

Every Path in Berkeley, Part 6

Length: 4.8 miles

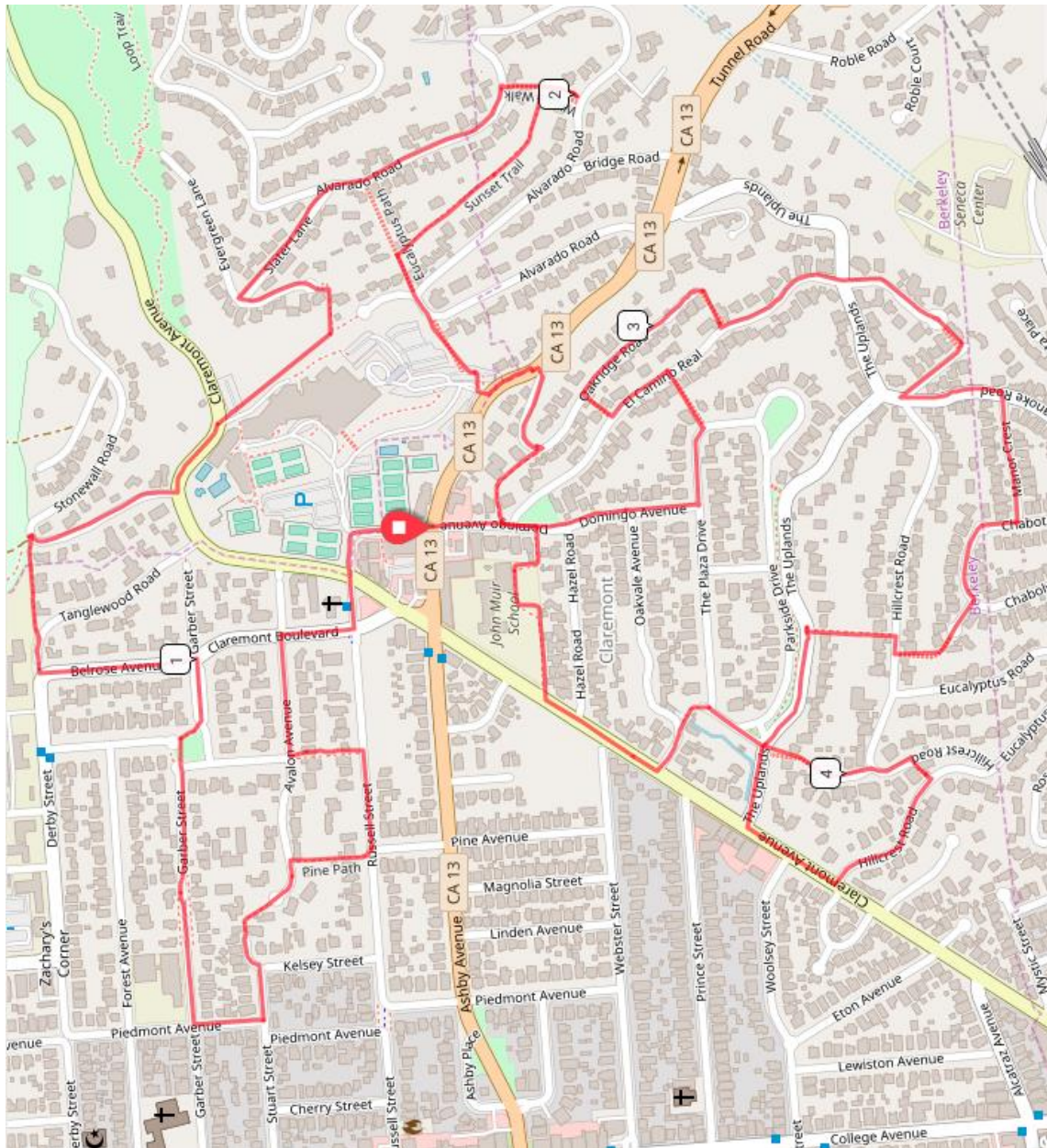
Time: 2 to 2.5 hours

Difficulty: 3

Elevation Gain: 650 feet

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

Transportation: AC transit buses 604 and E stop at the start. The 49 stops a short block down Ashby. Parking is available south on Domingo.



Step It Up: An Adventurer's Guide to Forty Walks on the Paths, Trails, and Streets of Berkeley and Beyond© 2020 by Jacob Lehmann Duke and Zeke Gerwein. All rights reserved.

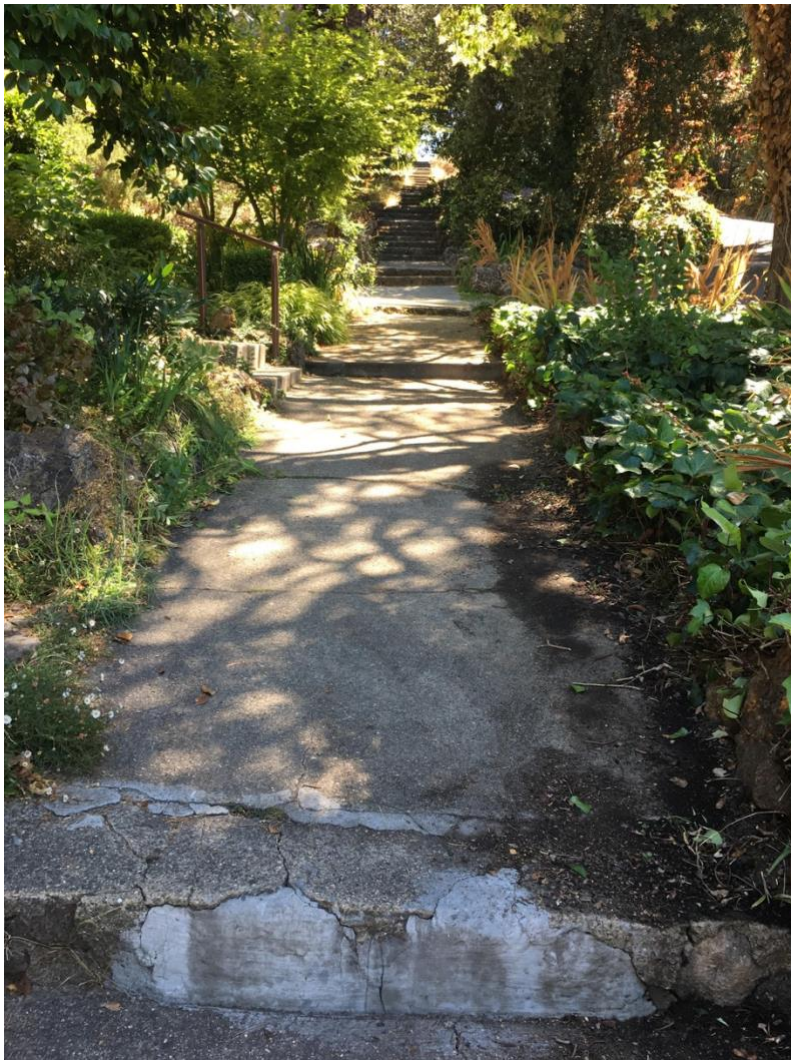
Overview:

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!