

Paths of Panoramic Hill

Length: 1.3 miles

Time: 40 minutes

Difficulty: 2+ (steep but short)

Elevation Gain: 300 feet

Starting Point: Bancroft Way and Piedmont Ave.

Transportation:

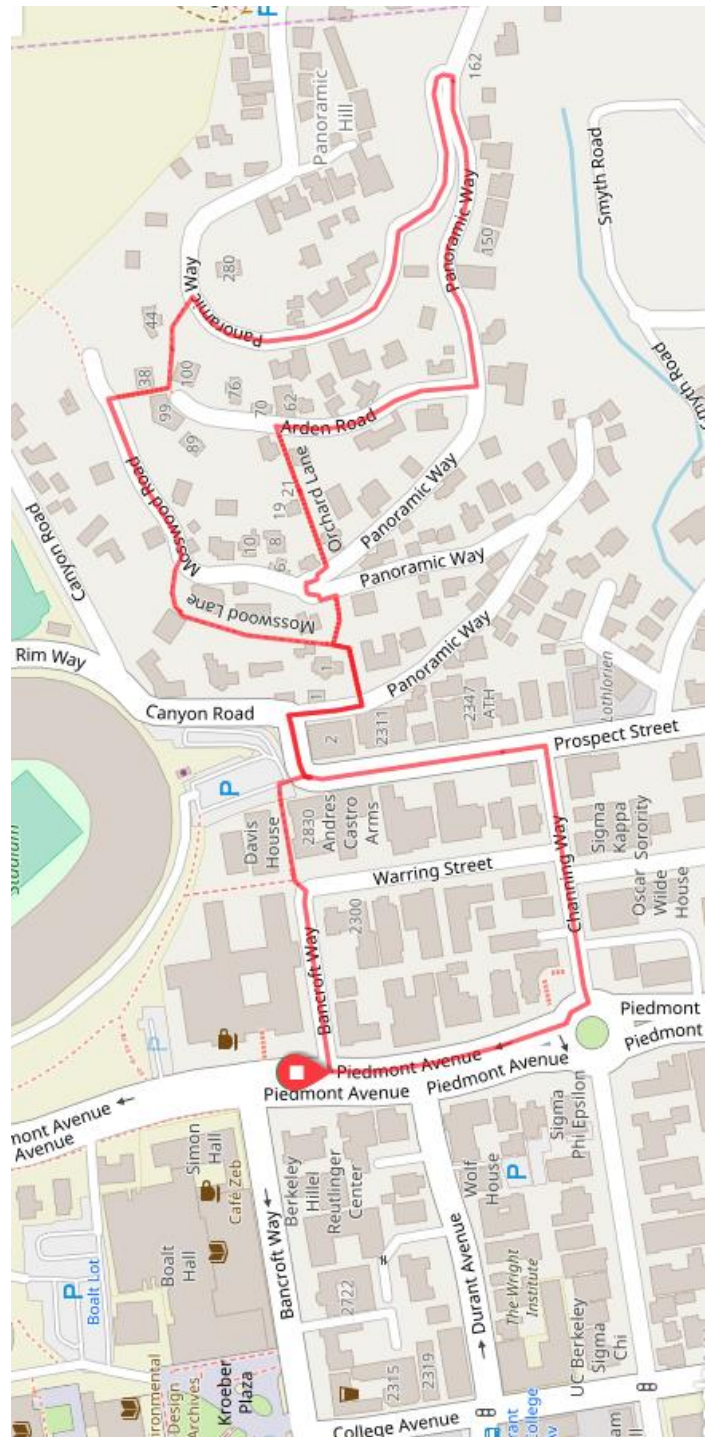
AC Transit buses 49, 52, and F stop a short way down Bancroft from the start. Limited parking is available on Prospect Street (an alternate starting spot for the walk--see map) and in the surrounding area.

Overview:

This short, step-filled walk takes you on the five historic paths in the Panoramic Hill area and provides great Bay views.

Directions and pictures:

Start at the intersection of Bancroft Way (the eastern section) and Piedmont Ave. Begin the walk by heading up Bancroft toward the hills. And the paths. After one block, you should reach Warring St. and the apparent end of Bancroft. Rather than turning onto Warring, continue straight-up Bancroft Steps. This historic brick-tiled path leads you up out of the busy University neighborhood and onto Panoramic Hill. Continue straight at the top of the path on the continuation of Bancroft Way. One short block later, turn right onto Panoramic Way, which winds its ways up for 1.3 miles to the top of the hill, where it dead ends. Luckily, you do not have to take it 1.3 miles, but you can pity the people who live at the top and have to drive around its crazy curves daily. After a very short block, turn left up the wide concrete steps of Orchard Lane. There is no sign, but the steps are hard to miss if you keep an eye on the upper side of the street. Orchard Lane is Berkeley's oldest path, built in the early 1900s. A historical plaque part way up tells about the history of the neighborhood. Stay right at the "path intersection" with Mosswood Lane. You'll be back to walk that one! At the top of the first block of



Orchard Lane, turn left and then cut right to make the crazy U-turn on Panoramic Rd, then turn left up the second block of Orchard Lane. The path is again unmarked and looks as if it leads only to houses, but you can recognize it by the fact that it goes up several steps, then turns 90° to the left and continues east. At the top, make a right on Arden Rd. A block later, turn left on Panoramic, yet again. Follow Panoramic one long block up, then make a very sharp left to stay on it at the intersection Dwight.

A fifth of a mile later, Panoramic curves again. Here, make a left down Arden Path, which, for once, does have a street sign. At the bottom of the wooden steps, make a slight right to continue down Arden Steps. This path has so many concrete steps with so few landings that it appears to simply drop off. Luckily there's a handrail! At the bottom, make a left down Mosswood Rd, continuing to where it curves, then making a slight right onto Mosswood Lane, our favorite path in this area. After descending a few steps, the path becomes a dirt trail through redwoods and over padded needly ground. It ends with a concrete staircase down to Orchard Lane and the now familiar "path intersection." Make a right and go down the steps to Panoramic. Turn right, then left on Bancroft and left on Prospect St.



Left: Arden Steps, in the more tiring direction

If you are in a rush at this point, you can also go down Bancroft Steps and one more block of Bancroft, but for a bit of variety, we recommend you take Prospect instead. After one block, turn right down Channing Way, then two blocks later make a right on Piedmont. You will quickly return to your starting point, and the end of this short but steep walk. If you have some extra time, UC Berkeley is just to the northwest and is a great place to explore.