San Francisco day trip
The Presidio

What it is: A full-fledged outdoors—and, yes, arts—destination with a weekend's worth of things to do. And the changes just keep coming. **What it was:** A military base until the Army decamped in 1994. **Why does the Presidio keep evolving?** By 2013, the park must be financially self-sufficient. **What's with all the bulldozers?** It's a five-year project to replace the Golden Gate Bridge approach with a safer, greener parkway. **Park acreage:** Nearly 1,500. **Presidio population in 1905:** 77 officers and 2,304 enlisted men. **Population in 2010:** 2,700 civilian residents. **What $7,800 gets you:** A month's rent in a new, ultra-green three-story townhouse near the park's southern edge. **What $500 gets you:** A night at Rob Hill, the city's only campground—they're group sites, so invite 29 of your friends. **More shiny new things:** The hilltop Lobos Valley Overlook (shuttle stop 27a), with views of the Pacific. And a 22-room guesthouse—the park's first overnight lodging—that's under construction in historic Pershing Hall. **The best ways to see the park's ongoing transformation?** Read on.

1. The latest in landscape art
British artist Andy Goldsworthy returns to the Presidio with **Wood Line**, a sinuous shape that he's making with downed eucalyptus branches. Like the environmental sculptor's first piece here, 2008's Spire, it's destined to merge, slowly, with the surrounding forest. Between Lovers' Lane and Presidio Blvd., or take the free PresidiGo Shuttle to stop 47 and walk up Lovers' Lane; www.presidio.gov/experiences