

A photograph of a wooden staircase in a forest. The stairs are made of dark wood and lead up a hillside. The surrounding area is filled with green foliage, trees, and fallen leaves. The text is overlaid on the image in yellow and white.

# ***STEP IT UP***

**An Adventurer's Guide to Forty Walks  
on the Paths, Trails, and Streets of  
Berkeley and Beyond**

***By Jacob Lehmann Duke  
and  
Zeke Gerwein***

# **STEP IT UP:**

*An Adventurer's Guide to Forty Walks on the Paths, Trails, and Streets of Berkeley and Beyond*

By Jacob Lehmann Duke and Zeke Gerwein

© 2019 by Jacob Lehmann Duke and Zeke Gerwein. All rights reserved.

# **This book is made to guide you on walks in...**

## **North Berkeley**

All of Keeler, Vistamont Trail, and most of Creston.....	10
The Oak St. Path Loop.....	12
A Short but Steep Northern Path Tour.....	15
Waterfalls and Creeks of North Berkeley.....	18
Favorite Paths of the North Berkeley Hills.....	23
From Solitude to Shattuck Avenue.....	28
Surprises of the Berkeley Hills.....	33
All the Paths North of Marin.....	37

## **The Flats (West Berkeley and Albany)**

Paths of the Flats.....	42
A Shoreline Stroll.....	44
The Trails of Albany Bulb.....	46
The Albany Hill Traverse.....	48
A Walk in the Park(s).....	51

## **South Berkeley and Oakland**

Garber and Beyond.....	56
Paths of Panoramic Hill.....	58
Murals and Sights of South and West Berkeley.....	60
Gwin Canyon to Sibley: North Oakland's Hidden Trails.....	63
Paths of Oakland and Trails of Huckleberry.....	67
The Claremont Canyon Climb.....	71

## **The Beyond (Tilden, Kensington, and El Cerrito)**

Through the Forest and Around Jewel Lake.....	76
A Short, Shady Stroll: The Redwood and Golf Course Trails.....	78
The Meadow Loop.....	80
All the Paths of Kensington.....	82
The Kensington Loop.....	85
Ascent to the Ridge: Arroyo and Big Springs.....	87
Paths of El Cerrito.....	89

## And for more of a challenge...

### Every Path in Berkeley in Six Walks (the Whole Berkeley Walk Series)

Every Path in Berkeley, Part 1 .....	95
Every Path in Berkeley, Part 2 .....	99
Every Path in Berkeley, Part 3 .....	103
Every Path in Berkeley, Part 4 .....	107
Every Path in Berkeley, Part 5 .....	111
Every Path in Berkeley, Part 6 .....	114

### From Paths to Parks: Favorite Longer Trail Walks (7 to 17 miles)

Over the Hill and into the Park .....	119
Strawberry Canyon Fire Trails and Nearby Paths .....	123
Havey Canyon and Surrounding Trails .....	127
From the Forest to the Ridge .....	131
The Skyline Sampler .....	135
The Wildcat Loop .....	139
BART to BART Berkeley to Richmond Trail Walk .....	144
Through Six Parks: Downtown Berkeley to Oakland and Back on the Bus .....	149

### And the Ultimate Challenge...The Great Path Walk

The Great Path Walk .....	156
---------------------------	-----

### Difficulty ratings

**1-a step down:** flat, short walks on streets and gentle paths; little elevation gain and no stairs

**2-not too bad:** shortish walks without too much elevation gain; a few stairs but nothing strenuous or very steep

**3-the adventure begins:** longer walks with more elevation gain and steps; may contain some steep or uneven sections but no very long climbs

**4-stepping it up:** lots of steps and possibly uneven and difficult terrain; sustained steep climbs on stair paths, many without railings, and steep descents often also on stairs

**5-a true challenge:** long, hard, and tiring walks with lots of elevation change and/or stairs and potentially difficult footing. You've been warned!



# Introduction

We have always loved walking, but it wasn't until 2012 that we discovered Berkeley's extensive network of pathways and walking turned from a mode of transportation to a form of adventure, becoming an athletic pastime and hobby that we pursued passionately. This was not hiking. On a hike, one loads up the car with picnic supplies, drives to a favorite park—be it regional, state, or national—and embarks on a planned loop which, often, they will devote most or all of the day to. Though hiking is a fabulous pursuit, our Berkeley walking was different entirely, because we left from our houses, sometimes with only a half-hour-long window, and simply explored the nearby area, getting lost in the process and constantly discovering new paths and trails. Though many of Berkeley's paths are just a short block away from major streets, they offer a respite of wooded hills, grazing deer, and stately redwoods that is otherwise hard to find in the bustling Bay Area.

When we grew tired of getting lost looking for paths, we turned to the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association's map of the city, on which each path is shown in blue in such a way that they pop out, making incorporating them into walks as easy as walking any street. In the corner of the map is a checklist of the paths, and, goal-oriented people that we are, we each decided to try to walk every one of them, triumphantly checking each of the one hundred and three boxes as we did so. Over the course of the next four months, we were introduced to over one hundred lanes, staircases, trails, and slopes winding their way through Berkeley's hills, as well as (less intentionally) a wide variety of driveways down which we wandered in search of the elusive paths. The fact of it was that, even with a map, these paths were not easy to find. Many have no street signs or emanate from people's driveways, and some are even marked with "No Trespassing" signs, though they are public easements to the city. To avoid getting lost, what we needed was a guide book, and we discovered that there was not one that served this need. Though excellent books exist on walking tours of the architecture and history of Berkeley, even featuring the paths, no book took an athletic adventurer's angle. No book focused on the paths and trails of Berkeley as great places to get exercise and ways to escape into nature without ever getting in a car to drive down the drive and park at a park. We needed a guidebook that was directed at the passionate walker, someone who walks not to look at houses or to get to the grocery store, but to discover the mysteries of the hills and connect their house with the East Bay's incredible 1300-mile-long network of trails. Such a book did not exist, and so we have written it.

\*\*\*

Zeke Gerwein, now 17, has biked across the United States and parts of Canada and Mexico five summers in a row, collectively covering 20,000 miles, going over mountain ranges, through deserts, and along rutted dirt roads that, fifty miles from the nearest town, dead end at raging rivers. Zeke has loved storytelling since preschool school, and is currently in the creative writing program at Oakland School of the Arts. Jacob Lehmann Duke joined the board of the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association unofficially at age 13, officially becoming the youngest ever board member at age 14, and now, at 16, serving as their walk coordinator. In addition to walking the paths, you'll see him out running through the hills and Tilden training for cross country and track. Together, the authors have walked 50 miles in a day, from Downtown Berkeley to Antioch via the top of Mount Diablo almost entirely on trails and, perhaps more famously, have walked every path in Berkeley in one day—a 35-mile affair with 5,000 feet of elevation gain and over 10,000 stairs—six years in a row, beginning when Jacob was 11 and Zeke 12. In 2014, they led a series of six walks for the Berkeley Path Wanderers which collectively covered all the paths, in five to eight mile increments. They carefully designed the routes for each, trying to make the walks both pleasant and efficient, and these routes, along with thirty-five other favorites, are described in detail in this book. Since then, Jacob and Zeke have led numerous other walks on paths and trails for the Berkeley Path Wanderers, sometimes guiding groups of nearly one hundred, showing the paths and sharing their original walking routes with everyone from dog walkers to ultra-marathoners.

\*\*\*

Though there are many stories about the building of the paths, their names, and their histories, all these stories are unwritten and many paths are unsigned, so most people do not even know that these incredible shortcuts through Berkeley's hills exist, much less the tales of their construction. Other local walking books take a historical or architectural angle, rather than including walks done primarily for adventure, great exercise, and enjoyment of nature. It was this that prompted us to write a guidebook, instructing readers on how to find paths and trails in Berkeley and Beyond (a term that for our purposes encompasses the East Bay Regional Parks, North Oakland, Albany, Kensington, and El Cerrito), and leading the interested walker on forty-one of our favorite walks, ranging in length from one to thirty-five miles. Once you have done a number of these walks, you will be able to easily locate the paths without the book, and string together your own path-based loops.

In the writing of this book, we often felt as if we were using words such as 'superb', 'splendid', and 'marvelous' quite a bit, to the point of overuse, perhaps. But of course, this was not the case: these words are simply accurate descriptions of these superb walks in this

splendid city on the marvelous paths and trails of the East Bay. We hope you enjoy the walks in this book and inherit our love of Berkeley's small streets, secret paths, and surrounding trails.

~Happy Walking!~

*Jacob Lehmann Duke and Zeke Gerwein*

Addendum: I began working on this book in eighth grade. Zeke joined the project and the book gradually grew as we discovered new trails and led more walks for the Berkeley Path Wanderers. We had hoped to publish it, of course, and we made inroads into doing so in 2019, but as teenagers and first-time authors, we ultimately failed. In the fall, we'll both be in college, Zeke as a sophomore at NYU and me as a freshman at Williams, and regardless of profitability we would like this book to be used and enjoyed by the Bay Area's community of walkers. Right now, with social distancing measures in place and all group gatherings prohibited, I see more than ever a demand and a need for self-guided walks, and so I hope this book can meet that need and can—in the form of gorgeous views, little-known trails, and lendarily steep climbs—offer you some respite during these troubling times.

*Jacob Lehmann Duke, 2020*

## Walks Sorted by Difficulty Rating

### 1.

A Shoreline Stroll 1                      A Short, Shady Stroll: The Redwood and Golf Course Trails 1  
Garber and Beyond 1                      Paths of the Flats 1  
The Trails of Albany Bulb 1              Through the Forest and Around Jewel Lake 1

### 2.

All of Keeler, Vistamont Trail, and most of Creston 2  
The Albany Hill Traverse 2  
The Meadow Loop 2                      Murals of South Berkeley 2+  
Paths of Panoramic Hill 2+              The Oak St. Path Loop 2+

### 3.

All the Paths of Kensington 3  
A short but steep northern path tour 3  
Every Path in Berkeley, Part Five 3  
Every Path in Berkeley, Part Six 3  
The Kensington Loop 3  
A Walk in the Park(s) 3+

### 4.

Every Path in Berkeley, Part One 4  
Every Path in Berkeley, Part Two 4  
Every Path in Berkeley, Part Three 4  
Every Path in Berkeley, Part Four 4  
Favorite Paths of the North Berkeley Hills 4  
From Solitude to Shattuck Avenue 4  
Over the Hill and into the Park 4  
Paths of El Cerrito 4  
Strawberry canyon fire trails and nearby paths 4  
The Stonewall Panoramic Fire Trail 4  
Waterfalls and creeks of North Berkeley 4  
Ascent to the Ridge: Arroyo and Big Springs 4+  
From the Forest to the Ridge 4+  
Gwin Canyon to Sibley: North Oakland's Hidden Trails 4+  
Paths of Oakland and Trails of Huckleberry 4+  
Surprises of the Berkeley Hills 4+

### 5.

All the Paths North of Marin 5                      BART to BART Berkeley to Richmond Trail Walk 5  
The Skyline Sampler 5                      The Claremont Canyon Climb 5  
Through Six Parks: Downtown Berkeley to Oakland and Back on the Bus 5  
The Wildcat Loop 5                      The Great Path Walk 5+

## SECTION 1:

### Eight Walks on the Paths of the North Berkeley Hills



*Northgate Path ascends steeply from Shasta to Northgate Rd. on 212 steps*



## All of Keeler, Vistamont Trail, and most of Creston

Length: 3.1 miles

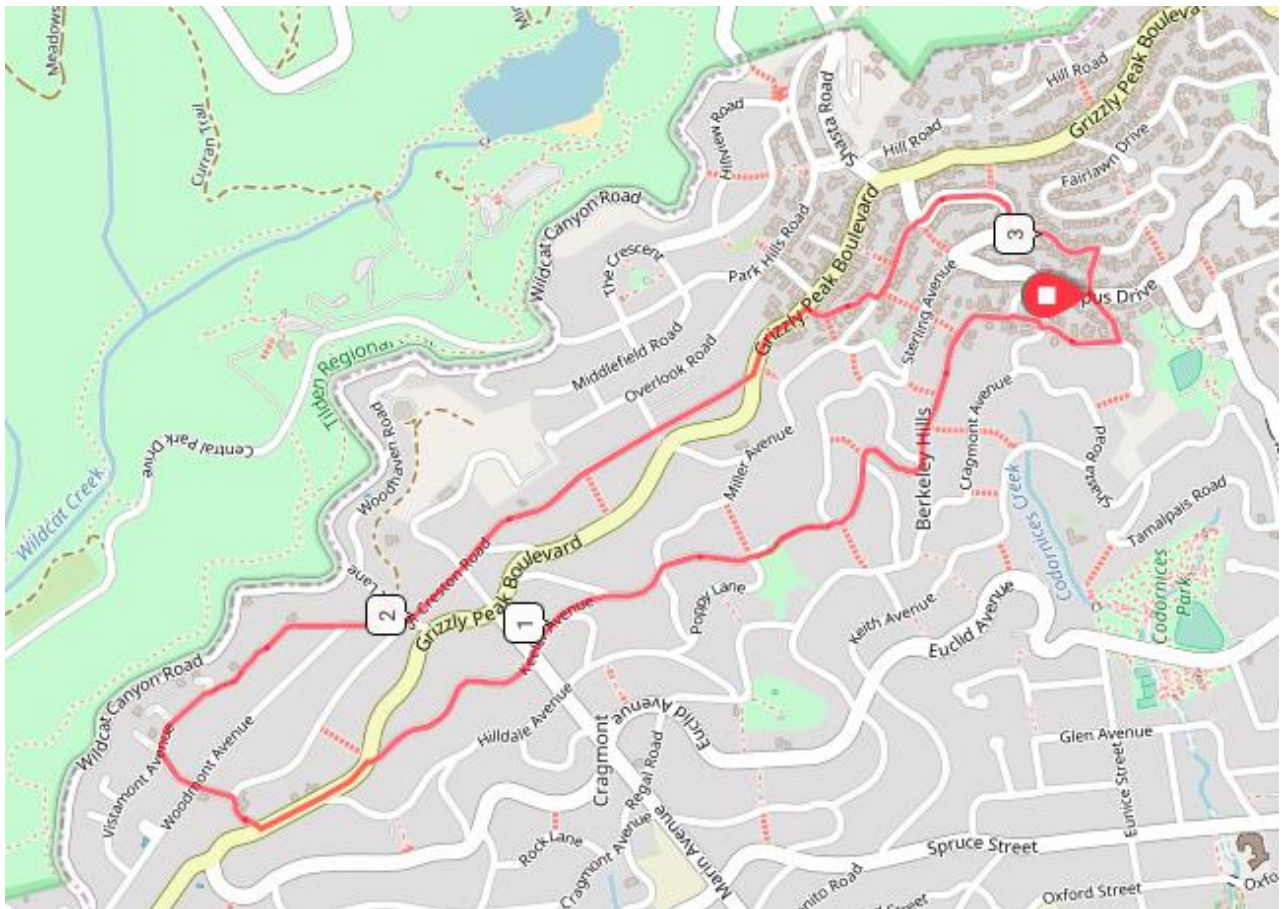
Difficulty: 2

Time: 1 hour if you walk fast, 1½-2 at more of a stroll

Elevation Gain: 300 feet

Starting Point: Campus Dr. and Quail Ave.

Transportation: AC Transit bus 65 stops at the starting point. Limited parking is also available nearby.



Note: All maps in this book are © OpenStreetMap contributors, see [www.openstreetmap.org/copyright](http://www.openstreetmap.org/copyright)

### Overview:

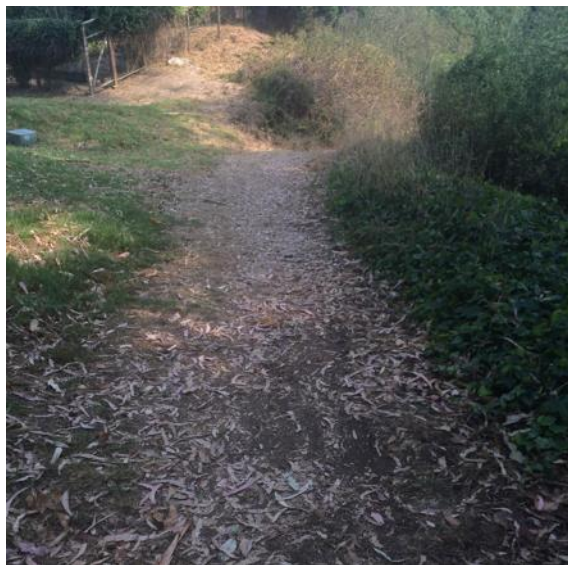
This enjoyable, mostly-flat walk takes all of Keeler, one of our favorite streets in the hills, as well as two flat paths and many other small, scenic, streets.

### Directions and pictures:

Start at the intersection of Quail Ave. and Campus Dr. Head west on Quail (down) one block and make a right on Northgate. After another block, make a slight right onto Shasta, then an immediate left on Keeler. Follow the lovely, quiet Keeler a half mile as it curves through the

hills, offering, in places, great views down on Berkeley. For an extra good view, take a detour a short way up Whitaker Path, then look back down to the city and the Bay beyond. Keeler turns sharply right and becomes Sterling at a steep hill. Instead of going up the hill, walk past the street sign and then turn left on Keeler Path (which as of 2019 is mis-signed John Muir Path. Don't be fooled--it really is Keeler Path). The path is mostly flat and takes you past Remillard Park, a good rest stop, to where Keeler restarts. Take Keeler another half mile to where it ends for good at Grizzly Peak Blvd, and make a slight left. Across the street, you can spot the real John Muir Path, robbed temporarily of its rightful street sign as of 2018. After two blocks, cross Grizzly Peak and turn right, up Creston Rd. You will quickly reach Rosemont Ave. Turn left and take it two blocks, then make a right on Vistamont Ave. Just before Vistamont dead ends, make a slight right onto Vistamont Trail, another mostly flat path, which takes you through the trees to where Vistamont restarts. Follow Vistamont to where it ends at Woodmont and make a slight left, then your next right one short block along Sunset Ln. to Creston again. Turn left to climb the hill on Creston to the top of Marin, a famously steep street which offers a great view down the steep hill back to the city. Continue a little under half a mile south to where Creston ends at Grizzly Peak Blvd. Cross and make a slight left, then go right on Stevenson Ave. and left on Miller Ave, taking each for a block. Where Miller ends, continue straight on Shasta down the gradual hill, then make your first left onto Queens Rd. Make your first right onto Quail Ave. which will return you in one block to your starting point. The entire loop is just over three miles, and provides a lovely intro to the North Berkeley hills.

*Keeler Path, one of the few flat paths in Berkeley*



*Remillard Park, next to Keeler Path*





## The Oak St. Path Loop

**Length:** Two miles plus optional ½ mile extension

**Time:** 45 minutes to an hour, a bit more with the extension

**Difficulty:** 2, 3+ with extension

**Elevation Gain:** 375 feet, 600 with extension

**Starting Point:** The Marin Circle

### **Transportation:**

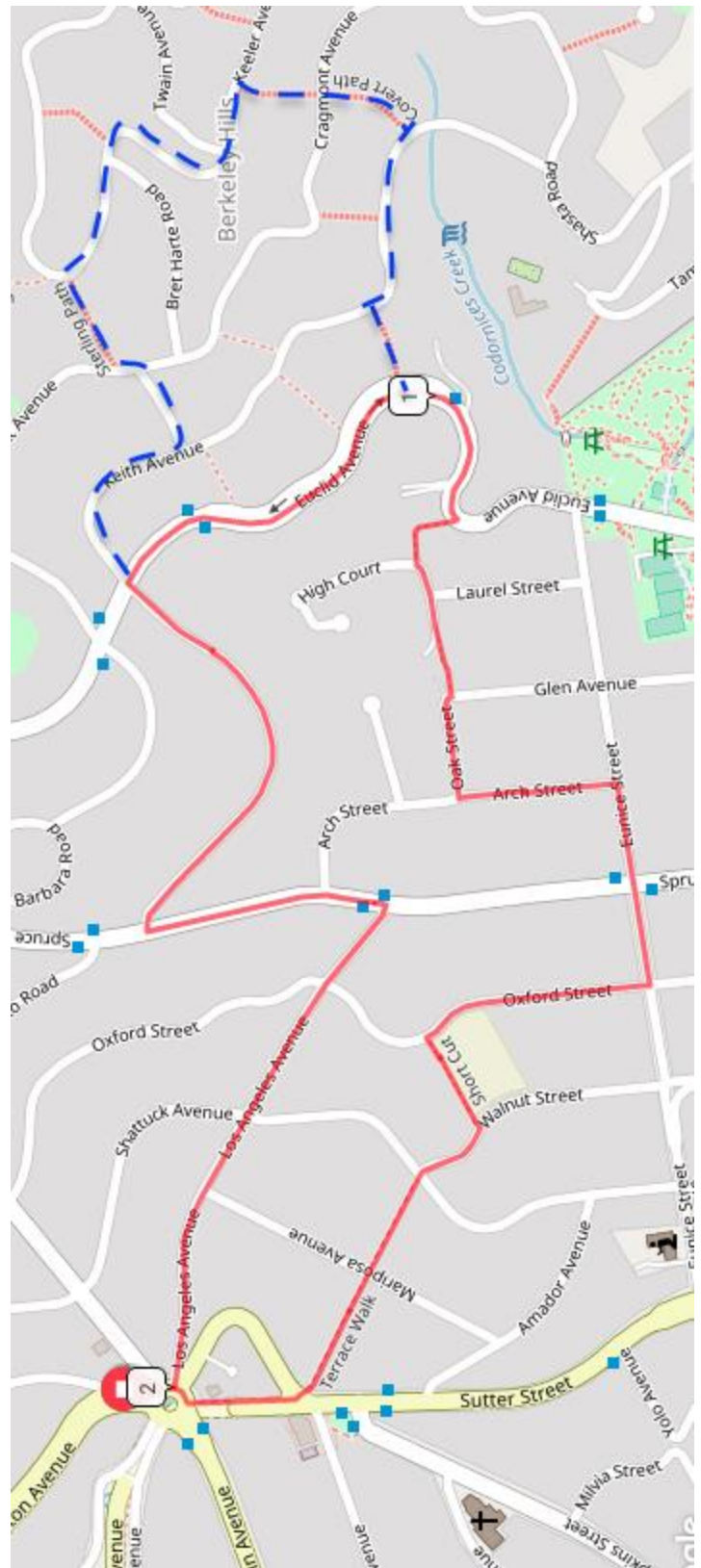
AC Transit bus lines 7 and H stop at the circle. Line 18 also stops one block away at Sutter and Hopkins. Limited parking available on Los Angeles Ave.

### **Overview:**

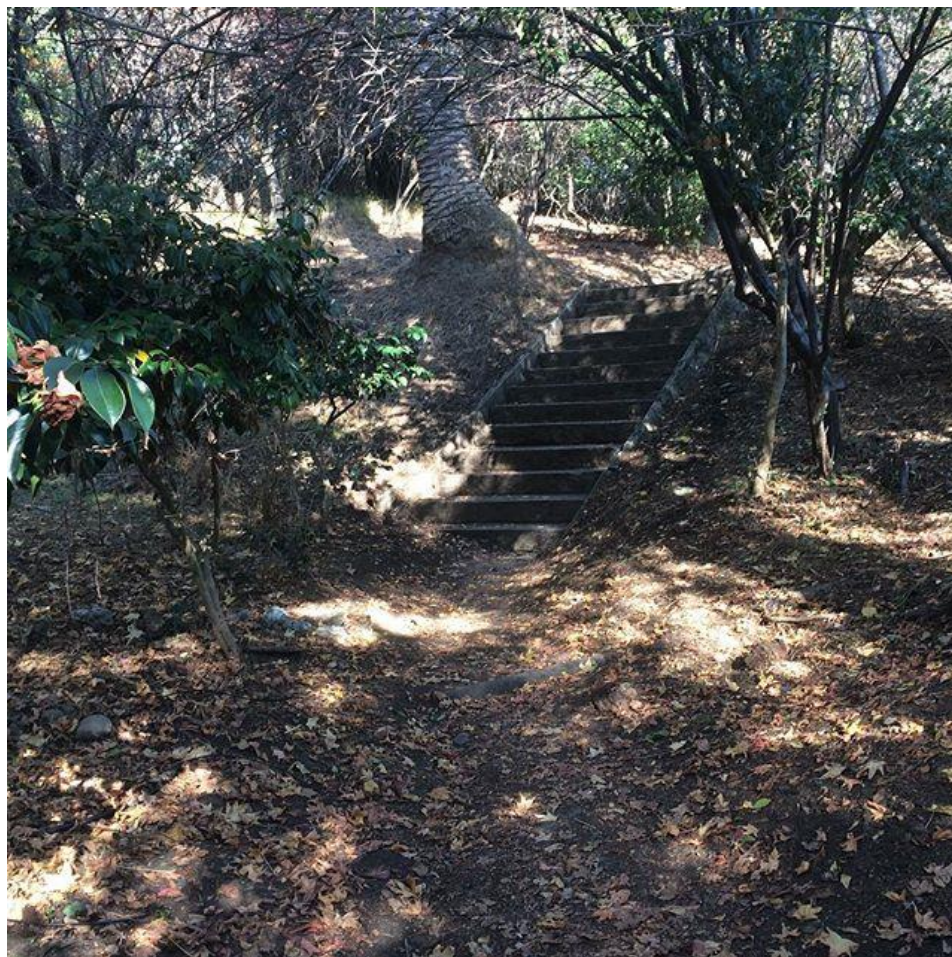
Climb several paths, including Oak St. Path for which the walk is named, to Euclid (optional extension to Keeler), then head across Euclid and descend the much smaller Keith, completing the loop on Los Angeles. This walk is easy to get to and gives a good overview of the paths, which will hopefully entice you to venture further into the hills soon

### **Directions and pictures:**

From the Marin Circle, walk down Fountain Walk, which is located near the mailbox between Del Norte St. and Marin Ave. on the southern side of the circle. At the bottom of the path, cross Del Norte St. and make a left up Terrace Walk. Terrace Walk goes two blocks up to Shattuck Ave. Cross and go straight up Walnut St. After a short block, turn left up The Oxford School Path, formerly named Short Cut. The path really is a short cut, at least if your goal is to make it to the



top, but the school next to it really is called The Oxford School, so the new name is equally legitimate, if less evocative. Make a right at the top of the path, then your first left on Eunice St. Two blocks up, go left on Arch St, then right on Oak St. Where Oak ends, continue straight onto Oak St. Path which ascends via wood and concrete steps through plum trees and over padded ground to where Oak restarts.



*Left: Oak St. Path*

Go straight on the street, then continue down the second block of Oak St. Path, this one a series of concrete staircases with handrails. At the bottom, make a left on Euclid Ave, noting the brightly colored mural and plaque on the lower side as you climb the hill.

Here, you can opt to take an optional half-mile-extra detour up two very nice but also very steep paths farther into the hills and rejoin the route

when it descends. If you wish to skip this detour, skip this paragraph. To take the scenic detour, cross Euclid (there is no very good spot so just go whenever no cars are coming) and continue North. Soon you will read Redwood Terrace, one of the steepest paths in Berkeley. Make a right up it, continuing to the top under redwoods and up concrete stairs made nearly-vertical by their roots. If, by this point, you have had enough of scenic detours, go left on Keith to Euclid and skip to the next paragraph. But the best is still to come! Assuming you don't want to bail out, turn right on Keith, then left on the second path you reach, Covert Path. Covert Path is one of our favorite of all one hundred and three paths in Berkeley. It switchbacks up a hill on wooden stairs, then down and over a creek which flows in winter, then up again through trees and over soft ground to a final set of concrete steps and the end of the first block. Cross the street and continue up the wooden steps of the second block—appreciating the Berkeley Path Wanderers' recently installed handrail and looking down from the top at the view. Once you have enjoyed the view and/or caught your breath, turn left on Keeler. After about a quarter mile, turn left down

the concrete steps of Sterling Path, then make a left and an immediate right on Bret Harte Rd. After one block, turn right on Keith Ave. which will take you back down to Euclid. At this point, you have finished the detour and upped the walk's difficulty rating to a 3+.

If you chose to skip the detour, continue up Euclid one very long block to Keith. Here, the routes rejoin. Head down Keith (a left if you just came up Euclid) a surprisingly long block to Spruce. Turn left and walk two blocks to Los Angeles Ave. Cross here and turn right down Los Angeles. Four blocks will return you to The Marin Circle, the end of the walk. We hope you are now inspired to turn the page and continue further into the fabulous hills of North Berkeley.



## A Short but Steep Northern Path Tour

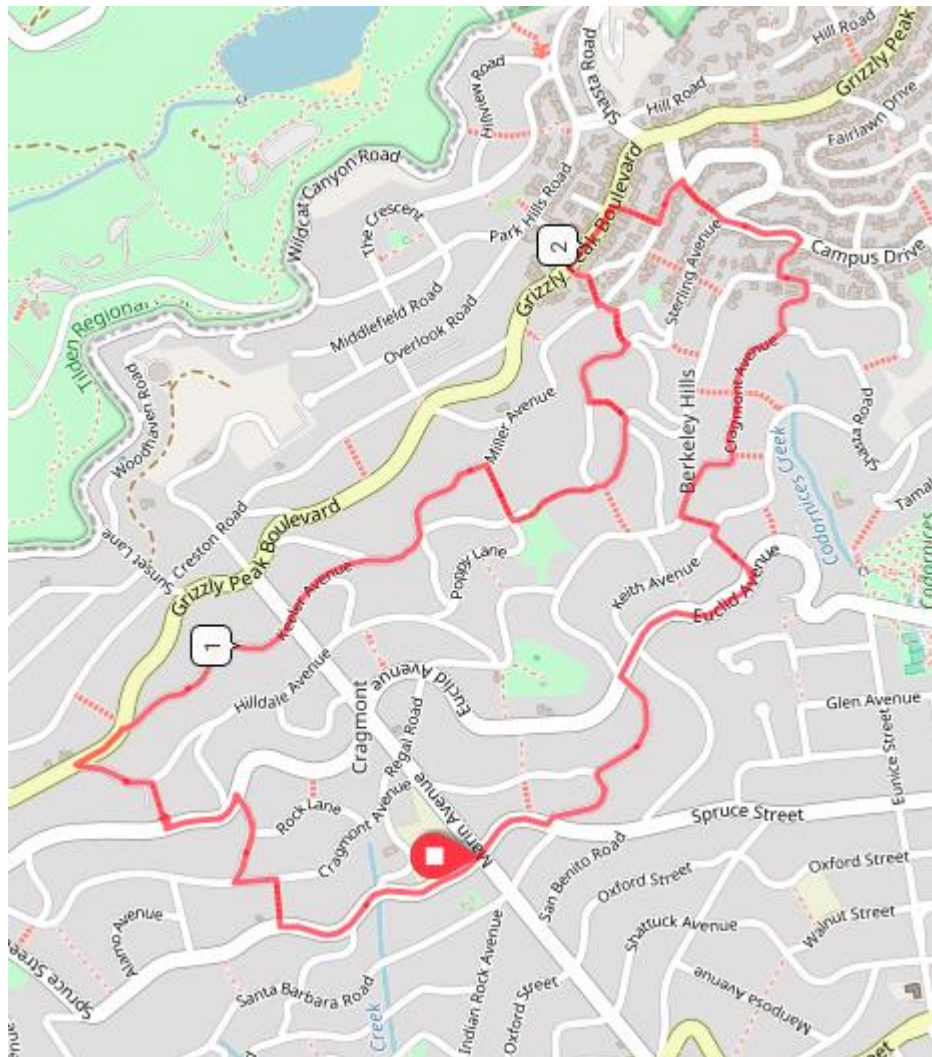
**Length:** 3.5 miles

**Time:** 1 ½ hours

**Difficulty:** 3

**Elevation Gain:** 650 feet

**Starting Point:** Spruce St. and Marin Ave.



**Transportation:** AC transit bus 67. There is also parking available on Spruce.

### **Overview:**

This walk gives a great overview of the North Berkeley Hills, taking you up and down nine steep stair paths in a relatively short amount of time. From Spruce, you will climb to Grizzly Peak, traverse the hills on paths and small streets, summit near Shasta, and then descend efficiently on paths to return to the starting point.

### **Directions and**

### **pictures:**

Start at the intersection of Spruce St. and Marin Ave. From here, head north up Spruce (or for a short cut, run up Marin). After two long-ish blocks you will reach Poplar Path. Turn right to ascend the cement steps through trees and up a gradual slope to Cragmont Ave. Turn left, then

make your first right onto Poplar St. After two short blocks, turn left onto Euclid Ave, then right onto the wooden steps of Halkin Walk. The path is unsigned but the handrail and steps are noticeable, climbing the steepest hillside of any path in Berkeley. Follow the switchbacks and many stairs of Halkin Walk, a path built by the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association in 2014, to where it ends at Hilldale Ave. Make a left, then your first right onto Grizzly Peak Blvd. This is a very efficient route up to Grizzly Peak and, this being an efficient walk, the descent will begin soon. Well, not really. Make a slight right off Grizzly Peak on the first street you reach, Keeler Ave, and follow it as it winds through the hills for three long blocks. At Miller Ave, make a left. Climb the hill, then turn right down the many wooden stairs of Poppy Path after one block.



*Left: Poppy Path disappears into the distance*

At the bottom of Poppy Path, you will reach the famous four way street sign marking the intersection of Keeler, Poppy, Keeler Path, and Poppy Path. This is the only quadruple street sign we know of. (If you find another or can one-up us with a quintuple, let us know!) Turn left onto Keeler Path and walk across its dusty, dirt trail past Remillard Park and up a few steps to where Keeler restarts. Make a slight right, then stay left to continue on Keeler. The first intersection is with Bret Harte Ave. Here, make a left to climb the perfect, concrete steps of Bret Harte Path, continuing afterward up some wooden stairs to Sterling Ave. Make a right, then your first left up Betty Olds Path, renamed in 2013 for city council-women and path advocate Betty Olds. Betty Olds was friends with Anne Brower, for whom a nearby path is named, and was pleased to have path named for her so close to the one

commemorating her friend. This path climbs yet more of the Berkeley Path Wanderers' signature wood steps from the intersection of Sterling and Twain. At the top of the path, make a slight left on Whitaker Ave. for a very short way, then cross Miller and continue straight, up Anne Brower Path, named for the longtime resident of one of the houses next to the path and wife of environmentalist David Brower. The top of this short path leaves you on Stevenson Ave. A left takes you quickly back to Grizzly Peak, where you should turn right. After one block you will reach Stoddard Path and the highest point of the walk.



Make a right to truly begin the descent. Stoddard Path goes down a small dirt trail and then some wood steps back to Miller Ave. Make a left, then a right at the intersection with Shasta down the wooden steps of Shasta Path. After descending, stay straight to continue down Shasta, turning right when you reach Campus Dr. to remain on Shasta. At Keeler, stay left and at Northgate, stay right to proceed down—you guessed it—Shasta!

Finally, at Cragmont, turn right to leave Shasta behind forever. Take Cragmont past Covert and Martinez paths to El Mirador Path. If you get to Bret Harte Rd, you've gone a bit too far. Make a left to descend the now-familiar wood steps, which join the similar steps of the neighboring houses, and bring you through the redwoods to Keith Ave. If descending these steps looks daunting, you can also go straight on Cragmont until it hits Euclid and skip the next few sentences. Assuming you did go down the path, take a right for a few feet, then go right to continue down the lower block of El Mirador which goes through more redwoods and down a steep cement staircase (with a railing) and slope to Euclid Ave. Turn right. After a block on Euclid, cross Keith Ave. and soon after turn left onto Cragmont Ave. Follow Cragmont down the hill and around the curve, then turn left onto Santa Barbara Rd. After one winding block, Santa Barbara hits Spruce. Make a right, and you will return to the starting point. The whole walk is three and a half miles and covers nine paths, mostly ones the Berkeley Path Wanderers have built within the last fifteen years.

*Right: The steps of Stoddard Path*



## Waterfalls and Creeks of North Berkeley

**Length: 7.8 miles**

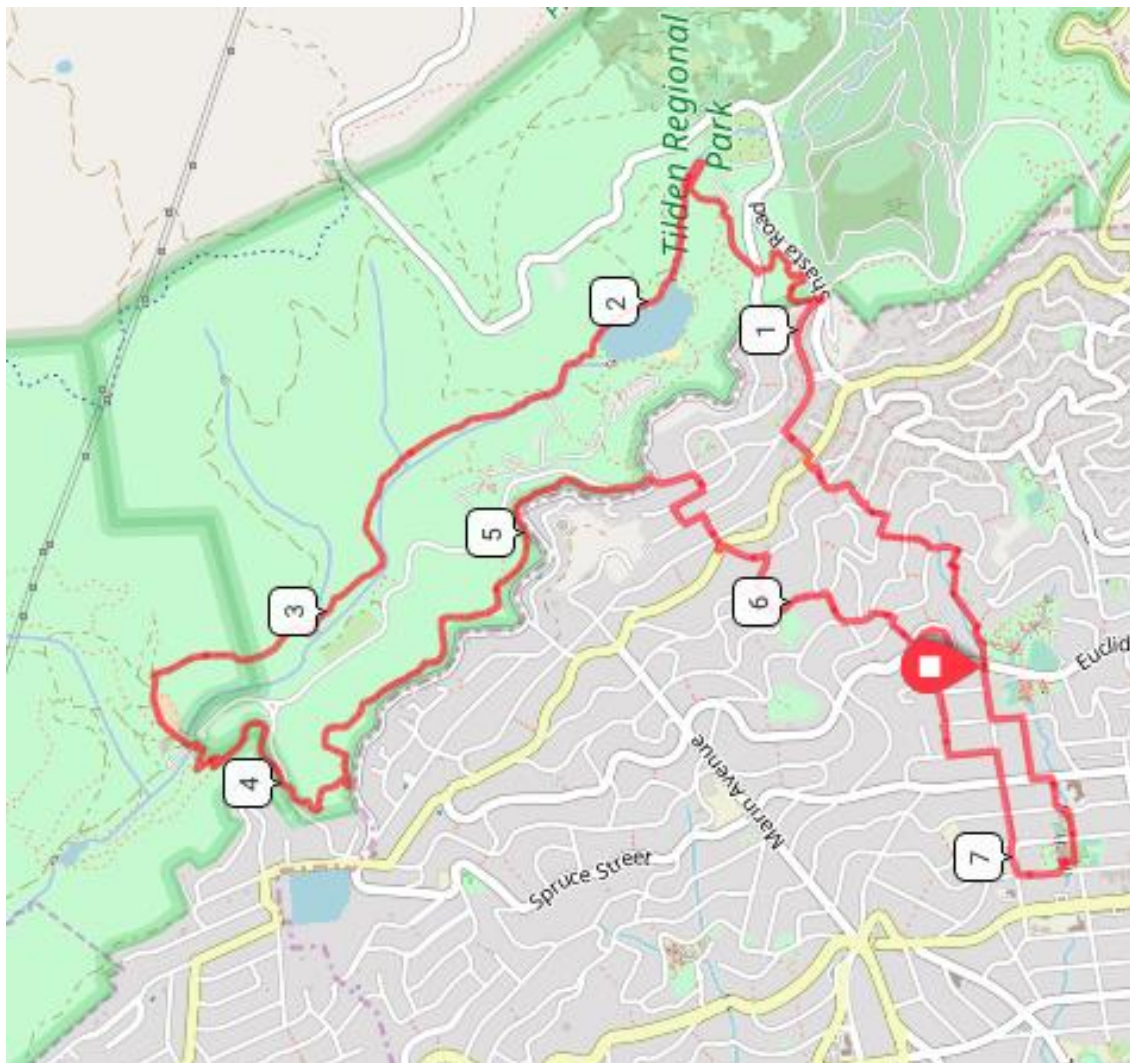
**Time: Three hours**

**Difficulty: 4**

**Elevation Gain: 1,415 feet**

**Starting Point: Codornices Park (Euclid and Eunice)**

**Transportation: AC Transit bus 65. Parking is also available on Euclid or Eunice near the start.**





## Overview:

This nearly-eight-mile loop is great any time of year, but especially in the rainy season (ideal a



couple days after a rainstorm) when the waterfalls and creeks are flowing. It can get a bit muddy, but makes for a great adventure, exploring picturesque Wildcat Gorge in Tilden, the forested Selby Trail, and many of the lesser known waterfalls hidden in the Berkeley Hills. From the start, you'll climb steeply to Tilden, descend through the park, climb your way back to the ridge on scenic trails, then head down to below your starting point for a finishing climb.

*Left: Just off of Tamalpais Path, Codornices Creek roars over a waterfall after a heavy rain.*

## Directions and

### pictures:

The walk begins at the corner of Euclid Ave. and Eunice St, near Codornices Park. Directly east from the intersection, follow Tamalpais Path downhill and over a bridge on the first of this walk's many creek crossings. Codornices Creek is usually quite small, but, like most of Berkeley's creeks, it transforms into a torrent after even a small rainfall. After crossing the creek, ascend the spiraling concrete staircase until you reach a gate marked "No Trespassing." This sign is



intended (according to the property owners) to ensure that people stay to the established paths. In fact, further up there are signs explicitly saying that hikers are permitted, as long as they stay on the paths. Walk through the gate and continue along the ivy covered path, just above Codornices Creek. At all the points where the trail forks, stay on the lower path, bearing left.

Pretty soon, you will be able to hear falling water. At any moment, the waterfall itself will come into view, tumbling forty feet toward Codornices Park. During the summer, this waterfall is only a rock wall, and even in winter it is reduced to a trickle once a dry week passes. But after a rainstorm, this waterfall is a force to be reckoned with, gushing down the sheer rock past ivy covered walls. Across the waterfall, an unmaintained path ascends steeply, and possibly illegally, to Keith Avenue. A much easier and more enjoyable way to climb the hill is to switchback up along the boardwalk without crossing the falls, looking behind you at the waterfall and the mini-gorge of Codornices Creek. Stay left to continue climbing steeply, and the path will spit you out near a garage, in a driveway leading to the southern end of Keith Avenue. Turn left onto Keith, which crosses Codornices Creek again just below Covert Path. Here, Codornices Creek tumbles down another waterfall (on the upper side of the road), and burbles through a backyard on its way to the lower waterfall and the Bay.

Turn right on Covert Path, climbing through ivy and into a wooded glen. A seasonal creek in the middle of the path used to make for long jump practice, but has recently been bridged. Cross, and continue up a concrete staircase through bamboo. The path continues above Cragmont Avenue, so keep climbing! You'll ascend wooden stairs into a meadow and end up on Keeler Ave. Turn right and walk briefly on Keeler to Whitaker Path, which offers a breathtaking view of the Bay once you reach the first tree. Proceed up Whitaker Path, then continue up Whitaker Avenue. At the top of this one-block street, cross Miller and follow the wooden stairs of Anne Brower Path up to Stevenson, where a quick left turn will bring you to Grizzly Peak Blvd, the mighty top of the Berkeley Hills. Turn right here and cross carefully, then



turn left on Muir Way, where you will (finally!) begin to descend. Make another right at Park Hills, pausing to admire the superb view of Wildcat Canyon and the green (or brown, depending on the season) hills above it.

*Left: the waterfall below Lake Anza*

Continuing on Park Hills, you'll climb a

brief hill to reach a junction with Shasta Rd. and the Selby Trail, which marks the walk's highest point: 1,113 feet above sea level.

Make a sharp left on the Selby Trail to begin the much-anticipated descent into Tilden. The woods along the Selby Trail are often wet and enchanted-seeming, particularly after a rainstorm. Cross Wildcat Canyon Rd. and continue down Anza View Rd, past turnoffs for the Selby Trail to the narrow beginning of the Wildcat Gorge Trail. Turn left to head down this lovely trail to Wildcat Creek, which is one of Tilden's few perennial creeks, though it is reduced to near nothing in summer. The Wildcat Gorge Trail is prone to slides, and if a section of a trail is closed, there will be a posted detour around it. Avoid walking in the creek, since the golden trout and California newt, both endemic to the East Bay, are endangered.

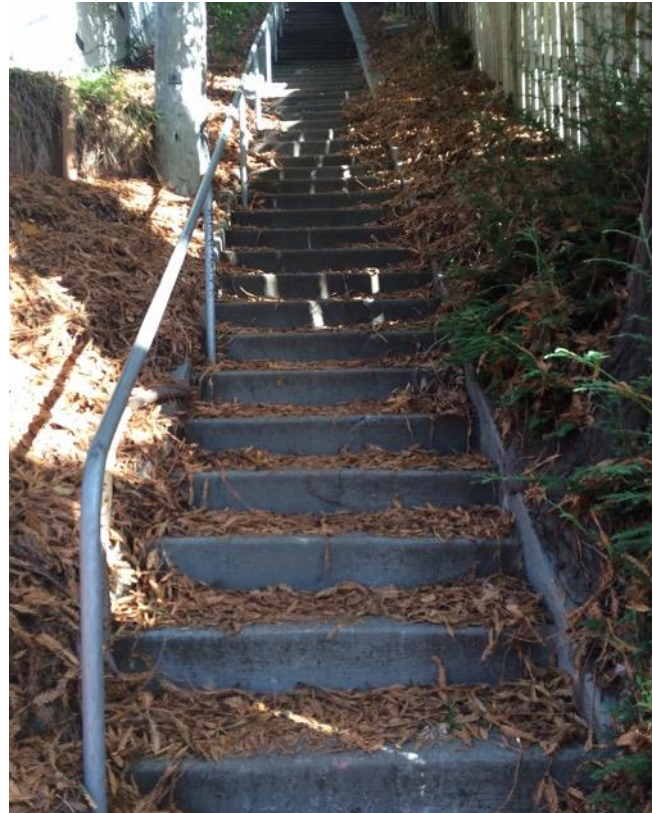
Soon, you will reach Lake Anza, where Wildcat Creek has been dammed. Turn right to walk along the eastern shore of the lake. Though artificial, this lake is gorgeous, its placid waters reflection the surrounding hills on calm days. Lake Anza is also a popular beach and walking destination and on weekends is a great place to people watch. After going half way around Lake Anza, turn right on the Wildcat Gorge Trail again to descend through a grove of stately redwoods and continue along the shore of Wildcat Creek. At the bottom of the hill to the left, a large waterfall (pictured above) gushes into the creek after heavy rains and trickles during drier times of year. Continue north on the trail, passing several small pools and short waterfalls before reaching the end of the forest at a meadow, and, shortly thereafter, the trail's end at Lone Oak Rd. The time on Lone Oak Rd. is short lived. A quick right turn brings you to Loop Rd; continue up this dirt road, which officially into a no-cars trail at a gate at the top of the hill. Turn left at the first opportunity after the gate and walk downhill into the Little Farm, passing the sheep and cows. Exiting the farm, continue straight across the dead-end parking road after exiting the farm, starting up the signed Memory Trail, which switchbacks out of Wildcat Canyon. After about a quarter of a mile, you'll cross Canon Drive. Continue straight on the Memory Trail, which soon ends at the signed Selby Trail, running along the rim of Wildcat Canyon. The Selby Trail offers far-reaching views into the canyon and across to San Pablo Ridge. You'll traverse through mainly open meadow until reaching Central Park Drive. Turn right, and you will soon find yourself at Wildcat Canyon Rd. again.

Cross here and continue straight up the steep hill (Park Hills Drive). Upon reaching The Short Cut, turn right, beginning a confusing series of twisting turns through the Park Hills Neighborhood. At the top of The Short Cut, turn right on Middlefield, then left on the Crossways, left again on Overlook, and finally right on Latham Lane. At the end of Latham Lane, continue straight on the path, Latham Walk, which begins the final plunge down to the bottom of the hills. Cross Grizzly Peak Boulevard carefully at the bottom and continue downhill on Latham Lane to Miller, where you turn right. Pretty soon, make a left turn on Poppy Path to plunge down through a redwood grove, emerging into Remillard Park, which makes for a nice rest stop. Turn left onto one of Berkeley's few flat paths, Keeler Path, and at its end turn right on Keeler and immediately right again down Sterling Path, which offers a great panoramic view of the Bay. At the bottom of the path, turn left on Cragmont Ave. and then right down El Mirador Path

El Mirador Path descends completely in the shade of towering redwood trees. Jog right at Keith and continue down the second block of the path to where it ends, at Euclid, where you turn left. Continuing down Euclid will bring you back to Codornices Park, cutting about 1.2 miles off the walk. However, it skips a scenic stretch of Codornices Creek through Live Oak Park

farther down. To continue to Live Oak Park, cross Euclid across from the beautiful mural depicting the Mayan creation, being very careful while crossing, since there is no crosswalk. Continue south and turn right to climb up Oak Street Path, then continue straight on Oak St. and head down the second block of the path, through trees, over soft ground, and down a few steps to Glen Ave. Continue down Oak St. another block to Arch Ave. Here make a left, then your first right down Eunice. After four blocks, make a left on Shattuck Ave, then an immediate left onto a field into Live Oak Park. Head southeast across the field and over a bridge above the final creek of the walk, then turn left, continuing through the park on what is technically Berryman Path. Cross the first street you come to and continue on the path, then jog left at the next street and continue on the third block, up some concrete steps to Spruce St. Make a left, then your first right up Summer St. When the street ends after one long block, turn left onto Glen Ave. You will soon reach Eunice. Make a right and two blocks will return you to your starting point at Euclid.

*Right: The steps of El Mirador path*





# Favorite Paths of the North Berkeley Hills

**Length: Six miles**

**Time: Two and a half to three hours**

**Difficulty: 4**

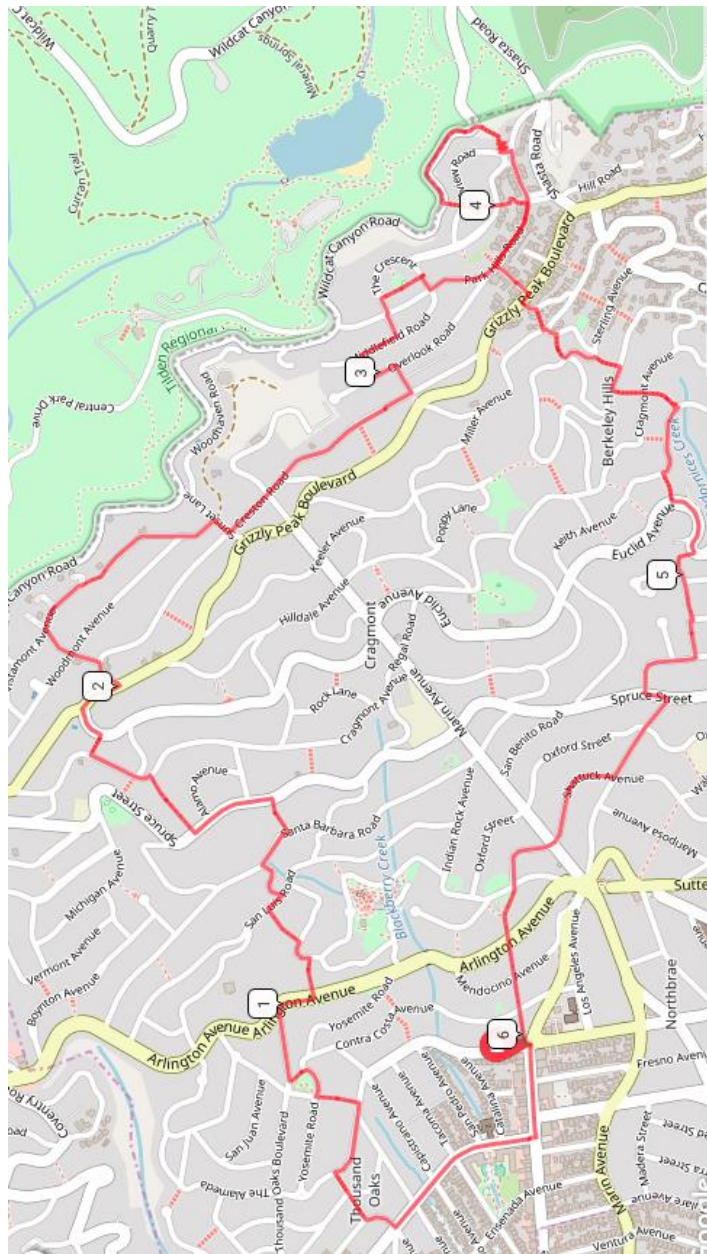
**Elevation Gain: 1,150 feet**

**Starting Point: Solano Ave. and the Alameda**

**Transportation: AC Transit buses 7, 18, and 25 all stop within a block on Solano or just south of it on The Alameda**

## **Overview:**

If you asked us to name ten favorite North Berkeley paths, all ten of them would be ones you take on this walk. A six-mile loop, it gives an overview of all the types of paths: from the granite Indian Trail to the pine-needle-covered Acacia Walk to the stepping stones of Vistamont Trail or the switchbacks of Wildcat Path. You'll pass the park in the middle of Crescent Park Path, cross a tiny stream on Covert, and go up and down everything from the small wooden stairs of Whitaker Path to the giant, uneven concrete ones of Redwood Terrace. This walk takes you up paths through many different neighborhoods of Berkeley, loops along the easternmost paths—those near Tilden Park—and descends through the heart of PathLand to return to the starting point.



## Directions and pictures:

Start at the intersection of Solano Ave. and The Alameda. Head down Solano (west) until you reach the traffic light at Colusa Ave and then turn right. After six very short blocks, you will have gone half a mile entirely on big streets without a single path. Now, let the paths begin! Turn right onto Vincente Ave, then, shortly after, turn right again onto El Paseo Path. El Paseo ascends granite steps through the rocky terrain native to the Thousand Oaks area. At the top of the first block, cross the street and continue up the slightly less steep second block to where the path ends at Alameda. Turn right here and cross so that you are on the upper side. Just after the intersection with San Lorenzo, after house number 715, make a left up the steep and uneven granite-block bottom steps of Indian Trail. At the bottom and just left of this path, you will



*The Indian Trail Urn*

notice a huge stone urn, the last original of about a dozen that used to be scattered throughout this neighborhood. The rest have been destroyed over the years, but the city is working to replace them with replicas, such as the one in Great Stoneface Park (which you'll see in a few minutes). Climb Indian Trail, walking past a small rock cave, to where it ends at Yosemite Rd. Make a right, then a left soon after onto Great Stoneface Path, which runs through the east side of Great Stoneface Park (named for the large rock in the park's center that appears to have the features of a face). At the end of this short path, turn right up on Thousand Oaks Blvd, continuing up to where it ends at Arlington Ave. Cross Arlington and turn right; then, soon after, make a left up Tunbridge Lane. The path—an excellent place for picking street plums in the summer—climbs up uneven concrete stairs through a sort of tree tunnel and ends at Southampton Ave.



*The granite steps of Indian Trail*

Make a left up Southampton, then another left after a short block onto Chester Lane, just past house number 117. Climb more cement stairs, then make a right at the top, cross San Luis, then turn left soon after back onto Southampton. After one longish block, head right on Santa Barbara Rd. You will soon reach Alta Vista Path. Turn left to climb its steep stairs, looking back before the top at the *alta vista* down on the Bay, the Golden Gate Bridge, and much of Berkeley and Albany. Once you have finished enjoying the view (or catching your breath while pretending to enjoy the view), turn left up Spruce St. The top of the climb is near! Cross Spruce at the first crosswalk and continue north. Just past Alamo Ave, you will see the sign for Acacia Walk.

Turn right to climb the unexciting concrete steps with their black handrail. At the



top, you will get a surprise: Acacia Walk suddenly changes to a lovely dirt trail. Walk under the trees and over the pine needles as you gradually ascend to Cragmont Ave. Here, turn left. After one block, you will reach the sign for North Path. Turn right and climb one final set of concrete stairs, then make a left on Euclid, which will bring you to Grizzly Peak Blvd. Though the steepest section is over, the climb is not yet completed, and the great paths are just beginning.

Turn right on Grizzly Peak, then left on Creston Rd. after a very short block. Another short block will bring you to Rosemont Ave, where you should make a left and, two blocks later, a right on Vistamont Ave.



Vistamont soon dead ends at a driveway with No Trespassing signs. But have no fear, Vistamont Trail is here! Make a slight right past the street sign and across the stepping stones and dirt track of one of Berkeley's only north-to-south paths. At the end of the path, Vistamont Ave. restarts. Follow the gravel driveway and the street to where it ends at Woodmont Ave. and make a slight left. At Sunset Ln, make a right, then an immediate left back onto Creston Rd.

*Left: Fred Herbert Path (coming soon), "stair-ing" you down*

Creston climbs several hills to its summit at Miller Path East. Rather than taking this path, continue straight, down Creston to Latham Ln. Turn left on this quiet street to begin the descent past the peak of the Berkeley Hills and on towards Tilden Park. After one block, make a left at Overlook Rd;

after another block, turn right on The Crossways, then make another right onto Middlefield Rd. Another block will take you to The Shortcut. Turn left and descend to Park Hills Rd, then cross and continue straight, climbing gradually up The Crescent. After a very short block, just before address 10, make a right up a small flight of wooden stairs. Climb these and go through a gate to arrive at the green field of Crescent Park, site of a little-known playground, field, and water fountain accessible only via path. If you miss the steps up, there is no need to fear, as the park is also accessible via a concrete path from a little further along the road. Crescent Park is a great water or lunch stop but does not have any bathrooms. Continue straight to exit the park on

the south end, then turn left and right soon after onto Woodside Rd. Stay on the upper side of Woodside, then, opposite the intersection with Hillview Rd, turn right up the wooden steps of Patty Kates Path. You will soon reach a meadow between several houses; turn left through the grass and then right in the first gap between the chain link fences, to continue up the steps to the top of the path. This nice cut-through was formerly named after John Muir, but one day the Park Hills Neighborhood Association decided to spontaneously rename it after long-term board member Patty Kates. Because this neighborhood is unincorporated, as opposed to being part of the city of Berkeley, there was nothing the city could do to oppose the change. John Muir is now forced to be content with a new path named in his honor, running from Keeler and Grizzly Peak up to Creston. Given that he has major trails, parks, and even (somewhat ironically) a freeway named after him, we figure he would not mind too much this northward shift in the site of his Berkeley Hills legacy.

Next, the walk takes you on a short loop on two of Berkeley's easternmost paths. If you wish to skip this loop, head straight up Muir Way and skip to the next paragraph. Otherwise, turn left on Park Hills Rd. After two blocks, you will reach the five-way intersection with Woodside and Hillview. Cross them both and make a slight left, as if taking Hillview, then a right onto the steep hillside of the overgrown Wildcat Path. Follow the small wooden steps as they switch-back down the hill. At the bottom, a short optional detour to the right will bring you into Contra Costa County. If you are content with a one-county walk, turn left on Wildcat Canyon Rd. We recommend you cross for better visibility, then cross back at Fred Herbert Path, which you will reach after one block, just before a small grove of redwoods. Fred Herbert Path has a small wooden sign and steps like those on Patty Kates Path. Ascend three blocks, through trees and small clearings and up many steps back to Park Hills. Make a right and one block will return you to the top of Patty Kates Path.

At this point, the descent begins. Well, almost. Turn left up Muir Way and after one block cross Grizzly Peak Blvd. and jog right to continue down Stevenson. Very quickly you will reach the sign for Anne Brower Path. Turn right down the wooden steps through a sort of tree tunnel to the intersection of Whitaker and Miller. Take Whitaker to continue down the hill. then make a slight right to head down Betty Olds Path, which was built by the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association in 2013.

Make a left at the bottom onto Sterling, then your first right down Whitaker Path, which you will find at the intersection of Sterling and Whitaker. If it is a clear day, you will see a stunning view of the Bay near the bottom of Whitaker Path, which, you may notice, is the recipient of a recent handrail paid for by the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association. Make a right on Keeler Ave, then a few feet later a left down Covert Path. Covert Path descends first through a meadow down about 160 steps and then onto a second block with a small creek crossing and redwood saplings to use as handholds for the sharp turns. At the bottom of Covert Path, turn right onto Keith Ave, then left down Redwood Terrace, one of Berkeley's steepest paths with concrete steps, some of which have become nearly vertical due to the redwood roots underneath. Make a left on Euclid Ave, then cross carefully and turn right onto Oak St. Path and ascend the path's even concrete stairs. Go straight at the top on Oak St, then continue on down the second block of the path, through large, shady trees and down more steps. At the bottom, keep going straight, down Oak St. Turn right to climb a final hill on Arch St, then continue down around a bend to Spruce St. Make a left, then an immediate right down Los Angeles Ave. After

two blocks, turn right onto Shattuck Ave, which will take you in two much-longer blocks first to Marin Ave. and then to Indian Rock Ave. Cross the street and head down Indian Rock Path, Berkeley's only four block path. Indian Rock path is paved, and, though perhaps not that exciting after the paths you have seen, it makes an excellent short cut in returning you to Solano and the Alameda. The entire walk is just over six miles, with 18 paths and over a thousand stairs. Solano is filled with restaurants, if you feel the desire to follow up the 18 paths with an 18 course meal.

*Right: Betty Olds Path*





## From Solitude to Shattuck Avenue

Length: 8.1 miles

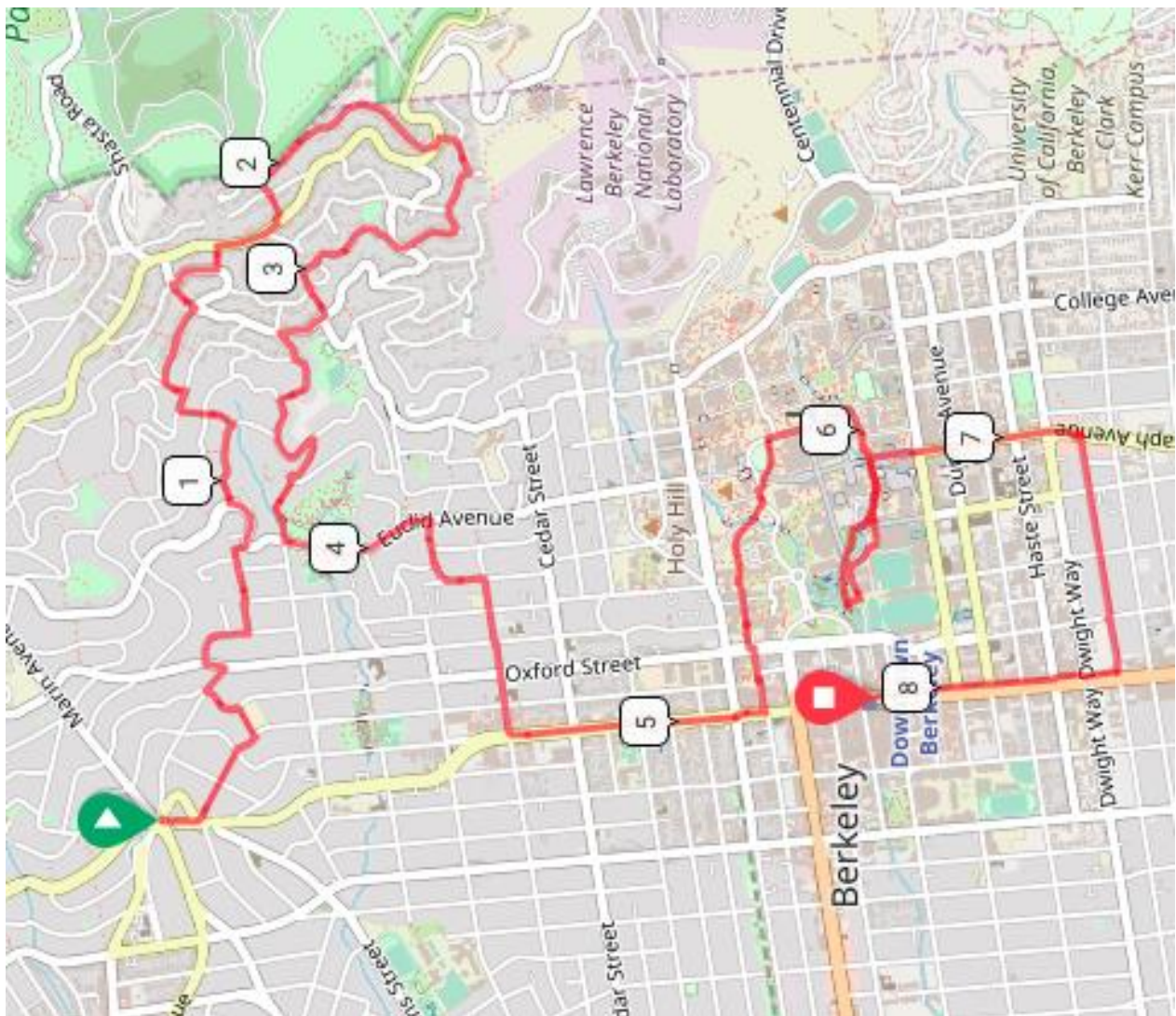
Time: A bit over three hours, excluding probable stops at restaurants and/or bakeries.

Difficulty: 4

Elevation Gain/Loss: 1,155/1,272

Starting Point: The Marin Circle

Ending Point: Downtown Berkeley BART



## **Transportation:**

AC buses 7, G, FS, H, and 18 at the beginning and BART or buses 51B, 7, 18, FS, 52, 12 at the end. Limited parking is available at the start on Los Angeles Ave, and the 18 bus will also return you to one block below the start point if you have a car there.

## **Overview:**

This walk explores an astounding cross section of Berkeley. From quiet groves of redwood and Monterey cypress up in the hills to the bustle of Shattuck Avenue and Telegraph to the subtle energy of the University, this walk provides startling contrasts within a relatively short amount of time. It explores some of our favorite paths, excellent bakeries and restaurants, the eccentric chaos of Downtown, and the commanding architecture of the University.

## **Directions and pictures:**

Starting from the Marin Circle, descend Fountain Walk, observing the ivy-covered entrance to the Solano Tunnel on top of which the Circle is built. From here, cross Del Norte Avenue and turn left to head up the concrete grade of Terrace Walk. On a clear day, you can get a good view of San Francisco about midway up the first block, and regardless of the weather you can admire the gardens that adorn this path. Crossing Mariposa, reach the top of this path at the intersection of Shattuck and Walnut and continue straight, heading up Walnut. You'll crest a small hill near Oxford Elementary School, then turn left and uphill along The Oxford School Path. On your left, you may hear the crowing of chickens in a resident's yard. On reaching the top of the path, head right and downhill on Oxford, then make your first left at the intersection with Eunice. Two blocks later, make another left on the quiet Arch St, which will bring you right next to a stately though small pagoda, oddly out of place near the intersection with Eunice. From the pagoda, Arch goes uphill; follow it to Oak Street, where deer can often be spotted on quiet mornings, gracefully demolishing neighbors' yards. Oak Street ends at the lovely two-block Oak Street Path. The first block begins by meandering into a small grove of trees, where street plums abound in early summer. An overgrown set of concrete stairs, set next to a large palm tree, bring you up to a continuation of Oak Street. Oak Street Path continues soon after, slightly to the right after the intersection with Laurel. After descending another flight of stairs, you'll emerge at Euclid Avenue. Turn left, making sure to stop and admire an amazing mural of the Mayan Creation. The mural is extensive, with an explanatory plaque on the south side. Right after the mural, carefully cross Euclid and continue uphill to Redwood Terrace. Redwood Terrace is one of the steepest paths in Berkeley, with uneven and overgrown concrete steps. A large redwood tree, the path's namesake perhaps, lies about halfway up. When you finally reach Keith Avenue, turn right, where you will probably enjoy the flat, easy stretch. Continue to Covert Path, detouring slightly past it if you want to spot a waterfall that roars right after a rainfall but continues running year-round. Turn left up Covert, one of our favorite paths, which climbs a small hill through the redwoods, then descends to a tiny stream. The stream is dry most of the year, but it can flow up to a week after a storm.

After crossing, climb steeply up through a grove of bamboo and English Ivy, and emerge at Cragmont Avenue. Cross Cragmont and

continue up Covert to a meadow, which offers a nice view down on the San Francisco Bay. At the top of Covert, turn right onto Keeler Avenue and take your first left at Whitaker Path. Before reaching the tree a quarter of the way up, turn around and admire a commanding view of the East Bay, one of the nicest on this walk. On a clear day, it's possible to see all the way to the Farallon Islands, thirty miles out in the Pacific Ocean! Turn right once you reach the top of the path (at Sterling Avenue), and walk until the intersection with Shasta Rd. Turn left to climb Shasta Path, then make a right at the top down Shasta Rd. Pretty soon, you'll reach Tilden Path, Berkeley's second-newest path as of 2018.

Tilden Path takes you up a steep flight of wooden stairs to Grizzly Peak Boulevard. Turn right and then cross at the first opportunity, making a left up Atlas Path, which bears a nice vertical wood sign and starts just after the intersection with Arcade. About halfway up, a bench allows you to look out at a spectacular view of the Bay. Once you reach the top, continue straight onto Atlas Place, then turn right on Summit Rd. On foggy days, Summit Rd. is enveloped in fog, and the Monterey Cypress groves to your left are given an air of mystique. Summit Rd. tops out at 1,300 feet, the highest point in Berkeley, before heading down to Grizzly Peak Boulevard. Jog to the left at Grizzly Peak, then continue down Summit and soon turn right down the wood steps of Wilson Walk. Descend the steps, then make another right at Olympus Avenue then a few blocks later where the street ends, a right on Avenida and just after a left on Queens. Queens takes you to Fairlawn, where you should make a slight right to head uphill to Glendale Path, then turn left to descend two blocks, passing the headwaters of Codornices Creek. Turn right onto Campus Rd. at the bottom of the path, then left onto Quail Avenue. Stay left at the intersection with Northgate to continue downhill. A pocket view of the San Francisco Bay is visible from the end of the road. After admiring it, descend Northgate Path, which has the most steps of any path in Berkeley (we think, but you could try counting all the steps on all the paths if you don't believe us!). Two hundred and twelve steps later, you will find yourself on Shasta Rd. Make a left, then your first right onto the shady Tamalpais Avenue, which brings you to the 173 concrete steps of Tamalpais Path. Here, make a right.

*Right: Tamalpais Path*



You'll soon arrive at Codornices Park, crossing a bridge and climbing a brief hill to Euclid, where you should turn left. After two blocks, make a right on Hawthorne Terrace, then another right to descend the concrete Hawthorne Steps, which leads to Scenic Avenue. Turn



left on this one-lane road, then make a right onto Vine Street. Vine Street is where you'll make the sharp transition from the quiet tree-lined streets of the Berkeley Hills to the energetic chaos of Shattuck Avenue. The solitude section of the walk is coming to a close.

The street fills with people around Walnut, where you'll pass the original Peet's Coffee and Tea. One block later you'll reach Shattuck Avenue itself. If you prefer the solitude section of the walk, you can turn right to complete a shorter loop, returning to the start by turning left once you reach Los Angeles Ave. Otherwise, turn left here and you'll come to The Cheeseboard Pizzeria and Bakery Collective (closed Sundays and Mondays). The northern location, 1508 Shattuck Avenue sells an assortment of amazing cheeses, spectacular pastries, and excellent breads. Sample from the cheese counter, or just glance in at the excited crowds as you pass. Two doors south, the Cheeseboard's pizzeria will beckon you with live music, delicious smells, and a line that often reaches Vine St. The pizza flavor changes every day, but one thing that never changes is the overall quality and taste: superb. Across the street is Epicurious Gardens, a collection of pocket cafes in one building. Kirala, a high end sushi bistro is the first thing you'll see when you enter, but if you've already eaten lunch at the Cheeseboard, continue straight, to Lush Gelato. Lush Gelato has umpteen excellent flavors, and the courtyard outside makes an

excellent spot to sit and savor your gelato next to the waterfall running through the garden part of Epicurious.

Shattuck Avenue has a great vibe of chaotic energy, which is easily discernible as you walk south. The amount of conversation that happens around you as you walk, often in languages other than English, is astounding. Return to quieter streets by turning left onto Berkeley Way, then after one block, turn left on Oxford and immediately turn right again to ascend a flight of concrete stairs into the University Campus. There is no one right direction here; just continue southeast toward the looming clock tower (the Campanile), on one of the University's many paths until you reach the sloping green lawn below it.

*Left: The Campanile strikes an impressive figure above UC Berkeley*



Besides being an impressive tower, the Campanile is Berkeley's highest building, and is visible from virtually



every high point around San Francisco Bay proper. If you buy a ticket on one of the guided tours, you can ride an elevator all the way to the top of the Campanile. The view there is magnificent, with a novel perspective on the hills and the Bay.

From the Campanile, head south along the road just west of the tower, then turn right, descending to busy Dwinelle Plaza. A left turn here brings you through the famous Sather Gate into Sproul Plaza, site of the sit-in which began the Free Speech Movement. Exiting the campus, cross the busy Bancroft Way and continue south on Telegraph, which has a great vibe very similar to Shattuck's. The mapped route (above) turns right at Blake, but if you are still hungry, there is a great Ethiopian restaurant, Fin Finé, located a half block south. To follow our route, continue down Blake until you reach Shattuck again. Turn right and end the loop after several blocks at the Downtown Berkeley BART station. Right next to the BART entrance, on the western side of the street just south of Center is the excellent Almaré Hot Chocolate and Gelato. With over twenty different flavors of one of the best gelatos in Berkeley and fantastic hot chocolate, it could give Lush a run for its money, and is a great way to end the walk. To return to the start, either walk along Shattuck and turn right on Los Angeles (just over a mile), or hop on the 18 bus toward Albany Village and off-board at Hopkins and Sutter, then walk the block up Fountain Walk to reach the Marin Circle.



St, then an immediate right to continue up Rose. After another block, make a right on Scenic Ave, and a bit later a left up the concrete stairs of Hawthorne Steps. At the top, make a left on Hawthorne Terrace, then another left on Euclid Ave. Cross Euclid a short block later and head up the wide, curving staircase of Rose Walk, past flowers and up the slope to where LeRoy becomes Rose. Make a left to continue up Rose, and soon after make another left onto Tamalpais Rd, then an immediate right onto Shasta Rd. Take Shasta as it curves past a huge house with a yard that has bridges and streams, then, after just under a quarter mile, make a right up a wood-staired shortcut to La Loma Park. This path is unsigned and not on many maps but should not be too hard to find, and can be identified by a plaque at the bottom saying it has been improved by the Boy Scouts.



*Left: the first few stairs of the unnamed path off Shasta*

The path is steep and uneven with no handrails, but it gives great views back down the hillside as it switchbacks up. Towards the top, it forks; it does not matter which way you go since both come out in the park, but the right fork is slightly better maintained. If you chose to go left, take the path to where it ends and make a right along the paved park path. Follow it to just before it hits a small road and make a left up some stairs. If you went right, also take the path to its end, then turn right and immediately left up the same flight of steps. There are bathrooms and a water fountain at the top of the stairs, making for a good quick stop.

Continue up the paved path past the playground area, then turn bear right through the parking lot and up the driveway to Glendale. Make a left up Glendale and at the intersection with



Campus, cross and continue up Glendale Path three blocks. The first block has concrete steps at the bottom and wood at the top, as well as historic markers about the geology and creeks of the area. The second block is short and consists of small wooden steps and dirt trail. The third block starts with a staircase, then goes between two houses on a narrow dirt trail and up a few steps to the intersection of Fairlawn Dr. and Arcade Ave. Cross Fairlawn and go up the one-block entirety of Arcade to where it ends at Grizzly Peak Blvd. Cross carefully and make a right, then go left up Atlas Path at the vertical wood street sign. The path cuts between houses up wooden stairs to the top of the Berkeley Hills and a fantastic view down. Turn left here onto Hill Rd, which promptly dead ends.

At the end, continue down the driveway towards the No Trespassing signs, then, before you trespass, make a right onto Scott Newhall Path, which is a public easement, therefore certainly not trespassing. The path is one of Berkeley's few flat, north-to-south paths and its dirt trail connects you to where Hill Rd. restarts. It's lucky the path is there since it is an extra half mile to take the next shortest route around. At the end of the path, descend the aptly named Hill Rd. to the fountain at Shasta. Turn right, then right again up a small dirt trail that takes you past the firehouse. This short, softly padded, little-used trail ends at a small road. Make a slight left here to descend to the "seven way" (counting the trails) intersection of Shasta and Park Hills. Cross Shasta and go down the hill on Park Hills one block. Here, make a slight right onto the small, winding Wildcat Path, a descent towards Tilden Park and Wildcat Canyon Rd. The path is unmarked and a little hard to find, but its wood steps are noticeable from the intersection of Park Hills and Hillview. Watch your footing, as the path has no handrails and goes down a steep hillside to the road. At the bottom, turn left. We recommend crossing here to where there is more of a shoulder to avoid walking blind into oncoming traffic. Cross back at the small, engraved wooden sign for Fred Herbert Path, which you will spot as you enter a small redwood grove. Climb the wood steps three blocks up through the trees and past small clearings back to Park Hills Rd, then turn right.

When you reach the intersection with Muir Way, you will see a yellow, two-pointed arrow on a sign to your right. Turn right, past this and down the unsigned Patty Kates Path. The path seemingly ends in a field between several houses, but if you turn left through the grass you will find it continues down more steps to the right, another small surprise to add to the walk's growing list. At the road below, turn left, then make another left at the first opportunity up The Crescent, a small road leading toward Park Hills. Before you get there, though, make a right on a narrow, unsigned, paved path between a hedge and a wood fence. This path takes you to a surprising place...a little park, complete with a play structure, a picnic table, basketball hoops, and a water fountain! Crescent Park makes a great rest stop. Once you are ready, continue straight ahead from the path you came in on, down a grassy slope, through a gate, and down some steps. At the road, make a left, then cross Park Hills and continue up The Short Cut (a road, not to be confused with The Short Cut the former path nor with Short Cut, an Oakland path). At the top, make a right, then your first left, then your first right, onto Overlook Rd. Climb the hill to where the road seemingly ends. Not to worry, though; you can get through without going back down the hill. Enter the small car port on a driveway, then step up onto the wall to your left and onto a trail. Turning right, passing through a metal gate into a what was a Lutheran Seminary and is, as of 2018, being converted to a College of Islamic Studies. Make a right and walk along the small road or over the wood chips, past the buildings and through the parking lot

to where the road curves and becomes Marin Avenue, one of the biggest streets in the hills. Who would have thought! Go down Marin one block to Creston, then make a left to get off Marin before it gets big. After a very short block, turn right down Forest Lane to Grizzly Peak.

It seems as if Forest Ln. ends here, but don't be fooled. Cross, turn right, and then turn left again onto Forest Ln, which will take you another block down to Keeler. Again, this seems to be the end, and, again, it is not. Turn right on Keeler, then left again onto...Forest Lane!



*Left: Crescent Park, home to one of Berkeley's most hidden playgrounds.*

Take it one more block down to Hilldale Ave. Now you may want to turn right and search for more of Forest Lane, but you would be looking a long time because this truly is the end of it. Instead. turn left, then make an immediate right down Billy Jean Walk. This path descends concrete stairs to Euclid Ave. with an exemplary handrail on both its right and left sides. Make a left, then another after one block up Regal Rd. At the park and the intersection with Hilldale, make a right down the steep slope of Easter Way. After one block, cross Euclid and jog to the left, then continue down Easter Way two more blocks to Spruce St. Make a left on Spruce and, after about a third of a mile, a right on Los Angeles Ave. One block later, make a left onto Oxford St. Follow Oxford a very long block to Eunice, then continue straight and make a left at the crosswalk up the paved Berryman Path. At the top, turn right on Spruce. If you have done other loops from this book, then you know how they end so this last section will not make the list of surprises. After one block, you will find yourself back at the starting point.

## All the Paths North of Marin

**Length: 7.3 miles**

**Time: About 3 hours**

**Difficulty: 5**

**Elevation Gain: 1,200 feet**

**Starting Point: Solano Ave. and  
The Alameda**

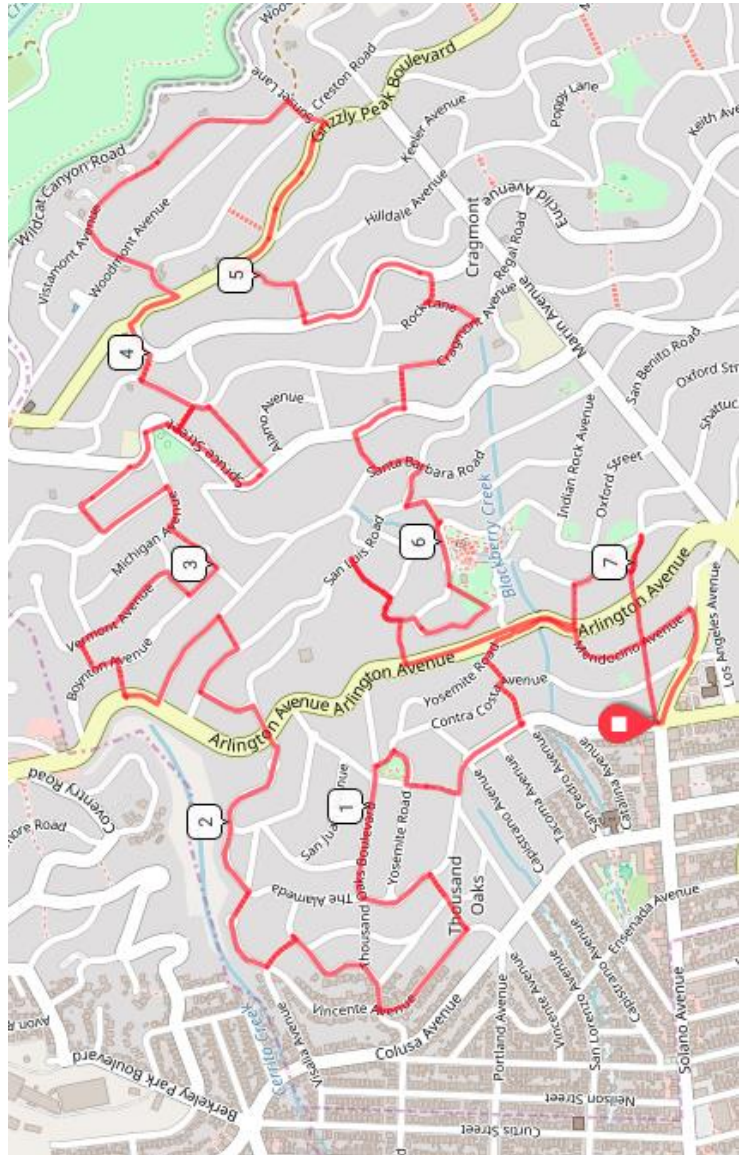
**Transportation: AC transit buses  
7, 18, and 25 all stop on  
Alameda or Solano near the  
intersection. Parking is available  
North on The Alameda.**

### **Overview:**

This difficult, step-filled walk takes you on the multitude of fabulous paths in northern Berkeley. You'll explore the Thousand Oaks neighborhood, climb nearly to Tilden, and finally descend to return to your starting point, all in the most inefficient, looping, path-filled way possible, of course.

### **Directions and pictures:**

Start at the intersection of Solano Ave. and The Alameda and head east (uphill) on the northern side of Solano. After one block, the sidewalk curves left and becomes Black Path, taking you up a slope to Mendocino Ave. Having completed your first path of many, turn left here, then left again where the quiet street ends at the busy Arlington Ave. After one block, make a slight left onto Yosemite Rd. Hopefully you are not yet tired of staying to the left—this is Berkeley, after all—so make another left turn almost immediately down Yosemite Steps. Jog right after one block to continue down a second block of concrete stairs, which returns you to Alameda. Turn right, then right again up Indian Trail, a bit after Capistrano Ave. This uneven path, marked by a historic concrete urn at the bottom, ascends granite steps, made from the plentiful rock in this area. You'll pass a small cave and climb some more steps, then emerge opposite Great Stoneface Park. Turn right, then left at the sign for Great Stoneface Path, which runs through the eastern side of the park. At the end of the short path, turn left down Thousand Oaks Blvd. After one very



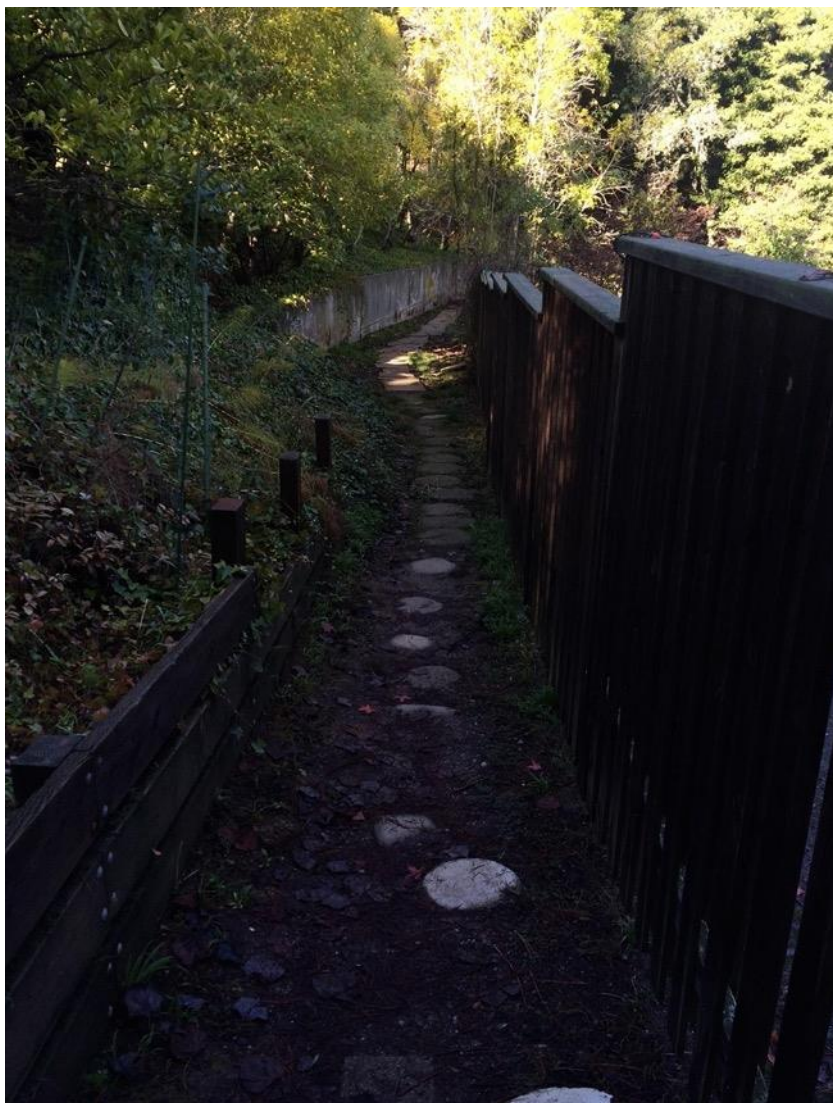


short and then one very long block, make another left onto Alameda. Two short blocks later, turn right down El Paseo Path, which descends two blocks of granite steps to Vincente Ave. Turn right, and you will soon reach the westernmost point of the walk. Here, turn right again up Thousand Oaks Blvd, then left onto Menlo Pl. Just past the intersection with Santa Rosa, turn left down the steep Visalia Steps. Many concrete stairs later, make a right onto Vincente Ave. When the street dead ends, continue slightly right up the concrete steps of Vincente Walk. At the top, turn left onto Alameda, an undoubtedly familiar name by now, and follow it as it curves and becomes San Antonio. The gentle climb to Arlington should give you a chance to regain energy after all the steep paths.

When you do reach Arlington, cross and continue up San Antonio, then make your next left on Avis Rd. One block brings you to San Luis; turn right, then left soon after up Santa Barbara Path, a paved slope and steps up to its namesake, Santa Barbara Rd. Make a left here to descend back to Arlington, and turn right.

*Right: The stepping stones of Vistamont Trail, on which you will soon step*

A short block later, say goodbye to Arlington (it will be four miles and 600 feet of elevation gain before you walk on it again), and turn right up Boynton Walk, another concrete path. At the top, turn left and cross the street, then turn right and continue up the concrete steps of Maryland Walk. Make a right onto Vermont Ave, then another on Colorado Ave. After one short block, turn left on Santa Barbara Rd, then left again on Florida Ave. When the street ends, continue straight up the steep and, shockingly, concrete, steps of Florida Walk, then make a slight right up the “famously” steep Michigan Ave. Before reaching the top of the hill, look back at the exceptional view, then make a left onto Kentucky Ave. (walking through this part of Berkeley is like a trip around the country!) About a tenth of a mile later, turn right up Holmes Path, which is surprisingly similar to some of the other paths in the area, that is to say comprised of concrete



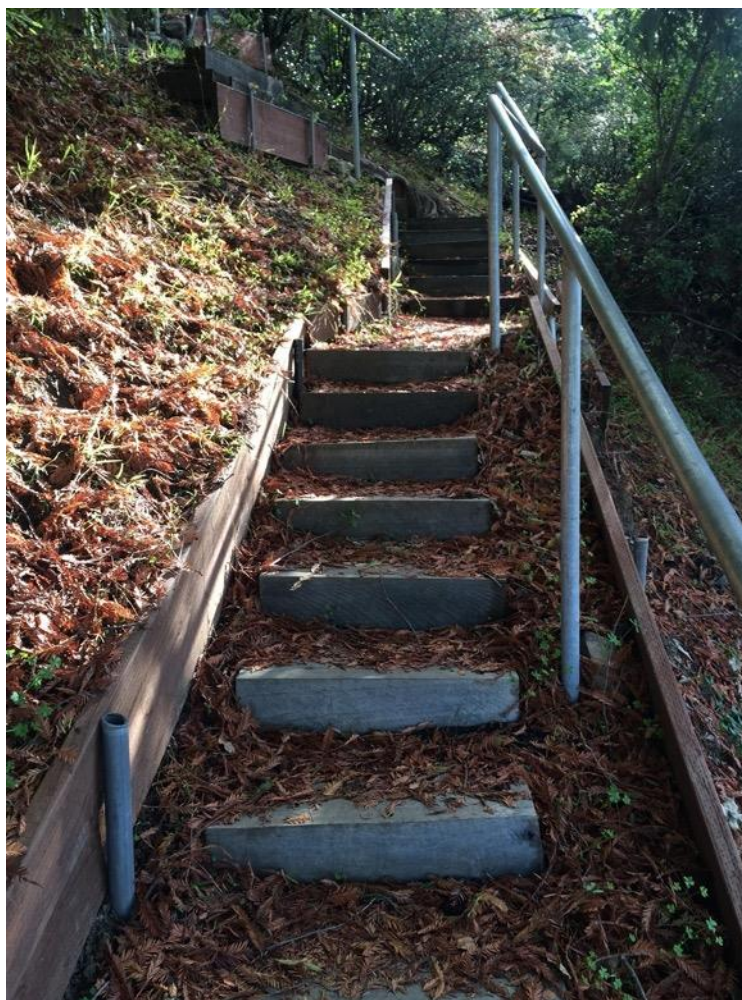
steps. At the top of this final path in the area, turn right onto Vassar Ave, which soon hits Spruce St. Make a slight right and cross the street at the stop sign, then continue down Spruce opposite Dorothy Bolte Park (a good water stop if you are thirsty), to Acacia Steps. Here, make a left up the wooden stairs of this short path. Make a right onto Cragmont Ave, then another down Acacia Walk, through trees on soft ground and down some concrete stairs back to Spruce. From here, you can either turn around and go back up Acacia Walk, or can make a right up Spruce, then ascend Acacia Steps again. Sorry for what we refer to as a “jshoop-jshoop” (going down and then back up the same path), but it takes some commitment to walk every path in a large region. Regardless of whether you chose to repeat Acacia Walk or Acacia Steps, make a left at the top, then your first right (not counting Acacia Ave, which is between the two paths) up the concrete steps of North Path, which is not Berkeley’s northernmost path (Maryland Walk is) but is nonetheless a useful cut-through.

Nearly at the top of the hill now, turn left on Euclid Ave, then right on Grizzly Peak Blvd, then left up Creston Rd, and finally left again on Rosemont Ave. After two blocks, make a right onto the quiet Vistamont Ave, which soon dead-ends. Stay right and continue onto Vistamont Trail (pictured above), a mostly flat path under redwoods on small stepping-stones. Continue straight at the end of the path onto Vistamont Ave, which restarts. When you reach the intersection with Woodmont Ave, make a slight left, then your first right onto Sunset Ln. After two extremely short blocks, turn right on Grizzly Peak, then make your second left sharply onto Hilldale Ave. You will soon reach Halkin Walk, Berkeley’s third-newest path as of 2018.

*Right: The switchbacks of Halkin Walk*

Turn right to climb a few wood stairs, then descend many more, down steep switchbacks to Euclid. This path is in fact built on the steepest hillside of any path in Berkeley.

Make a left on Euclid, and two blocks later a right down Rock Walk, a short, steep-ish path descending to Rock Ln. Make a left, then a sharp right onto Cragmont Ave. After a block you will reach Poplar Path, which is slightly hidden behind a hedge. Descend this to Spruce and turn right, then left down Alta Vista Path, pausing to admire the spectacular view of the Bay for which the path is named. Make a left on Santa Barbara at the bottom of the



path, then a sharp right on Montrose, then a sharp left on San Luis, and very soon after a right down Upton Lane, whose name suggests it should be taken in the other direction. This short, step-filled path brings you to San Diego, opposite John Hinkel Park. Make a right, then turn left to descend one of the many trails through the park. The Berkeley Path Wanderers' map marks this as Devon Lane, but which trail this path really is somewhat unclear. You should find yourself emerging from the park near the intersection of Southampton Ave. and Somerset Pl. Turn right here, to head up Southampton. Just after the road curves sharply right, turn left up Chester Ln, a path connecting up to San Luis. At the top of the many stairs, turn around and descend the path. It doesn't fit in to where the walk needs to take you, but we couldn't leave it out of this tour, or else we would have to call it All-the-Paths-North-of-Marin-Except-Chester-Lane, which is a bit of a mouthful. Back at the bottom of this lovely "jshoop-jshooped" path, make a right down Southampton, then another right down the steep concrete steps of Tunbridge Ln, the antepenultimate path of the walk. Make a left when you reach Arlington, then another one block past Southampton up Mendocino Path (opposite the intersection with Mendocino Ave.) At the top of this paved path, turn right onto San Mateo Rd, then make another right down Indian Rock Path, which begins at the intersection of San Mateo with Indian Rock Ave. Make a sharp left when you come to a fork in the path, to ascend past the southern side of the looming Indian Rock. When you reach the road again, turn around and descend the entirety of Berkeley's longest path, four blocks from Indian Rock down to Solano and The Alameda, your starting point. You should be proud at having walked every path north of Marin, including a great many concrete steps!



## SECTION 2:

### A Trip to Flats: Five Walks in West Berkeley and Albany



*Sculptures like this one welcome you to the Albany Bulb*

## Paths of the Flats

**Length: 1.7 miles**

**Time: One hour at a stroll**

**Difficulty: 1**

**Elevation Gain: An epic 59 feet**

**Starting Point: The intersection of Rose St. and Sacramento St.**

**Transportation:**

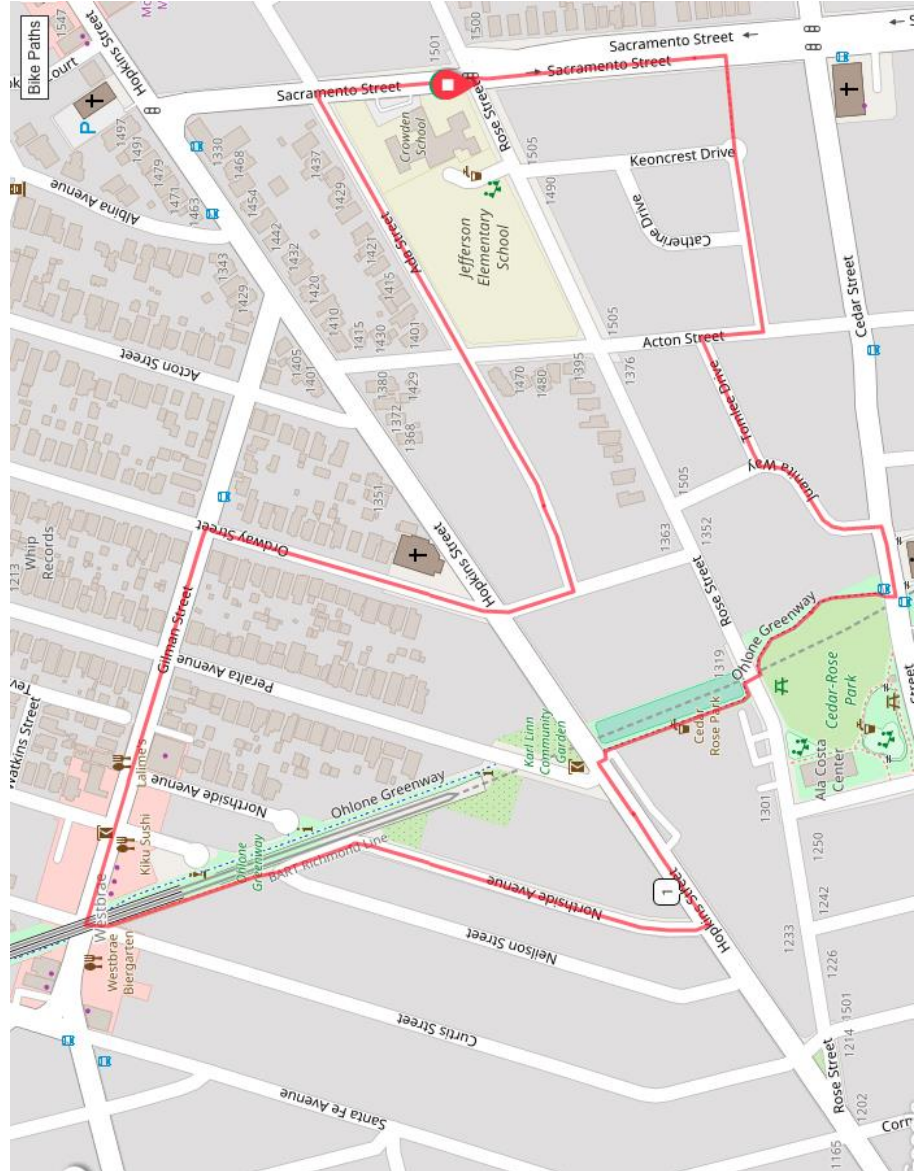
**AC Transit Buses 12 and H stop near the start, on Hopkins. Parking is available on Rose.**

### **Overview:**

A brief tour of the historic Westbrae neighborhood, this short walk takes two of Berkeley's westernmost paths, as well as sections of the Ohlone Greenway and many small (and some big) streets.

### **Directions and pictures:**

Start the walk at the intersection of Sacramento St. and Rose St. Head north on Sacramento, then make your first left down Ada St. to escape the busy unpleasantness of this major street. Take the much more scenic Ada two blocks, then turn right onto Ordway. After another two blocks, turn left onto Gilman. About four blocks later, you will reach the intersection with Curtis St. Turn left, as if to take Curtis, then left again onto Geneva's Path. Though rather unexciting, this path is quite useful since it allows you to remain on the western side of the BART tracks when they go underground. (The city of Berkeley would not allow BART tracks above ground so—though elevated in parts of Albany, El Cerrito, and Oakland—BART is entirely underground in



Berkeley.) At the end of the paved path, make a slight left on Northside Ave, then your first left on Hopkins St. Turn right and cross Hopkins after one block at the intersection with Peralta St,



onto the Ohlone Greenway bike path. A block later, jog left and cross Rose to continue through the park on the path. When you reach Cedar—the street at the far end of the creatively named Cedar Rose Park—turn left, then make another left at the first opportunity onto the much quieter Juanita Way. Turn right on Tomlee Dr, right on Acton St, and left up Keoncrest Dr. Where Keoncrest turns sharply left, continue straight onto Keoncrest Path, another flat, paved, yet useful, cut-through. At the end of the path, (it can hardly be called the top since the path is flat,) turn left. One block will return you to your starting point.

*Left: Keoncrest Path, gaining a daunting one foot of elevation*



## A Shoreline Stroll

**Length: 2.9 miles**

**Time: An hour and a half at a stroll (or 20 minutes at a Shoreline Sprint)**

**Difficulty: 1**

**Elevation Gain: 49 feet**

**Starting Point: University Avenue below Highway 80, at the San Francisco Bay Trail**

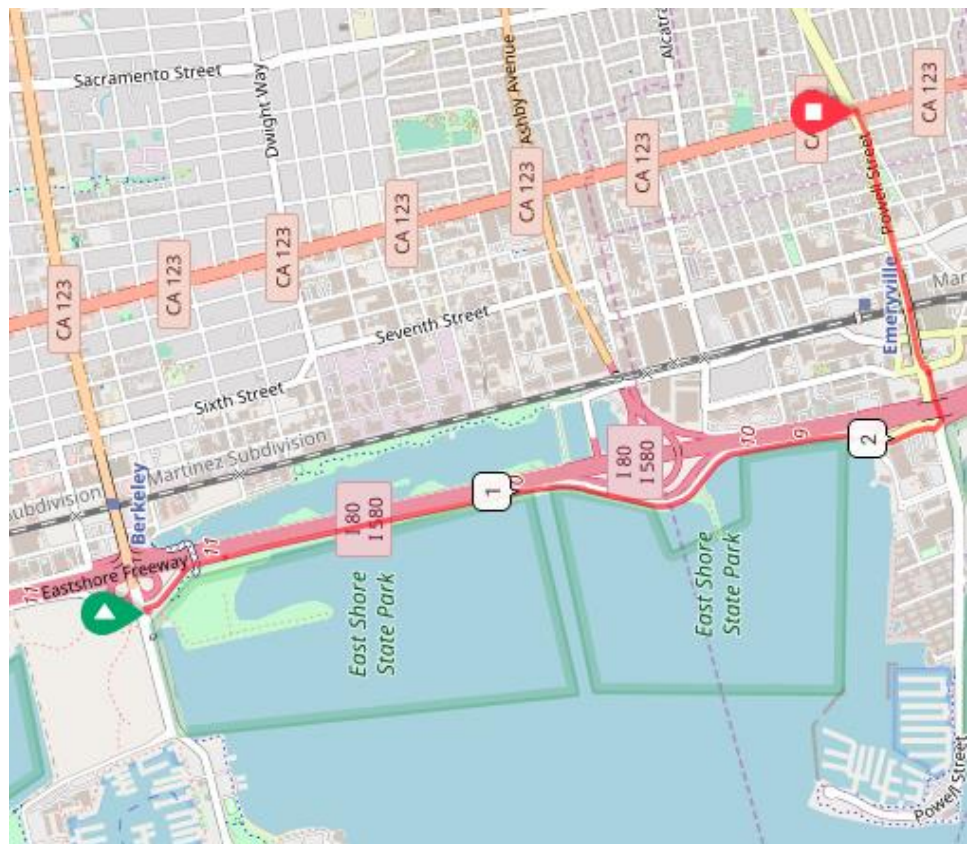
**Ending Point: Powell Street at San Pablo Avenue**

### **Transportation:**

AC transit buses 51B, 26, 72R, 72M, 72 stop at the start and/or finish, and can be used to connect the two. Otherwise, turn back at the two-mile mark for a four mile out-and-back walk. Parking is available off of University just below the start.

### **Overview:**

This a nice, easy stroll that is almost all along the shoreline of lovely San Francisco Bay, complete with enchanting pocket beaches that contain all manner of driftwood. It's a good walk to do with young children, or friends whom you hope to introduce to hiking. From the Berkeley Marina all the way to Powell Street all you have to do is keep the Bay on right, watch the kite surfers fall into the frigid water, and stroll.



## Directions and pictures:

This scenic stroll begins at the 51B bus stop where University Avenue intersects with West Frontage Rd. and the San Francisco Bay Bike Trail. Begin hiking south, toward the impressively arched Pedestrian bridge. The bushes nearby are abundant with invasive (but delicious) Himalayan blackberry. Soon, the trail emerges from the bushes and the walk takes on its characteristic shoreline nature. There are numerous pocket beaches visible as you amble south, which are excellent places for sitting down on the sand (but not on the splintery driftwood!), and watching kite boarders and wind surfers flit across the Bay, or crash into the frigid water. The beaches here are overflowing with ice-plant, an invasive, edible plant from South Africa that has completely taken over Northern California's coastline. Though the ice-plant is edible, it is not suggested that you actually eat it, as it has a similar texture to plastic.

All too soon, the lovely Bay Trail nears the high rises that have dominated the horizon since the Berkeley Marina. The path quickly morphs into a sidewalk, and your views of blue water are replaced by those of gas stations and hotels. If you feel like a longer stroll, turn back here to return to the start the same way you came. Otherwise, after a block you will reach a stoplight where you can cross Powell Street; do so, then turn left, under Interstate 80. After crossing Shellmound Avenue, walk East on Powell Street through commercial areas. The huge mall complex known as Bay Street is built over an Ohlone burial site, where shell mounds as tall as sixty feet once scraped the sky.

From here, you can catch AC Transit 26 to MacArthur BART, or continue east on Powell Street to the 72 stop on San Pablo Avenue. This bus will take you back to University, a short way above the walk's start.

*Right: One rocky section of the shoreline along which you have strolled or will stroll*



## The Trails of Albany Bulb

**Length:** 3.7 miles

**Time:** 1 ½ hours

**Difficulty:** 1

**Elevation Gain:** 34 feet

**Starting Point:** The bottom of the Buchanan pedestrian bridge (at Pierce Street)

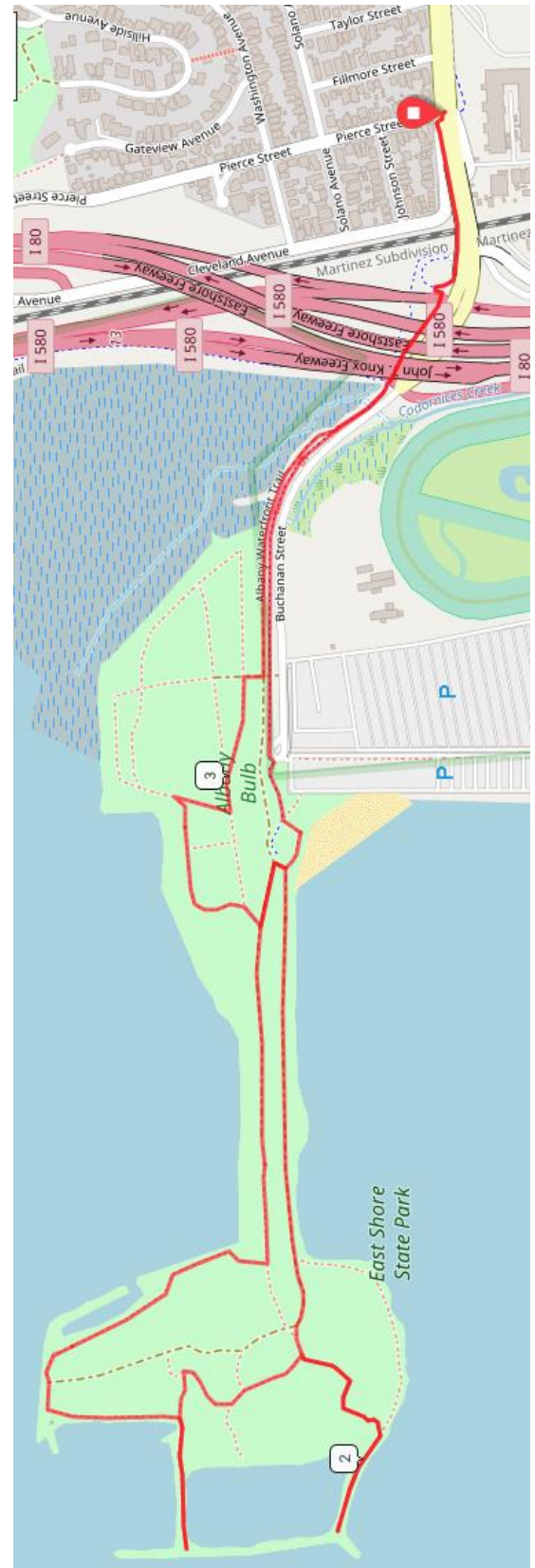
**Transportation:** AC Transit Bus 25A. Parking is available at the bottom of Buchanan or in the parking lot just south of it.

**Overview:** This short walk offers a great tour of the bay shore, sculptures, and artistic graffiti to be found at Albany Bulb. From the mudflats near I-80 to the yellow “brick” trail along the Bay; this walk explores a little-known trail system right next to an interstate.

### **Directions and pictures:**

Begin at the bottom of the Buchanan Bikeway pedestrian bridge at the intersection of Pierce St. and Buchanan Ave. Head west on the bridge to walk over Interstate 80, and you will soon find yourself dumped unceremoniously at a busy intersection. If you can ignore the bustling freeway on ramp, the nearby mudflats make a superlative spot for bird watching. Despite the nearby interstate, cormorants, coots, and mallard ducks often frequent these mudflats. If the hour is right, they also make an excellent place to view the sunset.

From the mudflats, walk west on the bike trail parallel to Buchanan, staying left after the road ends (see map) until you reach a popular beach on San Francisco Bay. The beach is bustling with dogs and their owners, and is often a great spot to people watch. If you can tear yourself away from the Frisbee-happy dogs, continue west on the Albany Waterfront Trail, noting a large shape of blocks that looks somewhat like the ruins of a castle. Pretty soon, you’ll spot a side trail heading south; scramble





down it and walk along a rocky bayside trail, on which many of the rocks have been colored yellow, and someone has written 'Follow the Yellow Brick Rd.' Continue along the "yellow brick road" until you reach a picturesque lagoon, which connects to the Bay at high tide. If it is high tide, scramble up the steep trail that leads up the nearby hill, connecting with the Albany Waterfront Trail, which will bring you back to the start. Otherwise, follow the rocky path along the western edge of the lagoon, and head up a steep trail to the north of the Albany Waterfront Trail. If you take the left fork from here, the trails continues, narrowing until you are literally brushing up against the nearby plants. You eventually connect back to the Albany Waterfront Trail and can retrace your steps back to your starting point, or stay to the left while heading east for a slightly different route.



*The Yellow Brick Road, your gateway to adventures at the Albany Bulb...*

## The Albany Hill Traverse

**Length:** 4.6 miles

**Time:** Two hours

**Difficulty:** 2

**Elevation Gain:** 365 feet

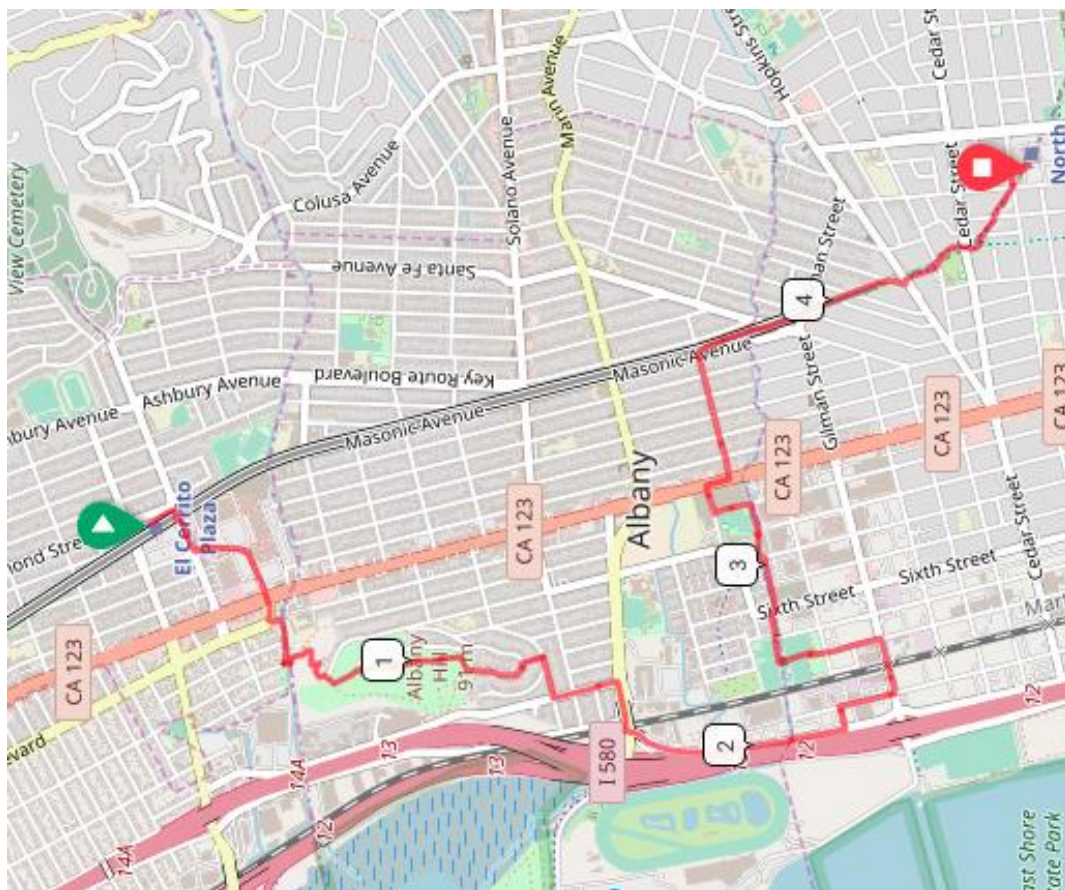
**Starting Point:** El Cerrito Plaza BART

**Ending Point:** North Berkeley BART

**Transportation:** BART and AC Transit Buses 25G and 52. Parking is available at BART, or on the residential streets nearby.

### **Overview:**

Rising from the surrounding flats, Albany Hill looms to an impressive, or maybe not so impressive, 300 feet. This short walk explores its scenic trails and then crosses the flats to end



at North Berkeley BART, with an option to loop back to the start.

### Directions and pictures:

Begin by walking west on Fairmount from the El Cerrito Plaza BART station, and then cut southwest through the El Cerrito plaza, a chaotic conglomeration of shops, parking lots, and cars that does not start the walk off on an especially auspicious note. You should emerge from the mall at the traffic light where Carlson hits San Pablo (across the street from the Peet's). Head down Carlton, then make your first left on Adams Street and turn right where the street ends onto a lovely pathway that parallels Cerrito Creek. Cerrito Creek has been daylighted and restored in this section, creating a beautiful urban oasis that sets the tone for the rest of the walk through Albany. Upon reaching a playground, ford the creek (it is narrow and can easily be jumped across) and start south on a grassy, somewhat exposed trail with surrounding eucalyptus trees. Pretty soon, the trail forks; take the upper fork, which switchbacks through dense forest. In summer, the blackberry bushes overflow with sweet berries, practically bursting off the bush. The trail occasionally comes to a pocket view, and you will be surprised at how much you have already climbed. Below you the BART tracks bisect the Albany and Berkeley flats, and beyond them tower the ever-present East Bay Hills. You'll start to see large houses as you climb, and soon after you should emerge at the top of Jackson Street; near the large sign reading "END," the trail continues climbing through more grassy terrain. Eucalyptus trees are prevalent here. Stay left at the fork, and you'll find yourself at the dead-end of Taft Street. Cross,

and continue to follow the trail toward the summit of Albany Hill.



*Left: The bump that is Albany Hill, as seen from a distance*

Once you reach the summit, you can peer east through the vegetation at the panorama of the flats. West of you, I-80 is visible, with

the nearby Bay stretching west toward Marin. Follow the trail south from the summit, as it widens and descends gradually to a set of steps. Stay left at all forks, and the steps will come out on Taft. Stay right to curve onto Hillside Ave, then make a left a block later down Catherine Steps, which sport a nice view of the Bay. Catherine Steps ends at Washington Street. If you are looking for a shortcut here, take Washington east, turn left on Polk, right on Buchanan, left on Jackson, and left on Monroe, rejoining the main route at the corner of Tenth and Monroe



(skip to the next paragraph for continuing directions). The main route, over a mile longer, turns west (right) on Washington instead, and then left on Pierce. A right turn on Buchanan and a left on the Eastshore Highway bring you to the Berkeley frontier (did you bring your passport?) and across Codornices Creek. Follows Eastshore Highway to Harrison, your first substantial left turn, then stay right onto Second Street, which brings you to Gilman. Turn left to cross the railroad tracks, then make another left onto Fourth St. From here, you arrive at Harrison Park and Codornices Creek. Continue straight to cross back into Albany at the bridge, then turn right and follow a lovely paved bike trail along the north shore of the creek. The bike trail crosses back into Berkeley and passes by a restored stretch of creek. Here, where the Transfer Station and Target are thankfully absent, one can sit by the creek and absorb the scene, with insects skimming over the water, and small birds standing by the shore. You'll also pass by Urban Adamah, one of Berkeley's urban farms, recently moved to this locale from San Pablo and Parker. Soon you must depart from Codornices Creek, and, after crossing back into Albany, jog left at Eighth street and continue right to cut through University Park to Tenth Street. Make a left.

At Monroe, the alternate route from earlier rejoins the main route. Regardless of which direction you came from, head east up Monroe, then turn right at San Pablo and left on Dartmouth, reaching the Ohlone Greenway at Masonic after several blocks. To loop back to the start at El Cerrito BART, turn left here and follow the Greenway 1.4 miles back. If you're not looping, turn right onto the Ohlone Greenway, soon crossing Codornices Creek for a final time and re-entering Berkeley.

*Right: Cedar Rose Park on a quiet morning*



After passing some wonderful blackberry patches, note an extensive mural detailing the history of Berkeley, entitled ELK TRACKS TO BART TRACKS. Extending from prehistoric to modern times, this mural shows Berkeley's history progressing as you travel from its southern to northern end. The Greenway seems to end at Peralta, but turn right to where it restarts just across Hopkins. After a short stint past a couple basketball courts, the trail passes Cedar Rose Park. This park is not very exciting, but as you continue along the Ohlone Greenway, there is a bench situated in the shade of a small grove of trees, which makes for a nice stop. On weekends this park is bustling and it is fun to watch the multitude of people that turn up here.

Continuing on the Ohlone Greenway, you'll cross Cedar and pass more basketball courts. Stay left where the trail splits, and follow it past a multitude of parking lots. Crossing Virginia, you will see North Berkeley BART on your left. It's just one stop on the train to ride back to your starting point.

## A Walk in the Park(s)

**Length:** 11.1 miles

**Time:** Four hours

**Difficulty:** 3 (an easy walk, but a long one!)

**Elevation Gain:** 151 feet

**Starting Point:** University Avenue and Santa Fe Right of Way, two blocks below Sacramento Street

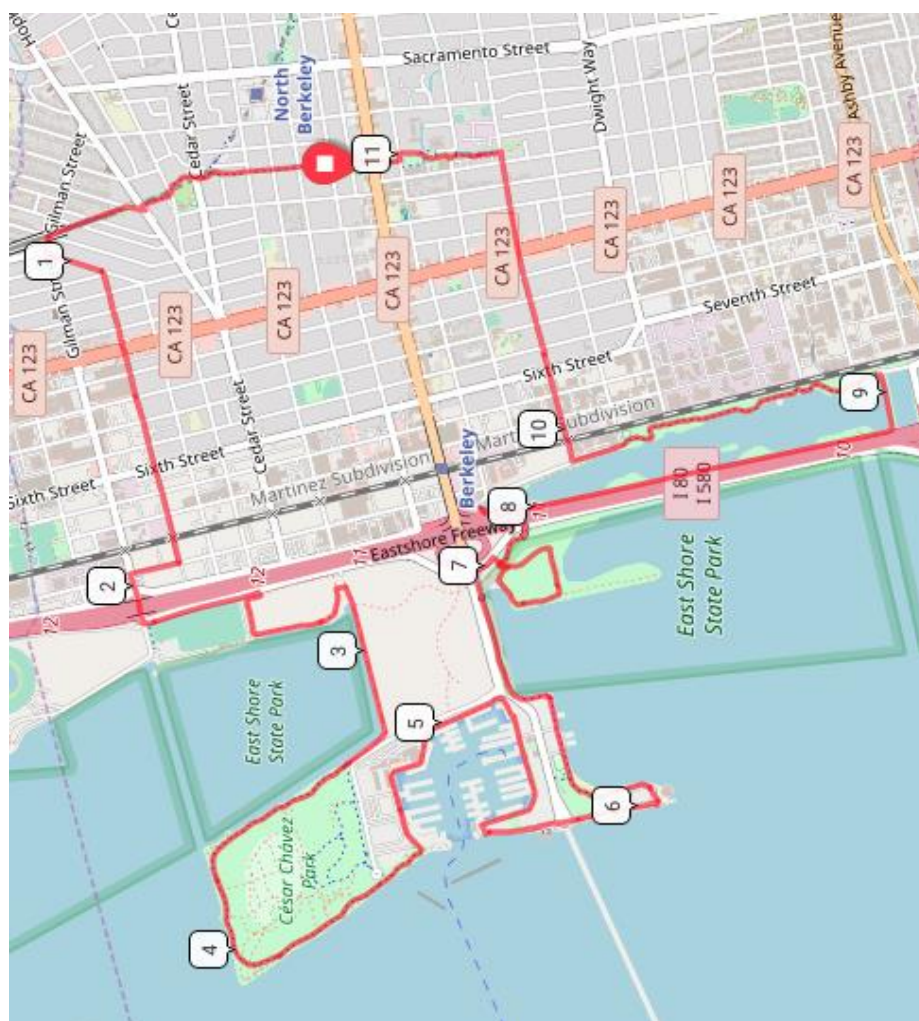
**Transportation:** AC Transit 51B. Parking is available on Acton or Curtis, cross streets off University.

### **Overview:**

This hike is a walk in the park, literally! Actually, it's a walk in several parks throughout West Berkeley, from the rolling bayside hills of Cesar Chavez Park to the burbling stream at Strawberry Creek Park. This walk takes you through some of West Berkeley's nicest parks and connects them with bike paths and residential streets, passing murals, bakeries, and restaurants along the way.

### **Directions and pictures:**

From its start at University and the Santa Fe Right of Way, head north (left as you face up University) on the Santa Fe Right of Way, formerly the route of the Santa Fe Railway and



now a lovely bike path. You'll pass lovely patches of bright orange California poppy, until you reach a large sign announcing loudly that you have reached THE END. You have not, however, reached the end, so continue straight, across some basketball courts and slightly left onto the Ohlone Greenway, which will bring you to the first of today's parks, Cedar Rose, which can make a nice stopping point. Leaving the park and continue north on the Ohlone Greenway to Hopkins Street. After crossing, keep going straight on Peralta, then stay left to continue on the greenway where it starts up again. After passing some wonderful blackberry patches, note the mural detailing the history of Berkeley, entitled ELK TRACKS TO BART TRACKS. Extending from prehistoric to modern times, this mural depicts Berkeley's history over time as it has become more developed. At the end of the mural, you'll find yourself at Gilman's commercial district; turn left down Gilman, passing the renowned Berkeley Bagels. You can continue down Gilman if you don't mind walking on a busy street, but an alternative is to take quiet, residential Camelia, one block to the south. To do this, turn left on Santa Fe and then right on Camelia. Camelia will take you past Picante, a great Mexican Restaurant just to the right on Sixth Street, before it ends at 2nd street. Turn right here and make a left under I-80 on Gilman, then turn left onto the San Francisco Bay Trail, a paved walkway found across the street from the Golden Gate Fields entrance off Gilman. Once you pass the ball fields, take a right on a dirt road (the unsigned Virginia Street Extension), which will take you to the shores of San Francisco Bay



itself, a great place for bird watching, or just sitting by the water. Turn right along the dirt track that parallels Marina Boulevard, and continue walking along the water into Cesar Chavez Park. If you want, you can cut across the hills here to the opposite shore of the peninsula and turn left when you get there. It's fun to cross the rolling hills here until you get to the Bay, waiting outside ground squirrel holes until the cute rodents appear. The Bay here is great too, though, especially given that this is one of the few places that the it takes on an almost oceanic feel, the wind slamming its waves against the rocks. Follow the shoreline around the northern end of Cesar Chavez, staying left to head toward the southwestern end of the peninsula at the mouth of Berkeley Harbor.

*Left: An egret wades into the Aquatic Park lagoon*

Continue around the Harbor, pausing to gawk at the huge yachts on the way, until you reach Horseshoe Park. You can cut through here, or walk to Horseshoe Point and then turn south, eventually reaching the Berkeley Pier. The Berkeley Pier once stretched halfway across the Bay, and was the Eastern terminus for the San Francisco to Berkeley ferry (before the Bay Bridge was built). A "mere" 3,000 feet of this pier remains open to the public today, and is often frequented by fishermen and crabbers. Head east on University Avenue, cutting south on a path soon after to reach Adventure Playground and Pebble Beach. Turn right here, and continue



along the shoreline. This whole section of Berkeley, everything west of I-80, including the freeway itself, was once underwater. After 1920, this became the city's dumping area, and the land that you are walking on now consists mainly of garbage. It's amazing to see how nature has taken it back, though, with the ground squirrels burrowing at Cesar Chavez and the shore birds flitting across the surface of the Bay next to Adventure Playground. This next area is especially impressive; turn right onto a dirt path to walk along a virtually deserted area of the shore, past huge clumps of invasive (but delicious) Himalayan blackberry. You'll soon spot the pedestrian bridge arching over the freeway to your left.



*Left: The Pedestrian Bridge arches majestically over Interstate 80*

Rather than taking the bridge, follow the lagoon shoreline back toward the Marina, and walk south paralleling I-80. This section of Aquatic Park is not very pleasant, and if you don't mind retracing your steps, so we recommend you walk south along the much nicer eastern side of the lagoon. Otherwise, after a mile of somewhat unpleasant walking you will reach another trail; turn left on it and loop around the southern end of the lagoon to the much more pleasant eastern side. Here, loop back to the Pedestrian Bridge, then cross and stay right once on the other side. The paved trail hugs the clear water, with views of the bridge reflected in the placid lagoon. Turn left at the first opportunity, after about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile, to cross the lagoon, then make a left again once on the

other side. The path becomes crowded with families as you near the "Dreamland for Tots" Playground. Stay right by the water fountain to continue north onto a paved parking strip, then turn right and walk east on Bancroft Way, departing the lovely lagoon-side path. After about a mile through residential neighborhoods you will come to the southern entrance to Strawberry Creek Park, just past the intersection with Bonar St. Turn left, and a paved bike path will take you through a basketball court and over a daylighted section of Strawberry Creek. Strawberry Creek once drained much of Berkeley, but its lower section was almost completely culverted in

the 1920s. In the '70s, the section around Strawberry Creek Park was daylighted and, if one can ignore the immense concrete slabs, one can almost imagine that this creek flows through natural terrain all the way to the Bay. After crossing the creek on a wooden bridge, climb a steep dirt trail to a large lawn which stretches up to Addison Way. Cross the street and continue one more short block of bike path to return to your starting point.

## **SECTION 3:**

### Heading South: Six Walks in South Berkeley and Oakland



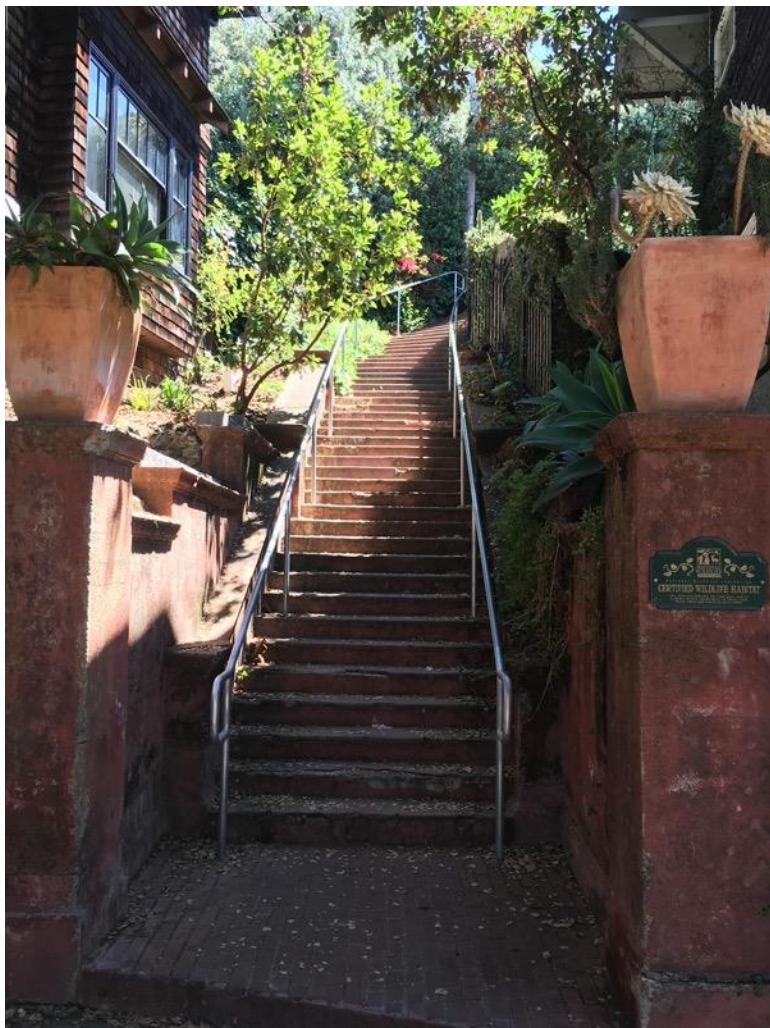
*Huckleberry Botanic Regional Preserve, a little-known park above Oakland, accessible via Oakland's paths (see the second to last walk in this section)*





Ave. and descend the ramp-like Oak Knoll Path, then make a right down Russell and another right after one block up the slope and few steps of Pine Path. Then skip the next paragraph.

If you want the longer walk option, continue straight through the small park, then slightly right to head up two more blocks on Garber, crossing Belrose Ave, then reaching Tanglewood Rd. Make a right and an immediate second right down Claremont Ave. After two short blocks, cross Claremont and head east on Russell, which curves right and becomes Domingo. When you hit Ashby/Tunnel Rd, cross and make a left. One block later, make a sharp right onto Oakridge Rd. This road is rather unusual in the fact that it intersects no other streets but gives access to three different paths. Where Oakridge curves, make a sharp right down Oakridge Path, descending some steps past flowers gardens to Domingo. Turn left, then almost immediately right down a second block of Oakridge Path, which goes past John Muir Elementary School and through a gate onto Claremont Ave. Make a left, then your first right



down Webster. After one block, turn right onto Pine Ave. and take this small street two blocks to where it ends. Continue straight up the slope and steps of Pine Path to Avalon.

At this point, regardless of which length walk you chose, you should be at the top of Pine Path. Turn left down Avalon, which dead ends after a block. Make a slight right down the well-maintained steps and slope of Avalon Walk, which takes you down to Palm Ct. Continue down this, making a slight right at the bottom down Stuart St. After three blocks on the quiet Stuart, make a right on College Ave. One block will return you to your starting point.

*Left: the curving concrete steps of Avalon Walk*

Or, if you prefer, turn left two blocks to walk through Elmwood's bustling center of shops and cafes. If you rode the bus, you can catch a ride back at Ashby; otherwise,

double back once you have enjoyed this urban block to finish the walk at Garber and College.



## Paths of Panoramic Hill

**Length:** 1.3 miles

**Time:** 40 minutes

**Difficulty:** 2+ (steep but short)

**Elevation Gain:** 300 feet

**Starting Point:** Bancroft Way and Piedmont Ave.

### **Transportation:**

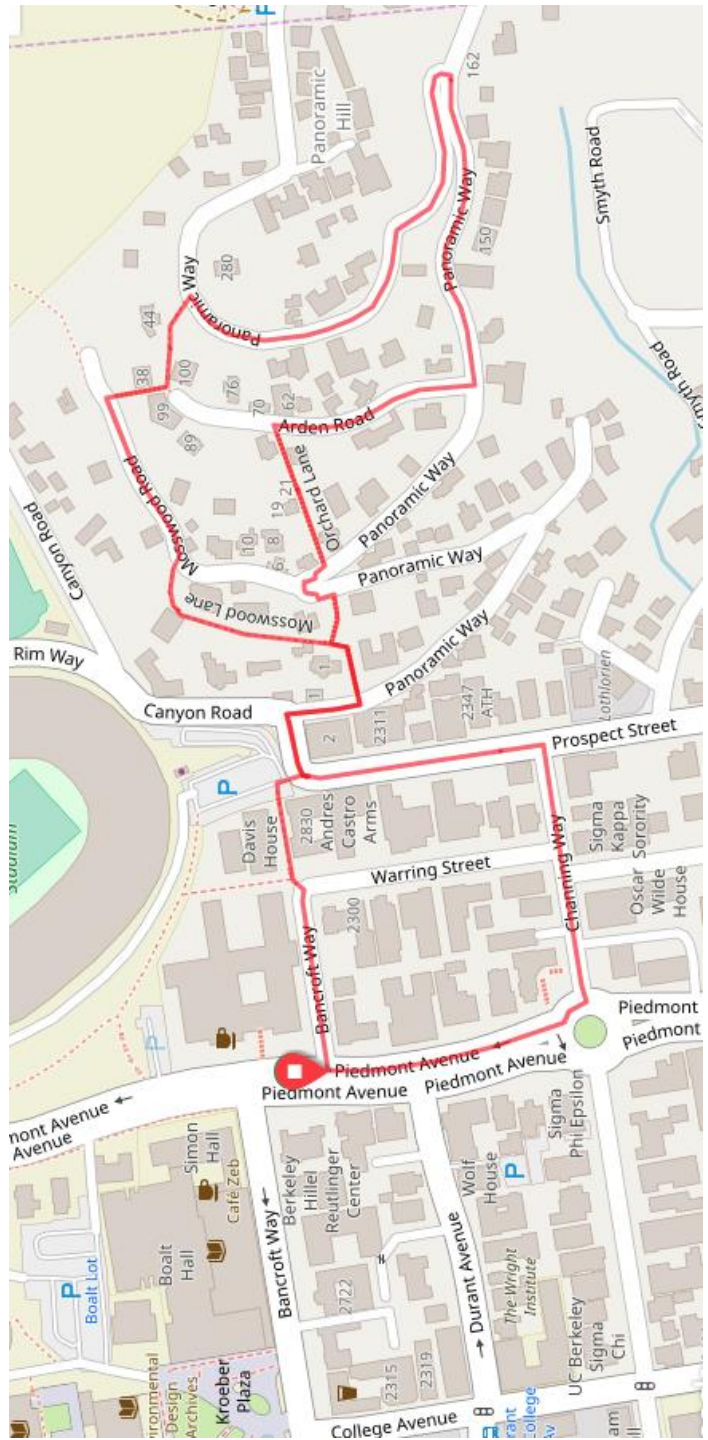
AC Transit buses 49, 52, and F stop a short way down Bancroft from the start. Limited parking is available on Prospect Street (an alternate starting spot for the walk--see map) and in the surrounding area.

### **Overview:**

This short, step-filled walk takes you on the five historic paths in the Panoramic Hill area and provides great Bay views.

### **Directions and pictures:**

Start at the intersection of Bancroft Way (the eastern section) and Piedmont Ave. Begin the walk by heading up Bancroft toward the hills. After one block, you should reach Warring St. and the apparent end of Bancroft. Rather than turning onto Warring, continue straight—up Bancroft Steps. This historic brick-tiled path leads you up out of the busy University neighborhood and onto Panoramic Hill. Continue straight at the top of the path on the continuation of Bancroft Way. One short block later, turn right onto Panoramic Way, which winds its ways up for 1.3 miles to the top of the hill, where it dead ends. Luckily, you do not have to take it 1.3 miles, but you can pity the people who live at the top and have to drive around its crazy curves daily. After a very short block, turn left up the wide concrete steps of Orchard Lane. There is no sign, but the steps are hard to miss if you keep an eye on the upper side of the street. Orchard Lane is Berkeley's oldest path, built in the early 1900s. A historical plaque part way up tells about the history of the neighborhood. Stay right at the "path intersection" with Mosswood Lane. You'll be back to walk that one! At the top of the first block of Orchard Lane, turn left and then cut right to make the crazy U-turn on Panoramic Rd, then turn





left up the second block of Orchard Lane. The path is again unmarked and looks as if it leads only to houses, but you can recognize it by the fact that it goes up several steps, then turns 90° to the left and continues east. At the top, make a right on Arden Rd. A block later, turn left on Panoramic, yet again. Follow Panoramic one long block up, then make a very sharp left to stay on it at the intersection Dwight.

A fifth of a mile later, Panoramic curves again. Here, make a left down Arden Path, which, for once, does have a street sign. At the bottom of the wooden steps, make a slight right to continue down Arden Steps. This path has so many concrete steps with so few landings that it appears to simply drop off. Luckily there's a handrail! At the bottom, make a left down Mosswood Rd, continuing to where it curves, then making a slight right onto Mosswood Lane, our favorite path in this area. After descending a few steps, the path becomes a dirt trail through redwoods and over padded needly ground. It ends with a concrete staircase down to Orchard Lane and the now familiar "path intersection." Make a right and go down the steps to Panoramic. Turn right, then left on Bancroft and left on Prospect St.



*Left: Arden Steps, in the more tiring direction*

If you are in a rush at this point, you can also go down Bancroft Steps and one more block of Bancroft, but for a bit of variety, we recommend you take Prospect instead. After one block, turn right down Channing Way, then two blocks later make a right on Piedmont. You will quickly return to your starting point, and the end of this short but steep walk. If you have some extra time, UC Berkeley is just to the northwest and is a great place to explore.

# Murals and Sights of South and West Berkeley

**Length:** 7.1 miles

**Time:** Allow three and a half hours so you have time to appreciate the murals and other sights

**Difficulty:** 2+

**Elevation Gain:** 180 feet

**Starting Point:** Ashby BART

## **Transportation:**

BART, AC Transit 49, 800, F at the start; AC Transit 72, 72R on San Pablo; AC Transit 18 on Shattuck. Parking is available on side streets or at Ashby BART.

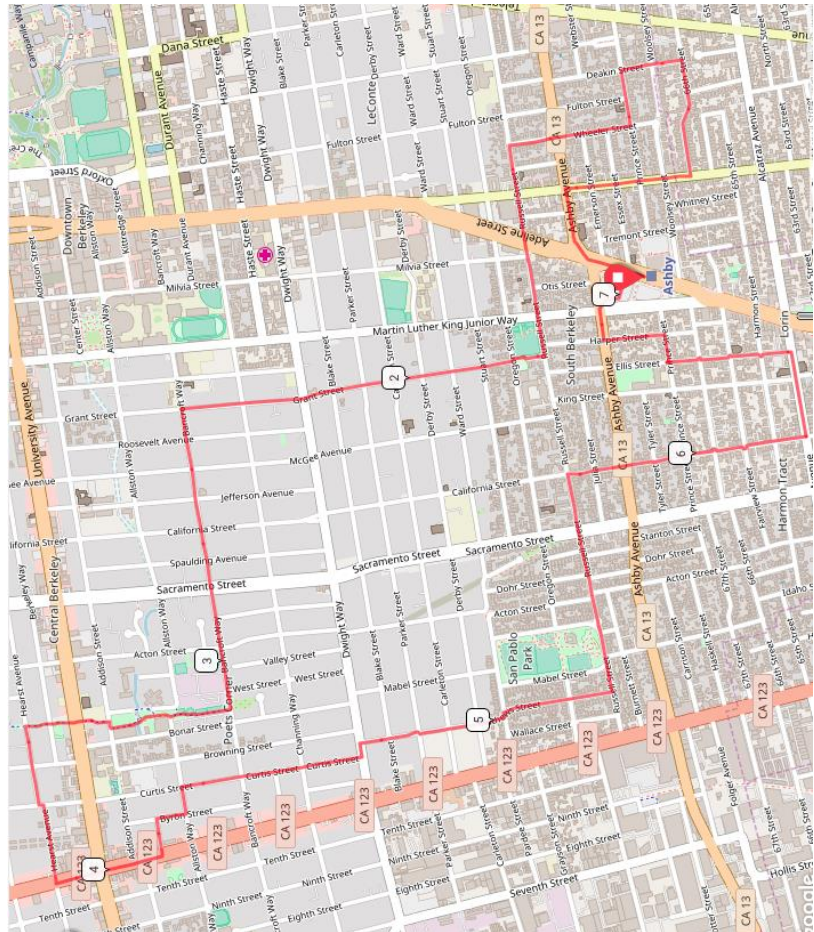
## **Overview:**

This walk explores the vibrant and lovely neighborhoods in South and West Berkeley. The walk passes parks, community gardens, farmers' markets, flea markets, cafes, cultural centers, and myriad murals and quirky houses.

## **Directions and pictures:**

Begin the walk at the Ashby BART station and walk northeast on Adeline. Cross at Ashby and make a right, then turn right onto Shattuck after two blocks. After only .3 miles of walking so far, you reach the first mural of the walk, on the wall facing the parking lot of a marijuana dispensary on the northeast corner of Essex and Shattuck (3033 Shattuck). The dispensary, a former aquarium, hosts this mural of various types of aquatic life exploring the sea floor.

Continue along Shattuck, and you will reach the Starry Plough pub (3101 Shattuck) after one block. The Starry Plough was the name of the banner used by the Irish Republican Army, and is now a popular bar in South Berkeley. The wall that faces Shattuck sports a few murals celebrating music and struggle. La Peña Cultural Center (3105 Shattuck), just to the south, has another amazing, partially-three-dimensional mural, which depicts a muscular man playing guitar above paintings of Salvador Allende and Pablo Neruda.

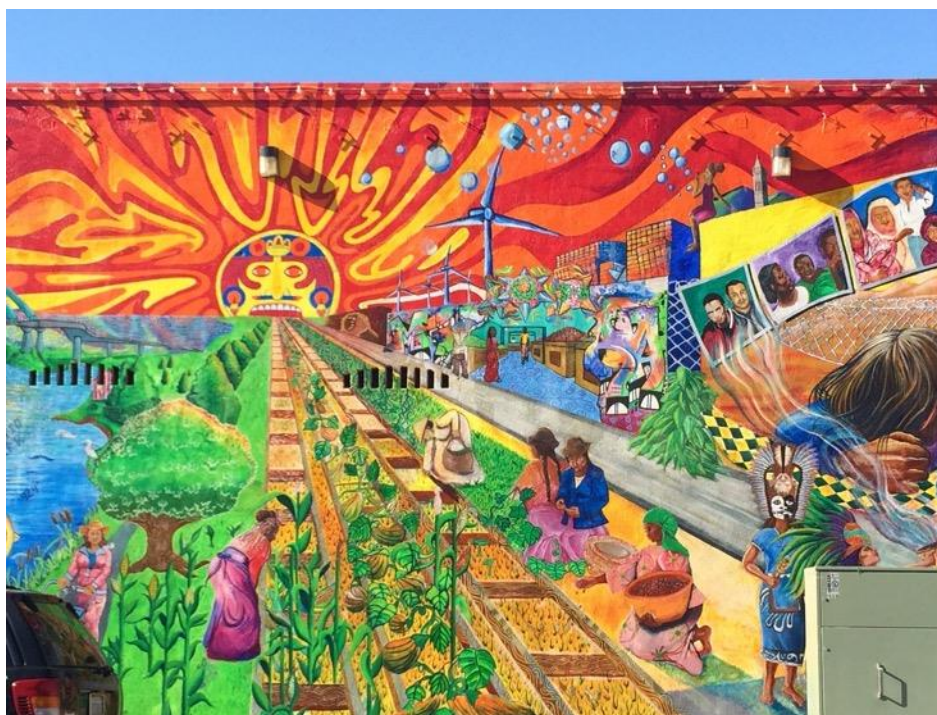




Continuing south on Shattuck, you will cross the border into Oakland (have your passport?) and arrive at the next stop of the walk, Jumpin' Java Cafe (6606 Shattuck). The inside of the cafe is adorned with murals of various beachside scenes. The owner, Mike Dawoud, also showcases various different types of art. A local artist, Mark Bulwinkle, who specializes in wonderful *papel picado*-esque metal sculptures, has his work here on permanent display. The Dry Garden (6556 Shattuck), across 66th Street, features an amazing collection of cacti and other succulents and is definitely worth checking out as well.

Head east on 66th Street and then turn left onto Deakin to re-enter Berkeley (still have that passport?). A left at Prince and a right onto Wheeler brings you to the extraordinary garden of Marcia Donahue (3017 Wheeler), on the east side of Wheeler across from the end of Emerson. The garden may make you think that you've been transported to a tropical rainforest, albeit one with myriad ceramics hanging from the trees. Every Sunday afternoon, Ms. Donahue opens her garden to the public and you can go in and admire the part of it that you cannot see from the street. If you don't do this walk on Sunday afternoon it is definitely worth coming back to see the garden when it is open. It is truly inspirational.

Continue on Wheeler for four blocks, then turn left onto Russell. Before you reach Martin Luther King Junior Way, the Wat Mongkolratanaram, a beautiful Thai Temple (1911 Russell) is on the north side of the street. This stunning temple is open to the public for brunch every Sunday morning. After crossing Martin Luther King, turn right on Grant Street and cut through Grove Park. After  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile along the quiet Grant, turn left on Bancroft. Continue 0.6 miles, until you reach the BYA-founded Community Garden (1308 Bancroft). This garden is not open to the public but you can still admire it from the outside. Turn right and cross the street, walking up the paved path through Strawberry Creek Park. Continue down the hill toward the creek,



passing a small mural of Mount Diablo and the Berkeley Hills on the BYA building (1255 Allston).

*Left: the mural on the south side of Mi Tierra*

Take the left fork after the creek and cross Addison to proceed on the bike path. Three blocks later, turn left on Hearst and take it to San Pablo, where a beautiful mural of a town adorns an African dance building (1901 San Pablo). Cross San Pablo and turn left to walk



south on it, beginning the return to South Berkeley. Before leaving the west, though, you'll pass an expansive mural at Mi Tierra Groceries (slightly to the right on Addison St.), which shows a utopic Berkeley full of gardens, traditional dances, and families (2082 San Pablo). After appreciating the mural, continue south one more block on San Pablo, then turn left up Cowper Street and then right onto Byron St. In quick succession, turn left on Allston, right on Curtis, left on Dwight, and right on Mathews. After a third of a mile, you'll reach a house shaped remarkably like a fish (2747 Mathews). Flippers extend from either side, and the windows well resemble portholes. Turn left on Russell two blocks after the fish house and after a half mile turn right on California. Once you reach Alcatraz Avenue, after another half mile, you'll pass another interesting mural adorning the east side of the street, with a huge painting of Yoda and lettering that reads 'STRIKE BACK AGAINST THE EMPIRE WE MUST' (1601 Alcatraz).



*Left: The mural at Ellis and Alcatraz*

Turn left on Alcatraz and, two blocks above California St, turn left on Ellis to arrive at the penultimate mural of the walk (1741 Alcatraz), showing several people dancing and playing musical instruments.

Though perhaps

less extraordinary than many passed on the walk so far, it is still worth a stop.

Continue north on Ellis, and after four blocks you will arrive at Malcolm X Elementary School (1731 Prince). If it is a weekend, the school will probably be unlocked and you can enter through the gate and walk into the garden to admire the statues done by Marc Bullwinkle. Afterwards, right turn on Prince, left on Harper, and then right on Ashby. At the corner of Ashby and Martin Luther King Way you'll pass the last mural of the walk (2948 Martin Luther King), which features a portrait of a man named Mr. Charles, waving. Up until his death, Mr. Charles used to stand at his house (a block away) greeting passersby with a wave and a friendly 'Have a GOOD day!' Today, in his memory, the mural bears the caption, 'Have a GOOD day, Mr. Charles!'

Turn right on Martin Luther King, then left and you will soon reach Ashby BART, your starting point.

## Gwin Canyon to Sibley: North Oakland's Hidden Trails

**Length: 7.6 miles**

**Time: 3½ to 4 hours**

**Difficulty: 4+**

**Elevation Gain: 1550 feet**

**Starting Point: Signpost 29 on Claremont Ave.** (0.6 miles below Grizzly Peak, 1.2 miles above the Claremont Hotel)

### **Transportation:**

The bus for this one is unfortunately a bit of a nuisance. AC transit lines 79, 80, 81 and E all stop on Tunnel Rd. at or just above Domingo. From there, you can walk up the north side of Tunnel about a mile to join the walk at the five mile mark, then do the loop as described, just starting and ending from that point. Parking is also available at the start on Claremont.



### **Overview:**

The majority of this scenic walk is on quiet trails, many of them with fantastic views of Oakland and the Bay below you. Beginning from the busy Claremont Ave, you'll plunge immediately into the trees, passing through a small redwood grove on the little-used Willow Trail as you climb toward Sibley. From here, the walk picks up the Skyline Trail through Sibley, passing a car wreck and a huge variety of plants and trees. From the top of Sibley, you'll descend Skyline Blvd, then leave it for the quieter (and steeper!) wide, dirt Caldecott Fire Trail. Crossing over Highway 24, you'll then begin the climb back into the hills, first along Hiller, one of Oakland's steepest roads, and then on a small trail parallel to it. A mile on quiet, winding streets brings you to the entrance to Gwin Canyon, the trail through which was completed in 2017. You'll follow this narrow track as it winds through the canyon, returning you in another mile exactly to your starting point.

### **Directions and pictures:**

Begin the walk at Signpost 29 (easily and unsurprisingly recognized by its large, black 29) on Claremont Ave, where there is a small, dirt parking strip. Head down the short flight of steps to the southwest, then turn left immediately to take the Willow Trail east. Climbing through



a small redwood grove, the little-used Willow Trail seems to be in no rush, at times ascending steeply, at others turning and heading downhill briefly as it winds through the trees.



*Left: The shaded Willow Trail*

After just under half a mile, the trail merges with the Summit House Trail, its northern neighbor, and ends suddenly at the intersection of Grizzly Peak, Claremont, and Fish Ranch Rd. Cross both ways, and proceed down the small hillside on a narrow trail which quickly joins the East Bay National Skyline Trail. Turn right to follow this thirty-mile trail toward Sibley, crossing Fish Ranch Rd. again and continuing through the trees on a narrow and gradual descent. After 0.8 miles, you'll hear the faint sounds of traffic underneath you, coming from the Caldecott Tunnel, which the trail crosses over. Talk about an easy way to cross a freeway! Continue on the Skyline Trail across Old Tunnel Rd, jogging left and beginning the climb back up toward the ridgeline. There's a

creek crossing, which could easily go unnoticed in summer, but in winter there is some good rock-hopping potential, and an opportunity (with which we have personal experience) to unintentionally get your feet very wet. The trail climbs more steeply after this, and you may notice the old car wreck off to the right in a creek bed. One wonders how a car ended up there, since it is nowhere near any present roads. By the state of it, it does not seem an advisable feat to replicate. At the top of the hill, 0.9 miles past Old Tunnel Rd, you'll reach Sibley Staging Area, a good water and bathroom stop.

Make a right at the Staging Area to exit the park through the parking lot, then another right on Skyline Blvd. Continue a mile north on Skyline, staying left at the intersection with Grizzly Peak. Though Skyline can be busy, there is a shoulder to walk on, the grade is a gentle downhill, and there are fabulous views of the Bay, Oakland, and Highway 24, which seems from



this height to be populated by tiny toy cars, each speeding off into the Caldecott Tunnel to some unknown destination. Turn left down Broadway Terrace when you reach it, and, after one block, make a right down a steep and narrow trail opposite Pine Needle Dr. You'll have to step over a metal guard rail at the edge of the road before continuing down the hillside, to where the small trail joins a much wider and more traveled one. Turn right here, onto what we call the Caldecott Fire Trail, though it appears on maps only as "PG&E Access Rd." To your left, the trail dead-ends at a rather mysterious couch, an unusual appearance on a fire road. Assuming you do not want to visit a dead end for a nap on the sketchy couch, take the fire trail to the right, as it traverses a ridge, then stay left to head down the hill to Broadway, passing a large sports field at the bottom of the trail.

*Right: The Caldecott Fire Trail*

At the traffic light where you exit the sports field parking lot, continue straight, to cross over Highway 24 on a flyover, getting a much closer view of the traffic than you did on the previous crossing, in Sibley on the Skyline Trail. Turn left on Caldecott Ln, which, though slightly unpleasant, only lasts a block, then right on Tunnel Rd. and immediately left up Hiller.

Here, at the five-mile mark of the walk, you'll leave traffic behind as you head for the hills—in quite an extreme way. The four percent grade of Tunnel Rd. will be replaced by the twenty-three percent grade of Hiller Dr, one of Oakland's steepest roads, which will take you in minutes from the highway to the hills, into the fancy Hiller Highlands neighborhood. Make your first right off Hiller onto Hawk's Hill Ct, which quickly dead ends. Continue here down a few steps onto a small neighborhood trail, which, though at points it is little more than a concrete water pipe, affords a spectacular view of the Bay and the city. The trail ends with some more steps back up to another dead-end road. Continue along this, then turn right on Starview Dr, and right again on Hiller, then right a third time on Charing Cross Rd. Perhaps at this point you are tiring of turning right, so turn left up Sherwick Dr. after



two blocks, left again on Bristol, and, after it loops around past more good view-getting opportunities, left a third time up Norfolk Rd. Continue 0.4 miles to where Norfolk dead-ends, staying right at the intersection with Strathmoor. Stay slightly left here, to begin on the very narrow dirt trail into Gwin Canyon. This trail forks, and the main way stays left. The right trail dead-ends, so don't take this, especially since there is no couch. Winding through a sort of tree tunnel and into the canyon, your trail descends gradually, then turns eventually toward the right and begins to climb a bit, paralleling Claremont up the hill. At this point, the trail used to end (which would be a shame for you at this point in the walk), but the Claremont Canyon Conservancy extended it in 2017 to reach Claremont Ave. Take it this final stretch to where is

hits the bottom of the Willow Trail, and climb the few steps to your left back to signpost 29 and the parking spot. Or, if you don't want to climb the stairs, turn right on the Willow Trail and do the loop again!



*Left: The view from the quiet unnamed trail off of Hiller*



## Paths of Oakland and Trails of Huckleberry

**Length:** 7.5 miles

**Time:** About three hours

**Difficulty:** 4+

**Elevation Gain:** 1400 feet

**Starting Point:** Colton Blvd. and Mountain Blvd, Oakland



### **Transportation:**

Various AC transit bus lines in the 600s stop here, but they run very infrequently, so this is probably a walk to bike or drive to the start of.

Parking is available on Mountain Blvd. or further into the hills.

### **Overview:**

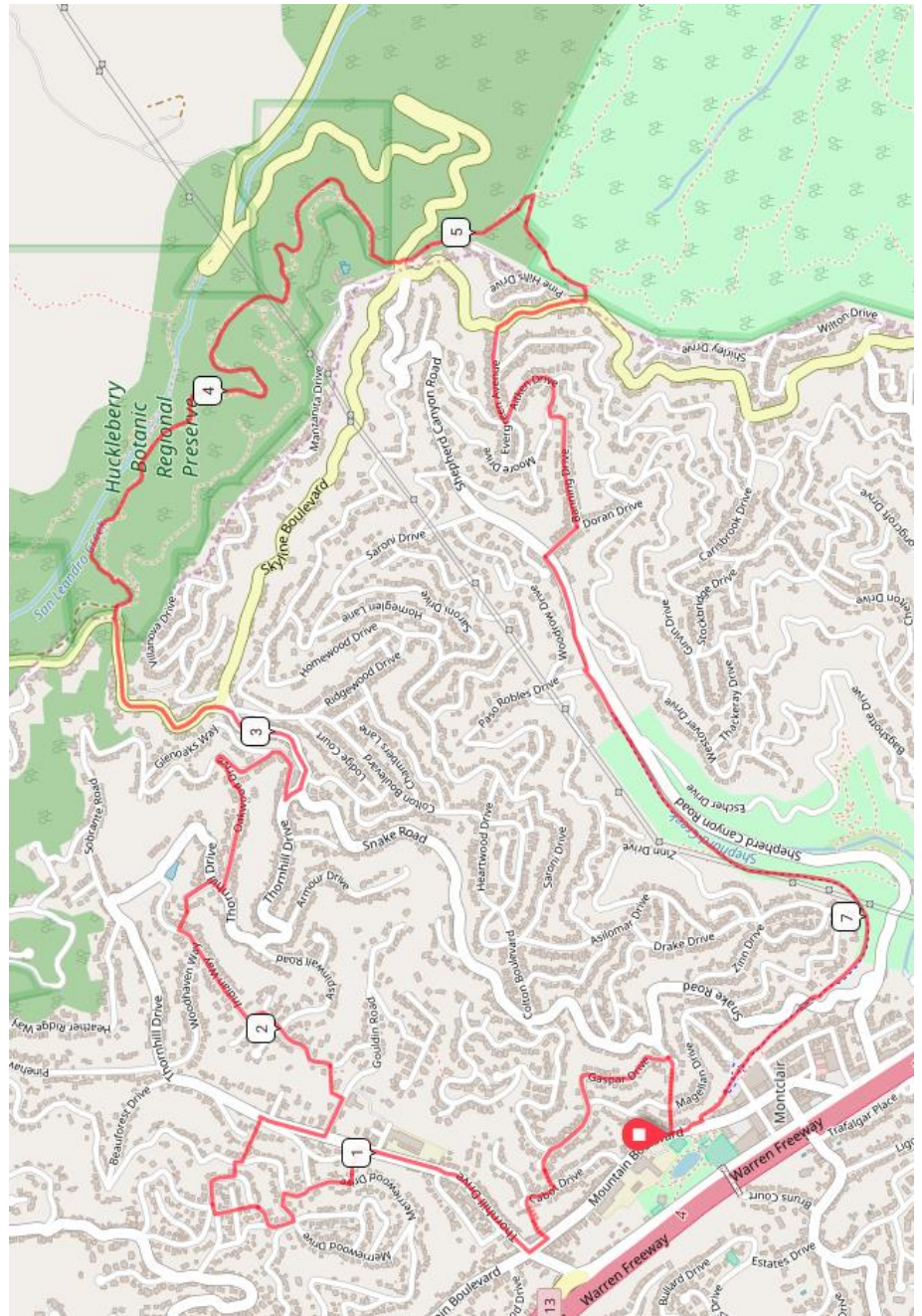
Want to discover some great paths outside of Berkeley and explore one of most amazing and least known regional parks nearby? This walk climbs steep, step-filled paths from near Highway 13 to Skyline Blvd, through the easternmost section of Oakland. From here, you'll descend into the incredible Huckleberry Botanic Regional Preserve,

and walk part way around its fern-covered canyon. After Huckleberry, you'll walk through a small section of Redwood Regional Park, then descend a lovely bike-and-pedestrian-only paved path to return to the starting point.



## Directions and pictures:

Start at the intersection of Colton Blvd. and Mountain Blvd. near the Moraga Ave. exit off Highway 13. Amazingly, this intersection has both a path and a trail, as well as two busy streets, off of it. Begin the walk by climbing the concrete stairs eastward from the end of the southern crosswalk across Mountain. Cross the first street you come to, and continue up the steps; then, at the second street, continue straight a few feet on the pavement and turn left down Gaspar Dr. After a long block, make a slight right up Colton Blvd. Take the first left onto Diaz Pl. to depart the busy Colton. Where it dead ends, continue straight onto the steps of a path to descend to Cabot Dr. Here, make a right, then your first left down another steppy path to Mountain Blvd. Make a right, then an immediate right up Thornhill Dr. After three blocks you will reach Thornhill Elementary School and Alhambra Ln. Continue a bit past this street, then make a left up the steep wooden steps of a path marked with a green Public Stairway sign. Two blocks of these stairs will leave you out of breath on Merriewood Dr. Turn right, then make your first left up Taurus Ave. After one block, turn right onto the curvy Merriewood Dr. again, then right at Sherwood to stay on Merriewood. As Merriewood turns left, make a right down a steep flight of stairs marked Public Stairway. At the bottom, jog right and continue down the steep wood steps (if you want some extra exercise, run back up them). At the bottom of this long path, cross Merriewood, which seems to be everywhere, and turn sharply right down Thornhill.







*Left: Descending to Thornhill*

Make your first left onto Gouldin Rd, then another left up a steep and unsigned path which runs up a hillside from the top of what appears to be a concrete driveway. It's not too far above Thornhill, and if you cannot find it or prefer a gentler ascent, make your first left off Gouldin onto Aspinwall Rd, which brings you to the top of the path. If you did go up the path, turn left at the top.

Continue straight at the first intersection you come to, turning off Aspinwall and onto Westwood Way, then make a slight left onto Westwood Ct. Make a fairly immediate right onto Indian Way, which joins Woodhaven Rd. after an easy fifth of a mile. Continue straight, then turn right up an unsigned

path with wooden steps and concrete treads. The top of the path is at a dead end. Continue along this street until you reach Thornhill, then make a right and an immediate left onto Oakwood Dr. One long, hilly block will bring you to Wild Currant Way; make a right, and turn right again to stay on Wild Currant at Glen Oaks Way. Where Wild Currant hits Thornhill (as everything seems to), turn left, then left again up Snake Rd. one block to Skyline Blvd. Make a left onto Skyline, which, true to its name, is Oakland's uppermost major street. After one long block, turn right into the Huckleberry Botanic Regional Preserve parking lot to enter the next section of the walk.

Cross the parking lot and go through the break in the fence, then make a right onto your first Huckleberry trail, which is called Huckleberry Path. This name doesn't mean much because practically every trail in Huckleberry is called Huckleberry Path. You will soon come to

a fork where Huckleberry Path branches, seemingly continuing to the left and right. Turn left onto Huckleberry Path. This section of trail descends to the edge of a stunning, fern-covered canyon on soft ground through trees and small plants. Continue down the trail around the canyon until, after about a third of a mile, you reach the intersection with the East Bay National Skyline Trail, this section of which is called, you guessed it, Huckleberry Path. Make a slight right here, and the trail should gradually begin to climb out of the canyon. Stay left at the two forks you come to and after a mile you will suddenly emerge from this small but incredible park at the intersection of Skyline and Pinehurst Rd. Cross Pinehurst and continue straight on the Phillips Loop trail into Redwood Regional Park. A third of a mile on this trail brings you to the wide, well-traveled, dusty East Ridge Trail. Make a right here and another quarter mile will bring you to the Skyline Gate Staging Area and parking lot. Make a right though the parking lot back to the road.

Turn right here onto Skyline Blvd, then make your first left down Evergreen Ave. After three blocks on Evergreen, turn right onto Moore Dr, then make your first left down Shepherd Canyon Rd. After two sidewalk-less blocks, turn right onto Saroni Dr. and immediately left onto a small paved bike path which serves as a sidewalk for the busy road. After two long blocks, jog right and then continue left down Bishop Ct. to leave Shepherd Canyon Rd. behind forever. Where Bishop Ct. dead ends, continue straight, back onto the bike path, now officially the lovely Montclair Railroad Trail, sloping gently down through trees paralleling the road. The trail is easy to follow and very scenic; it gradually turns to the right and  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile after Bishop Ct. it takes you over Snake Rd. on a raised walkway. Continue along the trail, staying on the main path and not making any of the possible left turns. After another quarter mile, the path turns left and the paved section ends. Continue straight onto the wood chips, then down some stairs to Mountain Blvd. Here, make a right and it's only 100 feet to the intersection with Colton, your starting point. We hope you've enjoyed this walk through Berkeley's southern neighbor-city and gotten a good taste of nearby paths, streets, and trails!



## The Claremont Canyon Climb

Length: 5.9 miles

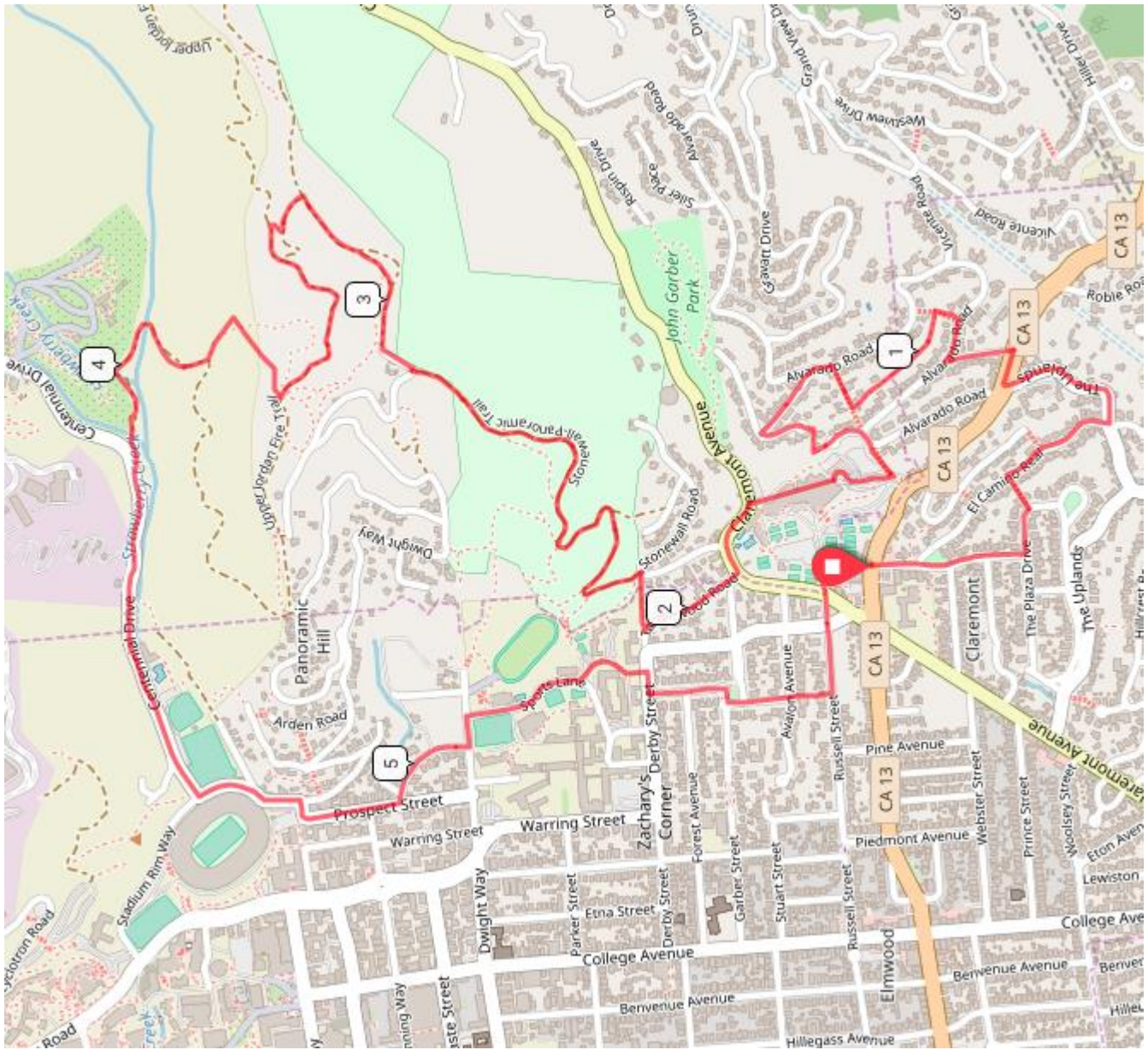
Time: 2 ½ to 3 hours

Difficulty: 5

Elevation Gain: 1150 feet

Starting Point: Ashby Ave./Tunnel Rd. and Domingo Ave.

Transportation: AC transit buses 604 and E. Limited parking available on nearby Russell or Domingo.



## Overview:

This walk begins with two miles of scenic paths in the Claremont Area, then heads north to Tanglewood Path and the entrance to Claremont Canyon. Here the famous climb begins: 800 feet in one mile on a winding fire trail with great view of Berkeley and the San Francisco Bay. At the end of the climb, you'll turn left and descend more gradually via a lower fire trail, then head down a narrow shortcut through a huge redwood grove to Centennial Dr. You'll return via the Clark Kerr Campus and a few paths.

*Right: The top of the climb on the Claremont Canyon Fire Trail*

## Directions and pictures:

Start at the intersection of Domingo Ave. and Ashby Ave./Tunnel Rd. The walk begins in the farthest south section of Berkeley. Head south on Domingo three blocks to where it ends at The Plaza Dr. Here, make a left, then another left where the road curves, up The Cut Off Path. Climb the concrete steps and ascend the sloping path, then turn right onto El Camino Real. After one block, make a left up The Uplands, which will bring you in one block to Tunnel Rd. Cross Tunnel here. The crossing is difficult since the street is very busy; if necessary, go down Tunnel a long block to the traffic light at the Claremont hotel to cross more easily. Once across, proceed up Tunnel one short block from The Uplands to Bridge Rd. (interesting that a road called Bridge intersects Tunnel), and make a left. After one block, turn right on Alvarado Rd, then almost immediately left up the walkway and stone steps of Berkeley path Willow Walk. Do not take the entire path. Instead, turn left onto Sunset Trail halfway up. Sunset Trail is a long and mostly flat path and is the only path in both Berkeley and Oakland. Because of curving borders, Oakland is, oddly, north of Berkeley here and Sunset Trail ends at Oakland's Eucalyptus Path. Turn right and climb the many, even, concrete steps to the path's top. Make a left, then an immediate slight left down Slater Ln. After one block, turn left onto Evergreen Ln, which dead ends at Evergreen Path. At the dead end,





stay slightly left to descend this Oakland path, then turn left at the fork near a gate to reach Alvarado Place. Continue along this street one block, then make a right onto Alvarado Rd. After about 100 feet, make a right down the unsigned Oakland path Short Cut (just after a telephone pole and before a No Parking sign). Descend this nice path, through the trees and down stone steps to where it ends in the parking lot for the Claremont Hotel. Make a right and walk through the parking lot, staying on the upper path past the beautiful white hotel, and continue straight, keeping the hotel to your left, until you reach the gate onto Claremont Ave.



*Left: The steps of Short Cut*

Nearly back in Berkeley for good, make a left down Claremont Ave, then your second right onto Tanglewood Ave. After a block Tanglewood curves; here, just before the street turns into Derby, make a sharp right up Tanglewood Path. At the top of this stair path, turn left up the paved trail labeled Claremont Canyon Regional Preserve. The trail quickly turns to packed dirt, and begins to climb. Follow the main trail about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile to Panoramic Way. This trail winds quite a bit, and there are many side trails. See the map on the next page if it is easier to follow than written directions. Stay right at the first trail intersection, then left at the second to continue uphill. After this, stay right at any offshoot trails to continue climbing. The top of the trail is the steepest (see picture next to walk overview), and after a final ascent you will finish the famous climb at the very top of Panoramic Way, with an incredible view

down. Make a slight right, then another to continue straight onto a second fire trail where the road dead-ends.

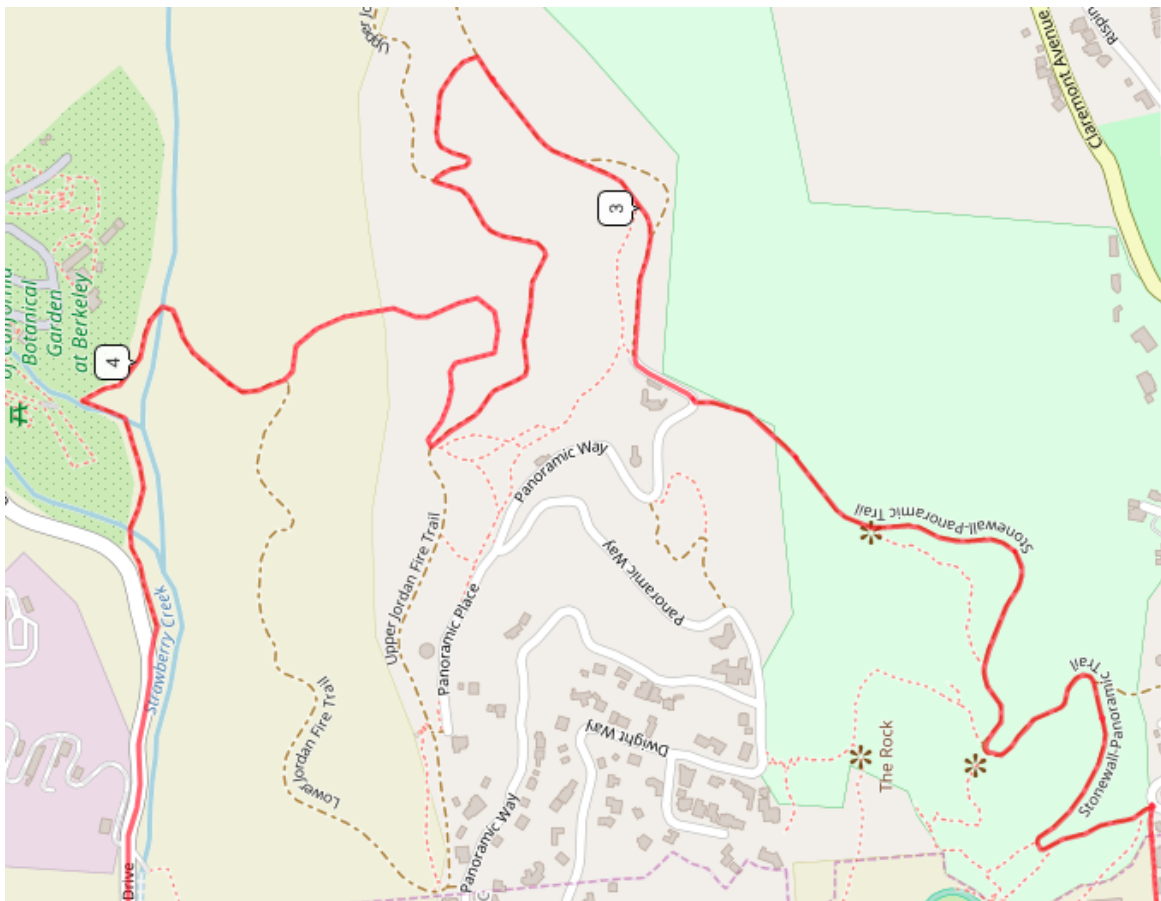
Stay on this trail, which climbs gently and even goes downhill a bit, for a third of a mile, at which point you will reach a large tree. Here, you can either make a left down a smaller trail or for some extra elevation climb another steep hill and make any of the subsequent left turns onto smaller trails, all of which descend under a quarter mile to a lower fire trail which winds its way around Strawberry Canyon. Turn left again onto this trail, and follow it gently down to where you see a steep singletrack trail to your right going down into the redwoods below. Turn down this trail. (There is a very steep way down, or a gentler one that doubles back, about 50 feet past the first.) The trail forks many times, and it does not matter which fork you take as long as you stay on an established route of some sort. This cutdown takes you through an incredible redwood



grove and eventually down to rejoin the lower fire trail. Make a right and after a third of a mile you will reach the parking lot for the bottom of the trail at Centennial Dr. Turn left down the small dirt trail next to the road and continue until you reach the intersection with Stadium Rim Way. (If you're already missing the fire trail, you'll have to come back for our Strawberry Canyon and Nearby Paths walk, the second route in section six.)

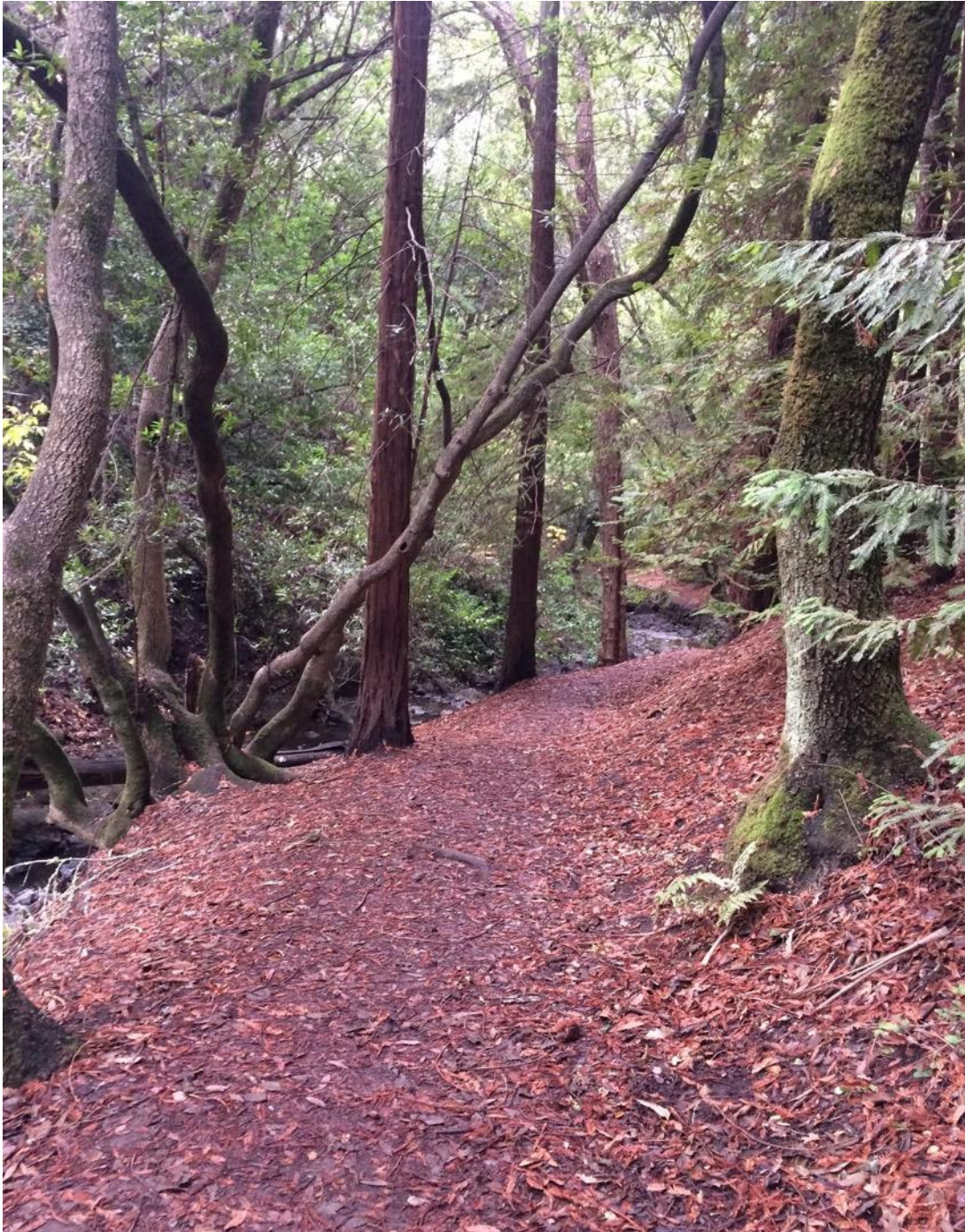
Make a left on Stadium Rim Way, then your first right down Bancroft Ave, then a left on Prospect. After two blocks, make a left up Hillside Ave. Where it ends, cross Dwight Way and make a left, then an almost immediate right on Sports Ln, a small road through the Clark Kerr Campus. Continue on this road, making a slight left to turn on Eastway Dr. rather than continuing on Sports Ln. as the exit sign suggests. You will soon come out of the campus onto Derby St. Make a right, then a left at the traffic light onto Claremont Blvd. After two blocks, Claremont Blvd. ends at Monkey Island Park. Walk through the park (not much more than a grassy square) and jog right to continue south up Oak Knoll Terr. After one block, cross Avalon Ave. and descend the steeply sloping Oak Knoll Path. Make a left onto Russell St. and take it three blocks, then make a slight right to continue onto Domingo, which hits Ashby, your starting point, after one block. You did it!

*Map of the fire trail portion of the walk*



## SECTION 4:

### The Beyond: Seven Walks not too far from North Berkeley in Tilden, Kensington, and El Cerrito



*The Wildcat Gorge Trail, which parallels the swiftly flowing Wildcat Creek*



## Through the Forest and Around Jewel Lake

Length: 0.9 miles

Time: 20-40 minutes

Difficulty: 1

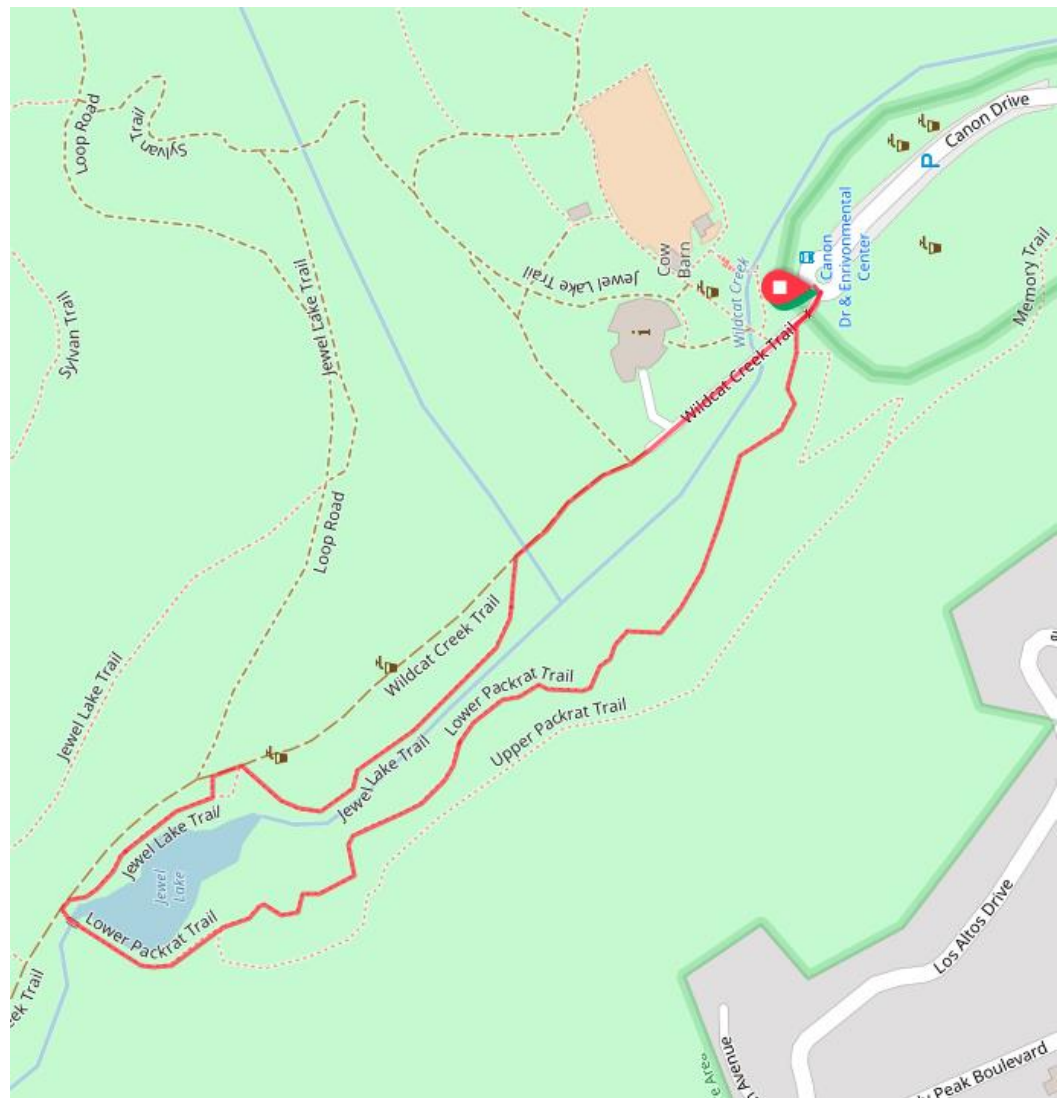
Elevation Gain: 25 feet

Starting Point: the end of Central Park Dr/Little Farm parking lot

Transportation:  
AC transit bus  
67 stops at the  
starting point.  
There is parking  
available in the  
nearby lot, as  
well as further  
south on Central  
Park Dr. if the  
lot is full.

### Overview:

This lovely, little loop is perfect for people of all ages, from toddlers to grandparents. Starting from the Little Farm (a great destination for young kids), you'll head north along the Packrat Trail through a sort of tree tunnel in a small forest. You'll come out of the trees at Jewel Lake, where turtles and ducks are often visible. Rounding the lake, you'll return on a long bridge by Wildcat Creek and finish back at the Little Farm.







*A short detour up the hill to the Little Farm is worth it for anyone, especially young kids bearing celery.*

### **Directions and pictures:**

Start at the end of Central Park Dr, accessible from Berkeley by driving down Cañon Dr, then making a left. At the very end of the road, stay left to walk north on the Lower Packrat Trail. Follow this for about a half mile through overhanging trees near the western side of Wildcat Creek. Where the Upper Packrat Trails comes in, stay right to continue around Jewel Lake. Look for turtles sunning themselves on logs and ducks swimming and diving as you turn right and cross a bridge over Wildcat Creek. Make a right onto the trail closest to the lake and follow it past the east bank and along a very long bridge over a swampy area. Where the bridge ends, stay slightly right and keep going along Wildcat Creek to where the trail joins the larger Wildcat Creek Trail. Make a slight right to continue south for another 0.15 miles, to where the trail ends becomes paved and ends back at the end of Central Park Dr. where you started. This is a fabulous loop for people who aren't looking for an epic hike but want a scenic stroll with great views and a lot of trail variation. It can also be extended in many ways to go farther north through Tilden and Wildcat Canyon.

## A Short, Shady Stroll: The Redwood and Golf Course Trails

**Length:** 1.5 or 2 miles, depending on whether you take the extension to South Park Dr.

**Time:** Allow an hour, though it is easily done in less, depending on your pace

**Difficulty:** 1

**Elevation Gain:** Short version, 160 feet; longer version, 220 feet

**Starting Point:** The intersection of Golf Course Dr. and Grizzly Peak Blvd.

**Transportation:** The AC transit bus 65 stops on Centennial below Grizzly Peak. Parking is available at the start of the Redwood Trail.



### **Overview:**

This walk is a short, not-too-hilly loop through Tilden's scenic woods. You'll begin at a large intersection, but from there the walk is all on padded trails. You'll head southeast on the Redwood Trail, then return via the Golf Course Trail, with an optional detour farther into the park.

### **Directions and pictures:**

This walk is not only one of the least difficult in this book to hike, but also one of the easiest to give directions for. Begin at the intersection of Grizzly Peak Blvd, Centennial Dr, and Golf Course Dr. From here, walk down Golf Course Dr. a few feet and make a right before the parking lot past a wooden gate onto the Grizzly Peak Trail. Stay left at the first trail intersection you come to, to turn onto the Redwood Trail. Stay left at any trail intersections you come to,



continuing across the lovely, shaded Redwood Trail, under redwoods on needle-covered ground. After 0.6 miles of rolling hills, you will come descend a final hill to where the trail ends at the Golf Course Trail. From here, you have two options. For a longer walk, stay right to continue along the trail through trees, then up a rocky hill and down to a parking lot road connecting to South Park Dr, which is closed to cars in winter (from here you can continue on to other trails if you want a longer hike--see Tilden map located a bit down South Park at the Big Springs Trail). To return from South Park, double back on the Golf Course Trail to Redwood, but this time stay right. The second option cuts off this half-mile detour: make a sharp left from Redwood onto Golf Course and take this lower trail to where it ends. The Golf Course Trail, like Redwood, winds through trees on small hills, though it is lower in the canyon and the ground is more clay than needles in sections. The Golf Course Trail ends after about a half mile on Golf Course Dr. Turn left, and 0.2 miles up the road will return you to your starting point. This walk is a great way to explore some of Tilden without too much climbing or too long a route.



*Left: The southern end of the Golf Course Trail*



## The Meadow Loop

**Length: 2.7 miles**

**Time: One hour and fifteen minutes**

**Difficulty: 2**

**Elevation Gain: 400 feet**

**Starting Point: Lone Oak Parking Lot (on Lone Oak Rd. near Central Park Dr.)**

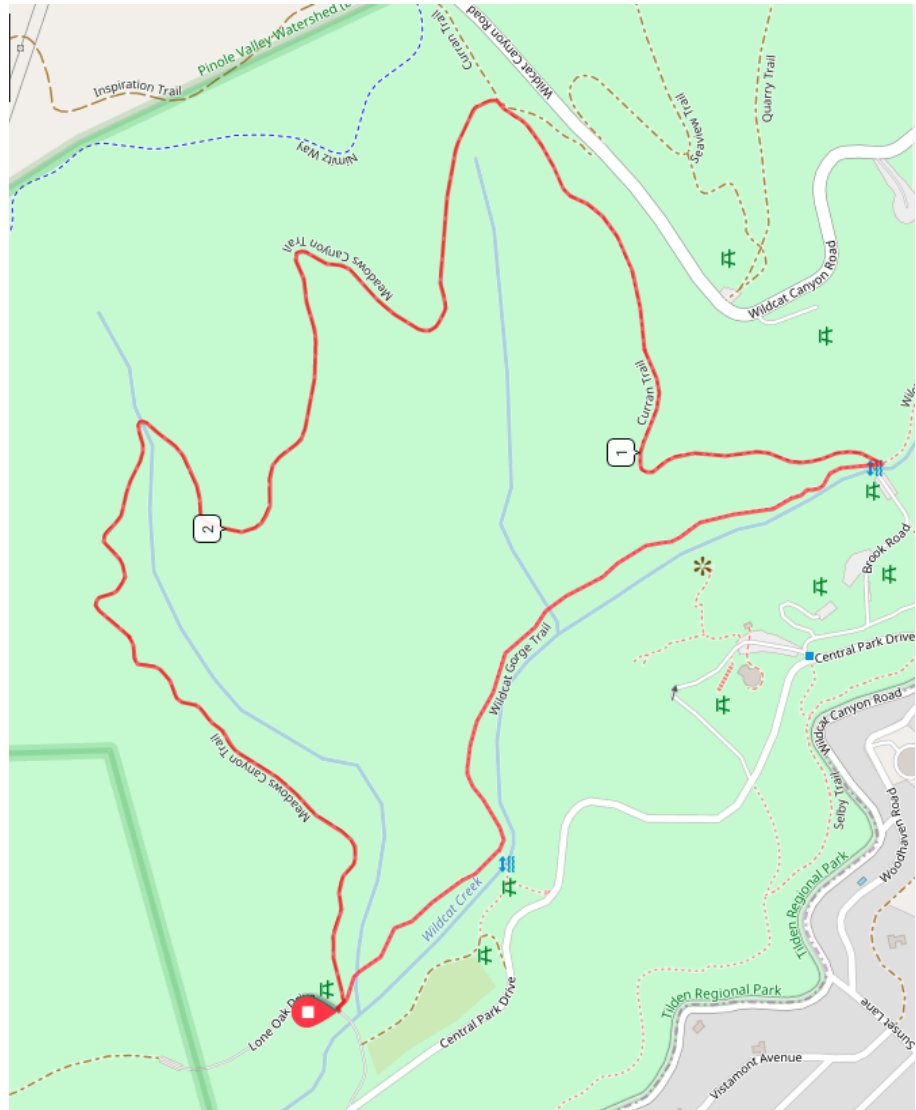
**Transportation: AC Transit Bus #67 stops on Central Park Dr. Parking is available at the trailhead.**

### **Overview:**

This relatively easy trail loop begins at the Lone Oak Picnic site, then takes the Wildcat Gorge Trail as it follows Wildcat Creek upstream through its tree-filled canyon. From here, you'll ascend the shaded Curran Trail out of the canyon to just below the Nimitz Way Trailhead (where many walk extensions are available). You'll return down the sunny Meadows Canyon Trail around the canyon you through which you climbed up.

### **Directions and pictures:**

Start at the parking lot at the end of Lone Oak Rd. Walk to the water fountain at the bottom of two trails, and make a right to take the lower Wildcat Creek Trail (you'll return via the upper Meadows Canyon Trail). Follow the trail as it climbs next to the streambed of Wildcat Creek. In winter, this creek should be flowing, which gives a backdrop of rushing water sounds to the walk. About three quarters of a mile up the trail brings you to the intersection with the Curran Trail. Make a left to begin up this steeper and slightly more uneven dirt trail out of the





creek's canyon. In only 0.6 miles, you will reach the top of the Curran Trail at a four way trail intersection near the Nimitz Way Trailhead. Turning sharply right connects you to the Seaview Trail and continuing straight brings you to the Nimitz Way parking lot, both excellent opportunities for longer walks (see Skyline Sampler and the Wildcat Loop if you want to take these trails some other time). To proceed on this walk's route, turn left somewhat sharply onto the Meadows Canyon Trail.

*Left: The bottom of the scenic Meadows Canyon Trail*

This trail descends a short but steep and rocky hill, then becomes more even and less steep as it winds its dusty way around the canyon, with great views of the Berkeley Hills beyond. This trail is sunnier and more exposed than the previous two (if you do this walk in the morning, you can do it in reverse to stay off the sunny section during the heat of

the day). 1.4 miles of gentle downhill returns you to the water fountain and parking lot where you started. This is a popular loop because it is easy to access and no section is too steep, but it gives a good taste of Tilden's varied trails, with shade, creeks, and canyons, then sun and views.

*Right: Detour to the Little Farm, just north of the start on Central Park Drive, if you want a chat with this ram and his companions.*





## All the Paths of Kensington

**Length: 3.5 miles**

**Time: One hour, 20 minutes**

**Difficulty: 3**

**Elevation Gain: 650 feet**

**Starting Point: The intersection of Arlington Ave. and Amherst Ave.**

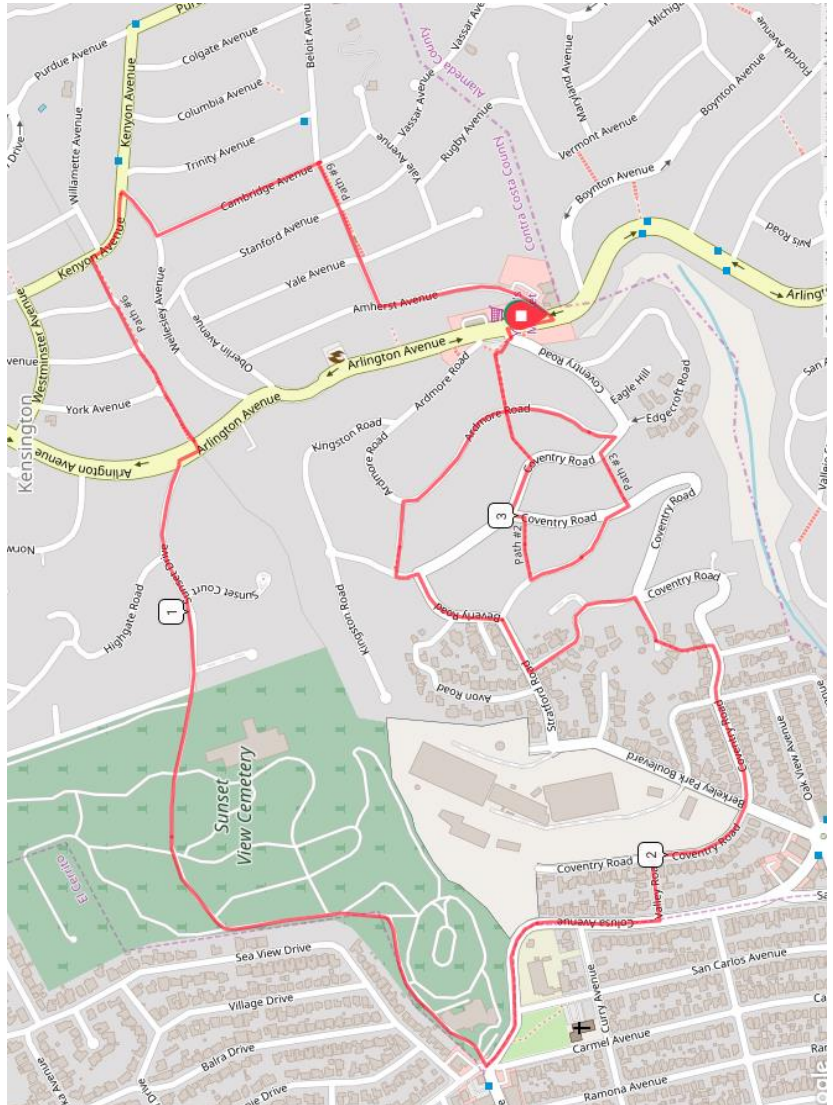
**Transportation: AC transit buses 7 and H both run along Arlington, stopping at the walk's start. Parking is also available on Arlington or up Amherst.**

### **Overview:**

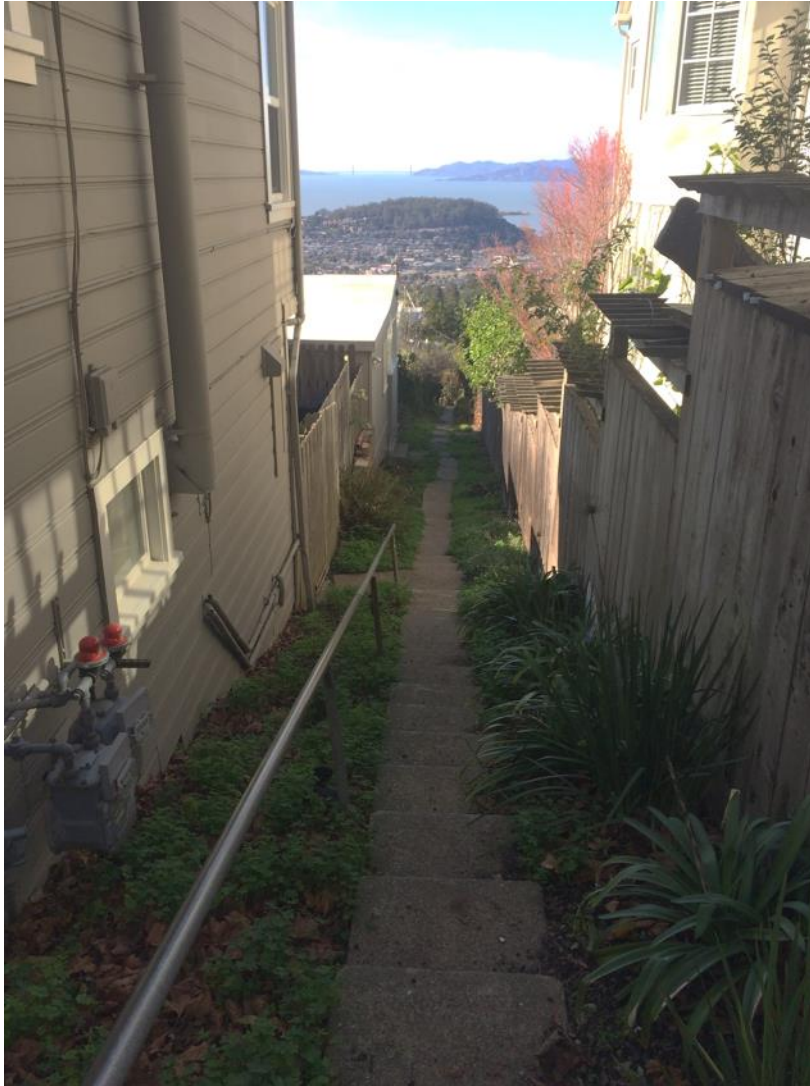
Want a change from Berkeley Paths or to walk every path in a city but not commit to the 35 mile Great Path Walk (see section 7)? Head to Kensington, where the seven paths can be walked in only just over an hour. This three and a half mile walk takes many steps and provides a fabulous and fairly complete walking tour of Berkeley's northern neighbor.

### **Directions and pictures:**

Start at the Kensington Shopping Center at the intersection of Arlington, Amherst, and Coventry. Begin the walk by heading up Amherst, then making your first right up Princeton. Wasting no time, you will reach your first path after just one block on this street. Cross Yale Ave. and continue straight onto the many wooden steps of Kensington's (creatively named) Path Number Nine. Looking back after one long block of path gives you a fabulous view of the Bay. Cross the street and continue up the connected, stepping-stone-like steps. This block is not as steep or as long, and you will soon emerge at the intersection of Cambridge Ave. and Beloit Ave.







*Left: Albany Hill, the Golden Gate Bridge, and steps of Kensington Path Number Nine*

Turn left on Cambridge, then make your first right up Wellesley Ave. After one block, turn left onto Kenyon Ave, and you will quickly come to the intersection with Willamette Ave. Here, turn left down Public Path Number Six, across from and just past Willamette. This is Kensington's longest path; its first block has some steps, then a slope, and comes out at a dead end. Continue straight down the unsigned second block of the path, which is made up of small round stepping stones and a dirt covered slope. Again, you will reach a cul-de-sac and again continue straight down the path, this time a woodchip and grass covered hill. Continue past a third dead-end down the concrete steps of the final block of the path to, not a small

dead-end street, but Arlington, one of the biggest streets in Kensington. Cross Arlington in the crosswalk opposite the path and continue straight down Sunset Dr. After two long blocks, Sunset ends at a sort of two-way intersection with Franciscan Way. Go straight and through the metal gate into the Sunset Cemetery. Continue down the cemetery roads, staying generally left, and, after a bit over half a mile, you will come out on Colusa Ave, near the intersection with Fairmount Ave. Make a left on the rather unpleasant Colusa, then your first left off of it onto Valley Rd. After one block, turn right onto Coventry Rd. Coventry winds its way up to Arlington (it really winds—1.1 miles to travel a distance that is only 0.5 miles in a straight line). There are several paths off of Coventry, but all the paths and nearby streets inexplicably start at Coventry and seem to end at Coventry as well. Basically, no matter which way you go, you will run into Coventry several times.

Three blocks up Coventry brings you to Eldridge Ct. A few feet past it, make a left past a fire hydrant and up a steep path (Public Path Number One) on a narrow, dirt-covered hill between two houses. The path comes out near the dead end of Marchant Ct. Make a right, and

you will soon reach Willow Ln, and...Coventry! Make a left on Willow, which turns into Richardson Rd, then your second right up Stratford Rd. Take Stratford to Beverly and turn left.

Turn left where Beverly ends at Lenox, then make an immediate right up the paved and rather unexciting Public Path Number Five. At the top, continue straight on Beverly Ct, then make a right on Ardmore Rd. Take Ardmore one very long block to where it hits Coventry. Make a sharp right, then an immediate left down the concrete slope and steps of



Public Path Number Three, which ends, as well as starts, on Coventry.

*Left: Public Path Number Three climbs concrete stairs toward Arlington*

Turn right here, then left on Stratford. A tenth of a mile will bring you to the bottom of the concrete-staired Public Path Number Two, which is opposite a telephone pole. Turn right and follow the path to where it turns to a dirt slope and ends, of course, on Coventry. Make a left, then an immediate right to stay on Coventry. After a tenth of a mile, make a left up the narrow paved Ardmore Path (the one path Kensington came up with a name for). A block later, cross Ardmore Rd, and continue up the path, which splits into two sections divided by a hedge and then rejoins, climbs some stairs, and ends at Arlington. Coventry is there too, knowing you wouldn't want to miss out on an extra sighting. Turn right onto Arlington and you will be returned to your

starting point. Though a rather confusing walk to describe and follow, you can now say that you have walked every path in Kensington, and not only that but in one day. And you even got to walk on Coventry!







Ave. at the bottom of the path and walk two blocks to where Arlington enters Kensington and Contra Costa County. Here, make a right up Amherst Ave, then another right onto Princeton Ave. (Kensington prefers colleges to states.) After one block, continue straight up the unmarked



wooden steps of Kensington Path Number Nine, one of the more creatively named paths.

*Left: Public Path Number Nine winds down a steep slope on small wooden steps*

This path ascends two blocks: first on small wood steps, then on concrete. At the path's top, continue straight up Beloit Ave. to where it ends at Grizzly Peak Blvd. Turn right and continue two blocks, passing the busy intersection by the Summit Reservoir. Make a slight right onto Cragmont Ave.

(one block after the reservoir) and continue along this small, winding, quiet road for about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile until you reach the famously steep Marin Ave. Cross Marin and stay on Cragmont for one more block, then turn right down Easter Way, a steep, concrete-stepped, path. (Continuing another block to Santa Barbara, then turning right is an alternative to this steep descent.) You will quickly return to you starting point on Spruce. This walk has many nice variants and extensions, which can be formed by taking Hilldale, San Luis, or pretty much any other street on the map at the beginning of the walk.

## Ascent to the Ridge: Arroyo and Big Springs

Length: 4.5 miles with a 2.7 mile option

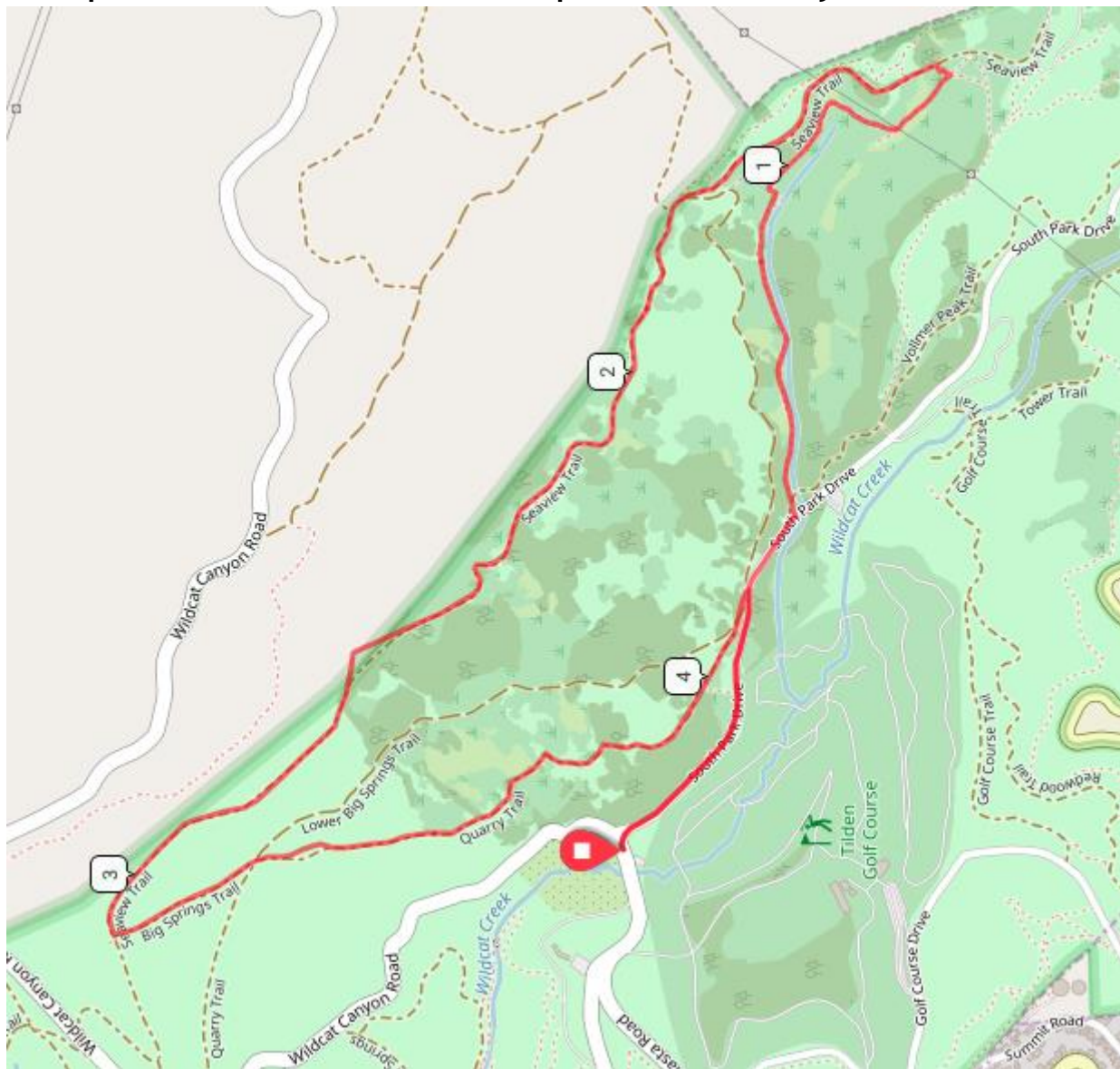
Time: 2 hours for full loop, 1 ¼ for the 2.7 mile route

Difficulty: 3+

Elevation Gain: 900 feet on the full loop, 700 on the shortened one

Starting Point: Wildcat Canyon Rd. and South Park Dr.

Transportation: AC Transit Bus 67 stops on Wildcat Canyon near the start





## Overview:

This walk begins on South Park Dr, a road closed to cars in winter to allow newts to safely cross. From here, you'll ascend the shaded Arroyo trail out of a deep canyon to the ridge



overlooking Tilden on one side and Orinda on the other. The route descends the Seaview trail with panoramic views, then returns you to South Park via the gentle scenic Quarry or Lower Big Springs trails, or, for a shorter walk, the steeper, rocky Upper Big Springs. This loop is especially great in winter when you can spot newts and there is no traffic.

*Left: the wide and rocky Upper Big Springs Trail*

## Directions and pictures:

Begin the walk at the bottom of South Park Dr. If the road is open to cars (April-October) and you prefer a trail-only walk and come by car, you can drive up South Park a third of a mile and park at the bottom of the Big Springs Trail instead. On foot, walk up South Park until you reach the rock tower marking the Arroyo Trail (0.4 miles up, just after Big Springs). Make a left to begin the big ascent, a steep

0.8 miles to where the trail forks. Turning left, the scenery opens up and Arroyo ends at the Seaview Trail. Turn left here and follow the trail gently down to where it hits Upper Big Springs. If you want the shorter loop, turn left here to return to South Park.

For the full loop, continue on Seaview, which climbs gradually for about a half mile to a bench and lookout marked by a rock labyrinth. As you climb, you'll see view to your right of Orinda and the Briones and San Pablo Reservoirs, and at the top get a sweeping view of Berkeley and Tilden to the left. Continue on Seaview for about another mile, with steep descents and gentler climbs, then turn sharply left down Lower Big Springs. After a quarter mile, you'll reach a fork with the Quarry Trail. You can either continue straight onto Quarry or bear left to remain on Big Springs. The latter is slightly hillier and father from the road. The trails rejoin  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile later. A few feet after that, turn sharply right onto South Park Dr, to descend the final third of a mile back to the start.



## Paths of El Cerrito

**Length:** 5.7 miles

**Time:** 2-3 hours

**Difficulty:** 3+ (because of uneven terrain)

**Elevation Gain:** 1,107 feet

**Starting Point:** The Kensington Library, at Arlington and Rincon.

**Transportation:** AC Transit lines 7 and H run along Arlington, stopping at the start. Parking is available by the library or on the road.

### **Overview:**

This walk takes our favorite of the paths in El Cerrito and explores a range of trails and parks including the extensive and scenic Hillside Nature Area. It begins at the easily accessible Kensington Library and quickly climbs to the brink of Wildcat Canyon. You'll descend from the ridge on paths and trails, then return via a winding route of paths and quiet streets.

### **Directions and pictures:**

Our one El Cerrito walk begins in Kensington, at the library, opposite where Rincon Rd. intersects Arlington. From here, walk up the steep, one-lane road past the library, through a traffic barrier made of white posts, and into Kensington Hilltop School. Stay right to continue around the southern end of the school, where the road ends by the playground. Turn left around the southern side of the playground, then left again onto Ye Olde School Trail, a pretty trail that runs atop the ridge along the edge of Wildcat Canyon. This walk takes only the northern end of



the trail, but the southern section of the trail is certainly worth walking some other time (see “Havey Canyon and Surrounding Trails”).

One can infer that the person who named the Ye Olde School Trail must not have gone to Schoole for very long, but the views more than make up for the dubious olde-fashioned spelling. The trail climbs, overlooking the canyon and the rolling hills west of San Pablo Ridge. It’s hard to believe that you’re still in urban Kensington here. When the trail ends after about a quarter mile, continue up the driveway and onto Kensington Court, which descends and turns into Kensington Rd. Every so often, a break in the houses reveals Wildcat Canyon Park far below. When Kensington Rd. ends, turn left onto Terrace Rd, then make an immediate right on Leneve Pl. At the end of this tiny road, stay left onto Ivy Pl. When this in turn ends, continue onto a singletrack trail between two houses. The trail descends to a larger one; make a slight right to meander along a ridge, then continue up the gentle southern slope of William Rust Summit. At the top is a shaded area, east of which you can gaze into Wildcat Canyon. Follow the trail steeply down switchbacks, then stay left on James Pl. at the bottom. Make a slight right onto a trail that follows the upper edge of Arlington park and should bring you to Villa Nueva St.

Turn right here, then right again on Arlington and soon after left down a path running from just south of the intersection with Brewster.

*Left: The top block of your first official El Cerrito path*

This path descends three scenic blocks down concrete steps through trees, past a house with a stream in the backyard. Continue straight at the bottom of the last block, then turn sharply right onto Shevlin Dr. Where the street ends after three short blocks, turn left, then right, to continue north, now on King Dr. Stay left at the next intersection to continue onto Contra Costa Dr. Two blocks later, make a left on Kent Dr, then a right on Regency Ct. You will quickly reach the top of a trail leading down into the El Cerrito Hillside Nature Area. Turn left here to descend into this lovely, large, and forested park.

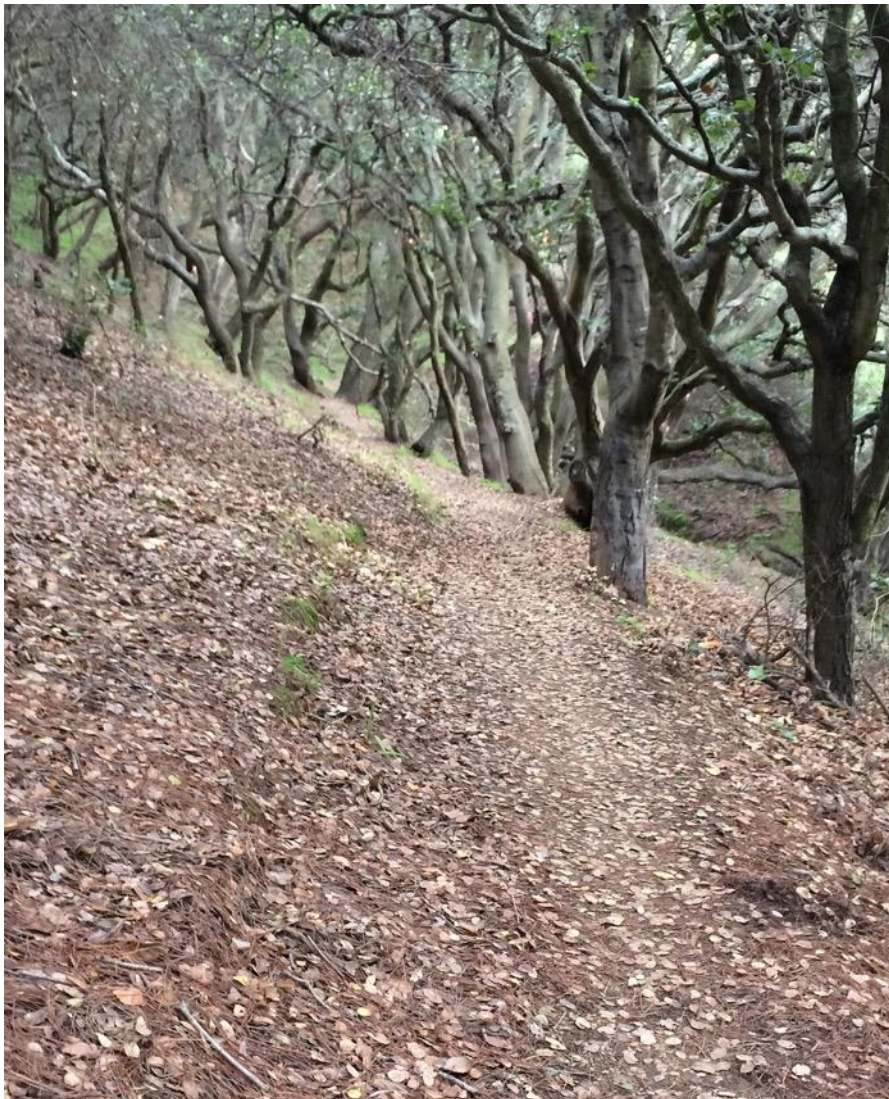


At the first trail intersection, turn sharply left, then wander south, crossing a small stream and coming out of the trees to enjoy stunning views of El Cerrito and the Bay stretched out below you. Turn right where your trail ends at another, larger trail made of packed dirt. Turn right to descend this to where it exits the Nature Area onto Schmidt Ln, just below the El Cerrito Recycling Center. Turn right, then left on Navellier St. After one block, turn left up a dirt trail opposite Portola Dr. This trail is blocked to cars by a chain and ascends back into the hills. Stay right as you climb and, after just under a third of a mile, the trail should end at the intersection of Moeser Ln. and Seaview Dr. Cross Moeser and head south on Seaview for two blocks (jogging slightly right at Stockton), then turn left on Terrace and immediately



left again to enter Huber Park. Climb the path with the small park to your left and two steep blocks will bring you back to Terrace, which curves inefficiently around the park. Turn left, then make your first left onto Shevlin. At the intersection with Stockton, turn right up a narrow dirt path running between two houses. Make a right at the top, then turn left when you reach the intersection with Terrace Dr. Make your first right off of Terrace, up the small, dead-ending Gelston Pl. Turn slightly right before the end of the road onto Bay Tree Lane, then immediately right again down a concrete driveway and concrete-staired path, the last of the walk. At the bottom, turn left, then left again at the first opportunity up Edwin Dr, which ascends steeply, then curves right and

*Left: One trail through the Hillside Nature Area*



becomes Kerr Ave. You'll reach the top of the hill, then descend gradually, staying right to turn onto the quiet Rincon. One more block returns you to your starting point at Arlington, now hopefully a little better acquainted with El Cerrito's paths and trails.



*The view of El Cerrito, as seen from the Hillside Nature Area*



## SECTION 5:

### Every Path in Berkeley in Six Walks

The next section details the routes of six walks which we led for the Berkeley Path Wanderers in 2014. After completing the Great Path Walk (see section seven), the Path Wanderers suggested we lead a series of walks for people who wanted to walk every path but didn't want to be limping for days afterwards. We enthusiastically agreed and created these six five-to-eight-mile loops—collectively termed *The Whole Berkeley Walk Series*—which cover the paths by region. We led one walk a month for six months, and finishers of the entire series were awarded an “I walked every path in Berkeley with Zeke and Jacob” button.

These walks are a great way to see neighborhoods of Berkeley, to explore the paths and hills, and to get exercise. Any one of them is a nice, stand-alone walk, and together, they will take you on over one hundred paths.

Are you up to the challenge of walking every path in Berkeley?



Note: The Berkeley Path Wanderers build new paths at the rate of about one per year. Paths built more recently than 2015 are not included on these walks, though many of them will be on or near the route.

*Left: Covert Path runs from Keith to Keeler up wooden steps, through trees, and over a small stream*



## Every Path in Berkeley, Part 1

**Length:** 5.3 miles    **Time:** Allow 2 ½ hours though it can be done in two

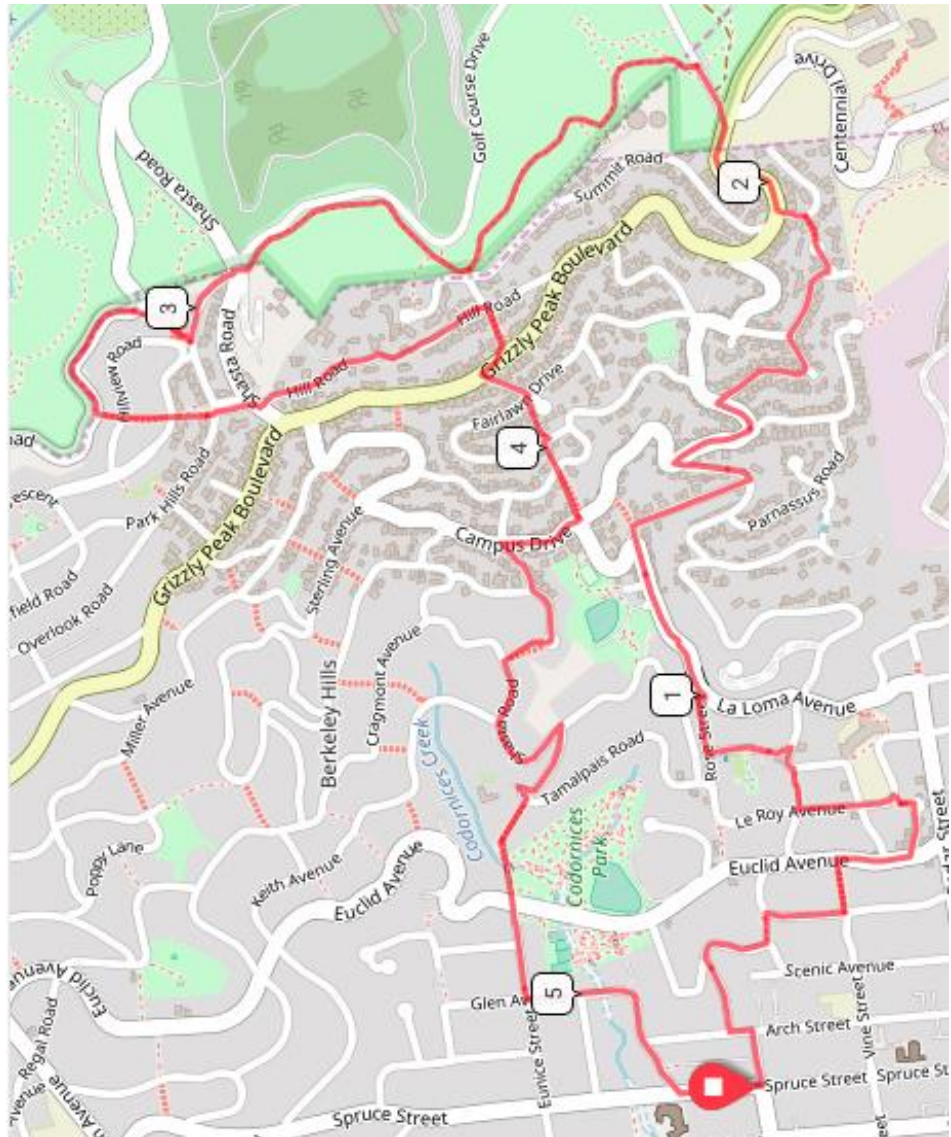
**Difficulty:** 4            **Elevation Gain:** 1,200 feet

**Starting Point:** Spruce St. and Rose St.

**Transportation:** AC Transit bus 67. There is parking available on Spruce.

### **Overview:**

A delightful walk on some of the arduous paths of the North Berkeley Hills, this loop is a great way to see some paths, get some exercise, and pass an enjoyable few hours. It is also the first of six walks for the committer hiker who looks to walk every path in Berkeley (for the very committed hiker who wishes to do it in one day, see section seven). The route begins at an easy-to-access intersection and ascends quickly up stair paths and steep streets with sweeping Bay views to peak out just above the Lawrence Hall of Science. From there, you'll gradually descend on the shaded, soft ground of the Selby Trail, then climb the hill of Hill Rd. before making the final steep and path-filled descent to return to your starting point.



## Directions and pictures:

Begin at the 67 bus stop at the corner of Spruce and Rose, and walk east on Rose. Jog left at Arch, where turning around will give you a magnificent view of the Bay, then continue up Rose. Turn right at Scenic which, despite the name, is far less scenic than the paths that surround it (unless you enjoy views of exceptionally large houses). Turn left to ascend the concrete Hawthorne Steps, the first path of the day, then make a right on Hawthorne Terrace, then a left up the lovely Vine Lane, a shaded flight of stairs bringing you to Euclid Avenue. Note the ornate metal sign at the top of the path, then turn right and make your second left to ascend Hill Court, a one lane street that dead-ends at an excellent view of Berkeley. Continue slightly left up a flight of stairs that at first seem to lead to someone's house, then turn left onto what is



in reality Hill Court Steps, and continue up to arrive at LeRoy Avenue, onto which you should turn left. Turn right up La Loma Steps, which runs from opposite the intersection with Hawthorne Terrace, then make a left at the top of this brick path up Buena Vista, then another almost immediate left onto Greenwood Terrace, which offers more good Bay views.

*Left: The historic brick stairs of La Loma Steps*

At the end of this one-block street, turn right up Rose. Rose Steps leaves Rose to the right where the street ends at a series of concrete poles holding up the street above. Ascend the steps to La Loma Avenue and continue uphill (left). Just off to the left after one block is an optional detour to Glendale-La Loma Park which has water, bathrooms, and (from the upper playground area of the park) another great view of the Bay. Turn right onto Glendale at the top of La Loma (whose name aptly means "The Hill"). Turn sharply left on Del Mar where Glendale ends then, at the top of this hill, make a sharp right onto Campus. If you are desperately worrying about whether you will have a chance to enjoy another steep climb, have no fear for as soon as you reach Avenida, turn left and (no surprise here) uphill, climbing up to a right turn on Fairlawn where you'll, shockingly, continue to climb.

You'll get a quick break as Fairlawn descends, but where it ends, turn left to gradually continue upward on Olympus Avenue. When you reach the intersection with Wilson Circle, turn left, then continue up the many wooden stairs of Wilson Walk to Summit Rd. Turn slightly left and you will soon reach Grizzly Peak Blvd. Turn right here to leave Berkeley and arrive nearly at the high point of the walk (from which you can ride the bus down to walk up again). The houses all but disappear at the city limit and you'll be treated instead to a view down a grassy hillside toward the Lawrence Hall of Science below (use caution while walking on the busy Grizzly Peak Blvd, especially on a weekend). Make your first left onto Golf Course Dr. and then immediately turn left again onto the singletrack Selby Trail. The top of the first hill on the Selby Trail is your



official high point for the day at 1,212 feet. The Selby Trail is one of our favorite sections in the entire *Whole Berkeley Walk* series; meandering through a sun drenched woodland, the trail does a great job of convincing the walker that they are somewhere other than one city block away from a city of 150,000. Follow the Selby Trail to where it hits Shasta Rd, after  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile. Cross Shasta and turn slightly left to follow Park Hills Rd. steeply downhill. Keep right at the intersection with Hillview Rd. and then turn immediately right to descend Wildcat Path. You'll switchback down the wooded hillside and then turn left onto Wildcat Canyon Rd, which is narrow and winding and can potentially carry quite a bit of both automobile and bicycle traffic (especially on weekends). Luckily, you'll make a left on Fred Herbert Path at the small redwood grove after only a fifth of a mile, climbing up the three blocks of wood stairs that comprise this scenic path. Upon reaching the top, continue straight onto Park Gate. Cross Shasta and jog right, then continue up Hill Rd, which ascends with great Bay views, then dead-ends. Continue very slightly right onto the flat, narrow, dirt Scott Newhall Path, then up the driveway at the other



end, passing a sign reading 'No Trespassing' (the sign refers to the driveway below; you are walking on a public and completely legal easement owned by the City of Berkeley). Keep going straight on the continuation of Hill Rd, then turn right onto Atlas Path opposite the intersection with Atlas Pl. to begin your final descent. Midway down you'll reach an expansive view of San Francisco Bay, which you may already have come to think of as a theme for this walk.

*Left: The Selby Trail, now a distant memory, as it runs along the western edge of Tilden*

Turn right on Grizzly Peak and then take your first left to descend Arcade Avenue, continuing straight across Fairlawn onto Glendale Path. Glendale Path offers three blocks of steep descending through the woods, passing by the source of Codornices Creek. This creek is one of the many

that once surged across the floodplain of Berkeley and Oakland, though one of the few that remain still above ground for a large portion of its descent to the Bay.

Turn right onto Campus at the bottom of the path, then left onto Quail. Continue slightly left onto Northgate, arriving when the street dead-ends at the top of Northgate Path, a set of 212



stairs (the most of any Berkeley path) that descend steeply to Shasta. Continue down this path, then turn left at the bottom, and keep right onto Tamalpais Avenue after two blocks. Turn right to descend Tamalpais Path, another long flight of stairs, this time concrete, through the trees.



*Sunset over the Bay, as seen from Atlas Path*

If you're doing this walk in winter, toward the bottom a right turn through a gate marked private property (the owners kindly allow public entrance, though) brings you to an overlook of an impressive waterfall. The main route continue down the path and across Codornices Creek on a footbridge. Climb a short hill to Eunice and Euclid, then descend Eunice two blocks to Glen and turn left. Toward the bottom of Glen on the south side of the street is a bench with a very, very still person seated on it. The person is so still that some might even go so far as to call it two dimensional and, besides this, an inanimate object. On a fence above this forever-seated person is a camera made out of slightly smaller cameras. No signs warn trespassers about surveillance so one might infer that this camera is less than functional. A left turn on Spruce at the bottom of Glen brings you back to your starting point in a block, one sixth of the way closer to having walked every path in Berkeley.

## Every Path in Berkeley, Part 2

Length: 6 miles

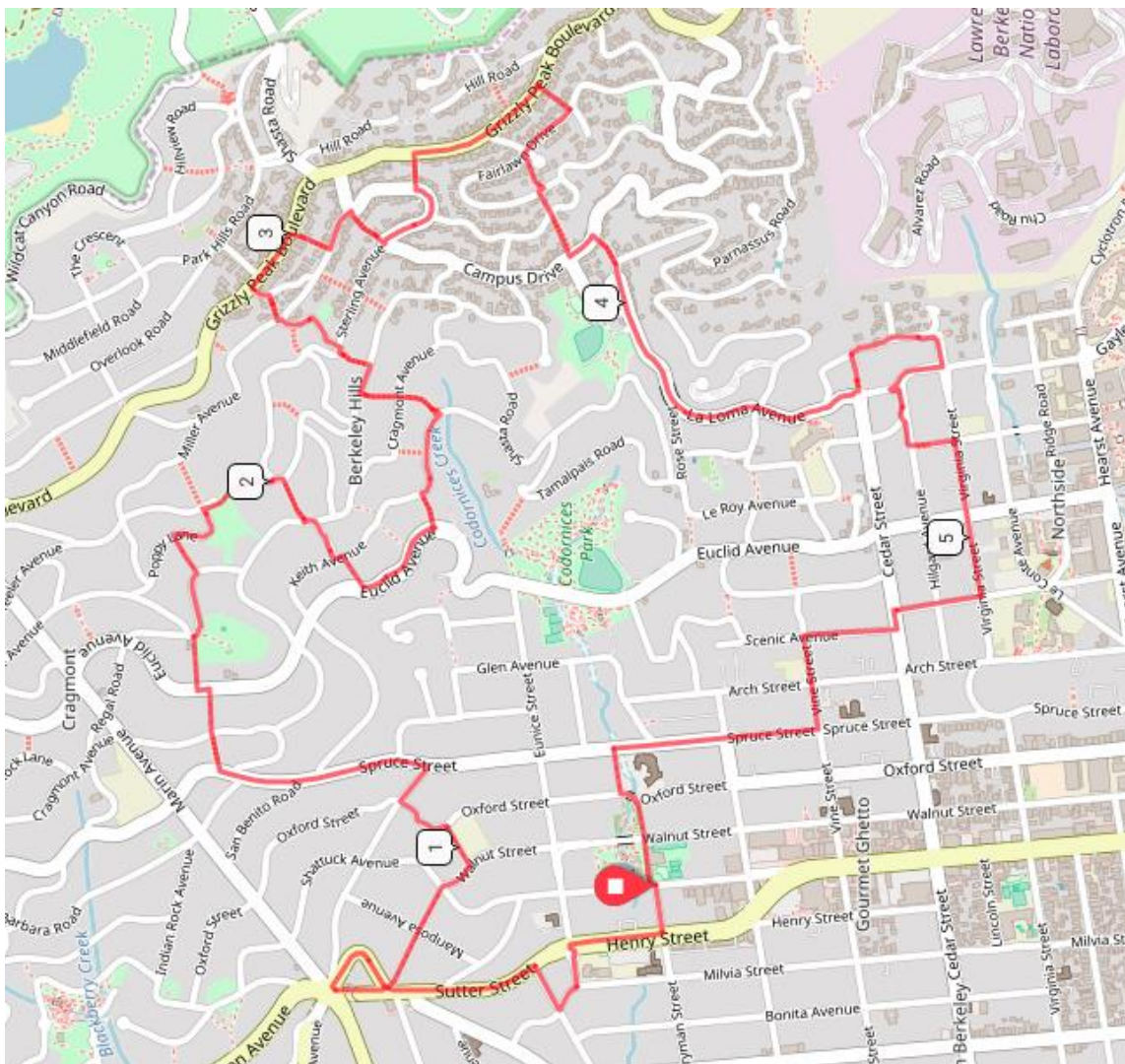
Time: 2 ½ hours at a brisk pace

Difficulty: 4

Elevation Gain: 1,275 feet

Starting Point: Shattuck Ave. and Berryman St.

Transportation: AC transit buses 7 and 18 stop on Henry at Berryman; the 65 stops on Spruce at Berryman Path. Both are on the route, so make easy alternate starts. Parking is available on Shattuck, Berryman, or Walnut.





## Overview:

Second in the series to walk every path in Berkeley, this loop begins at Live Oak Park and heads first north to the Marin Circle, then steeply up, down, and up again to summit at Grizzly Peak. You'll then descend gradually over the course of two miles and end back at Live Oak Park. The walk takes 22 lovely paths, many of them multi-block.



*Left: Sterling Path goes through a shaded tree tunnel up wood and concrete steps*

## Directions and pictures:

Start by the large sign for Live Oak Park at the intersection of Shattuck Ave. and Berryman St. Head west on Berryman and make your first right onto the busy Henry St. After one block, make a left to cross and walk down to a few concrete stairs of the somewhat unexciting path Eunice Steps. (Perhaps we should have said in the overview that the walk includes only 21 lovely paths.) Continue onto Eunice St, which soon ends at Milvia St. Make a right here, then another right onto Yolo Ave, then a left onto Sutter St. One block brings you to the traffic light at Hopkins. Cross Sutter here and continue north on it one more short block across Del Norte St. You'll see the entrance to a tunnel in front of you. Stay on the sidewalk of Sutter, bearing slightly right, and you'll find yourself going up the even concrete steps and ramp of Fountain Walk, which leads to the Marin Circle intersection and fountain (hence the path's name), built above the tunnel you just saw. Make a right

and cross Del Norte St, then turn right down Del Norte's upper sidewalk, which brings you back to Sutter. If you don't look right, you might be able to fool yourself into thinking this intersection is not the one you were at two blocks ago. The sidewalk curves into Sutter's; make a left here up the steps and steep paved slope of Terrace Walk. Continue up a second steeply sloping block of this path under trees to where it ends at the intersection of Shattuck Ave. and Walnut St. Continue straight onto Walnut, then make your first left (just before Oxford School) up the stairs and slope of The Oxford School Path. At the top, turn left up Oxford St, then right up Los Angeles Ave, then left up Spruce St. Cross Spruce and continue up it three blocks to Santa Barbara Rd.

Just past Santa Barbara, turn right up Easter Way. This three block path has several flights of concrete stairs, but is mostly just a steep ramp.



*Left: Sunset over Easter Way*

After two blocks of the path, jog left, then continue up the third, past the lush green field of Cragmont Rock Park to Regal Rd. Make a slight right onto Regal, which is one of the rare streets in the North Berkeley Hills to go downhill while going east. After one block, Regal curves right; here, turn left up the steps of Pinnacle Path, past an intricate dragon mosaic, and up a paved hill under trees, then up some more

steps to Poppy Ln. Make a right, then another slight right when you get to Keeler onto Keeler Path, a nice dirt trail above Remillard Park. Continue along the mostly flat path, down a few stairs, up a few more, and you will find yourself at the intersection of Sterling and Keeler. This is the top of the first climb, and now you will descend back to Euclid, so you can enjoy another climb, this time to reach Grizzly Peak.

Make a slight right on the street, then another slight right down Sterling Path. At the bottom of the alternating concrete and dirt flights of stairs, turn left on Cragmont Ave, then immediately right down Bret Harte Rd. After one block, jog left on Keith and continue down Bret Harte Way (not to be confused with Bret Harte Path, Bret Harte Lane (a former path), or Bret Harte Rd). This path descends more gently than those parallel to it, past a bench and down concrete steps to Euclid, where you should turn left. After passing El Mirador Path, you will reach Redwood Terrace. Turn left up this to begin the second climb. Redwood Terrace is one of Berkeley's steepest paths, mostly because the nearby redwood have turned the concrete steps to crazy angles with their roots. As a result, some of the steps up are very large, while others barely go up at all. Turn right on Keith Ave at the top, and you'll get an eighth of a mile to recover before reaching Covert Path, which you should turn left up. The first block of Covert Path is incredibly scenic, climbing small wooden steps with redwood "handholds" at switchbacks, then descending to a small creek crossing (flowing after rain), and finally climbing up some more wood and then some concrete steps through a grove of bamboo to reach Cragmont Ave. Cross and continue up a second block of the path, on many more wooden steps through a meadow with a great view down from the top. Turn right, then make your first left up more wooden steps on Whitaker Path, with an incredible Bay view from about fifteen steps up. Continue to ascend until the path ends, then jog right a few feet and proceed up Whitaker Ave, past Grizzly Peak Park, a good water-refilling stop. At the end of Whitaker, continue straight up the not-too-steep wooden steps of Anne Brower Path, which, after a quick left on Stevenson



Ave, brings you to the top of the hill at Grizzly Peak Blvd, onto which you should turn right. Unlike walks one and three, this one does not extend east of Grizzly Peak, so the descent begins here.

Make your first right off the road down Stoddard Path, a narrow dirt trail which turns into a flight of the wood steps that you've climbed so many of and that are essential to the paths of this area. Turn left on Miller, then right down the many steps of Shasta Path, running from the intersection with Shasta Rd. The path both starts and ends on Shasta, but cuts off walking in a large loop on the busy and inefficient street. When we led this walk for the Berkeley Path Wanderers, the route continued down from here, but since then a new path has been built, we have therefore added this to the route. Turn left up Shasta, then, just after Queens Rd, make a right up Tilden Path, built by the Berkeley Path Wanderers in 2015. At the top of the hillside climbed on many wooden steps, turn right, then right again after two blocks down Columbia Walk, which descends more steps past—almost through—a nearby yard, on redwood-needle covered ground. At the bottom, turn right, then make your first left down Glendale Path, which runs three blocks down on wood and concrete stairs between houses and past an offshoot of Strawberry Creek, finally ending just above Glendale-La Loma Park. Make a left up Campus Dr. and shortly after a right down La Loma Path. At the bottom of the well-maintained wood stairs, continue straight to head down La Loma Ave. After a quarter of a mile, the street curves left at Rose Steps. Do not take this path; if you're doing the entire series of walks, you should have taken it on walk one. Another quarter mile down La Loma brings you to the intersection with Cedar St. Make a left up the many wooden steps of Cedar Path, through grass and next to ivy and a fence to where Cedar St. restarts. We included this path because we feel you haven't gotten to climb enough wooden steps on this walk. Continuing up Cedar St. from the top of the path, you'll soon hit La Vereda Rd. Turn right here and continue two blocks, then stay left at Virginia on La Vereda. Just after this, turn right down the unsigned concrete La Vereda Steps, which are rather useless but a path nonetheless. Cross the street and continue down some more steps, then down a street a bit, and finally right on La Loma Ave. Continue past Hilgard Ave. and up the hill, then cross to the lower side of the street and make a U-turn by the telephone pole to descend the raised sidewalk to Hilgard, opposite LeRoy steps. Cross the street and descend the steps, with a great view of the University (especially good if you come here on the hour and can see and hear the campanile ringing). After a short time on the road at the bottom of the path, turn right down Virginia St.

From here, it's a quick 1.1 miles back to the starting point. After two blocks on Virginia, make a right on Scenic Ave. Another two blocks brings you to Cedar St. Jog left and continue north on Scenic, noticing the tire elephant in the yard on the right. Make your next left down Vine St, then your second right onto Spruce St. After two blocks (just past Glen Ave. but on the opposite side of the street), turn left down Berryman Path. Descend the concrete stairs and slope, then jog left and continue down a second block along a metal walkway and down the concrete path. Cross the street and continue down a third block, through Live Oak Park past a bridge and a field and next to a creek. The bottom of this block leaves you back at your starting point. This walk is one of the more difficult in the series, taking both some of the steepest and some of the nicest paths. We hope you have enjoyed it!

## Every Path in Berkeley, Part 3

Length: 7 miles

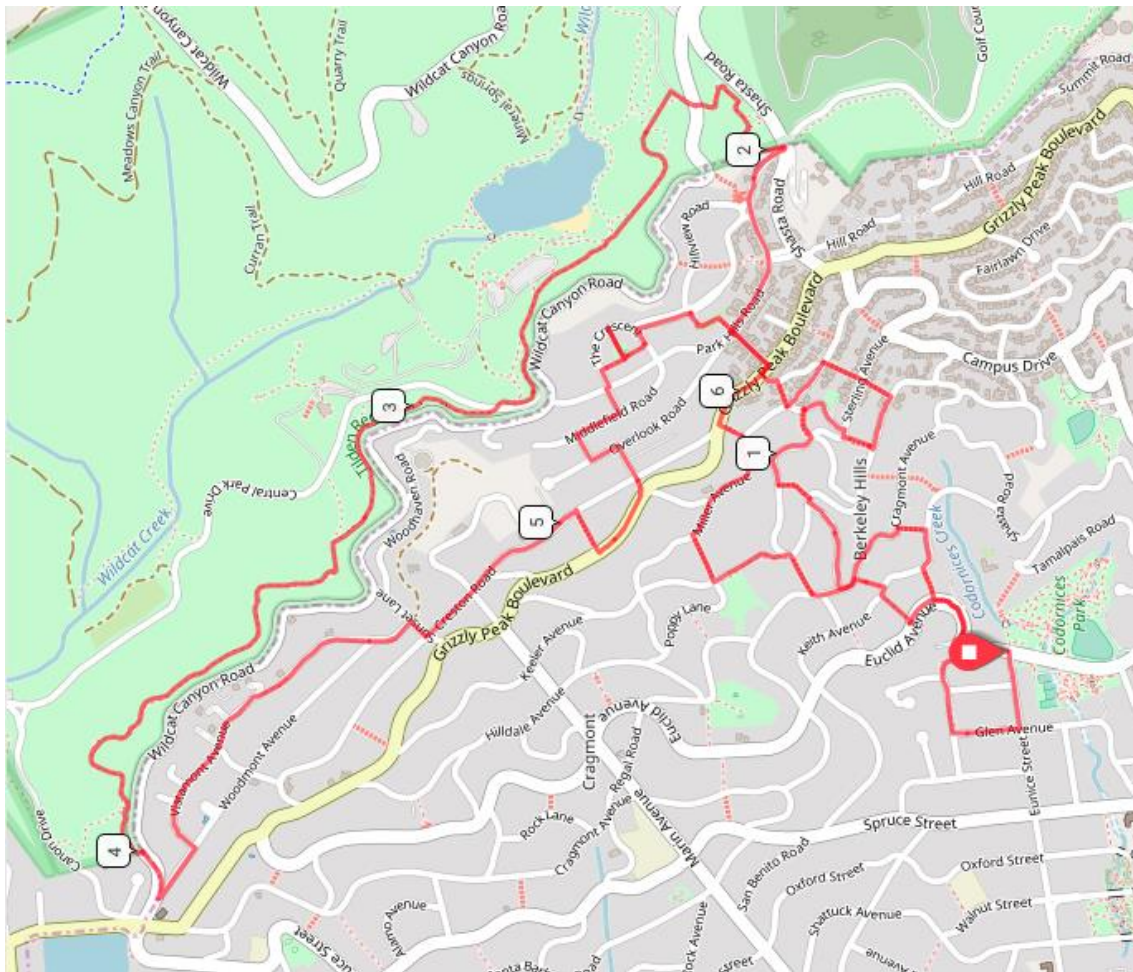
Time: 3 hours

Difficulty: 4

Elevation Gain: 1,200 feet

Starting Point: Euclid Ave. and Eunice St.

Transportation: AC Transit bus 65. Parking available south on Euclid or down Eunice



### **Overview:**

This trek is perhaps the most difficult of the entire *Whole Berkeley Walk* series. It heads west to complete Oak Street Path and then quickly proceeds to climb up a series of steep paths to Grizzly Peak. After gaining the ridgeline, the walk descends to the woods to traverse the Selby Trail, climbs back up Vistamont Trail, passes through the quiet and scenic Crescent Park, and finally ends with an easy downhill back to Codornices Park.



## Directions and pictures:

Starting at the intersection of Euclid and Eunice, the walk begins with a descent on Eunice, the last downhill that you'll be doing for a while! Turn right onto Arch after three short blocks to begin an extended climb to the crest of the Berkeley Hills. A right turn again onto Oak Street takes you into the lovely shaded glen bisected by Oak Street Path, which runs straight from the intersection of Oak and Glen. After the first block of the path, continue straight on to Oak St, which restarts, then make a slight right to descend the concrete stairs of the second block of the path to Euclid, where you should turn left. After passing an expansive mural depicting the Mayan Creation, cross Euclid and continue uphill, making your first right onto a steep set of concrete stairs, Redwood Terrace. Ascend, nearly vertically at times, to Keith, where you'll turn right. A left turn on lackluster concrete stairs of Martinez Path brings you a block up to Cragmont. Make a left here and then a right onto Bret Harte Rd. Jog right on Keeler and then turn left immediately to climb Bret Harte Path, whose even, concrete stairs give way to more scenic wood ones part way up. Turn right on Sterling at the top of the path, enjoying the views of the Bay beginning to appear below you. Turn left on Betty Olds Path opposite the intersection with Twain Way and then right onto Whitaker Rd. at the top. You're going downhill for now, but don't fool yourself into thinking that it will last! You'll pass Grizzly Peak Park, a potential water stop, on your left, then continue straight at the bottom of the street onto Whitaker Path.

*Right: Whitaker Path descends from shady glens to open vistas on the quintessential wooden stairs of the hills*

As you emerge from the trees toward the bottom of the path, you'll get a magnificent Bay view. Turn left on Keeler at the bottom and then left again shortly after up Stevenson Path, a lovely two-block shortcut up to Miller. The second block cuts practically through someone's backyard, with two gates marking the passage of the public easement. Turn left on Miller once you reach the top and then make a right onto Ann Brower Path, which runs from opposite the intersection with Whitaker up to Stevenson Avenue. Turn left here to reach Grizzly Peak, though not yet the walk's high point. Make a right, then an immediate left onto Muir Way. Turn right onto Park Hills Rd, which provides splendid views down into Wildcat Canyon, a preview of where you'll be walking soon. Park Hills goes down one of the hills for which it is named, then curves right and climbs back up to Shasta Rd. Make a sharp left at this intersection onto the narrow Selby Trail, and you'll (finally!) begin descending. The trail switchbacks downward through the trees, then hits Wildcat Canyon Rd. Cross and continue straight on unsigned Anza View Rd, turn left on any of the narrow trails or sets of stairs below—they all join with the main Selby Trail and descend to Lake Anza. Stay left where the offshoots join the main Selby Trail,



then left again to stay on the Selby Trail where it intersects the Lake Anza Trail. Continue another 1.4 miles on the scenic Selby Trail, crossing Central Park Drive a third of a mile in, then stay left at the intersection with the Memory Trail to follow the Selby Trail for a last short stretch to where it ends.

Turn right here onto Wildcat Canyon Rd. and left soon after to ascend the steep Woodmont Ave, an unusually straight street for the Berkeley Hills. Turn left on Rosemont and then right on Vistamont Avenue, passing the famous My Way (which is the only alternative to the highway). Where the street dead-ends, continue onto the gravel Vistamont Trail, a flat, narrow path, which connects the two sides of Vistamont Ave. with stepping stones under the shade of huge trees. Continue straight at the end of the path on Vistamont again, and stay slightly left on Woodmont where the street ends. Turn right onto Sunset Ln. soon after, then left onto Creston after one exceedingly short block. Creston climbs gradually; at the top of the series of short hills, turn right down Miller Path East, a narrow cut-through to Grizzly Peak, the site of your next left turn. Make another left opposite the intersection with Latham Ln. up Latham Walk, then continue straight at the top of this short path, down the continuation of Latham Ln, a quiet road (not to be confused with the various paths ending "Lane"). Turn left on Overlook, which sadly overlooks nothing here. Turn right on either the Crossways, which used to bear a sign for "the Crossways," then make a right on Middlefield Rd, then a left down The Short Cut, also a street, though it sounds like a path. Continue straight at the bottom up The Crescent. Crescent Park Path, where you turn right, is a bit hard to find, so be on the lookout for a right turn after the intersection with Park Hills that looks like a path to someone's backyard. Part way up, open the gate to find yourself in Crescent Park. If you actually want to walk every path in Berkeley than you must head out and back the extension to your left, an eastern entrance to Crescent Park, before walking south, opposite where you came in, to continue along the main



route. Turn left onto The Crescent again once you have exited the park, then make a right very shortly after onto Woodside Rd. After one block, turn right up Patty Kates Path.

*Left: It isn't Muir Path anymore!*

This path was formerly named Muir Path, then one day, very suddenly, the

name was changed by the Park Hills Neighborhood Association to honor Patty Kates, their longtime head. John Muir's loss was made up for by the fact that the Berkeley Path Wanderers renamed their newest path of the time, previously called Keeler Walk, John Muir Path. Continue left through a meadow and right up some more steps to Muir Way, which could any day become Patty Kates Way. Turn right on Grizzly Peak at the end of this short street, then left down Ina Coolbrith Path, opposite the intersection with Creston. Ina Coolbrith Path, named for California poet laureate Ina Donna Coolbrith, had a handrail built on it in 2018 by the Berkeley Path Wanderers' Association, completing the "handrail corridor," a route up through the hills from Euclid to Grizzly Peak entirely on paths with handrails. Turn right onto Miller Avenue at the bottom of the short path, then left a bit after the intersection with Latham Ln. to descend lovely Poppy Path, running through a small redwood grove. A left turn at the bottom through Remillard Park takes you across Keeler Path past some excellent blackberry bushes. Turn right at the end of the path onto Keeler Ave, then immediately right again down Sterling Path, which opens onto a lovely view of the Bay. Turn left at the bottom, then right soon after the intersection with Bret Harte Rd. onto El Mirador Path, which descends past more redwoods to Keith, then jogs left and continues down another block, this one with concrete stairs, to Euclid. This path is first in the handrail corridor, when taken upwards, so you have now gotten to see both the beginning and the end of this BPWA accomplishment. Turn left on Euclid, which brings you back to the beginning of the walk in one lengthy block. If you're trying to walk every path in Berkeley, then you are now half way done, and the harder half at that!



## Every Path in Berkeley, Part 4

**Length:** 6.7 miles

**Time:** 2 ½-3 hours

**Difficulty:** 3+

**Elevation Gain:** 1,050 feet

**Starting Point:** Solano Ave. and The Alameda

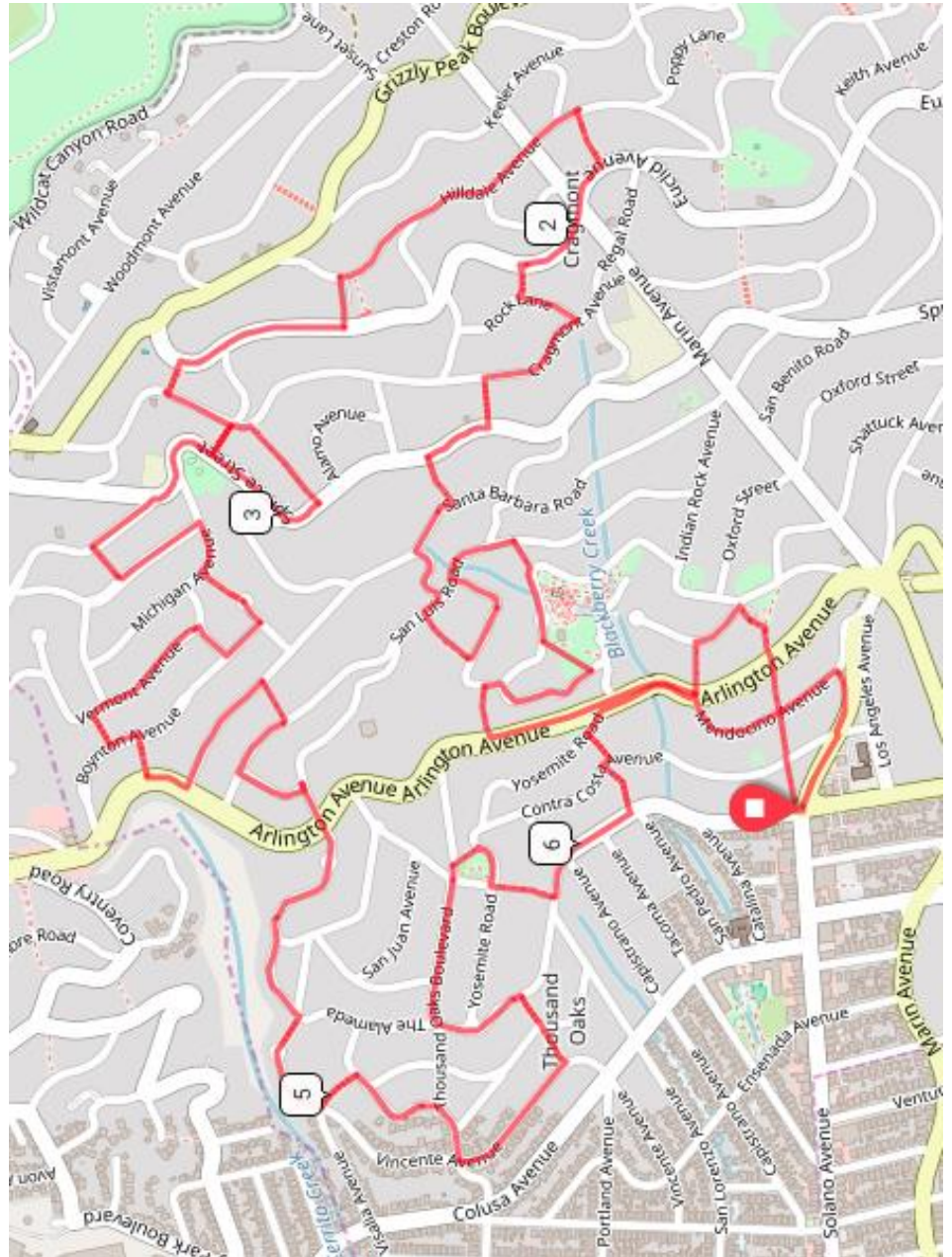
**Transportation:** AC transit buses 7, 18, and 25 all stop on Alameda or Solano near the intersection. Parking is available north on The Alameda or on side streets.

### **Overview:**

This walk is neither the longest nor the hardest in the series but it is certainly one of the nicest. In under seven miles, you'll take a huge number of Berkeley's northern paths, pass through many parks, and climb nearly to Grizzly Peak. The walk begins with a long climb up paths, split into sections by brief descents, ending on Hilldale, the highest point of the walk. A gradual descent through the state streets and into the Thousand Oaks Neighborhood will bring you past small parks and cover several historic granite paths, then will return, inefficiently as usual, to the start.

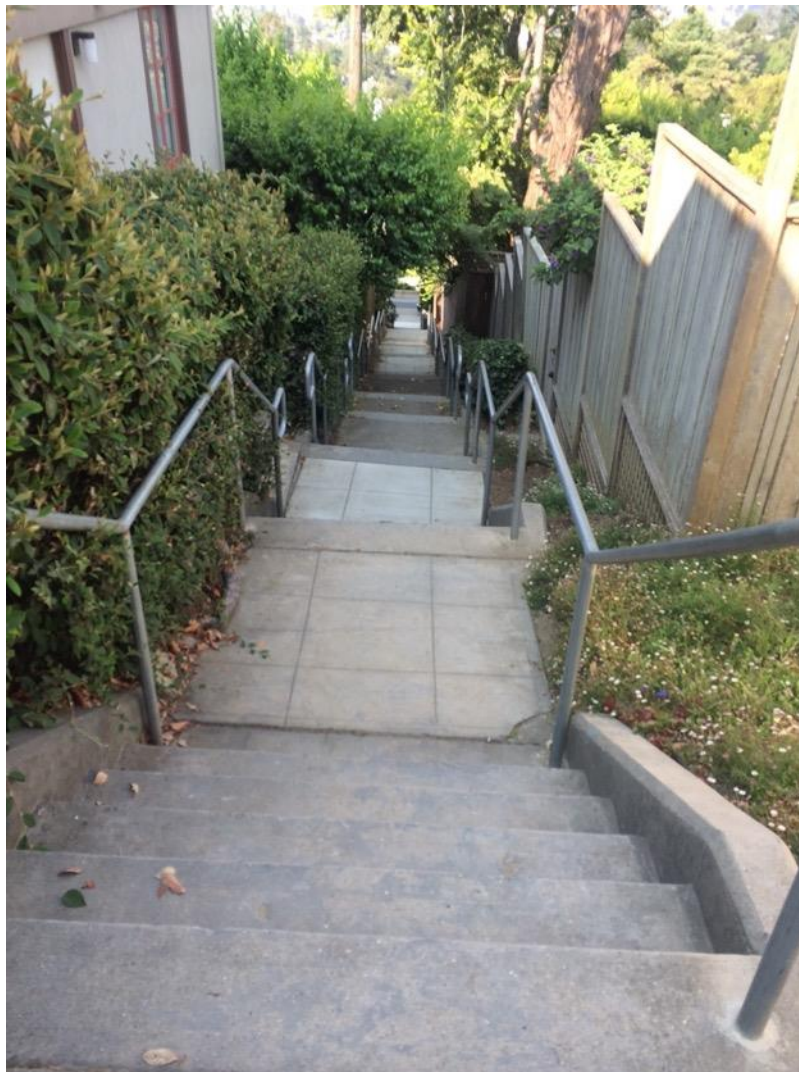
### **Directions and pictures:**

Start at the bustling intersection of Solano Ave. and The Alameda (the only street around without a suffix), and walk up Indian Rock Path away from the shops and crowds and toward the hills. The path forks at Indian Rock Park; the route takes the left fork, but if you want to walk



EVERY path in Berkeley, you must first walk up the right fork as far as the end of the path and then return. You get to decide just how serious you are about the every-path mission. Even if you don't care, it is a worthwhile detour, leading to a stairway up Indian Rock from the top of which you can admire a stunning view of San Francisco Bay.

Turn left on Indian Rock Avenue and then left again on San Mateo. Make a third left after about a tenth of a mile to descend Mendocino Path. The path is easily missable; if you reach the



road's dead end, you've gone a bit too far. Turn right on the Arlington and then right up Tunbridge Lane, a steep path running from just before the intersection with Thousand Oaks Blvd. Turn right on Southampton at the top and then left at the intersection with Somerset Pl. to climb through John Hinkel Path on unsigned and frankly nonexistent Devon Lane, marked on the Berkeley Path Wanderers' map as one of the many wooded trails leading up through the park to San Diego.

*Left: The steps of Maryland Walk, a shining example of how handrails should look*

Turn right on San Diego and left up the concrete steps of Upton Ln. (opposite a park cut-up). At the top, make a left on San Luis, then another left down Southampton after one block. Climb Chester Lane, a sharp

right off Southampton, then turn right on San Luis, left up Southampton, and right at the first opportunity onto Santa Barbara. Turn left shortly after to ascend Alta Vista Path to Spruce, making sure to look back at the *alta vista* from the top. Make a right on the busy Spruce, cross, and turn left up Poplar Path, which ascends to Cragmont, bringing you into the heart of the northernmost neighborhood in the hills. Turn right here, left on Rock Lane at the next intersection, and then left again up the short Rock Walk, a path leading to Euclid. Turn left on Euclid and then right to ascend steep concrete Billie Jean Walk to Hildale, where you'll again turn left. After a block, cross Marin Avenue, Berkeley's steepest street. Make sure to glance down it as you cross; you're looking at an impressive 25% gradient, not much less steep than



the steepest street in the United States (34%)! Turn left down Halkin Walk, which may at first appear to go upward, but soon begins to plunge down switchbacking wooden steps to Euclid. Turn right, then left down North Path after two blocks, and then left again on Cragmont. If you're set on walking all the paths in Berkeley, head down Acacia Steps to you right and then turn around at the bottom and climb back up to Cragmont.



*Left: El Paseo Path:  
The only paths you  
are allowed to take  
for granite are in the  
Thousand Oaks  
neighborhood.*

It's not a long path, and it can be fun to see a new path anyway, even if you're not doing the whole series of walks. From the top of Acacia Steps (either after walking it two or zero times), continue a bit further down Cragmont to Acacia Walk turn right to amble down this scenic, cypress-shaded trail leading to a set of concrete stairs with a superb view of the Bay. Turn right at the bottom on Spruce.

Make your second left after passing Dorothy Bolte Park, an excellent water

stop, down Vassar Ave. and then make a left down the concrete steps of Holmes Path. At the bottom, turn left on Kentucky Ave. Turn right on Michigan after a block and stay left where the street curves to continue down the steep Florida Walk, taking you on the fastest-ever trip from Michigan to Florida. After one block, make another amazing cross-country venture by turning



right onto Colorado, then make a left onto Vermont. Just after the intersection with Maryland Ave, turn left down the concrete steps of Maryland Walk, then make another left at the bottom onto Boynton Ave. Turn right shortly after down Boynton Walk, taking more of this neighborhood's characteristic concrete steps, then turn left onto Arlington and left again on Santa Barbara. Part way up the hill, turn right down Santa Barbara Path. If you reach the intersection with Florida, you've gone too far. At the bottom of the path, turn right on San Luis, then make your first left onto Avis Rd, then a right after one block down San Antonio Ave. Cross Arlington and continue down the quiet San Antonio, staying right at the intersection with San Ramon where San Antonio turns into The Alameda. Make a right opposite the intersection with Vallejo St. to descend the steep Vincente Walk, and continue onto the dead-end Vincente Ave. at the bottom. After one block, turn left up the equally steep Visalia Walk, making a right at the top onto Menlo Pl. Continue two blocks to Thousand Oaks Blvd. and make a right, then your second left onto Vincente again. You'll soon find yourself at the bottom of the lovely El Paseo, which literally means 'the path' in Spanish. Turn left to climb this generically-named granite path for two blocks, then turn left on The Alameda, then right up Thousand Oaks. Make a right just after the intersection with San Fernando to descend the singletrack Great Stoneface Path, aptly named, since it passes through Great Stoneface Park, which is in turn named for the large rock by the field, which in theory looks like an enormous face. Make a right at the bottom of the path, then a left soon after down Indian Trail, another scenic path built from the granite the abounds in this area. Passing a small cave, you'll descend many uneven steps to The Alameda. Make a left, then turn left again up Yosemite Steps, which run from opposite the intersection with San Pedro. Jog right after one block to climb a second block of this path, then make another right on Yosemite Rd. at the top. Turn right on Arlington just a few seconds later, then make your next right down Mendocino Avenue. After passing the middle of Indian Rock Path, turn right to head down Black Path, which here resembles an asphalt sidewalk, presumably the source of the path's name. Black Path ends on Solano. Continue west one block to return to your starting point.

## Every Path in Berkeley, Part 5

**Length: 7.8 miles**

**Time: 3 hours should suffice**

**Difficulty: 3**

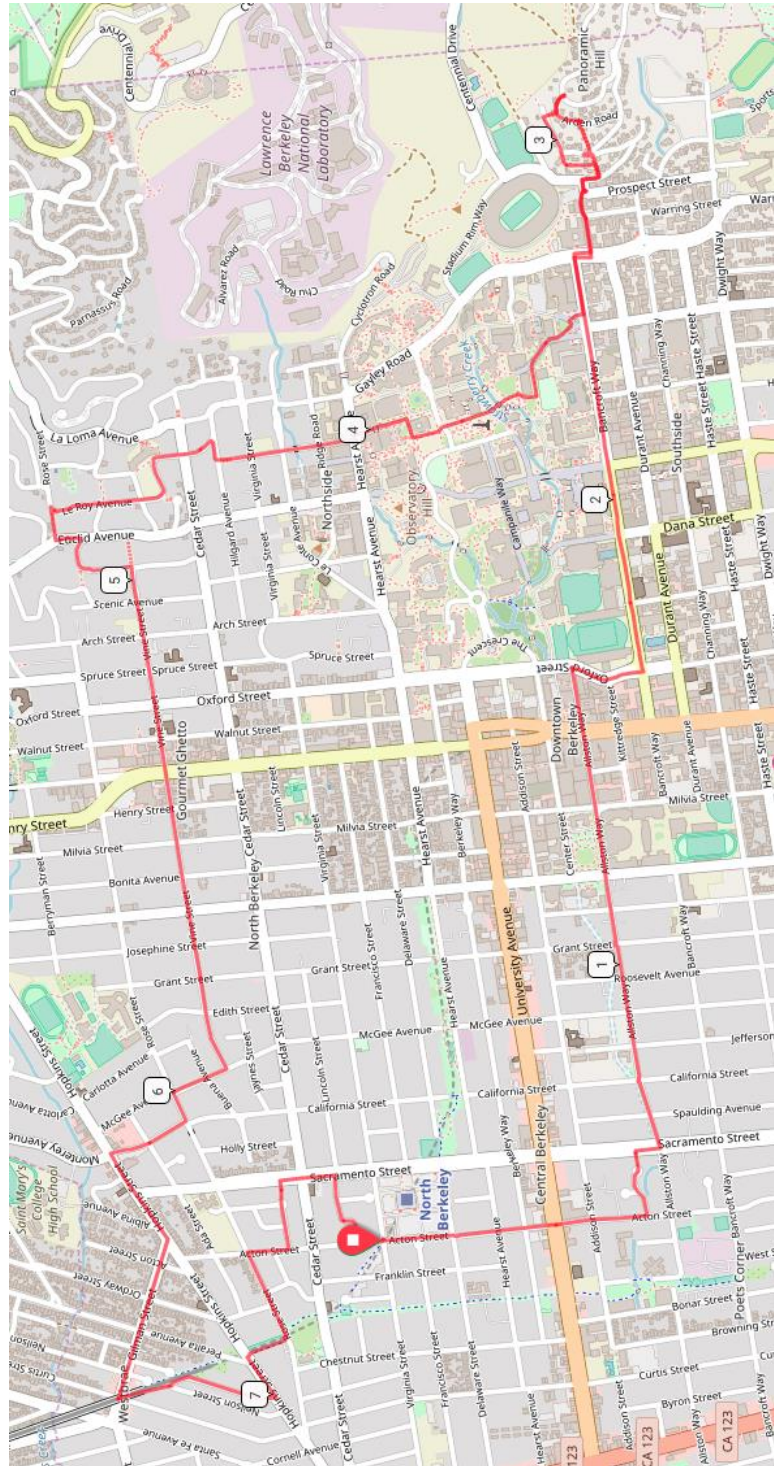
**Elevation Gain: 825 feet**

**Starting Point: Acton St. and Virginia St, by North Berkeley BART**

**Transportation: BART, of course, or AC Transit line 52, which stops on Sacramento just east of the start. Parking is available on Acton.**

### Overview:

Fifth in the series to walk every path in Berkeley, making it to this walk means you are almost done. Though this walk is the longest, it is in many ways the easiest: with the second least elevation gain and the fewest paths of any in the series. This walk combines three unlikely groups of paths: those in the flats, those just north of the University, and those at the top of Bancroft. You'll begin in the flats, climb to the top of Panoramic Hill, cross through UC Berkeley, take LeRoy Steps and Rose Walk, and loop back down Vine to finish with two more flat paths. This walk traverses many sections of Berkeley and takes ten paths in all.





## Directions and pictures:

Start at Acton St. and Virginia St, beginning the walk by heading south on Acton (past the BART station). Continue along Acton several blocks, past the traffic light at University Ave, and on for two more blocks to the small Acton Crescent. Turn left up this road, and where it dead-ends, continue onto the short, flat, paved Acton Crescent Path, which quickly takes you to Sacramento St.



*Left: Acton Crescent Path in its stunning entirety*

Turn right, then make your first left up Allston St. Take this small road nearly a mile past downtown Berkeley and across Shattuck Ave. to where it ends at Oxford St. Make a right, then turn left up Bancroft Way two short blocks later. Do not cross Bancroft, since the north side borders UC Berkeley and is nicer to walk on, as no streets go through. Take Bancroft three quarters of a mile to Piedmont Ave, which runs over the top of the University. Jog right here and continue up Bancroft one more block. At the top of this, continue straight up Bancroft Steps, the first of the Panoramic Hill area paths. At the top of the path, make a slight left up a final block of Bancroft Way, then turn right onto Panoramic Way. Next, make your first left between two pillars up the wide concrete steps of Orchard Lane, one of Berkeley's oldest paths. At the top

of the first block, turn left onto Panoramic, then make an immediate sharp right to stay on Panoramic, and a slight left up a flight of concrete stairs just after, which mark the beginning of the unsigned second block of Orchard Lane. Ascend the stairs to Arden Rd. and turn left.

Where the road dead-ends, continue straight, then make an immediate right up Arden Path. Climb to wood stairs to emerge farther up the extremely curvy Panoramic Way. Arden Path is useful for connecting to fire trails, but since the goal of this series of walks is to take every path not to walk fire trails, and since Arden Path does not connect easily to other paths, turn around and go back down the path. At the bottom, stay right to descend the many, close-together concrete stairs of Arden Steps, which is so steep it appears to drop off. At the bottom, turn left down Mosswood Rd. When the road curves left, make a slight right down the wooden steps of Mosswood Lane (pictured below), which quickly turns to a lovely dirt trail through redwoods and down some concrete steps to Orchard Lane.

Make a right down half a block to Panoramic and turn right, then make a left down Bancroft a block, Bancroft Steps (for a second time) a block, and Bancroft another block. Back at Bancroft and Piedmont, jog right and continue down Bancroft one more block, then turn right into the University opposite the intersection with College Ave. Go north as much as possible on the winding University paths, crossing South Dr, then University Dr. Make your first right after

this second small street crossing, then turn left onto another small road and go straight to climb some steps and you should find yourself at Hearst St. and LeRoy Ave. If you aren't there exactly don't worry. If you find yourself on Gayley Rd, turn left and go down Hearst a block. If you are at Euclid, go up Hearst a block.

*Right: The narrow, needly Mosswood Ln, now a distant memory*

Now officially in North Berkeley, cross Hearst and take LeRoy four block to where it dead-ends, just after Virginia. Continue up the wide, concrete LeRoy Steps, then cross the street and make a right up the elevated sidewalk to return to LeRoy Ave, which restarts one block east. Make a left onto LeRoy and take it four long blocks to where it turns right and becomes Rose St. Rather than continuing onto Rose, turn left opposite a hedge down Rose Walk, another of Berkeley's oldest paths, which runs past flowers and down a wide, curving staircase to Euclid Ave. Turn left, then right down Hawthorne Terr. After one block, make a right down Vine St. At this point, you'll descend the length of Vine, nearly a



mile down past the Gourmet Ghetto area at Shattuck and eventually to the street's end at McGee Ave. Make a right, then your second left down Rose St. Make your first right onto California St, and, after two blocks, turn left down Hopkins St. You will shortly reach the busy intersection with Gilman St. Make a slight right here to head down Gilman. After about six block you'll reach the stop sign and intersection with Curtis St. Turn left onto Curtis, then immediately left again onto the flat, paved, and somewhat unexciting Geneva's Path. Where the path ends, make a slight left onto Northside Ave, which hits Hopkins St. after one long block. Here, make a left, then your first right opposite Peralta Ave. onto the paved Ohlone Greenway bicycle and pedestrian path (not an official Berkeley path, but a good shortcut nonetheless). One block on this brings you to Rose St, where you should turn left. After two blocks you'll reach Acton St. Make a right, then your first left up Keoncrest Dr. Where the street turns sharply left, continue straight onto your final path of the walk: the flat, paved, rather uninspiring Keoncrest Path. The one thing that stands out about this path is that all of Berkeley's paths are numbered and this one is, for whatever reason, number one. At the top—if it can be called that—of the path, turn right onto Sacramento St. Take it two blocks, crossing Cedar St. after one, and turn right down Lincoln St. A long and somewhat winding block brings you to back to Acton. Make a left here and one block will return you to your starting point. If you're doing this series of walks in order, then you have only five miles to go before you have walked every path in Berkeley!





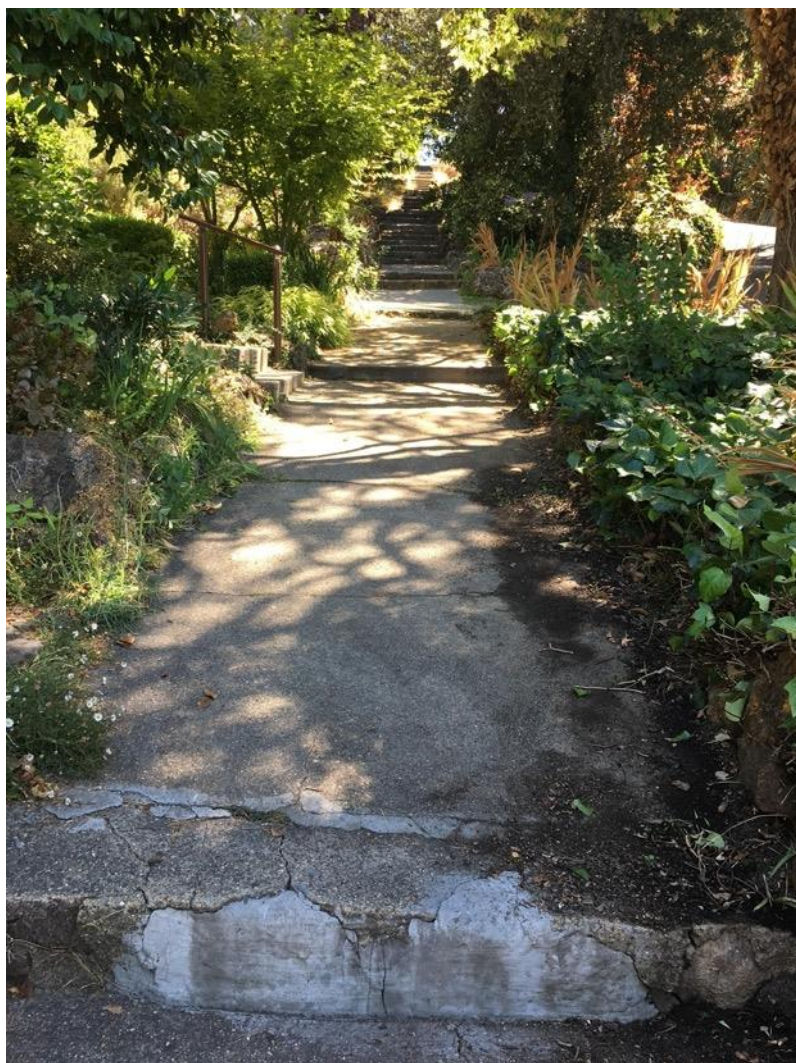


The shortest and final walk of the series, this loop takes you on the sixteen paths in the Elmwood neighborhood, on both sides of Ashby and both above and below Claremont. If you finish this walk, which is definitely easier than the first five in the series, then you will have walked all 102 paths in Berkeley! The walk begins with the easiest paths: those in the northwest. Next, you'll cross Claremont and to take the steep easternmost paths, including a few bonus ones in Oakland. You'll then head across Tunnel Rd. and finish with the many paths of the far south, finally looping to return to your starting point.

### Directions and pictures:

Begin at the intersection of Domingo, Ashby (to the west), and Tunnel Rd. (to the east). Head north past the Peet's Coffee Shop, and turn left where Domingo becomes Russell St. Make your second right onto Claremont Blvd, not to be confused with Claremont Ave, then turn left down Avalon Ave. After one block—just opposite Oak Knoll Ave.—turn left to descend your first path, the sloping Oak Knoll Path. Turn right at the bottom, then make another right up Pine Path

(opposite Pine Ave), which is first just a ramp, then a flight of concrete steps. Next, turn left, and the street will soon dead-end. Continue straight, slightly right, down the neat, concrete steps of Avalon Path, past pretty yards and down to Palm Ct. Continue down this dead-end street to the intersection of Stuart and Kelsey. Make a slight right to head down Stuart, then another right onto Piedmont Ave, then a third up Garber St. Where Garber is blocked to cars after a block, stay on the left-hand sidewalk to ascend the steps of Garber Path, under some trees and up to where Garber restarts. One more block brings you to the small Monkey Island Park, which should perhaps more aptly be called Monkey Island Field. Cut across the grass and continue east one more block, then turn left onto Belrose Ave.



*Left: the quiet Garber Path*

When you reach Derby St, turn right and continue up Tanglewood Rd. a few feet, then

make a slight left where the road curves to ascend Tanglewood Path. At the top of the concrete steps and paved slope, gaze up the steep fire trail to the left (and check out “The Claremont Canyon Climb” walk if you want to walk it some time), then turn right down Stonewall Rd. Make your first left onto Claremont Ave; soon after, turn right through an open gate into the Claremont Hotel parking lot. Stay slightly left and head south, with the hotel to your right. Make a slight left



through a gate off of the uppermost section of the parking lot, and a few feet later turn left up Evergreen Path. At the top of this stair path, continue straight onto Evergreen Ln. Make a sharp right onto Slater Ln, then a slight right after a longish block onto Alvarado Rd. Continue down this for about a quarter mile, past the top of Eucalyptus Path, to eventually reach Willow Walk. Make a right down this Berkeley path, through trees and down stone steps, then across a paved walkway to the end of the path.

*Left: The stone steps of Willow Walk*

Turn around and climb back up halfway. (Sorry we didn't tell you earlier that you'd have to walk back up the path; we were worried if we did you wouldn't bother going down it in the first place, and then you wouldn't walk all of every path in Berkeley!) Turn left here onto Sunset Trail, a long, mostly flat and paved path, which ends in the middle of Oakland's Eucalyptus Path. Since this is an Oakland path, you

are not required to walk all of it—though if you feel so inclined you could run up and down the steps to your right. To continue along the route, turn left and descend the steep, concrete steps, then cross Alvarado Pl. and continue straight, down Alvarado Rd. Fairly immediately, make a right down the unsigned Short Cut, an Oakland path running through trees down stone steps and eventually ending in the Claremont Hotel parking lot. Make a slight left, then another, and you should quickly reach the traffic light at Tunnel Rd.

Cross this major road (officially highway 13), and make a left, then your first right onto Oak Ridge Rd. Where the road curves, turn sharply right down the neat concrete steps of Oakridge Path, passing a yard with chickens as you descend. At the bottom of this first block, turn left. You'll take the second block of the path later. Continue along Domingo Ave. to where it ends, and make a left up The Plaza Dr. Where the street curves, make a slight left up concrete steps and sloping walkway of The Cutoff Path. Turn left at the top, then right up more steps on Park Path, which you'll find just after a speed bump on the road. Turn right at the top and walk



until the road dead-ends, at which point you should make a right down the steep Oak Ridge Steps. Make a left at the bottom and take El Camino Real two blocks to where it, too, dead-ends. Continue slightly right onto the ramp then stairs of Claremont Path, the southernmost path in Berkeley. Turn slightly right at the bottom onto Hillcrest Rd, then sharply left after one block onto Roanoke Rd. Descend one short, steep block from Berkeley into Oakland, then turn right onto Manor Crest. At the bottom of this street, turn right, then make another right at the first opportunity onto Roslyn Ct. When the street dead-ends, continue straight up the few concrete steps of South Crossways. At the top, turn right, then immediately left down the slope and steps of The Crossways, a sequel path. Exactly what these paths cross is unknown to us. At the bottom, turn left onto The Uplands, and follow this with another left up The Footway, a path opposite the intersection of The Uplands and Encina Pl.

At the top of the many concrete stairs of The Footway, continue straight onto Hillcrest Ct, then make a slight right onto Hillcrest Rd. After a very short block, turn right down The Steps—one of Berkeley's most creatively named paths—which is, as its name would suggest, a flight of concrete steps. Make a right at the bottom, then another at the first possible opportunity onto Claremont Ave. Make a third right after one block onto The Uplands, then turn left onto Encina Pl. after one more block. Stay left at the intersection with The Plaza Dr. to follow Encina Pl. to where it dead-ends, then continue slightly left onto Encina Walk, a flat, paved cut-through to Oakvale Ave. Turn left, then make your first right onto Claremont again. Shortly after Hazel Rd, turn right through a metal gate up the lower block of Oakridge Path, which winds its way past (partially through) John Muir Elementary School. When we led this six-walk series for the Berkeley Path Wanderers, there was a party complete with a cake congratulating the walkers in this school-yard park, because this marks the final block of path in the series. If you've done the previous five walks, then you have now walked every path in Berkeley! At the top of the few steps, turn left onto Domingo, and one block will return you triumphant to your starting point. Congratulations!



**SECTION 6:**  
**From Paths to Parks**  
**Favorite Longer Walks (7-17 miles)**



*Ye Olde School Trail, just a block outside of Berkeley, traverses the ridge above Wildcat Canyon*



## Over the Hill and into the Park

**Length: 7.3 miles**

**Time: A bit under 3 hours**

**Difficulty: 4**

**Elevation Gain: 1400 feet**

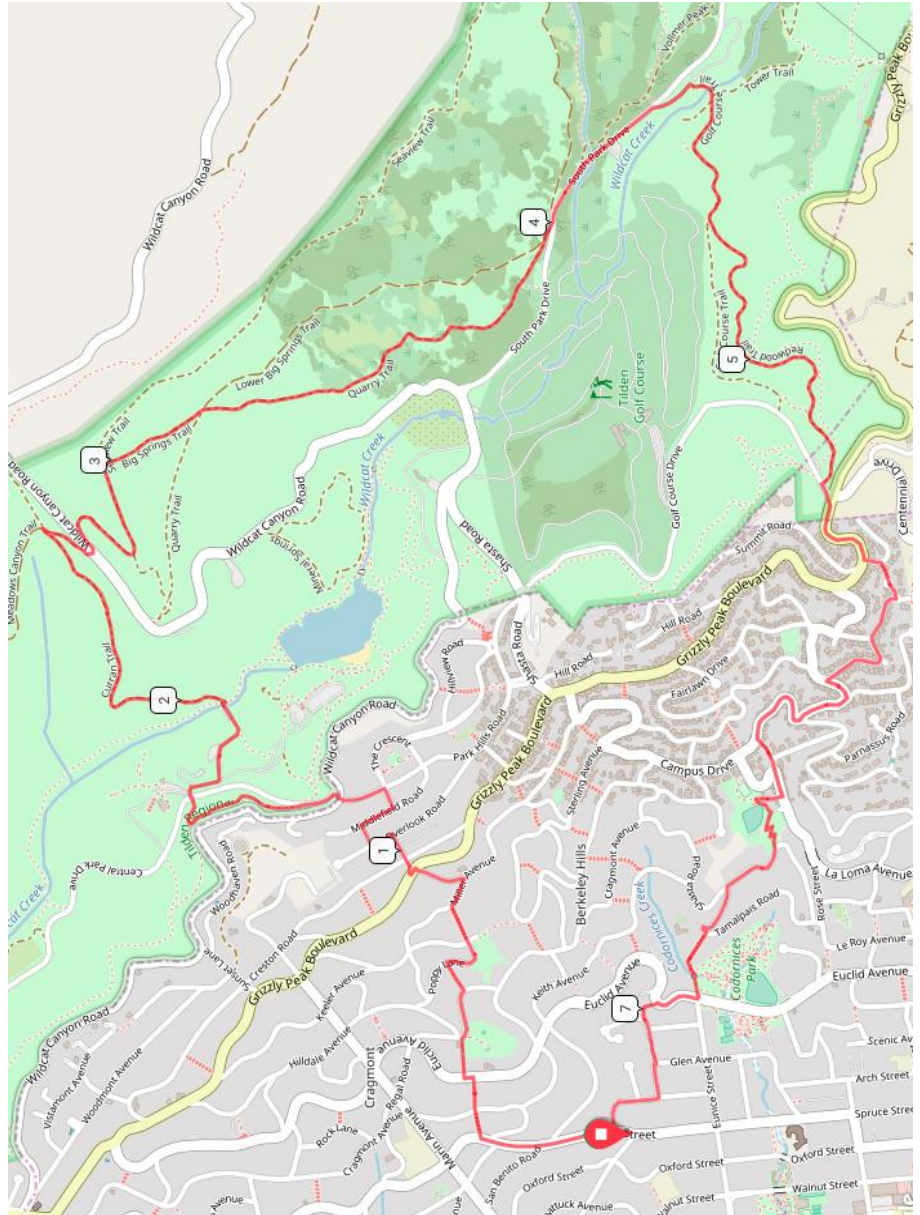
**Starting Point: Spruce St. and Los Angeles Ave.**

**Transportation: AC Transit bus number 67. Limited parking is available on Spruce, Arch, or Los Angeles.**

### **Overview:**

This lovely walk lets you explore some of Tilden's nicest trails via the Berkeley paths. Like many walks, this one begins with the steep climb to the top of the Berkeley Hills at Grizzly Peak Blvd. But the walk does not end there. Instead, it continues down the other side of the hill into Tilden, where it climbs again on shaded trails through

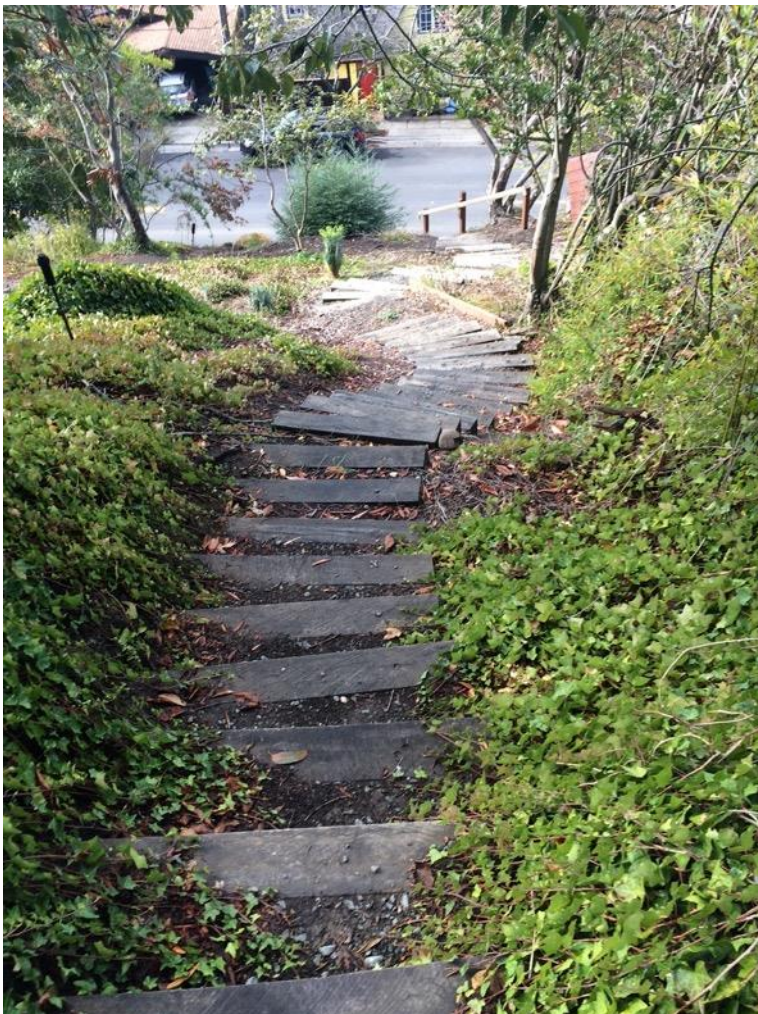
eucalyptus trees to the ridge overlooking Orinda. Here, the walk takes you south, down the gently sloping Quarry Trail and then west on the Redwood Lane Trail, which, true to its name, runs through the redwoods. To complete the loop, you'll return down paths back to the starting point.





## Directions and pictures:

From the intersection of Spruce and Los Angeles, head north up the eastern side of Spruce. Continue past Arch, Keith, and Santa Barbara, then turn right up the steep concrete slope and steps of Easter Way. After two blocks, you will reach Euclid. If you aren't worn out at this point, which hopefully you are not, cross Euclid and turn left, then immediately right again to continue up the third block of Easter Way, a steep ramp past a small park. At the top, turn right down Regal Rd. Enjoy this downhill, since there won't be any more for a while! After one block, Regal curves right; instead of staying on it, make a slight left up Pinnacle Path, past a dragon mosaic and up the steps to Poppy Ave. Turn right and you will soon reach the intersection with Keeler. Continue straight, across Keeler and up the wood steps and brick landings of Poppy Path. Turn right at the top on Miller Ave, then make your first left up Latham Ln, which ends one block later at Grizzly Peak Blvd. Cross and continue straight up the wooden steps of Latham Walk. At the top, cross Creston and continue straight, down the restart of Latham Ln. Creston really is the crest of the hill, and suddenly the climb has become a descent. Tilden, here you come! Turn left onto Overlook Rd, right on The Crossways, right on Middlefield Rd, and left on



The Shortcut, all in quick succession. At the bottom of The Shortcut, turn left down Park Hills Rd; one block later, cross Wildcat Canyon Rd. and continue onto Central Park Dr. You are now entering Tilden Regional Park, having arrived the best way possible—without the use of a car.

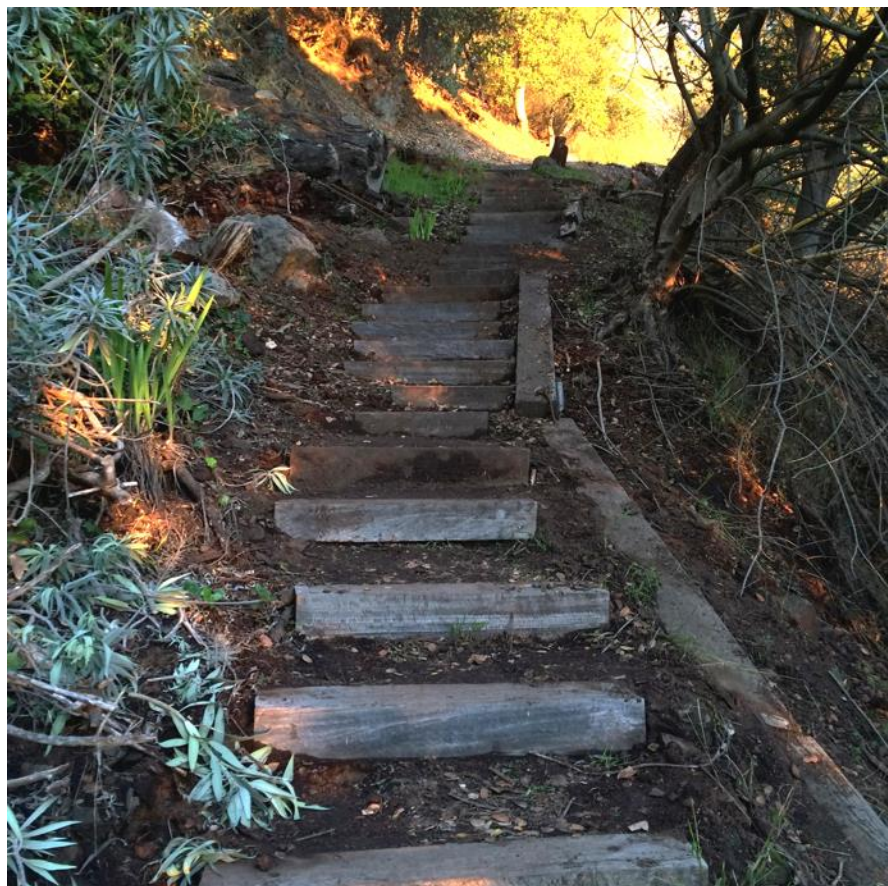
*Left: Latham Walk descends toward Grizzly Peak*

Make your first right (not counting the Selby Trail) off of Central Park Dr. and onto Lake Anza Rd, which, surprisingly, leads to Lake Anza. Before reaching the lake, turn left onto Brook Rd. The road descends past several picnic sites into the heart of the canyon. There is also a bathroom in the first site, making it a worthwhile stopping point. Brook Rd. dead-ends near a creek. Continue straight on the small trail across the creek, which happens to be Wildcat Creek,

across a sort of gorge to the creatively named Wildcat Gorge Trail. The creek is often no more than a trickle in summer, but can be a bit hard to cross after a heavy rain, and has been the source of many a wet shoe. Cross the trail on the other side and continue straight, up the Curran Trail. The rocky Curran Trail climbs out of Wildcat Gorge toward San Pablo Ridge, with great views across to the Meadows Canyon Trail and back down towards Wildcat Creek. After a long-feeling 0.6 miles, you will reach the trail junction with the Meadows Canyon Trail. Turn sharply right towards the Seaview Trail, following signs for the East Bay National Skyline Trail. This connector climbs steeply through dense vegetation, then emerges into the open at busy Wildcat Canyon Rd. Across the road, the trail widens and continues its steep climb toward the crest of San Pablo Ridge. Follow it for about a third of a mile, then turn right onto the Lower Big Springs Trail, descending steeply from the ridge. To the west, expansive views stretch over the grassy hills above Wildcat Canyon and blue, distant Mount Tamalpais. You soon reach a junction with the Quarry Trail, which descends more gently. Either the Quarry Trail or Big Springs will lead you to the same place, but our route heads down Quarry (pretty much straight ahead as you come down Big Springs), since it is less steep. You'll descend through a forest of pine and eucalyptus to South Park Dr. Turn left on South Park when, after a mile, you reach it, and continue to the Laurel Picnic Area. The street is closed to cars during the rainy season (November through March) because of the large newt migration that happens during this time. If you're walking here during the winter, try and spot one of the strange looking reptiles, and make sure not to step on any!

*Right: The unnamed path down from La Loma Park, coming soon*

At the top of the steep hill, turn right into the driveway for picnic sites, then turn right again onto the Golf Course Trail, which runs out of the Laurel site. Follow this trail for 0.3 miles, then stay left to head uphill on the Redwood Trail, which—surprisingly—runs through beautiful redwoods over needly ground. Stay left where Redwood intersects the Grizzly Peak Trail, and you will soon find yourself on Golf Course Dr. Make a left and you will reach Grizzly Peak Blvd. Turn right and





after one block make a left on Summit Rd, then an almost immediate right down the wood steps of Wilson Walk. At the bottom of the path, continue straight down the dead-end road, then turn right where it hits Olympus. Two blocks later, make a left down Avenida Dr, then your first right onto Campus Dr. Take Campus as it winds its way down to La Loma Path. Make a left down these wood stairs, and continue straight down La Loma Ave. at the bottom, then make a right onto Quarry Rd, which leads into Glendale-La Loma Park. Near the field and concrete stairs, stay left on the paved path, then make a left down a small trail with wooden steps towards Shasta Rd.

This trail is steep and uneven and has no handrail. If you don't feel comfortable going down it, stay on La Loma and take Rose Steps, Rose, and Tamalpais. If you do choose to take the path—which you should be fine with, given what you have already walked—turn left at the fork to continue down the hill, then make a right at the bottom up Shasta. Take the first left down Tamalpais Rd, which soon reaches Tamalpais Path (where the two routes rejoin). Go down the concrete steps, of which there are over 170, to Codornices Park. Cross the small bridge and follow the path and it climbs slightly to the intersection of Euclid Ave. and Eunice St. Cross and make a right up Euclid, then stay left onto Oak St. Path, which climbs even concrete steps, ends at a street, and then restarts a bit down farther west and descends through trees to the intersection of Oak St. and Glen Ave. Continue straight down Oak, turn right up Arch, follow Arch around a curve and down a hill to where it hits Spruce. Turn left, and in seconds you will be back at your starting point. Twelve blocks of path, three and a half miles of trails, and a tour of Berkeley and Tilden, all in one excellent 7.3-mile loop!

# Strawberry Canyon Fire Trails and Nearby Paths

**Length: 7.7 miles**

**Time: About three hours**

**Difficulty: 4**

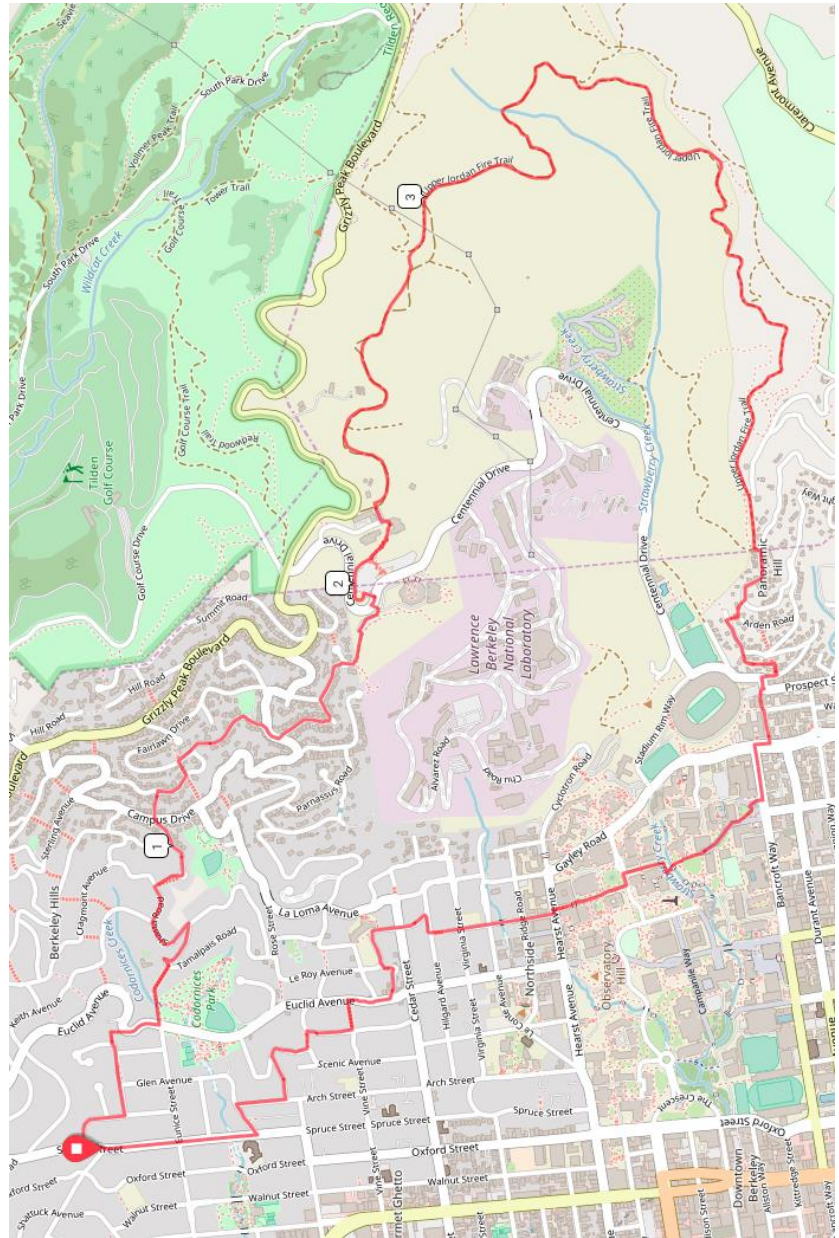
**Elevation Gain: 1,200 feet**

**Starting Point: Spruce St. and Los Angeles Ave.**

**Transportation: AC Transit bus 67 stops at Spruce and Los Angeles. Parking is also available on Spruce or Los Angeles.**

## **Overview:**

Climb steep paths to the Lawrence Hall of Science, then descend three miles of gentle, scenic fire trails through Strawberry Canyon to the University, head down Panoramic Hill via paths, and return on flatter paths and streets. This walk is a favorite due to the great views, beautiful paths and trails, and the fact that most of the hard climbing is done at the very beginning.



## **Directions and pictures:**

Start at Spruce and Los Angeles, or, for a slightly shorter loop, Euclid and Eunice. Begin by walking up Spruce (east) and make your first right onto Arch St. Arch climbs a hill, then goes down to Oak, where you should make a left to continue up into the Berkeley Hills. Oak ends after one block; here, continue straight up the shady first block of Oak St. Path, which has steps but is not too steep. At the top, head straight on the street, then continue onto the second block of the path which takes you down a hand-railed cement staircase to Euclid.

Turn right on Euclid and cross at Eunice into Codornices Park (if you want to skip the previous hill, you can start here, and stay on Euclid at the end of the walk to return here rather than turning down Vine Lane). Follow the concrete path down a gentle hill parallel to the



driveways of the nearby houses, then proceed across a bridge and up the stone steps of Tamalpais Path. The path takes you steeply up to Tamalpais Rd. Here, turn left and go one block up to Shasta, make another left, and walk past Keith to Northgate Path. Turn right to walk up the path, which is steep and has over 200 small wooden stairs, bringing you to Northgate the street and a view to your right back down on Berkeley and the San Francisco Bay. Go up the street a block and stay right to continue on Quail Ave. Take this to where it ends after two blocks and turn right. Very quickly you will reach Glendale Path; turn left and go up the steps one block. Here, make a right (on Fairlawn), then stay left at the intersection with Queens. After one long block, make a slight right onto Avenida, then a nearly immediate left onto Olympus. Take Olympus to where it dead-ends and continue straight onto a small trail which will lead you to the Lawrence Hall of Science, past a great view down on Berkeley.



*The view from above the Lawrence Hall of Science encompasses most of San Francisco Bay*

Take the small path to your left from the parking lot and cross Centennial Dr, continuing on the trail. Soon you will come to a multi-layer parking lot. Make a slight left to walk up the parking lot road to the final tier of lots, then turn right, walk through the lot, and turn left up the wooden steps. These steps will lead you up to the MSRI (Math and Sciences Research Institute) buildings. On your way, be sure to look back the phenomenal view down on Berkeley, Emeryville, the Bay, and the bridges across the it. At the top of the steps, make a slight right on

a small road, continue up a short hill and through another parking lot and shortly to a large log bench and an entrance to the Strawberry Canyon Fire Trail.

*Right: Many lizards are visible in the sunny patches of the stairs up to MSRI*

Make a right down this scenic dirt trail and follow it for about a mile, then stay on it as it loops around the canyon with views down to the University and the campanile. Stay right at any trail intersections so as not to end up on the upper fire trail. Another mile and a half, the trail will take you to a very steep hill. You'll know it when you see it, since it is so much steeper than any other part of the trail.

Descend this, then make a left off the trail and an immediate right down Panoramic Way. Where the road curves, make a slight right down Arden Path. (There is a street sign, so it isn't hard to



find.) At the bottom of the path, stay right and descend the steep, hand-railed, Arden Steps.

*Left: The Upper Strawberry Canyon Fire Trail, namesake and highlight of the walk*



Make a left at the bottom on Mosswood Rd, then make a slight right where the road curves onto Mosswood Lane, which is also signed. This path takes you gradually down through redwoods on a dirt trail and ends at one of only three "path intersections" in Berkeley. Here, turn right down Orchard Lane, then right on Panoramic War, then left on Bancroft Way. After a block, continue straight to go down Bancroft Steps and then take Bancroft the street another block down from where it restarts at the bottom of the path.



At Piedmont, Bancroft jogs to the right; follow it down one more block to College, then turn right into UC Berkeley. There are many ways through the campus. Just walk along any paths that look nice and try not to go too far left, just straight ahead and, if necessary, to the right. If you come out on Gayley Rd, which runs east of the university, turn left, then left again at Hearst. If you come out on Hearst, which ideally you should, take it to LeRoy, which is one block below Gayley Rd. and one block above Euclid. Cross Hearst and head north on LeRoy. Where it dead-ends, go up LeRoy Steps to connect to Hilgard. Turn right, then left shortly after at the spot where LeRoy restarts. When LeRoy curves for the second time past the German school, stay left to go down Hill Ct. Steps. There is a street sign so it should not be hard to find. The steps end at the top of Hill Ct, unsurprisingly. Head down this tiny dead-end road to Euclid Ave. and make a right. Cross Euclid at Buena Vista but continue heading north until Vine Lane, a path. Here, make a left (unless you started at Euclid and Eunice, in which case you should continue straight four blocks to finish your loop), noticing the ornate sign as you pass under it. At the bottom of the path, go right, then make your first left down Hawthorne Steps. Again, go right at the bottom then make your first left, this time on Rose St. Take Rose one block to Arch, go right a block to Glen, and go left a block to Spruce. Turn right on Spruce to climb three blocks back to the starting point.

## Havey Canyon and Surrounding Trails

Length: 9.6 miles

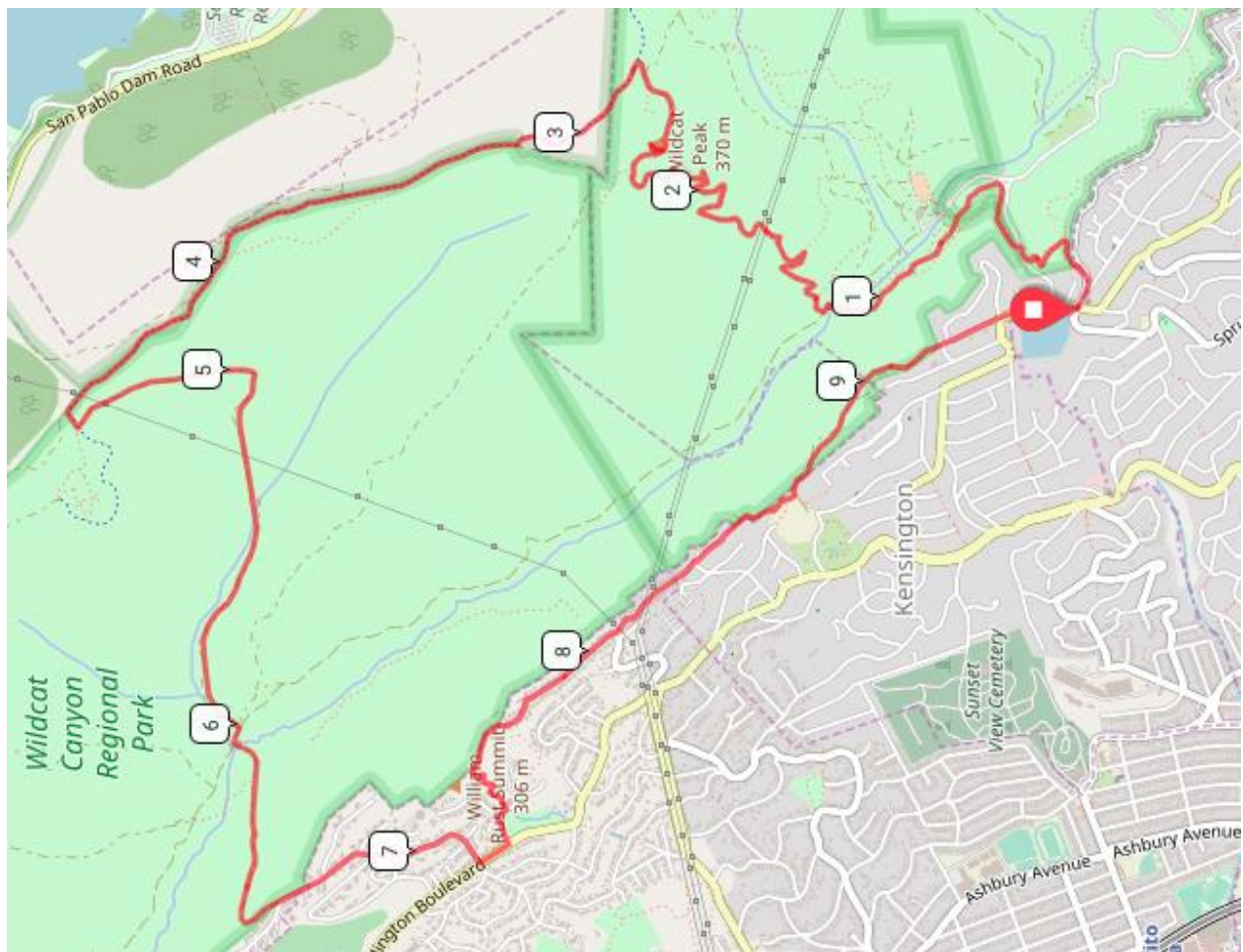
Time: About four hours

Difficulty: 4

Elevation Gain: 1,500 feet

Starting Point: The intersection of Spruce St. and Grizzly Peak Blvd.

Transportation: AC Transit Bus 67. Limited parking is available on Spruce.



### **Overview:**

This walk offers a great mix of forest and ridgetop views. Traversing the ridges on both sides of Wildcat Canyon, this walk takes you on diverse terrain from Wildcat Peak to the woods of the Sylvan Trail to the dense riparian forest of Havey Canyon. From the start, you'll descend into Tilden, then climb steeply to Wildcat Peak and the ridge of Nimitz Way, which overlooks El Sobrante. From there, you'll head down the shaded Havey Canyon, then climb once again out of the park to return via the scenic Ye Olde School Trail to the start.



## Directions and pictures:

Begin at the 67 bus stop at Summit Reservoir, where Spruce meets Grizzly Peak. From here, walk east onto Wildcat Canyon Rd. After an eighth of a mile, turn left onto the Selby Trail, which runs from a grassy turnout off the road, then make your first left down the Memory Trail. The Memory Trail is short but scenic, descending into Wildcat Canyon through a leafy forest. Cross Cañon Dr. and continue on the trail to its end, then turn slightly left onto the Upper Packrat Trail, which continues to descend gently through the forest. Stay left on the Lower Packrat Trail once you reach the bottom, walking along the northwestern shore of Jewel Lake, where turtles are often visible sunning themselves on logs. After crossing Wildcat Creek on a bridge, make a left on the Wildcat Creek Trail and the first right up the Jewel Lake Trail. Stay left shortly after to continue up the Sylvan Trail, which, true to its name, climbs through dense forest of ferns, pine trees, and oaks. After a rain, the wet vegetation gives the trail an almost mystical feel. Continue up the Sylvan Trail about a quarter mile, then turn sharply left up the Wildcat Peak Trail.

You'll climb through a dense forest along this narrow single track trail and then, quite abruptly, be thrust out into the open grasslands. Stay right where the trail forks, and you'll continue to climb steeply until you reach the turnoff for Wildcat Peak. Continue straight here to detour to the 1,213 foot summit. To the north you are able to see beyond San Pablo Bay to the hills of Sonoma and Napa Counties; to the west San Francisco gleams, the Pacific Ocean not far beyond it; in the east and south you can look over all of Contra Costa County, past the refineries of Martinez to the Central Valley.

When you've fully enjoyed the view, descend back to the turnoff for the peak, then turn left to continue gently down to Nimitz Way, popular with cyclists, day hikers, and joggers. Turn left, and follow this paved trail as it winds its way along San Pablo Ridge, sometimes meandering through woodland, sometimes emerging onto the top ridge to allow you a view west into Wildcat Canyon or east to the San Pablo Reservoir.



*Left: The San Pablo Reservoir and dry hills beyond, as seen looking east from Nimitz Way*

Pretty soon you'll leave Tilden Park behind and enter Wildcat Canyon

Regional Park, the northernmost in a chain of parks that extends the length of the East Bay Hills, from Castro Valley to Richmond. After 1.7 miles on Nimitz Way, turn sharply left down the narrow, dirt Havey Canyon Trail (near the 3.5 mile mark on Nimitz).

*Havey Canyon descends gradually through a sunny meadow and cows are often visible, sometimes blocking the trail.*



After about two thirds of a mile through a meadow, the trail abruptly enters a dense forest, becoming shadier, steeper, and “paved” with scattered leaves. It is a moderately popular route for mountain bikers so stay alert for fast downhillers. The trail descends steadily, crossing Havey Creek part way down on a bridge installed in 2017. Before that, the creek required fording, but now you’ll have to be content with looking down at it as it rushes (or trickles) below. The Havey Canyon Trail continues down another  $\frac{2}{3}$  of a mile to end at the Wildcat Creek Trail.

Turn right on the Creek Trail, then make your first left very soon after up the Rifle Range Trail to climb steeply out of Wildcat Canyon to its western ridgeline near the Richmond-El Cerrito border. At the end of the Rifle Range Trail, continue south on paved Rifle Range Rd. to summit the hill and then gradually descend to Arlington Avenue, 0.6 miles after the end of the trail. Turn left, then immediately left again on Thors Bay Rd, climbing briefly back toward the ridge. Turn right onto James Place and stay left to follow the dirt trail, which climbs further, up to William Rust Summit. From here, you’ll have expansive views east to Wildcat Canyon and the San Pablo Ridge, where you were earlier in the walk. Continue slightly downhill, then make a



left onto a narrower trail which climbs briefly, then ends between two houses on Ivy Court. Continue along this road and slightly right onto Leneve Pl. where it ends. Stay left at Terrace and continue along Kensington Rd. After one long block, continue straight onto Kensington Ct, then down a driveway at the end of the street and slightly left onto Ye Olde School Trail, which follows the rim of Wildcat Canyon. You'll pass Kensington Hilltop School and begin to climb gradually. Stay left on the main trail at all trail intersections and in about a mile you will reach the end of the trail at Grizzly Peak Blvd. and Kenyon Rd. Head south on Grizzly Peak for 0.3 miles to return to your starting point.

*Right: The trail up to William Rust Summit through the Boy Scout area*



## From the Forest to the Ridge

**Length:** 7.6 miles

**Time:** Two and a half hours

**Difficulty:** 4+

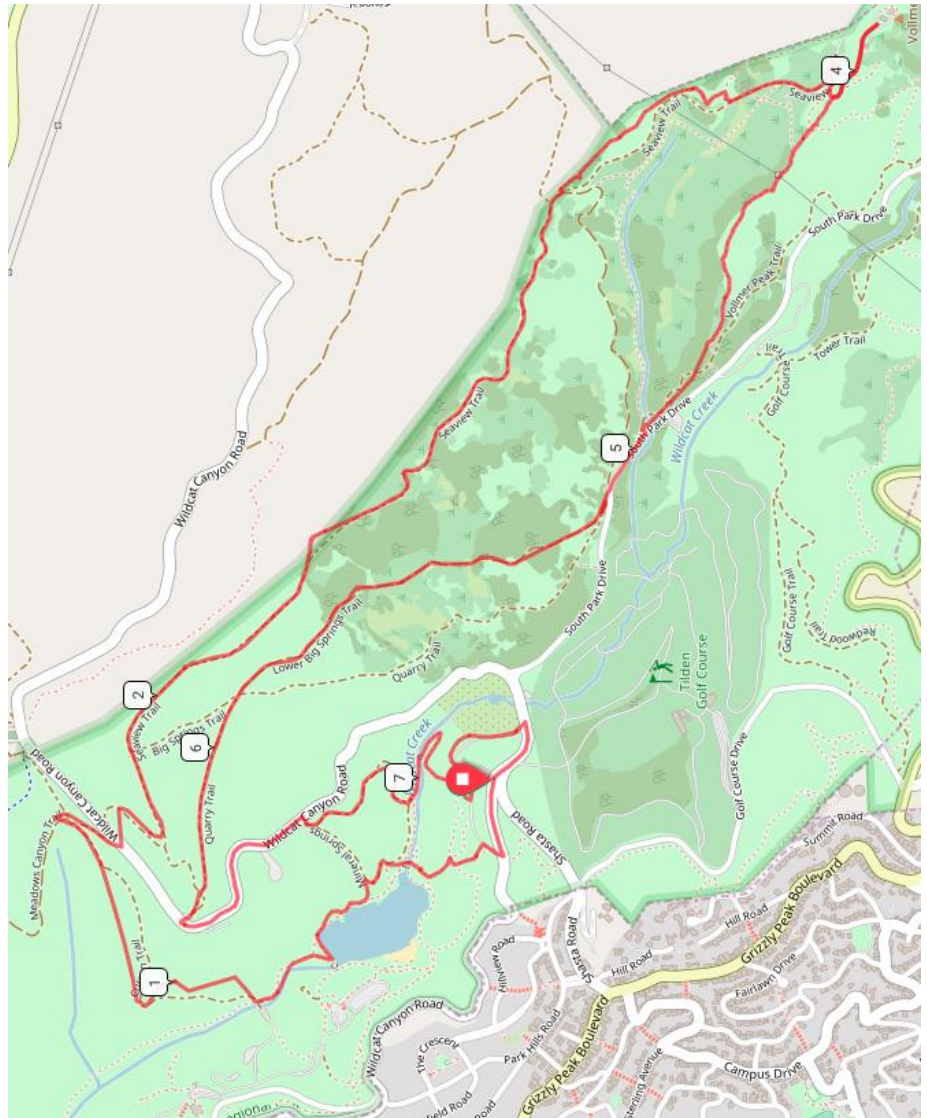
**Elevation Gain:** 1,623

**Starting Point:** The Brazil Building, at the intersection of Shasta Rd. and Wildcat Canyon Rd.

### **Transportation:**

AC Transit 67 on weekends and holidays. To access the start by bus on weekdays, take the AC Transit 65 to Shasta and Grizzly Peak, then walk the half mile east on Shasta. Parking is available by the start on the eastern side of Wildcat Canyon Rd.

**Overview:** Of any walk in this book, this walk packs possibly the greatest variation of scenery into the fewest miles. It explores virtually every region of Tilden: riparian forest, canyon, meadow, open ridgeline, and peak. From the start, you'll descend past Lake Anza, then climb out of Tilden's canyon, leaving the forest behind as you ascend steeply to Vollmer Peak, the highest point in the East Bay. A steep descent with more great views brings you down to South Park Dr, and from there it's all rolling hills to return to the start.





## Directions and pictures:

Begin the walk at the corner of Shasta Rd. and Wildcat Canyon Rd. Start by heading northwest (toward Berkeley) on Wildcat Canyon, then make a right on the paved, one-lane Anza View Rd. Various “trail-lets” of the Selby Trail intersect the road here, so you can take any of them to you left. Stay left to join the main Selby Trail, which is rugged and steep, descending through the trees to reach Lake Anza.

Turn right on to the rocky trail along the lakeshore. The trail winds around the lake, with various brief climbs and descents, then turns inland to cross Wildcat Creek. There’s a beautiful



waterfall just to the right, up the gorge. Turn left to continue walking along the lakeshore. This area is popular with day hikers and it’s fun to listen to the multitude of languages and conversations here. Stay left again along the lakeshore until just before the bridge crossing the Lake Anza spillway. Here, turn right onto the Wildcat Gorge Trail, plunging down into a redwood grove toward Wildcat Canyon.

*Left: Ducks enjoying the calm waters Lake Anza*

To the left, along a small trail, a beautiful waterfall roars after rainstorms (though within a few weeks it dries up completely). The trail continues its steep descent along rapid Wildcat Creek. Soon, you’ll reach an intersection with the Curran Trail, where you’ll turn right to climb through dense forest. Just as you start heading up the trail, make sure to notice Berkeley’s smallest post office, on the bay tree to the left. Though there are no workers here, but there are countless letters.

*Right: Lake Anza, as seen from the north*

The Curran Trail switchbacks up and out of the canyon before leaving the cover of the trees to offer great views back down. Though impressive, the view is a mere



sampler of what’s to come. To the north, the Meadows Canyon Trail is visible, and inaccessible caves on the other side of Wildcat Canyon peek out at you from the trees.

After returning to the forest, the Curran Trail gradually climbs to the top of Meadows Canyon, where you'll turn sharply right to head steeply up on the narrow, singletrack Seaview Trail through the trees again. Cross Wildcat Canyon Rd. and continue on Seaview, now a much wider trail, climbing steeply up the rolling hills of San Pablo Ridge. Numerous side trails lead to expansive views of the area, with some of the best ones to your left just across from the Lower Big Springs Trail or to the right near the top of the steep middle hill.

The Seaview Trail goes downhill for a bit, then ascends steeply to the labyrinth, which is just to the right off the main trail and well worth the detour. Follow a rocky side trail up a small rise to a collection of picnic tables, a bench, a labyrinth made of pebbles, and an expansive view of San Francisco Bay, the Coastal Range, and the Pacific Ocean. Continue downhill on Seaview from here, and, just beyond the intersection with the Upper Big Springs Trail, turn up a steep, singletrack side trail to the left.

*Right: The top of the mighty Seaview Trail*

The singletrack seems to head straight for the sky (if you'd like an easier trail, you can continue on the Seaview Trail and turn right once you hit the paved road to rejoin the route). Once the trail reaches the ridge, you'll gain expansive

views of the hills rolling eastward to culminate at Mount Diablo. At the northeast corner of the view, you can see the white windmills of Sherman Island, at the Sacramento-San Joaquin River. On clear winter days it's possible to see the Sierra Nevada, one hundred fifty miles to the east. Behind you, the hills roll on toward the Bay.

The singletrack emerges at the paved Vollmer Peak Rd. where you'll turn right and slightly downhill. If you'd like, you can follow the Lupine Trail downhill from here, or you can follow the main route to detour to the highest point in Tilden. For the spur to the top, continue left up the road past the various trails leading down. The road becomes very steep as it nears the top, then flattens out at a gravel lot around a large antenna-like structure. Congratulations





on reaching the highest point in East Bay! The views from this 1,920 foot summit are, needless to say, superb. They're best on the eastern side of the lot, near a large pine tree, where you can look east as far as massive Mount Diablo, and, on a clear day, to the Sierra Nevada. To the south, the grassy park hills roll on toward Sunol.

Double back down the road to the cut off for the Lupine Trail, a slight left turn from where the road curves right. You'll head briefly through the woods to emerge in the open grasslands. From here, the views down the open hillside toward the Bay are phenomenal. The trail switchbacks very steeply down the hillside and plunges into the woods again. Take a right turn onto the Vollmer Peak Trail where Lupine ends after a half mile, to arrive after another quarter of a mile at the Arroyo Picnic Area. Continue slightly left to reach South Park Dr, turn right down the road to the Lower Big Springs Trail, which runs from the lower end of the small parking lot. The Lower Big Springs and the Quarry Trails fork just after the road. Both will take you to the same place, but our route takes the Lower Big Springs Trail, since it is further from the road, hillier, and a bit more scenic.

The trail climbs and descends over beautiful rolling hills, and provides gorgeous views out toward the green (or golden, depending on time of year) hills of Tilden and the turquoise Bay. Three-quarters of a mile after the initial fork, it descends to another intersection with the Quarry Trail. Continue straight on Quarry to amble through the wide open hillsides, the pine trees of the higher hills standing sentinel behind you. The Quarry Trail ends at the Quarry Picnic Area, where you should turn left onto Wildcat Canyon Rd. Follow the road 0.3 miles, passing the sign for the Mineral Springs Picnic Area to reach the Mineral Springs Trail shortly after. This wide trail leads downhill from the road toward Lake Anza, near burbling Wildcat Creek. Turn right off the road to follow the trail, staying left at the fork at its beginning. Make your first left off the wide, dusty Mineral Springs Trail down to the narrower Wildcat Gorge Trail, and stay left again to follow it over a bridge and around a switchback, then make another left to reach Anza View Rd. Make a final left to follow the road to its southern intersection with Wildcat Canyon, and turn right to return to your starting point.

## The Skyline Sampler

Length: 11.6 miles

Time: 4-6 hours

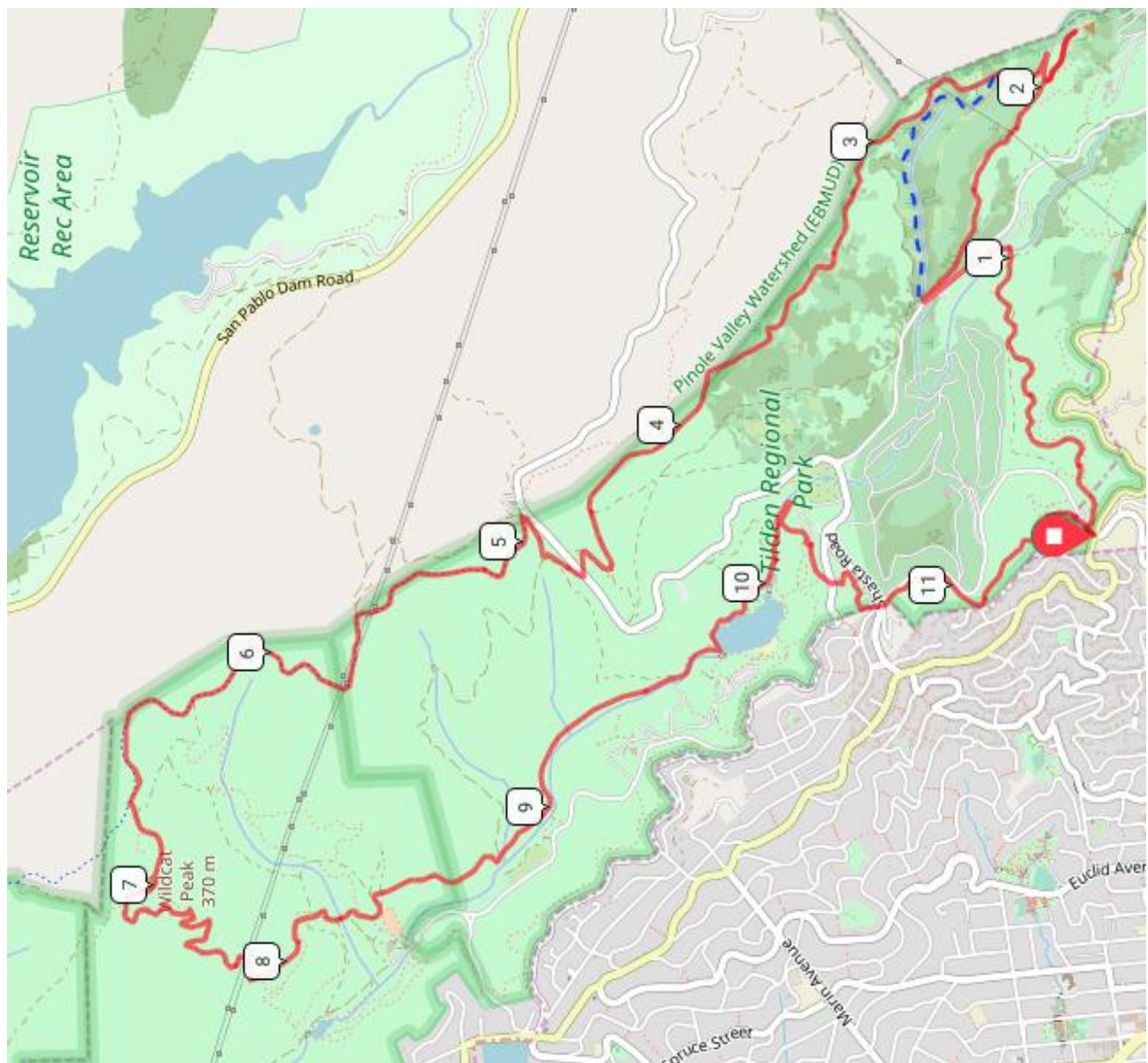
Difficulty: 5

Elevation Gain: 2,085 feet

**Starting Point:** Golf Course Dr. and Grizzly Peak Blvd (if you are taking the bus, start just down Centennial at the 65 stop)

### **Transportation:**

AC Transit line 65. Parking is available southeast on Grizzly Peak or at the Redwood trailhead just down Golf Course Dr.





## Overview:

A great expedition into the scenic parklands east of Berkeley, The Skyline Sampler first goes down through redwoods to South Park Dr, then climbs to the highest point in Tilden (Vollmer Peak), on a choice of either the shaded Arroyo Trail or the more exposed Lupine Trail. From here, it descends with incredible views in both directions. You'll continue along the ridge, then climb to Wildcat Peak, descend into the heart of Wildcat Canyon, and return via the shaded and beautiful Wildcat Gorge Trail. Keep in mind that this walk is quite difficult, especially when traversing the often hot ridge. The walk is entirely on trails with the exception of one block of South Park Dr, which is closed to cars from November to March. If "quite difficult" is not enough for you, you can extend the walk into a gorgeous 23.8 mile challenge by referring to the Wildcat Loop (following walk) description at Nimitz Way. Once you reach the junction of the Sylvan Trail and Wildcat Peak Trail you can return to this walk description. This skips the climb up Wildcat Peak but creates a lengthy view-filled tour of two of the East Bay's most splendid parks.

We named this walk the Skyline Sampler because it takes a portion of the 31 mile East Bay National Skyline Trail. If you are not content with just a sample, the entire trail—Castro Valley to Richmond—makes a challenging day hike or a great two-day trip.



## Directions and pictures:

Begin at the intersection of Grizzly Peak Blvd. and Centennial Dr, or just down Centennial if you are taking the bus. Head downhill on Golf Course Drive about 100 feet, then make a right into a gravel turnout toward the Redwood Trail. True to its name, the trail begins in a lovely grove of redwoods, soon emerging at the rim of a canyon.

*Left: the middle of Seaview, a preview of coming attractions*

The views north to Wildcat Canyon are excellent, encompassing grassy hills, a blanket of woodland to the north, and in the distance the grassy

summit of Wildcat Peak, which you'll climb later in the walk. The trail descends to join the Golf Course Trail. Stay right, and continue to where this trail ends, by the Laurel Picnic Area. Follow the narrow access road downhill (to the left), then make a slight left to walk down South Park Drive for one block, then turn right up the Arroyo Trail at the bottom of the steep hill. Here, you have a choice: if it is a hot day, you'll probably prefer to continue up the shaded Arroyo Trail to the left, which hits the Seaview Trail about .25 miles north of Vollmer Peak. See the next paragraph for the alternate option. Continue at any trail intersections you come to until you reach the top of this lovely 0.9-mile trail, then make a right on Seaview and another right up Vollmer Peak Rd. to the top of Vollmer Peak, the highest point in the East Bay with an incredible view down (if you want to skip some climbing and miss out on a view, you can just turn left from the top of Arroyo down Seaview instead, as that is where you will end up later anyway).



*Left: The Bay view from Seaview*

If it is a cooler day or you prefer a rockier, sunnier trail, make an immediate right off the Arroyo Trail at South Park and follow the Vollmer Peak Trail for a fifth of a mile. Here, take the left fork onto the Lupine Trail, which emerges from the leafy forest onto grassy hillsides. Views of the Bay and Mount Tamalpais get better and better as you climb steeply on the exposed trail. Finally, the Lupine Trail arrives at the paved Vollmer Peak Rd. (The

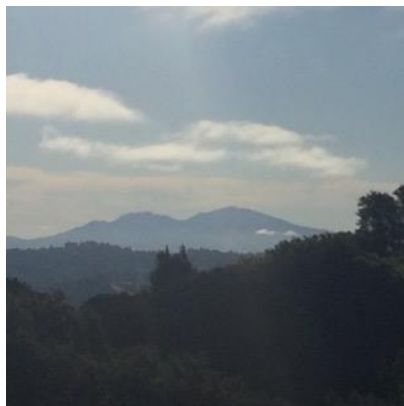
road is closed to cars, but watch out for bikes!) For the spur to the top, turn right up the road, which climbs steeply, bringing you to the highest point in Tilden. The views in all directions from this 1,920 foot summit are spectacular.

The two routes rejoin here: once you're done enjoying at the view, retrace your steps down Vollmer Peak Rd. as far as the wide dirt Seaview Trail, a quarter mile below the summit. Turn down this and descend to Upper Big Springs, then continue on Seaview upwards. At the top of the hill, turn slightly left to climb a bit more on a steep, single-track trail that leads to the top of an overlook. There's a bench here, and a collection of stones in the shape of a labyrinth. From this overlook, you can view all of Tilden, Berkeley, and Oakland; the San Francisco Bay; the San Rafael, Golden Gate, Bay, and San Mateo Bridges; and the Pacific Ocean extending as far as the Farallon Islands. It may well be the best view to the west in all of Tilden. The views to the east are excellent as well (better from the trail than the overlook), and you can look east at miles of rolling hills, past Briones to the rows of windmills on Sherman Island and the flat Central Valley.

Continuing north, descend steeply from the overlook to rejoin the main trail, which plunges briefly into a lovely forest. The trail rolls a bit and emerges from the woods to offer



another excellent view toward the headwaters of Wildcat Creek and San Francisco Bay. Soon after this, you'll descend steeply again past many eucalyptus trees to reach Wildcat Canyon Rd. Across Wildcat Canyon, the Seaview Trail narrows to a singletrack and descends through a thick forest. It ends soon after at the Curran Trail. Make a slight right to follow a connector up to Nimitz Way.



*Left: Mount Diablo in the distance, as seen from Nimitz Way*

At the parking lot, turn left onto the paved trail, climbing gently. This trail is very popular with cyclists, walkers, and joggers. Nimitz Way vaguely follows the ridgeline, sometimes descending slightly into the trees, sometimes climbing to sunny overlooks east toward Briones or west toward Wildcat Canyon. It's easy to track your progress by the markers every quarter mile along the trail. After almost two miles on Nimitz Way, turn left onto the Wildcat Peak Trail, near the northern edge of Tilden. The Wildcat Peak Trail makes its way first through the Rotary Club Grove and then steeply upward onto an exposed ridge, near Wildcat Peak (1,213 feet). The peak itself is a short detour to the right from the trail but is well worth it. This view contests with Vollmer Peak and the Seaview Trail Overlook in scope, extending north beyond San Pablo Bay toward Sonoma and Napa Counties, west past San Francisco to the ocean, east toward the Central Valley, and south over miles of parkland. Leave the expansive views and the ridge for good as you descend from Wildcat Peak into the forests of Wildcat Canyon. At the bottom of the spur to the summit, continue straight, down the Wildcat Peak Trail. After 0.7 miles steeply downhill, take a slight left on the Sylvan Trail, then turn left again onto the wide, gravel Loop Rd. After a half mile on this wide trail, you'll come out at a gate, then continue down along the dirt road until you reach the Lone Oak Picnic Area. Make a left past the water fountain (a good spot to refill) onto the Wildcat Gorge Trail. After a short stint through a meadow you'll return to the woods, passing several small pools and waterfalls, which transform into roaring cascades after a heavy rainfall. After the intersection with the Curran Trail, the trail ascends through a redwood grove, and you can opt to detour to the right toward a waterfall. This waterfall is huge just after heavy rain, but barely a trickle a week later. The Gorge Trail climbs a final steep hill to end at Lake Anza, the only place where Wildcat Creek has been dammed. Turn left to walk along the eastern shore of the placid lake. Lake Anza is a popular hiking and swimming destination and a great place for people-watching. Stay right to follow the shore of the small lake, then, halfway around, bear left onto the Wildcat Gorge Trail, which restarts here. The trail follows Wildcat Creek upstream on the eastern side, passing small waterfalls and a lovely stand of redwood trees. You'll then cross the creek and switchback up a hillside, staying left to reach Anza View Rd, which runs below the Brazil Building. Turn right and follow it to Wildcat Canyon Rd, then cross and continue through the gate up the Selby Trail, which switchbacks up through the woods, Cross Shasta Rd. at the end of the first segment of trail and continue another scenic  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile up the Selby Trail to where it ends at Golf Course Drive. A right turn brings you back to your starting point in a matter of seconds. Congratulations on the successful completion of this long and hilly walk!

## The Wildcat Loop

Length: 14.6 miles

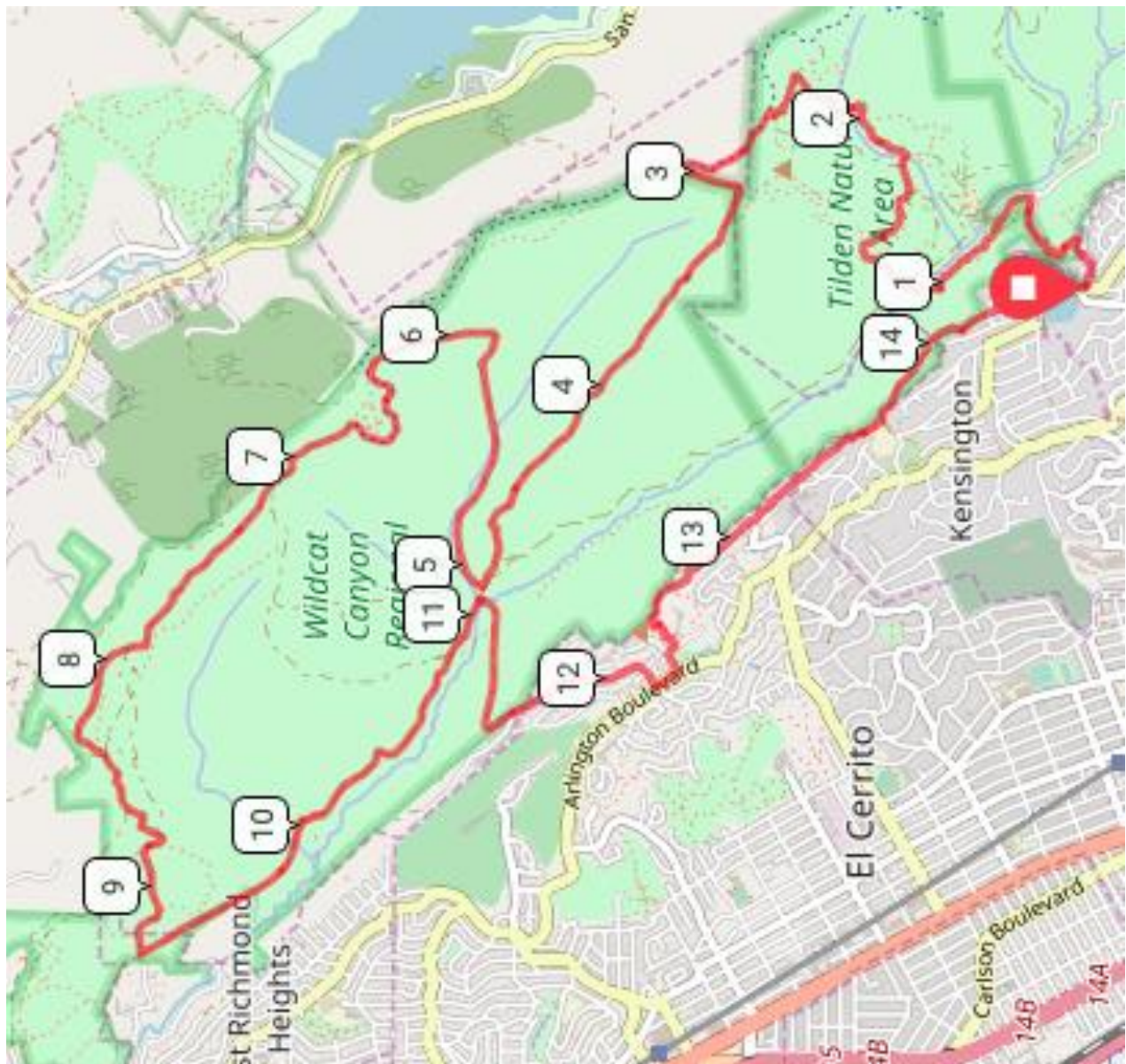
Time: 5-6 hours

Difficulty: 5

Elevation Gain: 2,500 feet

Starting Point: Spruce St. and Grizzly Peak Blvd.

Transportation: AC Transit Lines 65 and 67. Some parking is available on Spruce or side streets.





## Overview:

This strenuous walk traverses almost all of Wildcat Canyon Regional Park, crossing the park in all four directions. Almost entirely on trails, this walk includes open hillsides with grazing cows, high ridges with far reaching views, steep hills, creek fords, forested canyons, and the occasional residential neighborhood. This loop is somewhat similar to a longer version of our Havey Canyon and Surrounding Trails walk. You'll begin by descending into Tilden and then climbing to San Pablo Ridge, but waste no time heading back down into Wildcat Canyon. This gives you the opportunity to climb again through the trees to the ridge, then follow it north with spectacular views before descending once again on the Belgum Trail. You'll get a few-mile respite on the mostly flat, shady Wildcat Creek Trail before ascending out of the park to return to the start on trails and streets along the ridge above Arlington.



*Left: Coauthor Zeke Gerwein preparing to bike up one of the infamous hills on the San Pablo Ridge Trail (to be encountered in in the eighth mile of the walk)*

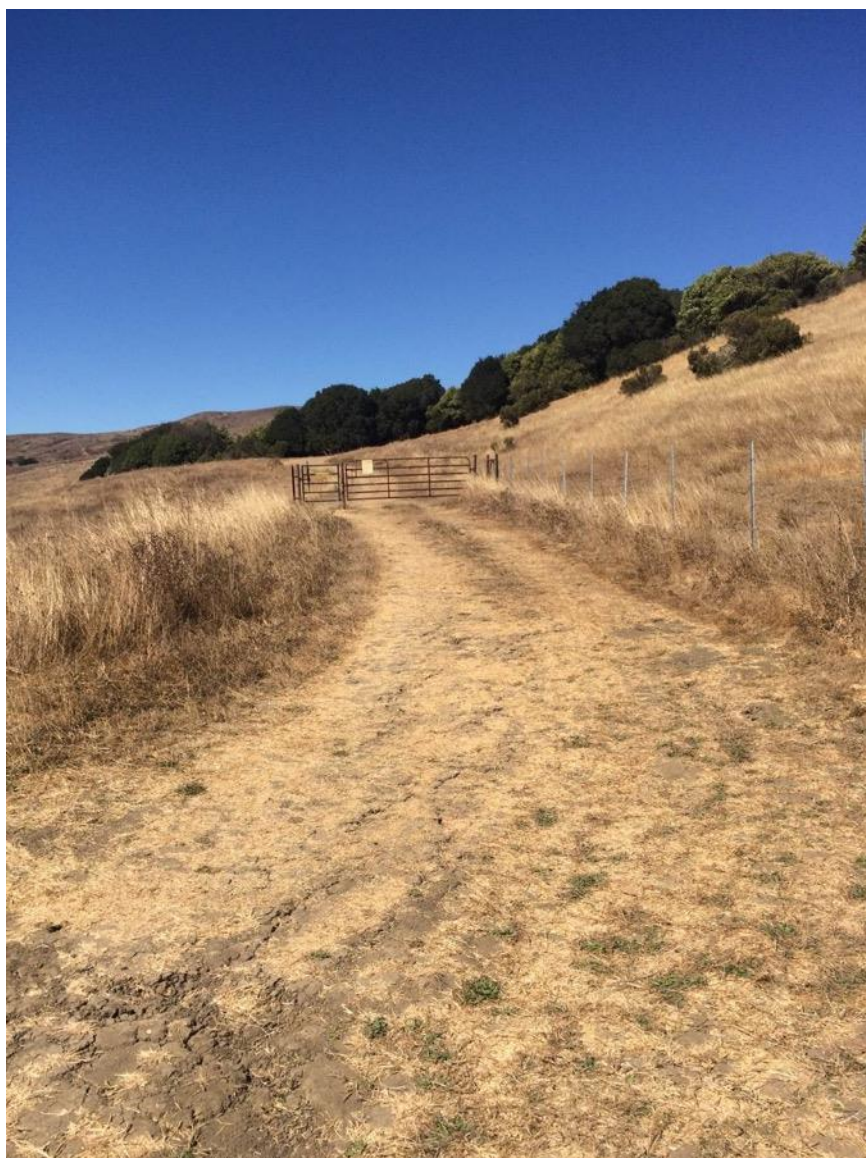
## Directions and pictures:

Begin at the reservoir at the top of Spruce St, where it intersects Grizzly Peak Blvd. From here, walk east onto Wildcat Canyon Rd. Once you reach a grassy turnout, turn left onto the Selby Trail, then make your first left onto the Memory Trail to begin the descent through the trees into Tilden. Cross Cañon Rd. and continue as the trail winds its way down. Stay left to continue onto the Upper Packrat Trail, which descends gently through the forest. Turn left on the Lower Packrat Trail at the bottom, walking along the western shore of Jewel Lake, which is often not much more than a large puddle. After crossing Wildcat Creek on a bridge, make a left on the Wildcat Creek Trail and the first right up the Jewel Lake Trail. Leaving Jewel Lake behind, the Jewel Lake Trail needs a new name, and continuing straight, it becomes the Sylvan Trail (do not turn right to continue on the Jewel Lake Trail). True to its name, the Sylvan Trail heads through

dense forest abundant with ferns, pine trees, and oaks as it climbs toward Wildcat Peak. At the intersection with the Peak Trail, though, continue right on the Sylvan Trail to descend gradually to Loop Road. Make a left, then another left shortly after to climb the thickly forested Laurel

Canyon Trail, which runs from just after the turnoff for Laurel Canyon Road. The trail winds its way upwards, with various small creek crossing. Stay left where it forks with itself to climb up to Laurel Canyon Road, then make a right and continue upwards a short way before turning left again, up a narrow shortcut trail to the foot of Wildcat Peak. Make a right at the top of the trail, then an immediate left onto the paved Nimitz Way, which is mostly flat and offers excellent views both west into the canyon and east down to the San Pablo Reservoir and El Sobrante. Pretty soon, you'll enter Wildcat Canyon Regional Park, the northernmost in a chain of parks that reaches the length of the East Bay Hills from Castro Valley to Richmond. (The East Bay National Skyline Trail follows the ridge through these parks. From north to south they are: Chabot, Redwood, Huckleberry, Sibley, EBMUD land, Tilden, and Wildcat.)

Soon after crossing into Wildcat Canyon, turn left up the gravel Conlon Trail, steeply climbing to the crest of San Pablo Ridge (for a shortcut alternate route, continue on Nimitz Way for 1.8 miles, rejoining the route at Nimitz Way and Havey Canyon Trail. This alternate cuts 3 miles off of the walk). Upon reaching the ridge, the Conlon Trail briefly follows it northward



before plunging west into the canyon. After a mile and a half of downhill on the sunny Conlon Trail, you'll stay left where the trail forks to reach the bottom of the canyon at the Wildcat Creek Trail. Make a right to descend one more hill to the intersection with the Havey Canyon Trail. If you're feeling tired here, there's an option to turn this walk into two separate loops.

*Left: The bottom of the dry Conlon Trail with views up toward the ridge and the sky*

To complete the southern loop, simply turn left up the Rifle Range Trail at the bottom of the hill and meet up with the main route there (skipping two paragraphs). Another day, you could come back for the northern loop, which starts at Arlington and Rifle Range, follows Rifle Range



Rd. and the Rifle Range Trail to the Wildcat Creek Trail, then turns right to meet the main route at the Havey Canyon Trail. Either loop is about 6 miles shorter than the main route.

Assuming you're up for the challenge of the entire walk, turn right onto the Havey Canyon Trail part way down the steep hill on the Wildcat Creek Trail and leave the open hills for the shaded forest surrounding Havey Creek. The trail is singletrack and covered in scattered leaves. It is a moderately popular route for mountain bikers, so stay alert as you climb. You'll cross the creek on a bridge (new as of 2017) then continue to climb, eventually emerging into an open meadow where the trail levels and cows graze freely. At the end of the 1.5-mile trail, turn left onto Nimitz Way to climb its final hill (nothing compared to what you have just done), then continue straight where the pavement ends onto the dirt San Pablo Ridge Trail. The view north and east from here is superb, reaching out over Briones, El Sobrante, Hercules, and the San Pablo Bay.

You'll pass through a metal gate, intended to contain the wandering cows, and continue along the dirt San Pablo Ridge Trail, climbing and descending small—and not-so-small—hills and admiring the stupendous view, which now reaches west to Richmond and Mount Tamalpais. Soon you'll reach two forks in quick succession. Take the left fork at first and the right fork next to stay on the San Pablo Ridge Trail. The trail continues to roll over many hills along the panoramic ridge. Stay right at future trail junctions to continue on the Ridge Trail, which you'll follow for a total of 1.5 miles. With a final *very* steep plunge, which some people prefer to slide rather than walk down, the trail reaches a junction with the Belgum Trail. Turn left on Belgum, which climbs gradually over grassy hills. Stay on Belgum past the intersections with the Clark-Boas Trail and the Monte Creste Trail, both of which make nice alternate hikes. You'll begin to descend steeply, reaching a junction with the paved end of the Wildcat Creek Trail one mile after turning onto Belgum.

*Right: The view from the Belgum descent*

Turn left here, walking along this former road, whose pavement now seems out of place in the midst of the park. After 1.8 miles of relatively gentle walking, much of it on dirt, you'll reach the



junction with the Rifle Range Trail. Turn right to climb steeply out of Wildcat Canyon to the western ridgeline at El Cerrito. At the end of the 0.6-mile, gravelly Rifle Range Trail continue south on the paved Rifle Range Rd. another half mile to Arlington Avenue (the start and end of the shorter northern loop we suggested earlier as alternate). Turn left on Arlington and immediately left again on Thors Bay Rd. Turn right shortly after onto James Place and follow the dirt trail to your left, which climbs toward the ridge. From the top, you'll have expansive views east to Wildcat Canyon and San Pablo Ridge, where you can picture your previous self, still full of energy, just setting out on the walk. After summiting, the trail begins to go gradually downhill. Turn left onto a narrower side trail, then continue south onto Ivy Court where the trail ends. Stay right onto Leneve Pl, then jog left on Terrace and continue south on Kensington Rd. Continue straight onto Kensington Ct. after a long block, and where this street dead-ends, continue down a driveway and south onto Ye Olde School Trail, which descends to Kensington Hilltop School (perhaps known alternately as "Ye Olde" School), then climbs gradually through the trees on padded ground along the rim of the canyon. Stay left at all forks to follow the main trail to where it ends at Grizzly Peak Boulevard and Kenyon Ave. Continue south onto Grizzly Peak, and two blocks will return you to your starting point, having successfully completed this epic walk.



## BART to BART Berkeley to Richmond Trail Walk

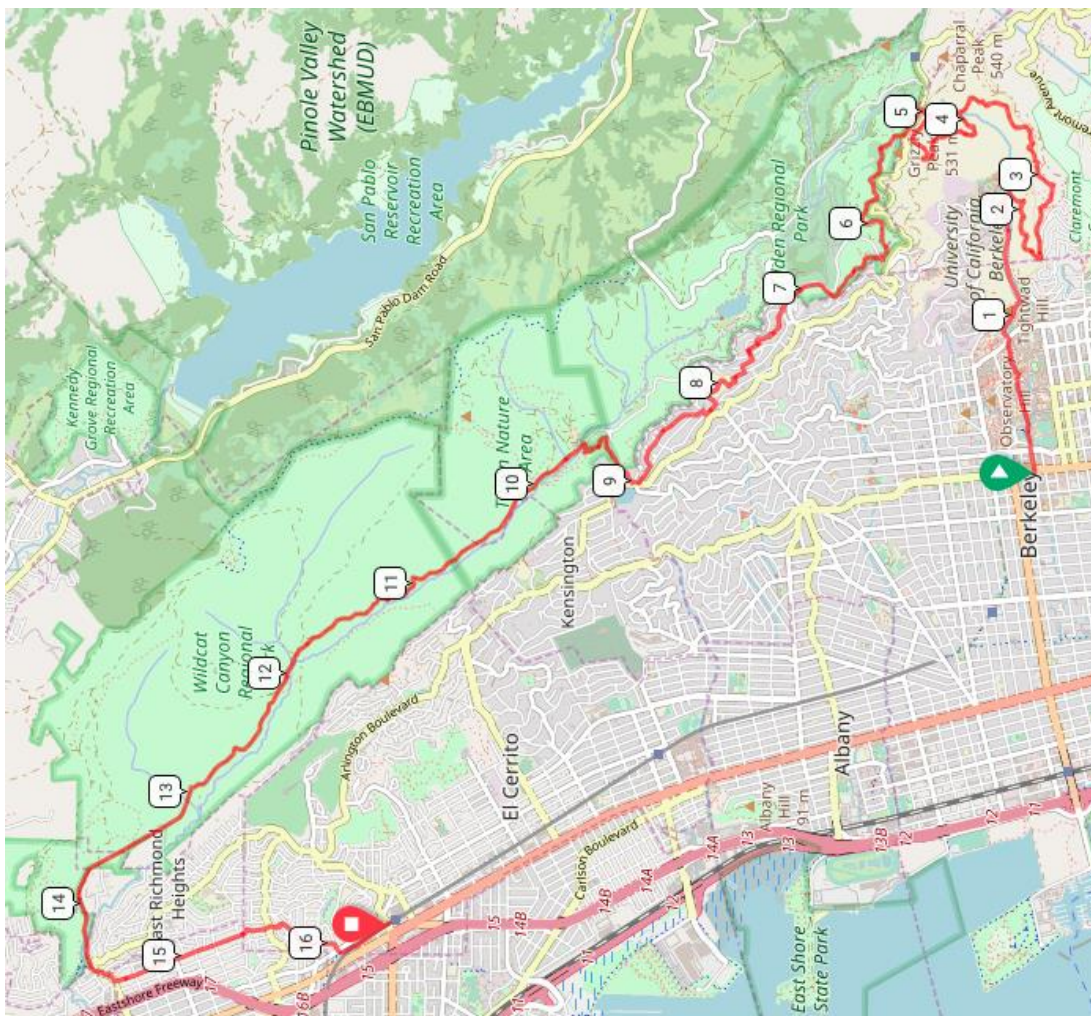
Length: 16.5 miles

Time: 6-7 hours, plus a half hour for BART

Difficulty: 5                  Elevation Gain: +1925 feet, -2050 feet

Starting Point: Downtown Berkeley BART (the intersection of Shattuck Ave. and Center St.)

Ending Point: El Cerrito del Norte BART (near Cutting Blvd. and San Pablo Ave.)



**Transportation:** A great many AC transit buses stop at both ends of the walk, as well as BART, of course. We recommend you take BART back to Berkeley, since it provides door-to-door service. It's hard to park downtown, so if you drive to the start you will have to park in a garage, pay a meter, or park a little ways away.

### **Overview:**

This walk begins in downtown Berkeley, but quickly leaves the busy streets, taking you through the University and up the entirety of the lovely, dirt Strawberry Canyon Fire Trail. From here, you'll follow the descending ridgeline on trails, roads, and paths, then plunge into Tilden to pick up the gentle and scenic Wildcat Creek Trail, which brings you all the way to Richmond. From here, it's two miles back on streets to BART, and an easy direct train ride to return to the starting point. Though this walk is the longest in the book (besides The Great Path Walk), most of it is easy walking and the vast majority of the climbing is done at the very beginning, so don't be to daunted. You can always do the first nine miles and then take the bus back if need be.

### **Directions and pictures:**

Begin at the intersection of Shattuck Ave. and Center St. in the heart of downtown Berkeley. Head up Center (east) one block, cross Oxford, and continue straight into the University. Make a slight right onto the concrete path to take it east, rather than following the curving road. Make a slight left where the path ends onto Campanile Way and continue east past the clock tower itself, for which the small street is named. It is especially fun to come here on the hour, when the bells are chiming. Walk past the southern side of the tower and continue east on the small road just to your right. At the third fork, where you road curves right, turn left, and you should reach Gayley Rd, which runs along the top of the University. Don't worry if you lose the route. Just keep heading east across the campus and you should reach Gayley Rd. Cross the road and continue up Stadium Rim Way, which, true to its name, runs around the rim of Cal's huge football stadium. Make a left at the top of the hill onto Centennial Dr, a busy street with a sidewalk that soon turns into a small dirt trail on the south side, making walking along Centennial a little more pleasant. Luckily, better things are in store. After 0.4 miles, the dirt path ends at the parking lot for the Strawberry Canyon Fire Trail. People often drive here to walk or run the trail, but you of course have arrived here a superior way—on foot. Continue across the parking lot and onto the wide, shaded fire trail, which climbs gradually through the trees. If you want to cut off a half mile, make a left up through the redwoods at the sign for the Woodbridge Memorial Grove. Various narrow trails wind their way steeply up through these lovely trees to rejoin the fire trail above. For the main route, continue up the wide trail, and you'll soon reach the bottom of a huge hill, nicknamed "Agony" by the runners who come here to do hill repeats. Turn left to climb the hill, feeling thankful that you only have to do it once, and continue up the scenic fire trail another 1.9 miles as it winds its way around the canyon. There are mile markers every half mile. Between the 2.5 and the 3 markers, make a slight right up a narrower side trail, marked on the Strawberry Canyon map as the Frowning Ridge Trail. Make sure you have





passed the 2.5 mile mark before doing turning, as there are other possible right turns earlier on the route. This new, unsigned trail climbs more steeply up the hillside, curving to the right. At the only opportunity, turn left to reach Grizzly Peak Blvd, the top of the Berkeley Hills.

*Left: The bottom of the shaded Fire Trail*

Make a left on the busy road, then a right very soon after to return to the peaceful land of trails. This right turn brings you onto the Tower Trail, which runs from a small pull-out on the eastern side of the road. Stay left where the trail forks, then left again onto the Grizzly Peak Trail, which runs gradually downhill paralleling the road at enough of a

distance to be quiet and peaceful. After a mile on this trail, you'll reach the junction with the Redwood Trail. Continue slightly to the right (not sharply right) down a hill to a small parking lot off of Golf Course Dr. Cross the road and continue straight onto the Selby Trail, which climbs a bit, then begins to descend past low plants and then into a grove of redwoods. 0.7 miles after Golf Course Dr, you'll hit Shasta Rd. Cross and continue down Park Hills Rd, then make your first right onto Woodside Rd, which runs from the confusing intersection at the bottom of the hill. Do not take Hillview Rd, which is a sharper right (though if you do accidentally, it does not matter since they rejoin later). Walk the short length of Woodside, to where it ends at The Crescent, then turn left. Halfway to the next street, turn right between a hedge and a fence onto a narrow paved path that leads into the small Crescent Park, a great rest stop and opportunity to refill water bottles. Where you're ready, continue down opposite where you came in, descending some stairs and passing through a gate to return to a road. Make a left, then cross Park Hills and continue up The Short Cut. Make your first right onto Middlefield Rd, then your first left up The Crossways, then the next right up the steep Overlook Rd. At the top of the hill,

the road ends; continue straight into a small car port, then turn left and step up onto a low wall. From here, follow the small trail through a gate into the Islamic College, which used to be a Lutheran Seminary. Cross the pavement and stay right on a path across some wood chips, then follow the road through a series of parking lots to where it turns left and exits this converted property to become Marin Ave.

After one block on Marin, turn right onto Creston, then a block later right again onto Sunset Ln. A very short block later, turn left onto Woodmont Ave, then make a slight right onto Vistamont Ave. Where the road dead-ends, continue slightly to your left down a gravel driveway, then slightly right onto Vistamont Trail, a lovely flat path through trees on stepping stones, then up a few stairs to where Vistamont Ave. restarts. Continue another quarter mile on Vistamont to where it turns left and ends at Woodmont. Make a right down the steep hill, and you will soon reach Wildcat Canyon Rd. Turn left, then right just before the major intersection with Grizzly Peak to descend Cañon Rd. After only a quarter mile on this steep road, a main route for cars to get to Tilden Park, turn left onto the Memory Trail, an excellent route for walkers seeking to do the same. Make a right at the first opportunity to descend steep switchbacks down to the parking lot for the Little Farm, a popular destination for young kids. Make a left as soon as you



hit the road, onto the Wildcat Creek Trail, which is paved for a very short stretch, then turns to dirt. You'll soon pass Jewel Lake, where turtles often sun themselves on logs or small wooden platforms.

*Left: Jewel Lake reflecting the trees above*

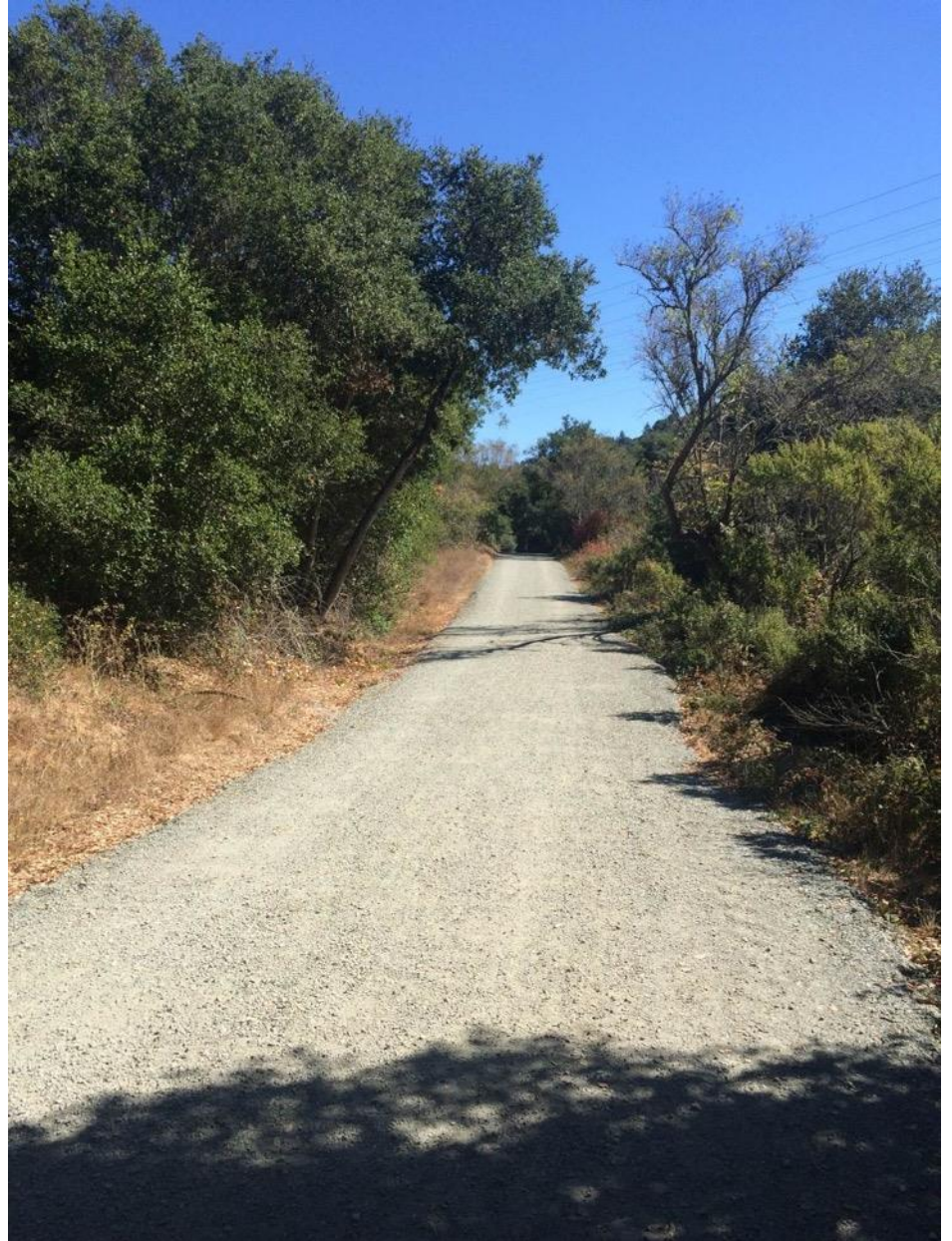
Wide and well-travelled, the Wildcat Creek Trail is an easy and scenic way to see Tilden and Wildcat Canyon Regional Parks. Overall, it descends gradually, but it feels mostly flat, with slight rolling hills. Occasionally you'll catch a glimpse of Wildcat Creek off to your left. To the right, you'll be afforded excellent views up the hills toward San Pablo Ridge. After four miles on the Wildcat Creek Trail, you'll reach the intersection with the Belgum Trail. On the way, you'll descend one steep hill, past the turnoff for Havey Canyon (see "Havey Canyon and Surrounding Trails"), and you'll find that the trail becomes paved for the final stretch. At Belgum, continue straight, and the trail, now called the Wildcat Canyon Parkway, will begin to curve to the left. Stay left at the turnoff for the Bonitas Gate Trail, and 0.4 miles downhill from the Belgum Trail, the Wildcat Canyon Parkway will spit you out at the northern end of Wildcat Canyon Regional Park, at a gate onto a small road which quickly hits Park Ave.

Now entering the final section of the walk, make a slight right onto Park Ave. and follow it west to where it hits McBryde Ave. Stay slightly right to take this street three rather busy blocks to Yuba Street, then make a left. Follow the smaller and more scenic Yuba about a mile to where it hits the busy Barrett Ave. Cross and continue one more block, then make a left onto Hillside Ave. and an immediate right onto Rosalind Ave. A few feet later, turn left to cut through the small Poinsett Park on a paved path next to the grassy square of park. You will quickly hit



Poinsett Ave, where you should make a right. Three blocks later, turn left onto Mono Ave. and after two blocks turn right down Conlon Ave. Cross Key Blvd. and continue straight, down a small paved path to the Ohlone Greenway bike path. Make a left here and one long block will bring you to the Knott Ave. Cross and continue straight, then cross Cutting Blvd. and continue a few more feet into the El Cerrito Del Norte BART station. From here, it's only three short stops on the Fremont or Millbrae bound train to return to your starting point of Downtown Berkeley. It's certainly an easy way to get back after this 16.5 mile walk, unless, of course, you feel like walking back....

*Right: A gravel stretch of the scenic and gentle Wildcat Creek Trail*





# Through Six Parks: Downtown Berkeley to Oakland and Back on the Bus

Length: 14.8 miles

Time: A short day--at least six hours of walking, allow seven, and an additional hour if you plan to take the bus back

Difficulty: 5

Elevation Gain: +3200 feet, -2900 feet

Starting Point:  
Shattuck Ave.  
and Virginia St,  
Berkeley

Ending Point:  
Park Blvd. just  
below Monterey  
Blvd, Oakland

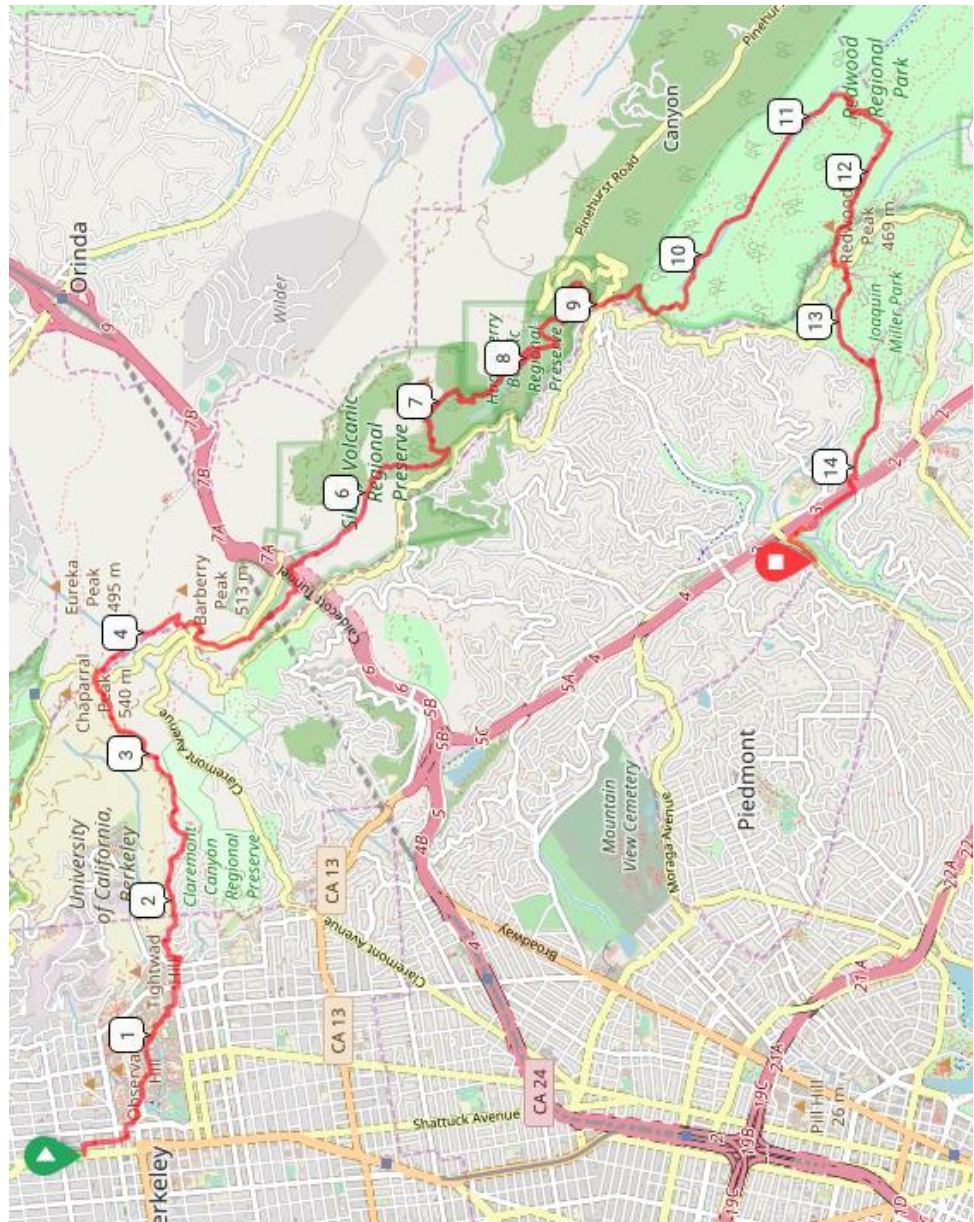
### Transportation:

AC Transit bus 18 for returning to the start, others available at either end. Parking is available on Virginia or Walnut, one block above Shattuck.

### Overview:

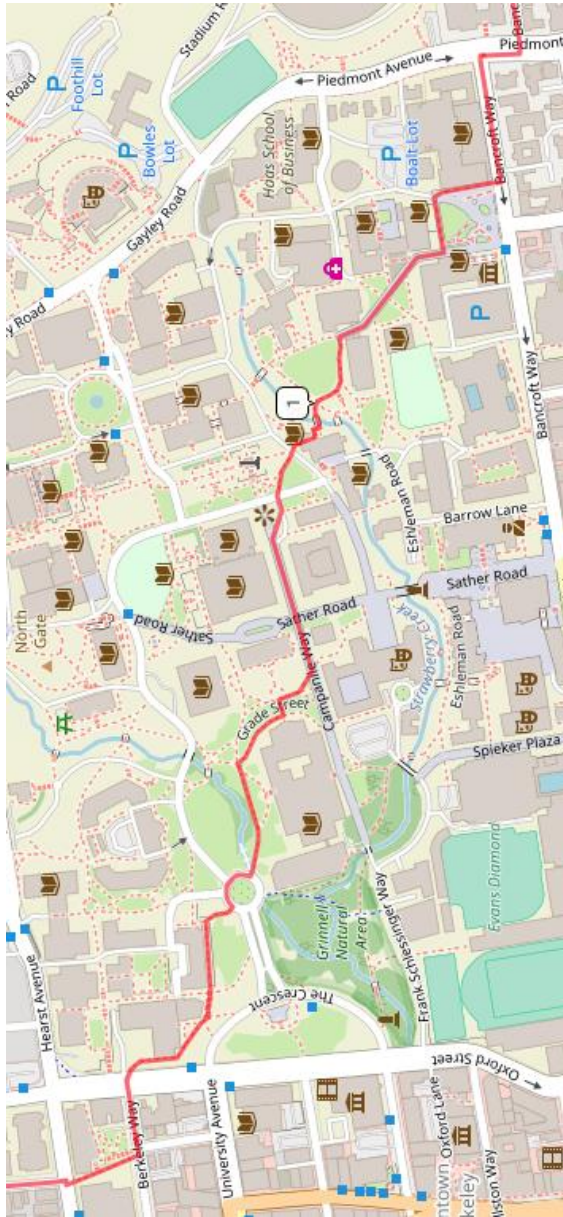
This incredible—and incredibly hilly—walk leads you from Berkeley to Oakland the scenic way, nearly all on trails through six different major parks. You'll begin by climbing fire trails to the top of Grizzly Peak, then

joins the East Bay National Skyline Trail and follow it through EBMUD land and Sibley Regional Preserve to the amazingly green Huckleberry Regional Preserve. In Redwood Regional Park,





the route leaves the Skyline Trail for the lovely Stream Trail, which slopes gently downwards through redwoods groves. After a final climb out of Redwood, the route descends through the maze of trails in Joaquin Miller to end a fabulous fifteen miles at a bus stop in Oakland. From here, it's just under an hour directly back on the AC Transit bus 18 to return to the starting point. Check the bus routes before you do this walk, as AC Transit has been known to change their routes. If the 18 no longer runs this way, you'll have to arrange for an alternate form of transportation back to the start.



## Directions and pictures:

Start at the intersection of Shattuck Ave. and Virginia St. If you complete the entire walk, you can easily ride the bus back here. Begin the walk by heading east up Virginia, then make your first right onto Walnut St. After two blocks, cross Hearst Ave. and continue straight on a concrete walkway to where Walnut restarts. Rather than staying on Walnut, make a left up Berkeley Way. Cross Oxford St. and continue straight on the curving path into the University. From here, wander towards the intersection of Bancroft and Piedmont (see the map on the left for one possible route). There are many paths through the university and it doesn't matter exactly which ones you take. Just try to continue east and south, and you will come out of the campus on either Bancroft or Piedmont. Continue east on Bancroft or south on Piedmont until you reach their intersection, then head south another half block and make a left to continue up Bancroft. After one block, continue straight up Bancroft the street to Panoramic Way. Turn right, then make your first left up the wide, concrete steps of Orchard Lane.

*Left: one route through UC Berkeley*

After half a block, turn left off this path onto Mosswood Lane. Follow the path up a few stairs, then through redwoods up a gentle slope and a few more stairs to Mosswood Rd. Turn left, then right at a telephone pole a bit before the road ends up the many even concrete steps of Arden

Steps, which looks nearly vertical. At the top of this path, make a slight left to continue up Arden Path. At the top of its wood stairs, make a left, and, after a steep tenth of a mile, another left past the signs onto a trail, then an immediate right up the steepest hill on the Strawberry Canyon Lower Fire Trail. At the top of this hill, a taste of what is to come, continue up the relatively flat fire trail for half a mile, then make a sharp right up a steeper and narrower trail which will quickly take you to an upper fire trail. (You will pass several of these cut-ups to the

right; any one will do.) Make a left at the end of the connector. The trail climbs steeply, then is flat and downhill for a while, and then climbs steeply again. After 0.6 miles, you will come to a four-way trail intersection. Continue straight, then make an almost immediate right onto a narrow side trail through a sort of tunnel of trees and plants. This trail, sometimes called the Himalayan Trail, or "Side-O," can be hard to find, but is a nice and very useful shortcut. Continue uphill for a long-feeling third of a mile, at which point you will reach Grizzly Peak Blvd. Cross carefully and turn right onto the East Bay National Skyline Trail, which runs 30 miles from Castro Valley to Richmond. To access the Skyline Trail at this spot, it is necessary to climb over a small gate, which is locked because it is an entrance to EBMUD property. It is completely legal to pass, though, because a permit is not needed to walk the Skyline Trail. At this point, though you have only walked 3.6 miles, you have done nearly half of the climbing for the entire walk!

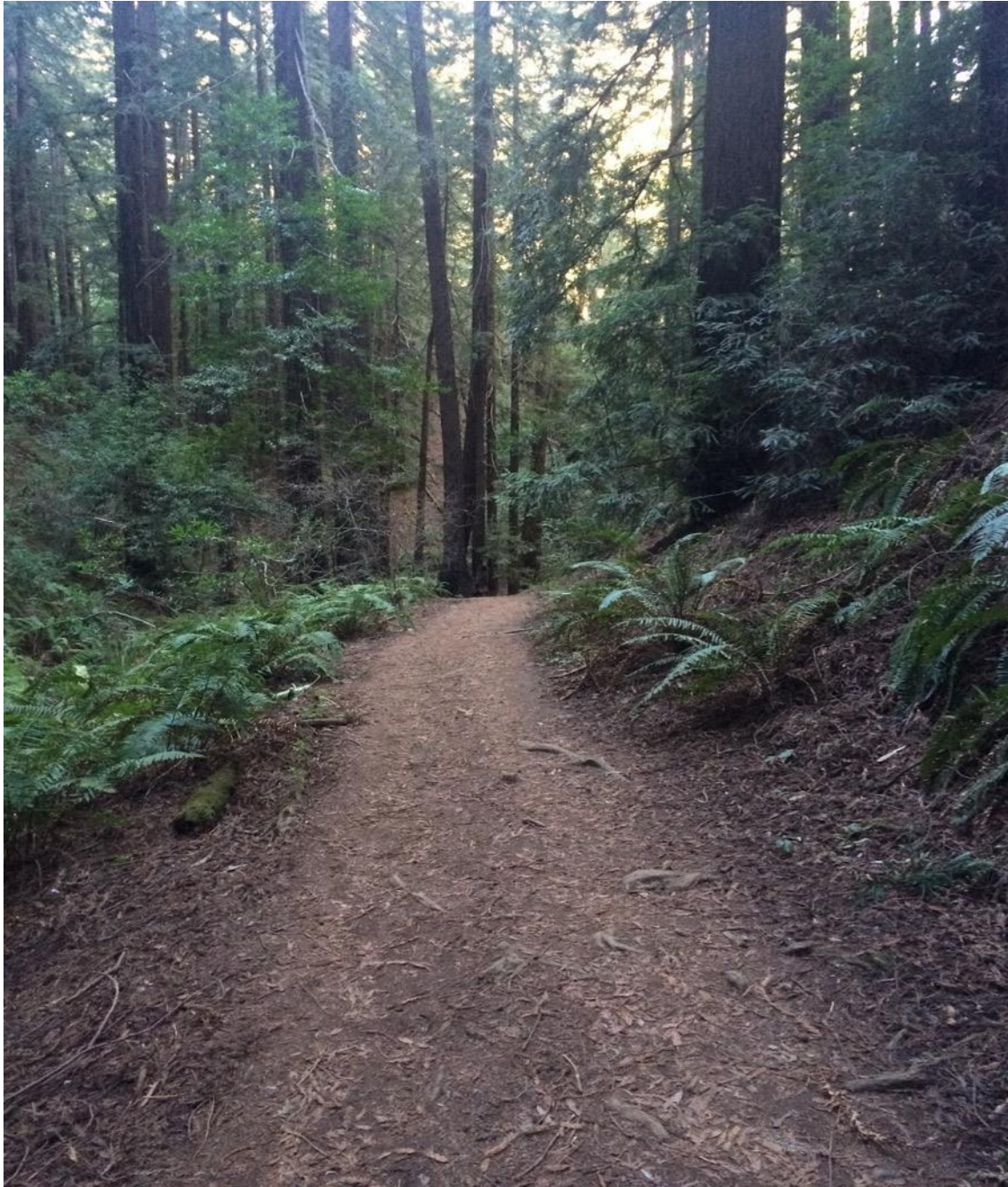
*The narrow trail down from the top of Grizzly Peak gives an incredible view east to Briones Regional Park and Mt. Diablo Beyond*



It's a crazy feeling to hear traffic rushing below you. Continue straight at Old Tunnel Rd. up a long and gradual hill to Sibley Staging Area, the main entrance to the park and a good bathroom stop. Here, make a slight left and climb a short hill, still on the Skyline Trail, then make a right briefly onto the Round Top Loop Trail and another slight right off of it to continue on the Skyline Trail towards Huckleberry Botanic Regional Preserve. The trail slopes steeply down, and, suddenly, the scenery changes entirely. The trail goes from Sibley's rocky heights



into the lush, green canyon of Huckleberry. The Skyline Trail continues down into the incredible canyon, past ferns and under trees, on a padded, narrow, dirt trail.



*The shaded Stream Trail's gradual descent into Redwood (coming soon)*

When you reach the intersection with Huckleberry Path, make a sharp right, then your next sharp left to stay on the Skyline Trail as it switchbacks up out of the canyon. Stay left at all trail intersections you come to after this. Under so many trees, the light is dimmer and filters down softly, so it is a shock to suddenly emerge into the harsh light of the top of the canyon. The trail continues through ferns for about another half mile, then hits Pinehurst Rd. at its intersection with Skyline Blvd. Cross Pinehurst and continue on the Phillips Loop Trail directly



opposite into Redwood Regional Park. After a quarter mile, turn right onto the wide, dirt East Ridge Trail, which reaches the Skyline Gate parking lot (another good bathroom stop) after another quarter mile.

Here, your route splits off from that of the Skyline Trail. Make a slight left to descend the Stream Trail in Redwood's amazing canyon. The trail gradually gets smaller and soon enters a phenomenal grove of redwoods. It's amazing to think that you walked here from Berkeley, while



many people visit California from other states and even countries to see redwoods like these. Take the Stream Trail 1.7 miles, past Girl's Camp, the Eucalyptus Trail, Tres Sendas, the Prince Trail, and the Mill Trail. Make a slight left at the Mill Trail to continue on the Stream Trail after crossing the bridge, then turn right up the Fern Trail at the next trail junction. The Fern Trail winds its way steeply up out of the canyon, under more towering trees. Turn left at the French Trail, then immediately right to continue up the Fern Trail. A total of half a mile on this trail brings you to the western ridge of Redwood. Here, make a right on the creatively named West Ridge Trail and follow it for  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile, at which point you will hit a small road. Be careful not to turn onto the Redwood Peak Trail, Access Rd, or Roberts Ridge Trail on the way. Turn left onto the small road, which runs just below Chabot Space and Science Center, and you will quickly reach Skyline Blvd; turn left, then make a right soon after at a yellow gate onto a trail. Stay left at the first trail intersection you come to, and you will find yourself on a road. All this happens in under a tenth of a mile. Make a right on the road, then an almost immediate right opposite the Fern Ravine Trail onto/toward the Sequoia Bayview Trail. Turn left at the first trail intersection, then stay right at the second onto the Cinderella Trail. This brings you into the heart of Joaquin Miller Park. The trails in this park are incredibly confusing, as you can probably tell from the last few sentences of directions, and we have a history of getting lost here, so we've attached a small map of your route on the left.

Take the rocky, dirt Cinderella Trail steeply down for about half a mile, then make a slight right onto the Sunset Trail. Almost immediately, make a left down a small connector trail, labeled "Sinawik Cabin" on our map. Beware! this trail is very easy to miss. At the bottom, turn right onto the Palos Colorado Trail. At this point, navigating becomes much easier. Follow the trail down through trees next to a creek, and after just under  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile you will exit the park onto a small road. Continue to the right down the road and you will quickly reach Mountain Blvd. Turn left and cross the road, then turn right through a conveniently-located tunnel under Highway 13. On the other side, turn right onto Monterey Blvd. Cross to walk on the small sidewalk of this rather

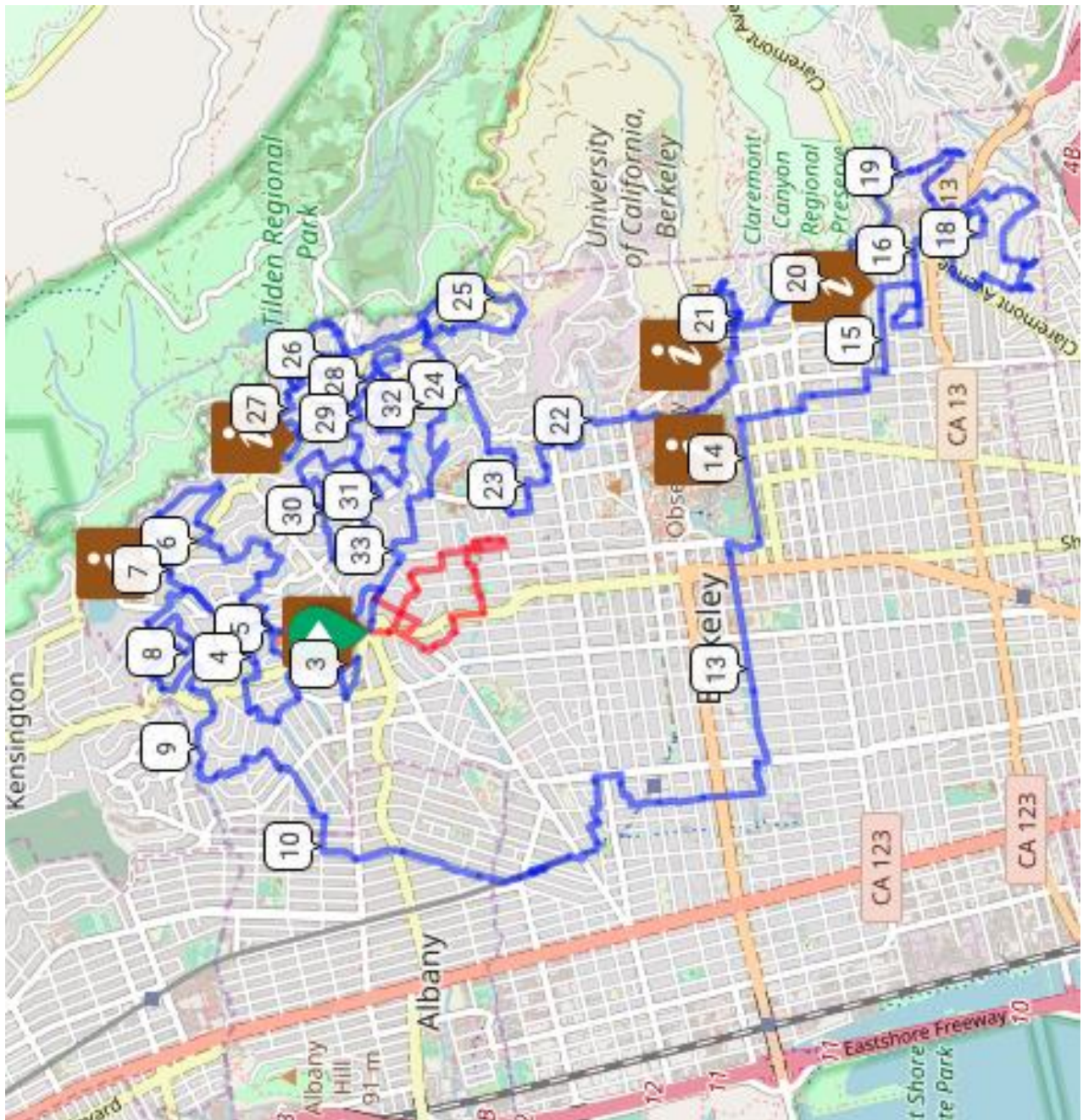


unpleasant street. After not too long, you will come to the large intersection with Park Blvd. Cross Park and make a left. You will soon reach a bus stop by a church for the AC Transit route 18 bus. Wait here for the bus (they generally run every twenty minutes) and when it comes, make sure it is headed toward San Pablo Ave. and Monroe St, Albany. After about 50 minutes, the bus will stop at Shattuck Ave. and Virginia St, your starting point. Offboard here and you will have made it! This is a difficult but fabulous walk, giving an excellent tour of Claremont Canyon, EBMUD land, Sibley, Huckleberry, Redwood, and Joaquin Miller. Six parks, and only one walk!

## SECTION 7:

A Walk so Epic we Devoted an Entire Section to it: The Great Path Walk, Every Path in Berkeley in One Day!

*The Route:*





## The Great Path Walk

**Length: 33.4 miles**

**Difficulty: 5+**

**Time: A full day (a *really* full day: it took us 13 ½ hours the first time)**

**Elevation Gain: 5000 feet--less than a mile!**

**Starting Point: The Marin Circle**

### **Transportation:**

AC Transit Lines 7 and H stop just below the Circle on Marin. The 18 also stops at Sutter and Hopkins, near the bottom of the first path on the loop, which serves as an easy alternate starting point. Limited parking is available on Arlington or Los Angeles.

### **Overview:**

This is an extremely difficult walk and a fabulous challenge, even if done in several pieces. Starting at the Marin Circle, you'll begin with a short loop—a sampler of some of the types of paths to come, then head north of Marin to walk the 31 paths there. You'll descend into the flats to walk the three paths there, then continue east to the Claremont Area and walk approximately twenty paths there, stopping for lunch in a small park around the 16 mile mark. The afternoon begins by returning north to the five paths on Panoramic Hill, then crossing through the UC Berkeley campus to walk the nearly fifty steep paths in the North-Berkeley hills. The walk returns you to the Marin Circle at the end, 34 miles and over 10,000 stairs later. As of 2018, we lead this walk annually in August or September, and information is posted on the Berkeley Path Wanderers' website, [www.berkeleypaths.org](http://www.berkeleypaths.org).

### **Directions and pictures:**

When we've led this walk, we've broken it into five 6-7 mile segments with checkpoints in between where people can join or leave. Each of the checkpoints has AC Transit bus service back to the beginning of the walk with at most one transfer. Checkpoint and segment information is included below.

**Start:** The Marin Circle (intersection of Marin and Arlington) at 7:00am

In the first segment you will walk most of the paths north of Marin. This segment takes 20 paths, including several multi-block ones.

**Checkpoint one:** SW corner of Euclid Ave. and Grizzly Peak Blvd, 7 miles into the walk.

Recommended time of arrival: 9:15.

In the second segment you will walk the paths between Spruce and Arlington and then descend into the flats to take the three paths there. Next, you'll go up Allston and Bancroft to the second checkpoint. This segment takes 14 paths, and is mostly a long connecting stretch, in which you will cross the majority of Berkeley.

**Checkpoint two:** North side Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave, 14 miles into the walk. We recommend being there by noon if you plan to do the whole walk in a day.

In the third segment you will cover 23 paths, first the ones in the Claremont area, then the ones at the top of Bancroft.

**Checkpoint three:** Northwest corner of Bancroft Way and Piedmont Ave, the 21 mile mark. We recommend aiming to arrive by 3:00.

In the fourth segment you will cut through the University and then climb to Grizzly Peak. You will then walk the scenic easternmost paths, those near Tilden. This hilly segment takes 21 paths.

**Checkpoint four:** NW corner of Grizzly Peak Blvd and Latham Ln, near the 27 mile mark. Try to be there by 5:45.

In the final segment you will walk the paths between Marin and Shasta (and there are a LOT of them) and will hopefully be exhausted, or else there is something wrong with you. You will end with Oak Street Path and return to the Marin Circle, if on schedule around 8:15 or 8:30pm. Only 25 paths in this segment, but it will feel like many more.

You will finish with a grand total of about 13 1/2 hours of walking—if you adhere to our schedule—103 paths, 5000 feet of elevation gain, and 33.4 miles.

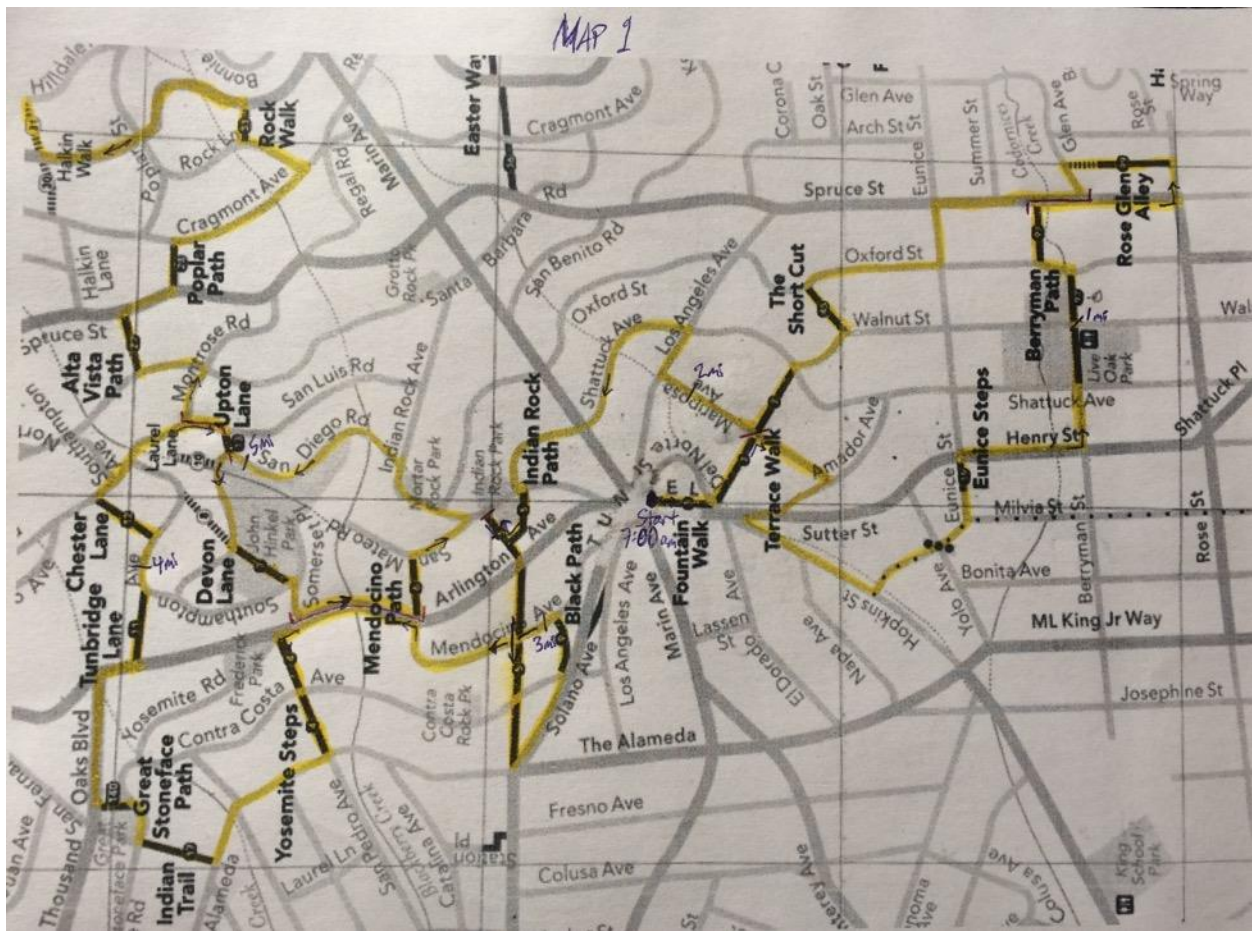
All the checkpoints are at bus stops and directions for how to return to a previous checkpoint by bus are available at [tripplanner.transit.511.org](http://tripplanner.transit.511.org).



*The intrepid group of hikers who accompanied us on all or part of the fourth Great Path Walk, in 2016, posing at the Marin Circle before beginning the walk*



The walk would take far too much time and space to describe turn-by-turn, so below we've attached the six maps we used to navigate when we did the walk most recently (our sixth time), in 2018. The route follows the highlighted line along the Berkeley Path Wanderers' excellent map of Berkeley, with mile marks written in blue pen. Arrows to show the direction of the route are also in blue, and, since the route gets pretty complicated and confusing in some sections, red pen is used to divide separate sections of the route. Also marked in red are the checkpoints we have used when we've led this walk (listed on the previous page) and times we aim to arrive so as to finish by 8:15 or 8:30pm. Basically, follow the yellow highlighter and the blue arrows and don't cross the red lines. The route is also available online with turn-by-turn directions and a complete map at <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/28155334>. By downloading the free Ride with GPS app, you can navigate from this route using a smartphone, and can view your current location to make sure you are on track. Enjoy the adventure, the greatest one this book has to offer!







MAP 3

