

VESTIGES of *Lands End*



Visitors sit on the edge of the settling pond ruins as the water filtration tank ruins soak in the sunlight, 2012

Sutro Baths Ruins

This complicated system of water channels, tanks, and foundations, once fed the world's largest complex of fresh and saltwater swimming pools. Softened by years of decay from wind and weather, the ruins begin to take on the appearance of some ancient civilization.

The large concrete-lined pond that now fills the cove once held the five swimming tanks of the baths. The smaller circular pool at the north end of the cove was originally the Aquarium, and later served as a settling pond to help remove sand and other debris from the water entering the bathing tanks. The large grid-like structure (shown in the photo above) was a water filtration tank.

In a city of high real estate values where demolition, redevelopment and revitalization occur constantly, the ruins of the baths have remained essentially untouched since the structure's sudden destruction by fire in 1966.