

BUSTER KEATON'S SAN FRANCISCO TOUR

Keaton filmed many scenes from *Day Dreams* (1922) and a key scene from *The Navigator* (1924) in San Francisco. Why he chose to film here remains a tantalizing mystery. Perhaps it was simply a fun way to combine work with pleasure and take in a free trip to San Francisco. The last stop on this tour describes a scene from *The Navigator*; all other scenes are from *Day Dreams*. This basic tour is deliberately simple. My YouTube video and blog posts cover these scenes in far greater detail. <https://youtu.be/6NAluZe5Hdk?si=LEQZ9x-RlcxxMdrv> <https://silentlocations.com>



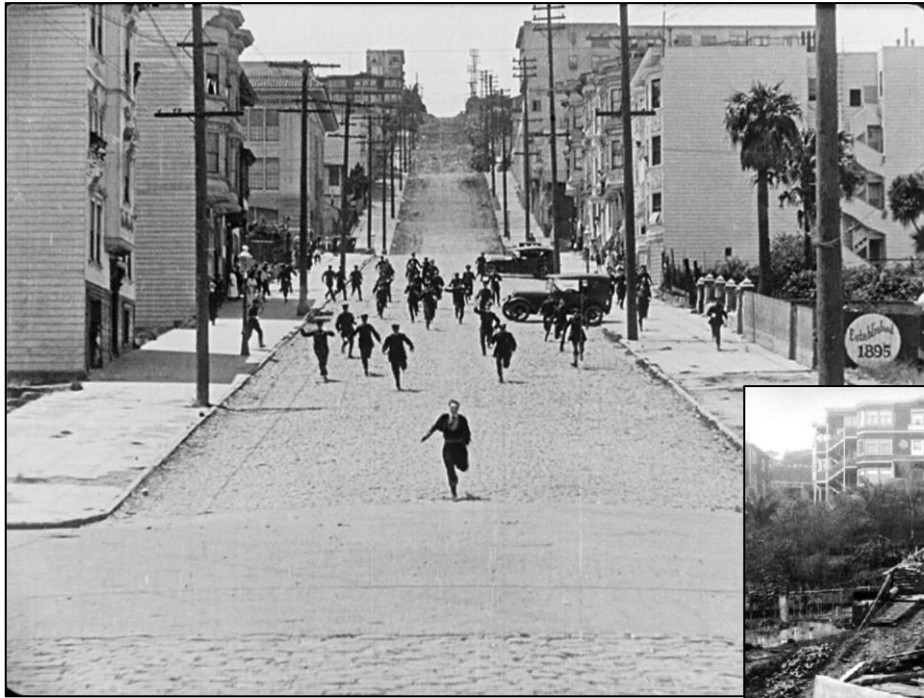
(One) The tour begins near Fisherman's Wharf, at the end of the Powell and Mason cable car line. Buster filmed the turntable joke looking east down Bay at the intersection with Taylor (having escaped the cops, Buster becomes so engrossed reading a newspaper he fails to notice the rotated car is now taking him back *toward* the cops.) The turntable was later moved out of the busy street.



(Two) Continue south down Taylor to Columbus, and make a slight left turn south onto Columbus, and continue down to Lombard. Here Buster jumps off a cable car.



(Three) Head across Columbus going west, at Lombard, and look back east. Here is where Buster catches the cable car. Coit Tower would have appeared in the background, but it hadn't been built yet.



(Four) Continue west a short block up Lombard until you reach Taylor. The chase begins here, running toward the camera then turning the corner at the right of the frame (north) onto Taylor. The plans for the famous hairpin turns were approved June 9, 1922, around the time Buster filmed. The brick street was quickly torn up, but work halted all summer awaiting one homeowner's approval. The nearly completed photo is dated December 14, 1922, built after Buster filmed here.

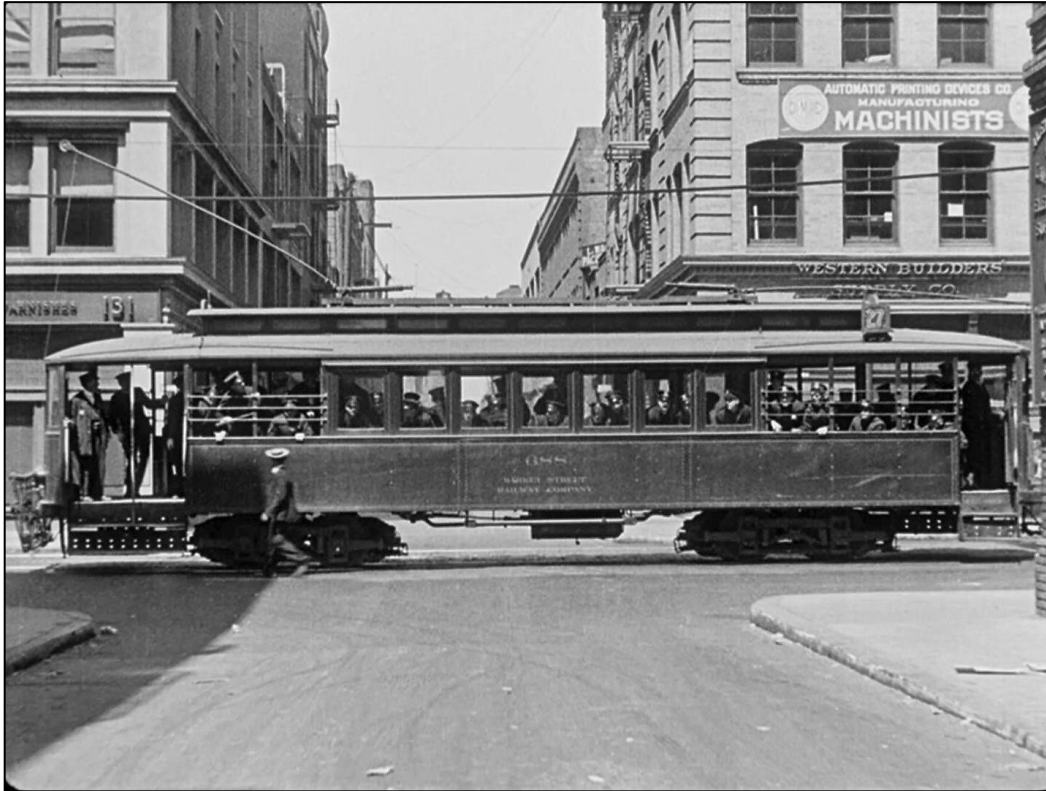
<https://opensfhistory.org/Display/wnp36.02923.jpg>



(Five) Turn left (south) at Taylor and continue nine blocks or so to Washington. Turn left (east) down Washington two blocks until you reach Powell. Here, looking west up Washington, the cops chasing Buster run toward the camera. The chimney of the Cable Car Museum appears at back during the scene.



(Six) At the same corner of Washington, now looking north up Powell, is where Buster, engrossed with reading a newspaper, fails to notice the cops who reverse course to chase after him. The spires of Saints Peter and Paul Church on Washington Square would have appeared in the background, but the church hadn't been built yet.



(Seven) Continue east on Washington to Kearny. There, turn right (south) and continue across Market Street onto Third Street. Continue to Mission Street, then turn left (east) until reaching Second Street, then turn right (south) and stop at Minna. Looking east, Buster flags down a trolley unaware it is full of cops. Buster flees them running west toward the camera.



(Eight) At the same spot now looking west, the police chase Buster down Minna away from the camera.



(Nine) Turn right (west) down Minna to New Montgomery Street, then turn left (south). Continue until Howard Street, then turn right (west) until reaching Third Street. Turn right (north) up Third, cross Market Street, and continue north on Kearny. At Pine turn left (west) and continue west for about twenty blocks until you reach Divisadero. Turn right (north) and continue up Divisadero to Pacific. Here Keaton filmed the U-turn street crossing scene from *The Navigator*. 2505 Divisadero at the far left portrays Kathryn McGuire's home.



Sneaky Buster also filmed ferry scenes for *Day Dreams* in Oakland (above) and two cable car stunts in Hollywood near his studio, below left at 6665 Santa Monica Blvd. and along Sunset Blvd. while crossing Cahuenga below right.





This basic tour is deliberately simple. My YouTube video Buster Keaton's San Francisco footprints and Silent Locations blog posts cover these scenes in far greater detail, including the scenes filmed in Oakland and Hollywood.

<https://youtu.be/6NAluZe5Hdk?si=LEQZ9x-RlcxxMdrv> <https://silentlocations.com> <https://wp.me/p11nfB-5JT>

Tour program © 2023 John Bengtson