomez, Club Director of Sales  
**Angel's**

**Be Alive!**

– San Francisco

# The Golden Gate Bridge

The Gomez family at the Golden Gate Bridge.



Pier 39 and the sea lions enjoying the sun.



Aden, with Alcatraz in the background.

## Hello again, Everybody!

In last month's *Alive!*, we explored the beautiful areas of Muir Woods, 11 miles north of San Francisco. In this month's article, I will walk you through our adventures at the world famous Golden Gate Bridge!

My family and I drove over the bridge a few times and decided we needed to experience the amazing views up close and personal, which can be accomplished only by walking the bridge. So we did just that.

We started at one end and walked all the way across. My boys absolutely loved the views, the history and the facts they learned!

### History of the Bridge

Construction began on Jan. 5, 1933 and cost more than \$35 million. Today, it is estimated the bridge would cost approximately \$1.2 billion (as of 2003) to build. The idea of building the bridge was more than 10 years in discussion; the challenge was getting support in Northern California. The bridge faced numerous litigations from the Department of War (because they thought the bridge would interfere with ship traffic).

Another setback was the Southern Pacific Railroad, one of the most powerful business interests in California; they opposed the bridge because it would cause competition to its ferry fleet and filed a lawsuit against the bridge building project.

Until 1964, the Golden Gate Bridge had the longest suspension bridge main span in the world, at 4,200 feet. Since then, ten other bridges have surpassed its main span length. It is now the second-longest main span bridge in the United States, after the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge in New York City.

The Golden Gate Bridge's clearance above high water averages 220 feet, while its towers, at 746 feet above the water, were the world's tallest on a suspension bridge until 1998, when bridges in Denmark and Japan were completed.

The Golden Gate Bridge officially opened on May 27, 1937, and the grand opening lasted one week. The day before the bridge was open to vehicle traffic, 200,000 people crossed by foot and roller skates. The bridge is popular with pedestrians and bicyclists and was built with walkways on either side of the six vehicle traffic lanes. Initially, they were separated from the traffic lanes by only a metal curb, but railings between the walkways and the traffic lanes were added in 2003,

primarily as a measure to prevent bicyclists

from falling onto the roadway.

The color of the bridge is officially an orange vermillion called "international orange." Consulting architect Irving Morrow selected the color because it complements the natural surroundings and enhances the bridge's visibility in the fog.

### Highlights

There are numerous ways to cross the bridge, which include driving, walking and biking. The views are spectacular! If you want to travel by boat you can use our Club Discount at the Blue and Gold Fleet. All you have to do is show your Club Card at the window, and you will receive a discounted price.

If you are ever in San Francisco, I highly recommend parking your car and walking across the bridge, as it will be a wonderful adventure to share with family and friends. My family loved every second of our walk and took many photos along the way! The route we took passed under the Golden Gate Bridge, around the harbor and along the famous Alcatraz Prison, then back to the pier. Don't forget to stop by pier 39 to enjoy the delicious local seafood at Fisherman's Wharf, take a cruise, and view the playful sea lions that hang out around the docks.

All in all, we had a wonderful time, and this is a must-see "Be Alive!" location.

### Fun Facts

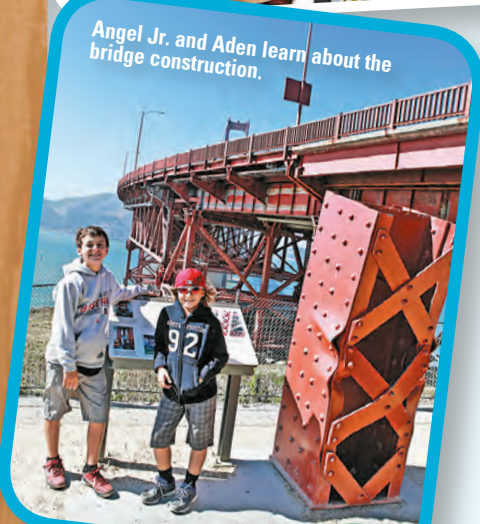
The Golden Gate Bridge took a little more than four years to complete, with 10 different prime contractors working on it. Sadly, there were 11 deaths during the bridge's construction. Ten of those deaths occurred when a section of scaffold carrying 12 men fell through the safety net.

There are approximately 600,000 rivets in each tower. And lastly, did you know that there was a pedestrian fee from May 1937 to December 1970? However, on Dec. 15, 1970, the pedestrian toll was eliminated.

Don't forget to bring your camera and take plenty of photos and send them to me at [agomez@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:agomez@cityemployeesclub.com). Bring water, snacks and maybe some sunscreen.

**As always, be safe and Be Alive!**

*Angel*



Angel Jr. and Aden learn about the bridge construction.



Aden, Kathy and Angel Jr. by the Fog Harbor Restaurant.



Aden and Angel Jr. about to walk across the Golden Gate Bridge.

## The Golden Gate Bridge

San Francisco, CA 94129

US 101 between San Francisco and Marin County  
(415) 921-5858 • [goldengatebridge.org](http://goldengatebridge.org)

**Parking:** Available at both ends of the bridge.

**Cost:** The price to drive across the bridge is \$6 to \$7, but walking and bicycling across is free.

**Directions:** From Los Angeles, take the 5 north, then continue onto the I-580 west (signs for Tracy/ San Francisco). Keep right on the I-580 west (signs for Oakland/San Francisco), then keep left at the fork. Follow signs for I-80 W/San Francisco and merge onto I-80 west, then exit onto Fremont Street. Continue onto Front Street, turn left onto Pine Street. Turn right onto Franklin Street, then turn left onto Lombard Street. Continue onto US-101/Richardson Avenue, continuing to follow US 101.



The San Francisco skyline from the harbor.



Kathy and I at the world famous Fisherman's Wharf.