

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.

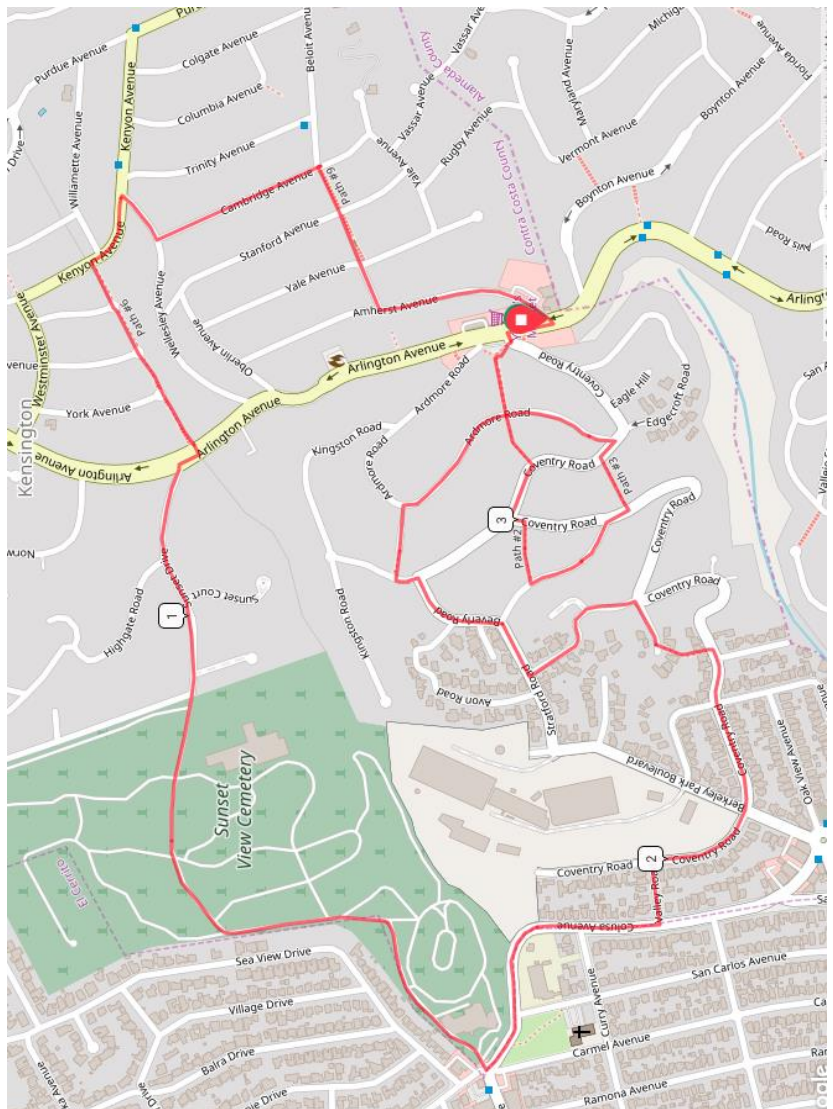
Overview:

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!