

# VESTIGES of *Lands End*

## Ferries & Cliff House Railway

This steam train line ran around Lands End and was often referred to by locals as “The Cliff Line”. It was hailed as the most scenic railroad in the city, following the curves of the bluffs that look towards the Golden Gate and Marin Headlands.

The railroad opened in 1888 after two years of construction by Adolph Sutro, who sold the franchise to the Powell Street Railroad Company the following year. The line’s inner terminus was near the corner of California Street and Presidio Avenue, and the outer terminus by the corner of 48th and Pt. Lobos avenues.

Its “5-cent fare”, which included a free transfer to the connecting cable car line at California and Presidio, was an important feature of the railroad in its early days. This scheme made travel on the railroad affordable for people of all income levels. The steam train was converted to an electric streetcar line in 1905, and continued to run until 1949.

The modern Coastal Trail follows the route of the railroad.



Golden Gate NRA, Park Archives, Interpretation NegativeCollection, GOGA-2316

Ferries & Cliff House Railway train coming around the bend on the Lands End bluffs, ca. 1888-1905.