**Computer History Museum**

Opened 2002 in a building previously occupied by Silicon Graphics, the museum has the largest collection of computer artifacts in the world. An exhibit titled “2000 Years of Computing” covers the history of computing from the abacus to modern supercomputers. Another section of the museum is devoted to the rise of software in computing.

1401 N Shoreline Blvd
Mountain View, CA 94043
650-810-1010
Hours: Wednesday-Sunday, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
Admission: Adults, $17.00; Seniors and Students, $13.50; Youth (8-17), $6.00; Children (7 and under), Free

**The Tech Interactive**

In downtown San Jose in 1998, originally as The Tech Museum of Innovation, its exhibits focus on biology and biotechnology, engineering, earth and space, and art and technology. The Tech includes a café and a gift shop.

201 S. Market Street
San Jose, CA 95113
408-294-8320
Hours: Tuesday–Friday, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm; Saturday, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm; Sunday, 11:00 am – 5:00 pm
Admission: Adults, $17.00; Seniors, $15.00; Youth (17 & under), $12.00; Photo ID needed to enter the base

**Intel Museum**

Intel is the world’s largest maker of semiconductor chips and helped establish the importance of microprocessors that power a multitude of digital devices. The company’s headquaters includes a museum with exhibits on semiconductor chip history and technology, including how chips are designed and manufactured. On the roof of the building is a row of 18 experimental wind turbines that generate electricity that powers part of the building.

Noyce Building
2210 Mission College Blvd
Santa Clara, CA 95054
408-765-5050

**Los Altos History Museum**

Since it opened in 2001, Los Altos History Museum has explored the rich history of the community and its people. A permanent exhibit titled “Building Connections: Stories from the Land” provides a multi-dimensional, multimedia view of the evolution of this region from the original Ohlone (related to the Algonquin) people to the high tech present. A second gallery contains temporary exhibits that have included “Silicon Valley: The Cure and the Legenden” (2006) and “Building the Future: A Visual History of the Architecture of Silicon Valley” (2003).

19 S. San Antonio Road
Los Altos, CA 94022
650-948-5421
Hours: Thursday–Sunday, Noon–4:00 pm
Free Admission

**Moffett Field Historical Society Museum**

The museum tells the story of the U.S. Marine Corp, which was based at Moffett (now Hangar Diel), and contains exhibits about other major activities, aircraft that were stationed at the field, and programs at Moffett.

Building 126, Seventy Avenue
Moffett Field, CA 94035
650-964-4024
Hours: Wednesday–Saturday, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
Admission: Adults, $6.00; Seniors, $5.00; Youth (12–17), $3.00; Children (12 and under), Photo ID needed to enter the base

**Hangar One**

Hangar One is one of the world’s largest free-standing structures. It was built in 1928 to house the USS Macon, a 785-foot-long dirigible, at Moffett Field which served as the West Coast base for the U.S. Navy’s lighter-than-air aviation program. The Macon patrolled off the coast of California until it crashed in the Pacific Ocean in 2003, ending the Navy’s airship program. In 2020, after a decades-long wait in the hangar’s skies, the structure’s covering was removed, and the building was set to be restored.

The museum tells the story of the USS Macon until it crashed in the Pacific Ocean in 2003, ending the Navy’s airship program. In 2020, after a decades-long wait in the hangar’s skies, the structure’s covering was removed, and the building was set to be restored. However, despite the advocacy of local supporters, Hangar One was preserved, and in 2024, a Google subsidiary signed a long-term lease for the building and began re-covering it in 2022.

Hangar One is located directly behind the Moffett Field Museum.

Moffett Field, CA 94035

**National Full-Scale Aerodynamic Complex (NFAC) Wind Tunnels**

This imposing structure at the NASA Ames Research Center houses two separate wind tunnels, including the world’s largest. The smaller wind tunnel was completed in 1944, and the larger tunnel, which can hold a full-sized Boeing 737, was added in 1998. More than 500 military and commercial aircraft and spacecraft, including capsules for the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo programs and the Space Shuttle, were tested here. The Ames Research Center is not open to the public, but the Wind Tunnels can be viewed from RT Jones Road, which leads to Google’s Bay View Campus.

Ames Research Center
223 RT Jones Road
Mountain View, CA 94043

**SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory**

This large-scale high-energy particle physics research facility on the Stanford campus has yielded four Nobel Prizes. The linear accelerator is housed in a two-mile long structure that was the world’s longest and straightest building when it was opened in 1966.

2575 Sand Hill Rd
Menlo Park, CA 94025
650-926-3300
Free monthly guided public tours; sign up (in advance) at
https://www.slac.stanford.edu/accelerator/public-tours

**Richard Adler**

Photographer

A Visual History of the Architecture of Silicon Valley

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**Stanford Dish**

Located on top of a hill on the western edge of the campus, this 150-foot steerable radio antenna was built in 1952 by SRI International for the U.S. Air Force on land leased from the university. It was later inherited to track Russian radar, but it is now primarily used for communicating with space satellites and conducting radar astronomy measurements. The Dish also serves as a popular year-round hiking destination for Stanford students and staff and community residents.

Stanford Dish
Junipero Serra Boulevard at Stanford Avenue
Stanford, CA 94305
650-725-2440
Hours: 8:30 am – 5:00 pm daily (per year session)

**Historical Sites**

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Adobe

The headquarters of this maker of graphic software, located in downtown San Jose, is distinctive because it is a high-rise building. At the top of the Adobe Tower is the “San Jose Semipalms,” an artwork that consists of four illuminated discs that rotate to different positions every seven seconds, spelling out a coded message. After Adobe issued a public challenge to decode the message, it took a team of computer researchers several years to figure out that the Semipalms was sending the text of the novel The Crying of Lot 49 by Thomas Pynchon.

Next to its existing headquarters is the new Founders Tower designed by Genneri. It is the largest all-electric building in Silicon Valley and includes the Adobe Experience Center and Creative Grounds, a café open to the public. After last year's flood.

345 Park Avenue
San Jose, CA 95110

Apple

Apple was famously started in 1976 in the garage of Steve Jobs’ parents’ home. After occupying a number of small buildings in Cupertino, the company opened its headquarters at One Infinite Loop in 1993. Then in 2017, it moved its headquarters to Apple Park, a 386-acre campus with its iconic “Spaceship” building, a ring-like structure with a circumference of one mile that can house 12,000 employees, designed by British architect Norman Foster.

While the campus is not open to the public or easy to see, a Visitor Center, located across the street from Apple Park, includes an Apple Store, a café, a large interactive model of the campus, and a second story viewing deck. One Infinite Loop is still in active use and includes a small but well-stocked Apple Store.

Apple Park Visitor Center
10600 N. Tantius Avenue
Cupertino, CA 95014
408-961-1560

Google

Google’s founders, Sergey Brin and Larry Page, launched the company in 1998 in a friend’s garage. In 2003, Google moved into a large campus in Mountain View, formerly the Bay View Campus. The company’s twin headquarters – Endeavor, opened in 2018, and Inspire, opened in 2019 – were designed by the architectural firm Gensler in response to a challenge from company founder and CEO Larry Page: to design “buildings stacked on top of one another with a series of open ‘green floors’ between them. The white linear exterior contrasts dramatically with the curved dark glass in the building’s interior courtyard. The campus originally included a retail store and a café open to the public, but these have been closed since the Covid pandemic.

2788 San Tomas Expressway
Santa Clara, CA 95055

SILICON VALLEY

Microsoft Silicon Valley Campus

Microsoft moved into its current campus in 2012. The buildings are open 24 hours a day to employees, and projects in the San Francisco Bay Area. After purchasing the campus which it had been leasing, it tore down the existing buildings and built a new complex of buildings designed by WRNS Studio with a focus on promoting employee wellness and maximizing environmental sustainability. The buildings are not open to the public but the grounds around the building are accessible.

1045 La Avenida Street
Mountain View, CA 94043

Nvidia

Nvidia designs and builds graphic processing chips (GPUs) that power video games and support self-driving cars and AI applications. The company’s two new headquarters buildings – Endeavor, opened in 2018, and Inspire, opened in 2019 – were designed by the architectural firm Gensler in response to a challenge from company founder and CEO Jensen Huang to design “buildings stacked on top of one another with a series of open ‘green floors’ between them. The white linear exterior contrasts dramatically with the curved dark glass in the building’s interior courtyard. The campus originally included a retail store and a café open to the public, but these have been closed since the Covid pandemic.

3655 N. First St.
San Jose, CA 95134

Samsung North America

Samsung is a South Korean company that makes a wide range of electronics product, including smartphones, PCs, and television sets. In 2015, it opened a Silicon Valley headquarters in San Jose that houses 2,000 employees in 1.1 million square feet of space. The building, designed by NBRS, is made up of two two-story buildings stacked on top of one another with a series of open “green floors” between them. The white linear exterior contrasts dramatically with the curved dark glass in the building’s interior courtyard. The campus originally included a retail store and a café open to the public, but these have been closed since the Covid pandemic.

7778 San Tomas Expressway
Santa Clara, CA 95055

Oracle

Oracle, is a leading maker of databases and other commercial software, from 1989 until 2020, when the company moved its headquarters to Austin, TX. The buildings, which are still part of Oracle, are located around an artificial lagoon known informally as Lake Larry, after the company’s founder and CEO Larry Ellison. Today, the lagoon holds USA-17, the 90-foot trimaran that Team Oracle used to win the America’s Cup competition in 2010.

Orac Parkway
Redwood City, CA 94065

Meta/Facebook

The company, originally known as Facebook, started in 2004 in Mark Zuckerberg’s dorm room at Harvard. In 2005, the company moved into a small second-floor office in downtown Palo Alto. In 2011, the company moved into its current campus of 12 buildings with a total of 1 million square feet of office space, and five years later, the company purchased the campus. In 2015 and 2018, the company added new buildings designed by architect Frank Gehry with a total of more than 900,000 square feet that feature large open-working spaces and multi-core green roofs.

The campus is not open to the public and very little of it can be seen from the street, with the exception of the much photographed sign at the entrance to the campus. In 2022, the company opened Meta Park, a 2-acre open space next to its campus.

1 Hacker Way
Menlo Park, CA 94025