

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!