

Where should I move to in California?

Introduction

A friend of mine currently residing in Florida wants to relocate to California to have a better life but is confused which city to choose. He would like to stay in a place where there is great weather, fantastic food, top notch education, plenty of adventures and a thrilling night life along with a safe environment. He has shortlisted a couple of cities and would like to select one of them. The shortlisted cities are San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Jose and San Diego. Our goal is to explore these cities and recommend the best city.

Data

To solve the above problem, I am going to use the Foursquare location data. I am going to explore venues in each of the 4 cities and see what each city has to offer and what's unique about it. I am going to analyze weather data from <https://www.usclimatedata.com/> to compare weather in the 4 cities. Also going to explore data on crimes from California open data portal (<https://data.ca.gov>) to understand the crime rate and check which city is safest.

Methodology

Using foursquare API, I tried to retrieve a list of popular venues and the categories they fall under for each of the 4 cities. From this we can get an idea about the social life in each city.

Popular places in San Francisco

San Francisco has lot of options for performing arts, drinking and eating. There are many South Asian cuisines.

	Name	Category
0	Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall	Concert Hall
1	San Francisco Ballet	Dance Studio
2	War Memorial Opera House	Opera House
3	Herbst Theater	Concert Hall
4	Main Stage Of Davies Symphony Hall	Performing Arts Venue
5	War Memorial Court	Park
6	PLÄJ	Scandinavian Restaurant
7	Urban Bowls	Poke Place
8	Maker & Moss	Furniture / Home Store
9	MAC Modern Appealing Clothing	Boutique
10	Siam Orchid Traditional Thai Massage	Massage Studio
11	Asian Art Museum	Art Museum

12	SFJazz Center	Jazz Club
13	Robin	Sushi Restaurant
14	Nojo Ramen Tavern	Ramen Restaurant
15	Welcome Stranger	Men's Store
16	Smuggler's Cove	Tiki Bar
17	The Beer Hall	Beer Bar
18	Monsieur Benjamin	French Restaurant
19	Books, Inc.	Bookstore
20	Philz Coffee	Coffee Shop
21	New Conservatory Theatre Center	Theater
22	Linden Room	Cocktail Bar
23	DragonEats	Vietnamese Restaurant
24	Birba	Wine Bar
25	Fig & Thistle Wine Bar	Wine Bar
26	Blue Bottle Coffee	Coffee Shop
27	Ananda Fuara	Vegetarian / Vegan Restaurant
28	Rickshaw Stop	Rock Club
29	Blue Bottle Coffee	Coffee Shop

Popular places in Los Angeles

Los Angeles has lot of options for performing arts and eating

	Name	Category
0	Grand Park	Park
1	Redbird	American Restaurant
2	Badmaash	Indian Restaurant
3	Kinokuniya Bookstore	Bookstore
4	JiST Cafe	Breakfast Spot
5	Fugetsu-Do Sweet Shop	Candy Store
6	Birds & Bees	Speakeasy
7	Blue Whale Bar	Jazz Club
8	LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes	Museum
9	Marugame Monzo	Udon Restaurant
10	Placita Olvera	Plaza
11	Cafe Demitasse	Coffee Shop
12	The Geffen Contemporary (MoCA)	Art Gallery
13	Marukai Market	Supermarket
14	El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historic Monument	Historic Site
15	Café Dulcé	Bakery
16	Bradbury Building	Building
17	Blue Bottle Coffee	Coffee Shop

18	Walt Disney Concert Hall	Concert Hall
19	East West Players	Theater
20	Mikawaya	Ice Cream Shop
21	Daikokuya	Ramen Restaurant
22	Dorothy Chandler Pavilion	Performing Arts Venue
23	Japanese Village Plaza	Plaza
24	Los Angeles Music Center	Music Venue
25	Grand Central Market	Market
26	Ahmanson Theatre	Theater
27	Music Center Plaza	Plaza
28	The Broad	Art Museum
29	McConnell's Fine Ice Creams	Ice Cream Shop

Popular places in San Diego

San Diego has a wide variety of cuisines like American, French, Brazilian, Mexican, Japanese, Mediterranean.

	Name	Category
0	THE US GRANT, A Luxury Collection Hotel, San D...	Hotel
1	Tender Greens	New American Restaurant
2	San Diego Civic Theatre	Theater
3	Grant Grill	American Restaurant
4	The Local Eatery and Drinking Hole	Bar
5	WestBean Coffee Roasters	Coffee Shop
6	House of Blues San Diego	Music Venue
7	Co-Merge Workplace	Business Service
8	Dobson's Bar & Restaurant	American Restaurant
9	Resident Brewing	Brewery
10	Blue Bottle Coffee	Coffee Shop
11	Le Fontainebleau - The Westgate Hotel	French Restaurant
12	The Westgate Hotel	Hotel
13	Rei Do Gado	Brazilian Restaurant
14	San Diego Concourse	Plaza
15	The Balboa Theatre	Theater
16	Courtyard by Marriott San Diego Downtown	Hotel
17	The Crab Hut	Seafood Restaurant
18	The Taco Stand Downtown	Taco Place
19	Vin de Syrah Wine Parlor	Wine Bar
20	The Westin San Diego Gaslamp Quarter	Hotel
21	Donut Bar	Donut Shop
22	Chef Miguel's Deli	Sandwich Place

23	Extraordinary Desserts	Dessert Shop
24	Best Damn Beer Shop	Beer Store
25	Chipotle Mexican Grill	Mexican Restaurant
26	Horton Plaza Park	Pedestrian Plaza
27	Cocina 35 Old School Mexican	Mexican Restaurant
28	Full Moon Sushi and Kitchen Bar	Sushi Restaurant
29	The Kebab Shop	Falafel Restaurant

Popular places in San Jose

San Jose has a wide variety of cuisines like Caribbean, Korean, Asian, Mexican, Japanese and a lot of pubs and bars.

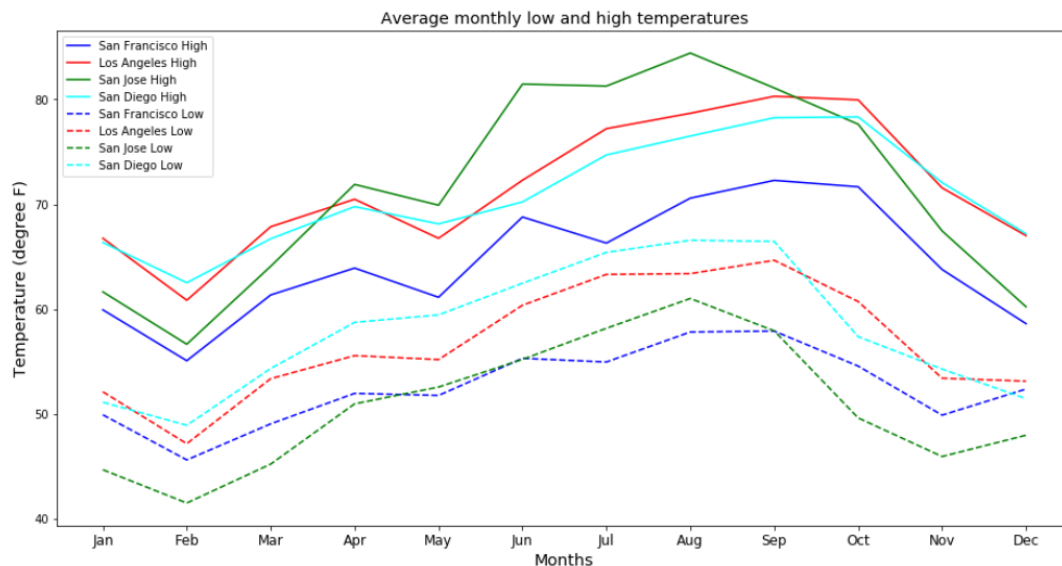
	Name	Category
0	Back A Yard Caribbean American Grill	Caribbean Restaurant
1	Ike's Sandwiches	Sandwich Place
2	Umbrella Salon	Salon / Barbershop
3	Original Gravity Public House	Pub
4	San Pedro Square	Plaza
5	Good Karma	Vegetarian / Vegan Restaurant
6	Miniboss	Bar
7	Be The Change Yoga & Wellness	Yoga Studio
8	Silicon Valley Capital Club	Restaurant
9	San Pedro Square Market	Food Court
10	ISO: Beers	Beer Bar
11	Paper Plane	Cocktail Bar
12	Bakery Mexico No 2	Bakery
13	Local Color	Art Gallery
14	Seven Seas Sushi	Sushi Restaurant
15	HOM Korean Kitchen	Korean Restaurant
16	Angelou's Cafe & Grill	Mexican Restaurant
17	Five Points	Cocktail Bar
18	La Victoria Taqueria	Mexican Restaurant
19	Freshly Baked Eatery	Sandwich Place
20	San Pedro Square Market Bar	Bar
21	Supergood Kitchen	Asian Restaurant
22	O'Flaherty's Irish Pub	Pub
23	Chromatic Cafe	Coffee Shop
24	Morton's The Steakhouse	Steakhouse
25	San Jose Medicinal Group	Pharmacy
26	nox cookie bar	Dessert Shop
27	Pizza Bocca Lupo	Pizza Place

28	CREAM (Cookies Rule Everything Around Me)	Ice Cream Shop
29	My Milkshake	Ice Cream Shop

Now we try to take a look at the weather during the year 2019. I have calculated the average monthly high and low temperatures (degree F) as well as precipitation (inches). There was some missing data for the month of December for all 4 cities. San Francisco had 14 days, San Diego had 26 days, Los Angeles had 21 days and San Jose had 26 days of data. Los Angeles had data for 23 days for the month of November. Since there was data for most of the days of the month ~75% for 3 cities with the exception of San Francisco (~50%) it did not make difference in calculating the averages. None of the cities received snowfall throughout the year.

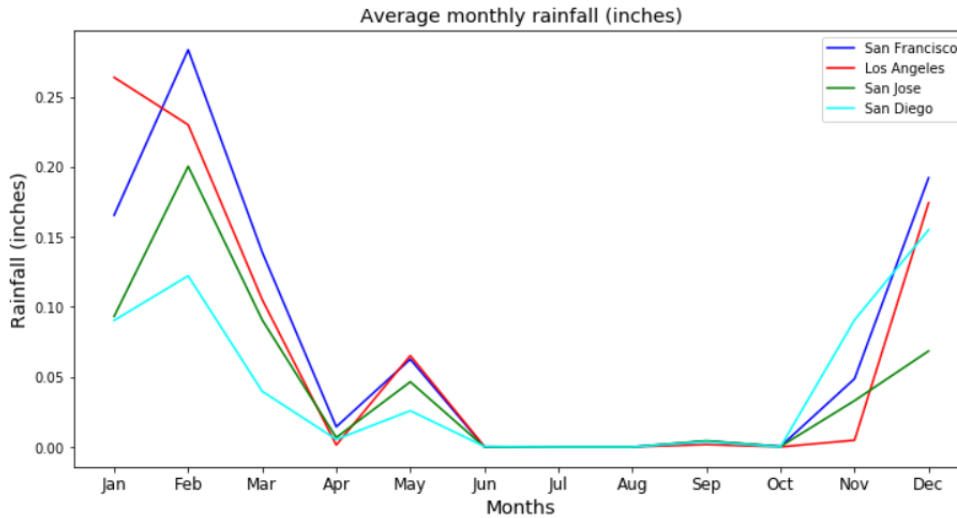
Below graph shows the variation in average monthly low and high temperatures in 2019

- San Jose has more extreme temperatures as compared to the other cities. Moderately hot summers and cold winters.
- San Francisco remains cool(comfortable) throughout the year
- San Diego and Los Angeles have similar weather having pleasant climate throughout the year.



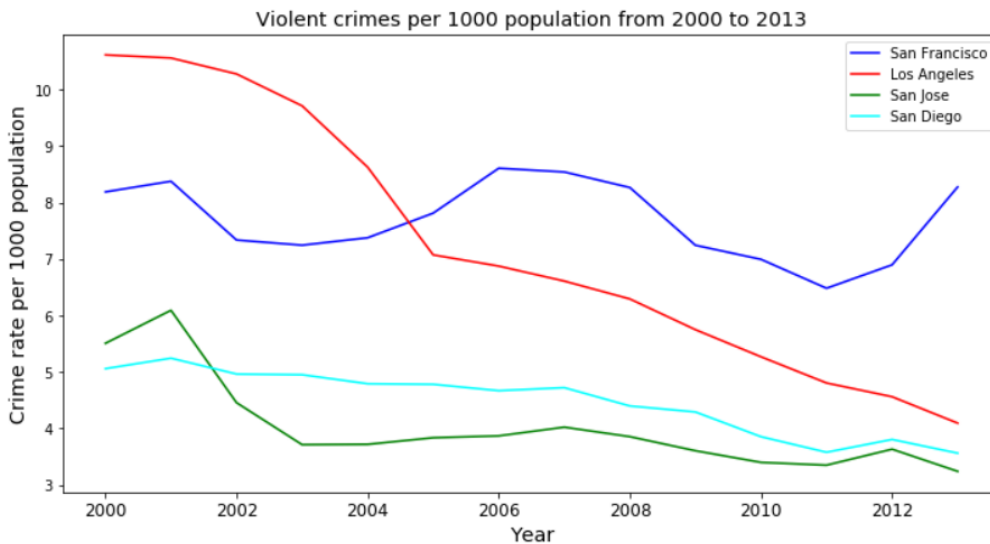
Below graph shows the variation in average monthly precipitation in 2019

- All 4 cities receive nearly similar rainfall throughout the year.



Below graph shows the trend in violent crime rates over the years 2000 - 2013

- Los Angeles has seen a steep drop in violent crime rates over the years.
- San Jose and San Diego have a similar drop in crime rate but not as much as San Francisco.
- Crime rate in San Francisco seems to go up and down being much worse than the other 3 cities.



Results

- As far as food and night life is concerned San Jose seems to have a good mix of both. San Diego is good for trying out different cuisines. Los Angeles is into arts and music. San Francisco has a good mix of arts, cuisines and night life.
- Climate wise San Francisco is the best followed by Los Angeles and San Diego.
- As far as safety is concerned San Jose tops the list with San Francisco being the worst.

Discussion

After considering all the factors I would recommend San Jose or San Diego as the cities to move to since they fared well in all aspects. When it came to social life all cities had something good and unique about them. Weather was also not much of a big differentiator. Safety played a big role in reaching to a conclusion since it is one of the most important aspects and made San Jose and San Diego stand apart.

Conclusion

We can also consider other factors like IT job opportunities and housing costs in each city to make a better decision. Currently there was no data available to perform analysis but should be considered doing so in future.