

VESTIGES of *Lands End*



Courtesy of Bob Holloway



Golden Gate NRA, Park Archives, Robert W. Price San Francisco Photographs, GOGA-3391

Left: Sky Tram headed towards the waterfalls at Point Lobos promontory, 1955; Right: Sky Tram suspended above the surf, ca. 1955-1961.

Sky Tram

The Whitney Sky Tram opened in 1955, offering rides between the Cliff House terrace to Point Lobos for 25 cents each way. The tram was suspended on cables 1000 feet over the surf, and held up to 25 people for a 4 minute one-way ride. Two man-made waterfalls, said to be the world's largest salt water falls, awaited on the Point Lobos promontory.

Fog and wind sometimes made for a frightening ride. After a few years of operation the tram also became rusty and weathered, adding another element of danger to the ride. But without the exciting weather conditions and rusty equipment the tram was said to be rather boring.

High maintenance costs and low ridership doomed the Sky Tram. It closed in the mid-1960s, operating for less than a decade.

The Sky Tram station at Point Lobos served as the Golden Gate National Recreation Area visitor's center for many years after the tram was closed. The building was removed during the 2004 Cliff House renovations.