

## Every Path in Berkeley, Part 1

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

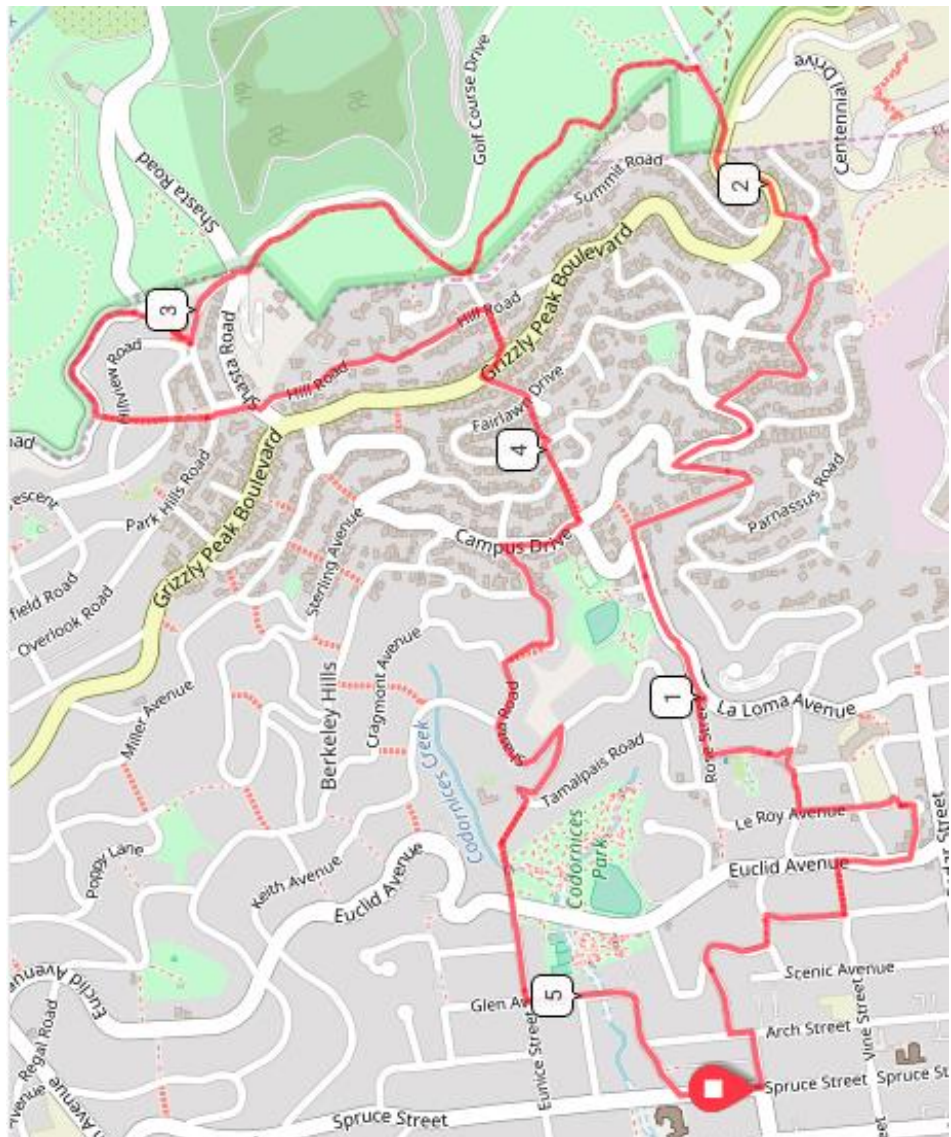
**Difficulty:** 4            **Elevation Gain:** 1,200 feet

**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.