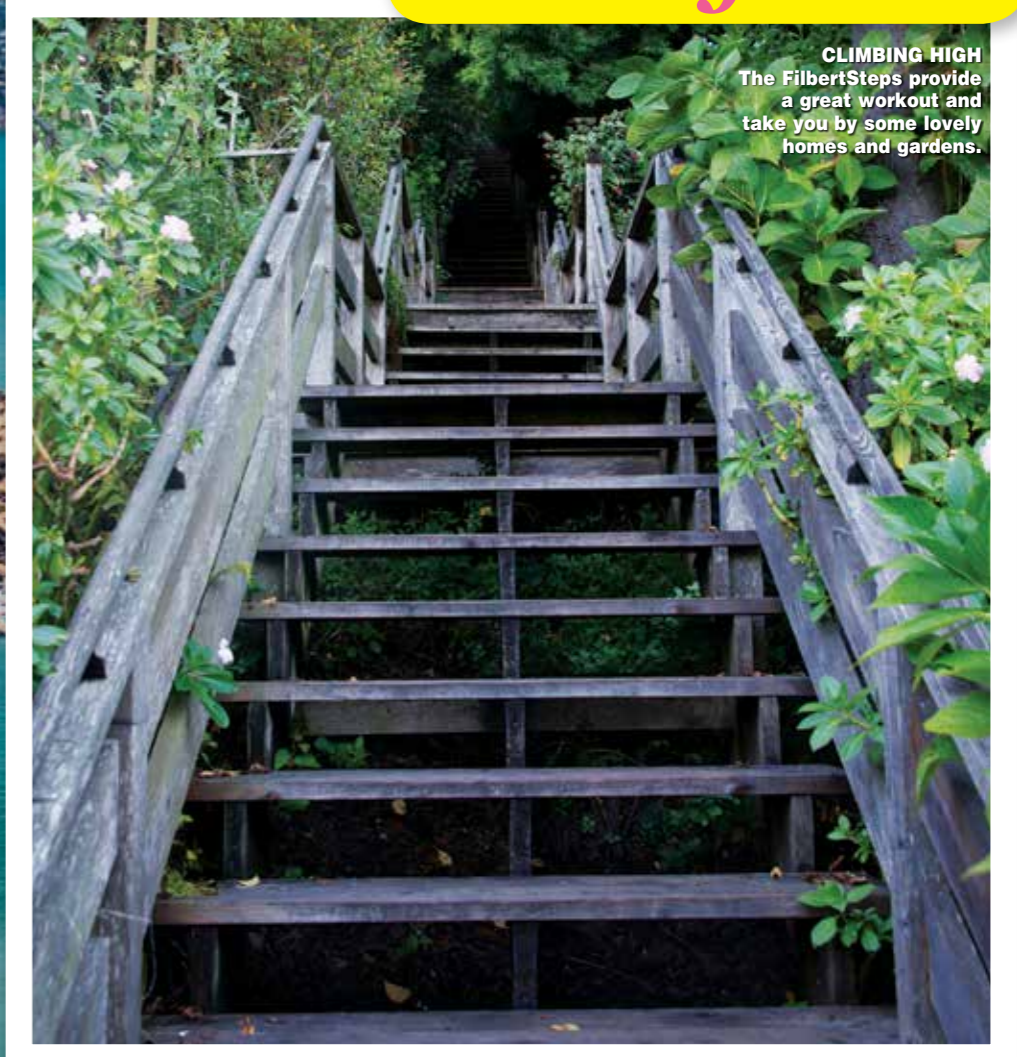
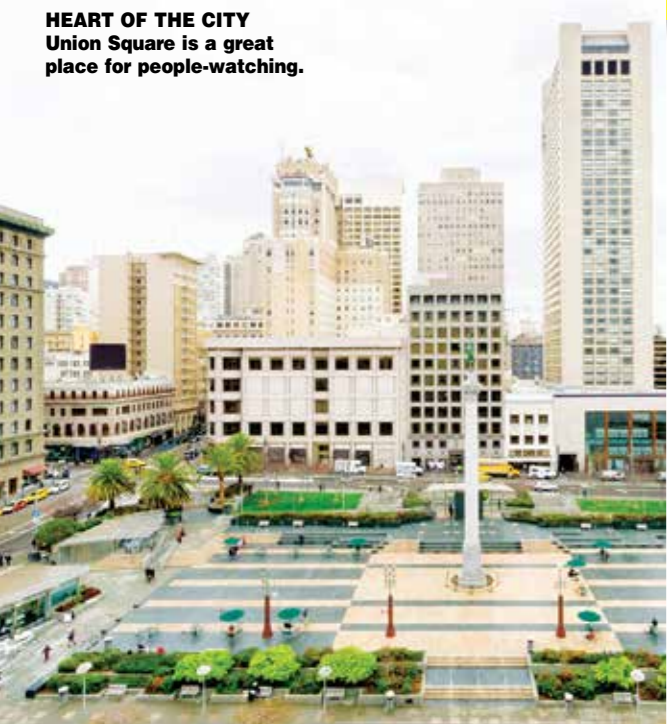


HEART OF THE CITY
Union Square is a great place for people-watching.



CLIMBING HIGH
The Filbert Steps provide a great workout and take you by some lovely homes and gardens.

Some cities are best seen by boat, others by tour bus or even by helicopter from high above. All those do apply to San Francisco, a city that runs in all directions up and down hills and around a multitude of bays, but there really is no better way to discover the best gems of this town than by foot.

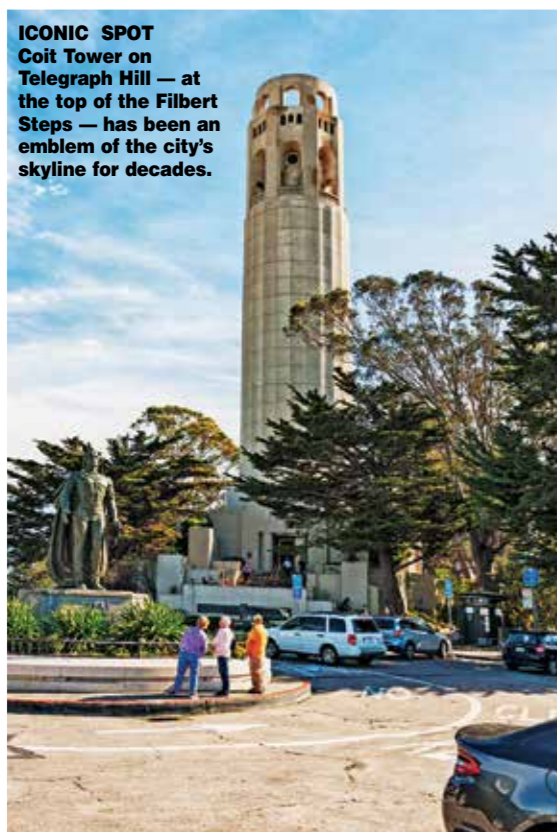
In a city of many high locations like Telegraph Hill and Russian Hill, walking may not be the easiest way around, but it is the most fascinating.

Sure, it is far easier to jump aboard one of the cable cars that run from near Union Square, then travel high up over the hills and down the other side to Fisherman's Wharf, and be stunned by all the vistas of the city and the bay it offers.

A far more captivating journey, however, can be had on foot over the same hills, starting at The Embarcadero near Pier 19 and heading up Telegraph Hill via the famous Filbert Steps.

The long series of timber steps climbs through the hillside neighbourhoods that

ICONIC SPOT
Coit Tower on Telegraph Hill — at the top of the Filbert Steps — has been an emblem of the city's skyline for decades.



hang on to the sides of the steep slopes, as the steps make their way up to the landmark Coit Tower.

This area feels like one of San Francisco's greatest hidden secrets, and as a visitor quickly discovers, it is also one of the steepest.

On the journey along the steps, not only do the neighbourhoods tucked away into the nooks of the hills become more fascinating, but this area should also look familiar to movie and TV lovers

for the many times it has featured on screen.

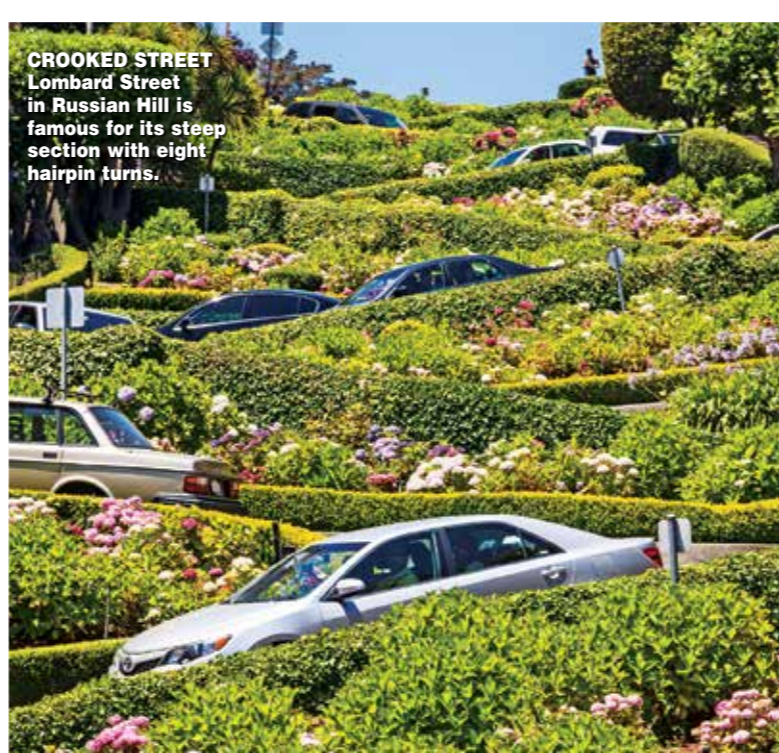
Classic movie fans will recognise the Filbert Steps from the 1947 film noir favourite *Dark Passage*, with **Humphrey Bogart's** character spotted trudging up them. The distinctive art deco apartment block on the corner of Montgomery Street was also the hideaway for screen siren Lauren Bacall in the movie.

The Filbert Steps were also used regularly in the 1970s television cop-show favourite

A famous series of wooden steps not only offers some of the best views in San Francisco but has also taken a starring role on the big and small screen

Step it up

CROOKED STREET
Lombard Street in Russian Hill is famous for its steep section with eight hairpin turns.



The Streets of San Francisco, with **Michael Douglas** and **Karl Malden** often chasing the city's toughest crims up and down them. More bad guys were spotted here in **Walter Matthau's** 1973 cop drama, *The Laughing Policeman*.

But the reason many visitors can be found these days at the steps is for their most memorable role in the *Tales of the City* mini-series. The three seasons of the saga were filmed here on location in the mid-'90s and

starred **Laura Linney** and **Olympia Dukakis**. Based on the beloved book series that chronicled the wild party days of the 1970s, most of the action was set in this part of town.

The reason the Filbert Steps took such a starring role was that **Armistead Maupin**, the author of the books, lived at 331 Filbert while writing the tales. One of the stories about a gay love affair with a famous star was based on Maupin's own relationship with screen icon **Rock Hudson**.

The other most famous location of *Tales of the City* was the fictitious Barbary Lane, and its inspiration can be found only a few blocks away at the tranquil enclave of **Macondray Lane**.

The green strip wedged between the end of the Filbert Steps and Macondray Lane is the beautiful **Washington Square Park**, which had a starring role in the **Clint Eastwood** classic *Dirty Harry*. It is also where **Brendan Fraser** and **Elizabeth Hurley** had a devil of a good time in 2000's *Bedazzled*.

While a screen-tripping adventure in this part of town

and along its Filbert Steps is a heavy-duty workout of a walk, it also offers a captivating insight into another face of this never dull city. With great tales to be found on every corner, it's little surprise that stars like **Michelle Pfeiffer**, **Tom Hanks**, **Sean Penn**, **Robert Redford** and director **George Lucas** all have homes in San Francisco.

Who knows — you might even spot them also taking a stroll up the Filbert Steps. **TVS**



Michelle



Tom



Sean