

## Every Path in Berkeley, Part 5

**Length: 7.8 miles**

**Time: 3 hours should suffice**

**Difficulty: 3**

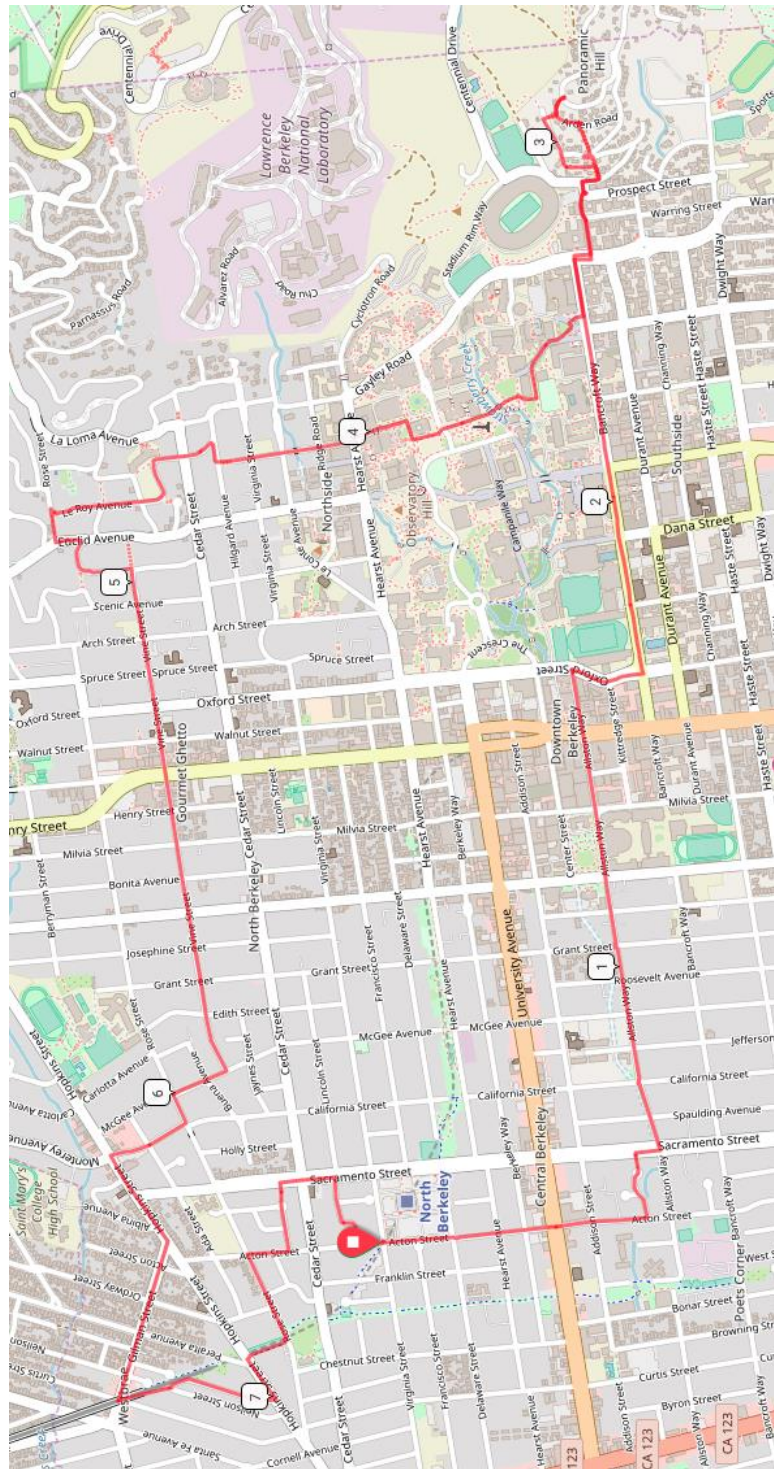
**Elevation Gain: 825 feet**

**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!