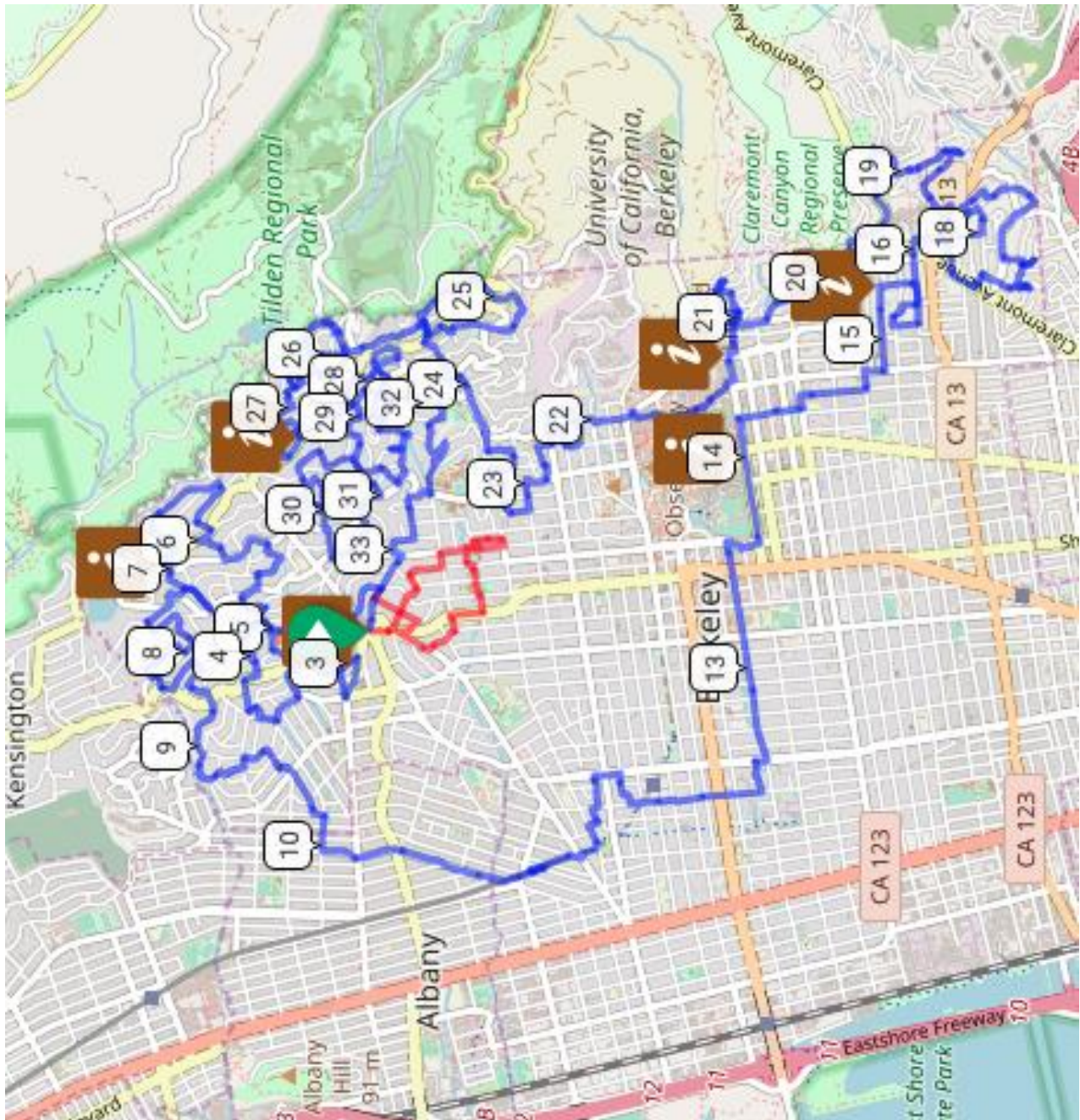


A Walk so Epic we Devoted an Entire Section to it: The Great Path Walk, Every Path in Berkeley in One Day!

The Route:



The Great Path Walk

Length: 33.4 miles

Difficulty: 5+

Time: A full day (a *really* full day: it took us 13 ½ hours the first time)

Elevation Gain: 5000 feet--less than a mile!

Starting Point: The Marin Circle

Transportation:

AC Transit Lines 7 and H stop just below the Circle on Marin. The 18 also stops at Sutter and Hopkins, near the bottom of the first path on the loop, which serves as an easy alternate starting point. Limited parking is available on Arlington or Los Angeles.

Overview:

This is an extremely difficult walk and a fabulous challenge, even if done in several pieces. Starting at the Marin Circle, you'll begin with a short loop—a sampler of some of the types of paths to come, then head north of Marin to walk the 31 paths there. You'll descend into the flats to walk the three paths there, then continue east to the Claremont Area and walk approximately twenty paths there, stopping for lunch in a small park around the 16 mile mark. The afternoon begins by returning north to the five paths on Panoramic Hill, then crossing through the UC Berkeley campus to walk the nearly fifty steep paths in the North-Berkeley hills. The walk returns you to the Marin Circle at the end, 34 miles and over 10,000 stairs later. As of 2018, we lead this walk annually in August or September, and information is posted on the Berkeley Path Wanderers' website, www.berkeleypaths.org.

Directions and pictures:

When we've led this walk, we've broken it into five 6-7 mile segments with checkpoints in between where people can join or leave. Each of the checkpoints has AC Transit bus service back to the beginning of the walk with at most one transfer. Checkpoint and segment information is included below.

Start: The Marin Circle (intersection of Marin and Arlington) at 7:00am

In the first segment you will walk most of the paths north of Marin. This segment takes 20 paths, including several multi-block ones.

Checkpoint one: SW corner of Euclid Ave. and Grizzly Peak Blvd, 7 miles into the walk.

Recommended time of arrival: 9:15.

In the second segment you will walk the paths between Spruce and Arlington and then descend into the flats to take the three paths there. Next, you'll go up Allston and Bancroft to the second checkpoint. This segment takes 14 paths, and is mostly a long connecting stretch, in which you will cross the majority of Berkeley.

Checkpoint two: North side Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave, 14 miles into the walk. We recommend being there by noon if you plan to do the whole walk in a day.

In the third segment you will cover 23 paths, first the ones in the Claremont area, then the ones at the top of Bancroft.

Checkpoint three: Northwest corner of Bancroft Way and Piedmont Ave, the 21 mile mark. We recommend aiming to arrive by 3:00.

In the fourth segment you will cut through the University and then climb to Grizzly Peak. You will then walk the scenic easternmost paths, those near Tilden. This hilly segment takes 21 paths.

Checkpoint four: NW corner of Grizzly Peak Blvd and Latham Ln, near the 27 mile mark. Try to be there by 5:45.

In the final segment you will walk the paths between Marin and Shasta (and there are a LOT of them) and will hopefully be exhausted, or else there is something wrong with you. You will end with Oak Street Path and return to the Marin Circle, if on schedule around 8:15 or 8:30pm. Only 25 paths in this segment, but it will feel like many more.

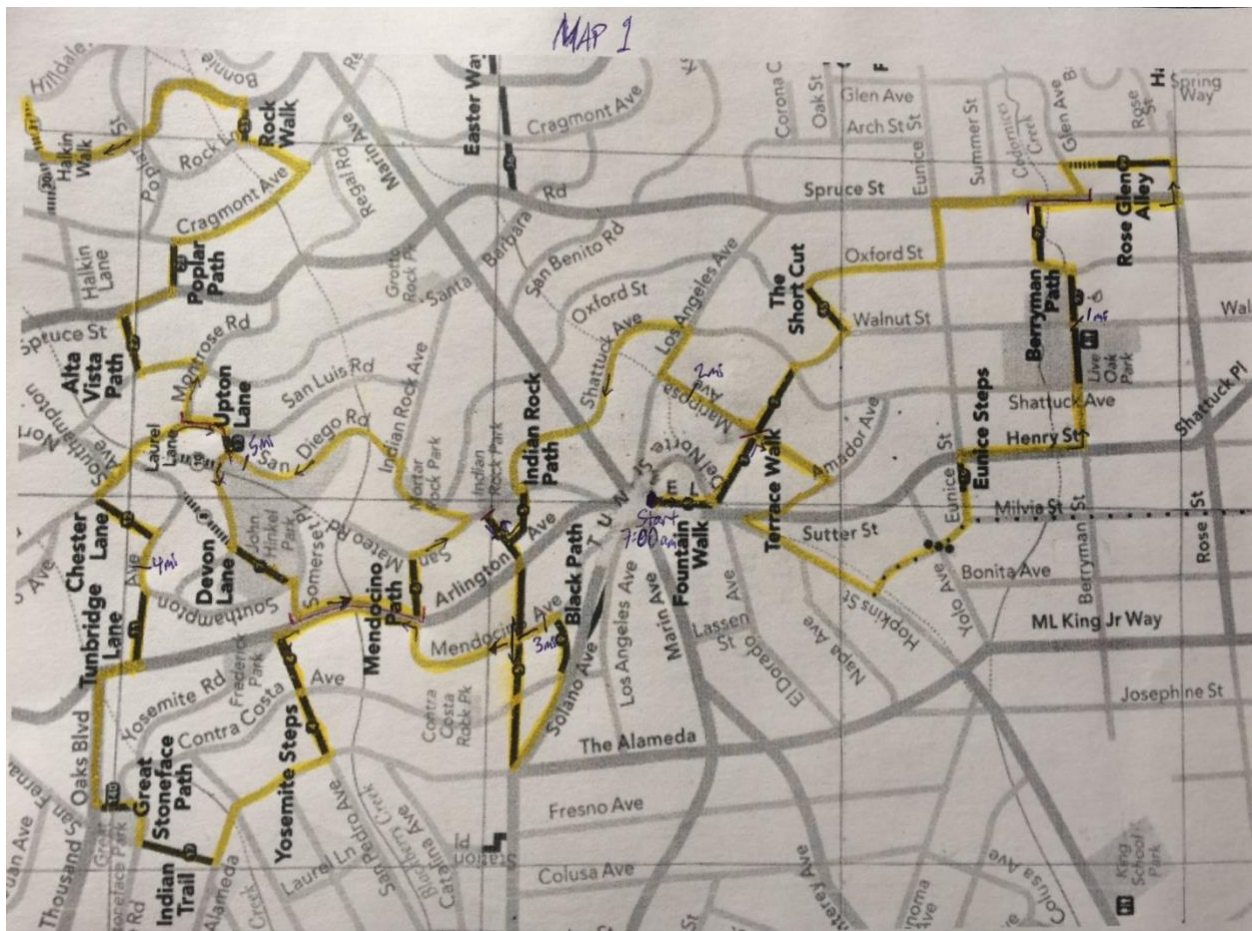
You will finish with a grand total of about 13 1/2 hours of walking—if you adhere to our schedule—103 paths, 5000 feet of elevation gain, and 33.4 miles.

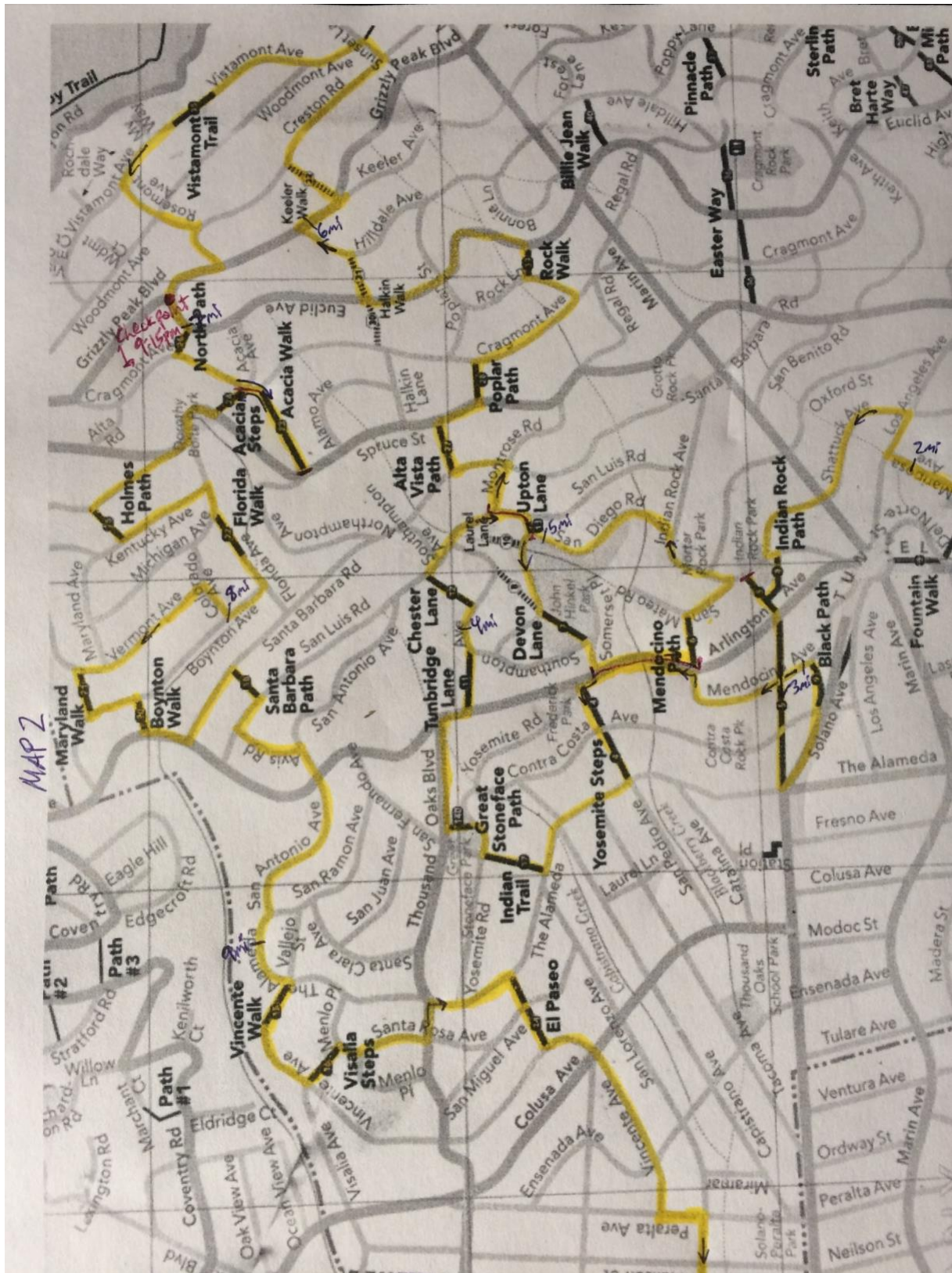
All the checkpoints are at bus stops and directions for how to return to a previous checkpoint by bus are available at tripplanner.transit.511.org.



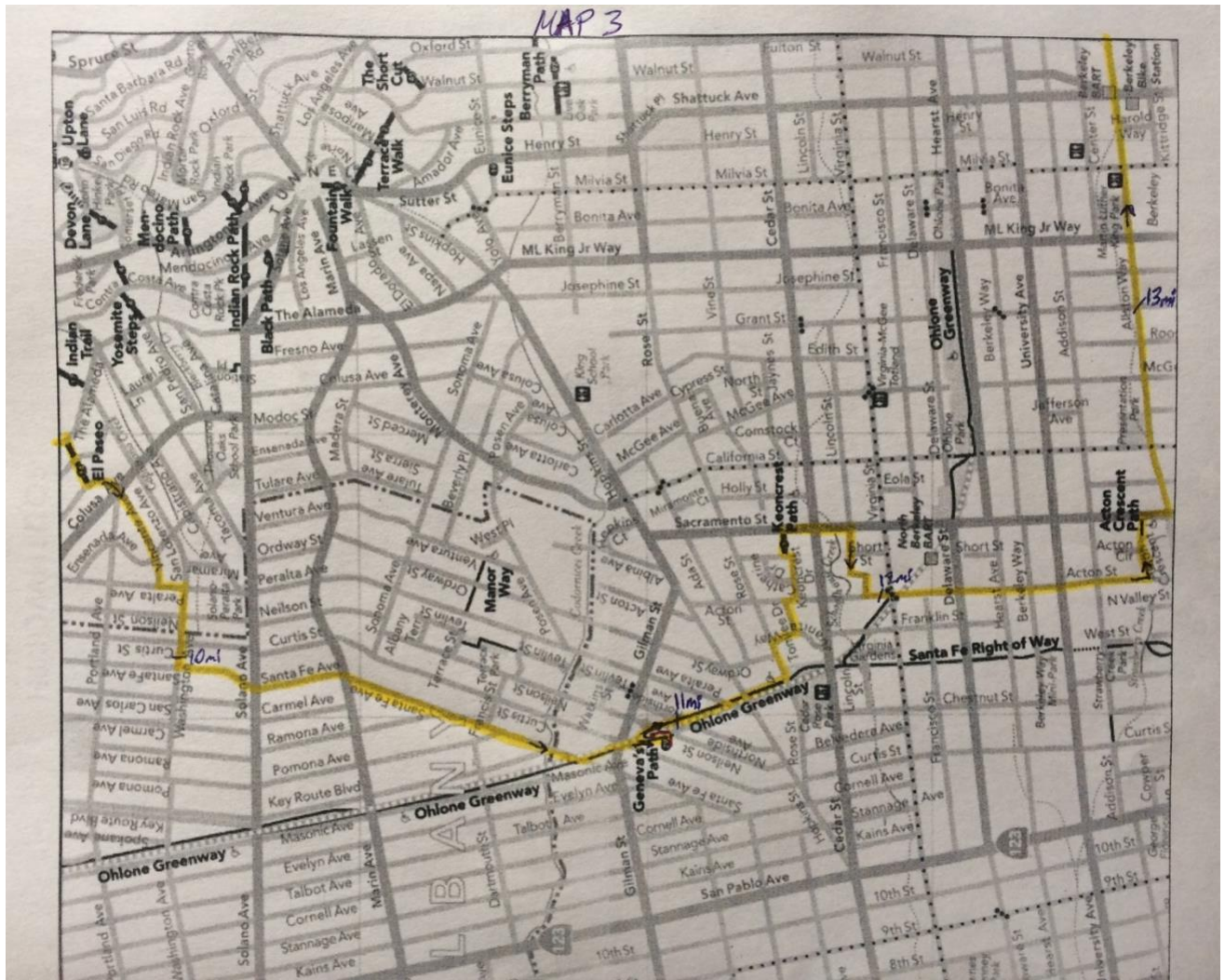
The intrepid group of hikers who accompanied us on all or part of the fourth Great Path Walk, in 2016, posing at the Marin Circle before beginning the walk

The walk would take far too much time and space to describe turn-by-turn, so below we've attached the six maps we used to navigate when we did the walk most recently (our sixth time), in 2018. The route follows the highlighted line along the Berkeley Path Wanderers' excellent map of Berkeley, with mile marks written in blue pen. Arrows to show the direction of the route are also in blue, and, since the route gets pretty complicated and confusing in some sections, red pen is used to divide separate sections of the route. Also marked in red are the checkpoints we have used when we've led this walk (listed on the previous page) and times we aim to arrive so as to finish by 8:15 or 8:30pm. Basically, follow the yellow highlighter and the blue arrows and don't cross the red lines. The route is also available online with turn-by-turn directions and a complete map at <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/28155334>. By downloading the free Ride with GPS app, you can navigate from this route using a smartphone, and can view your current location to make sure you are on track. Enjoy the adventure, the greatest one this book has to offer!

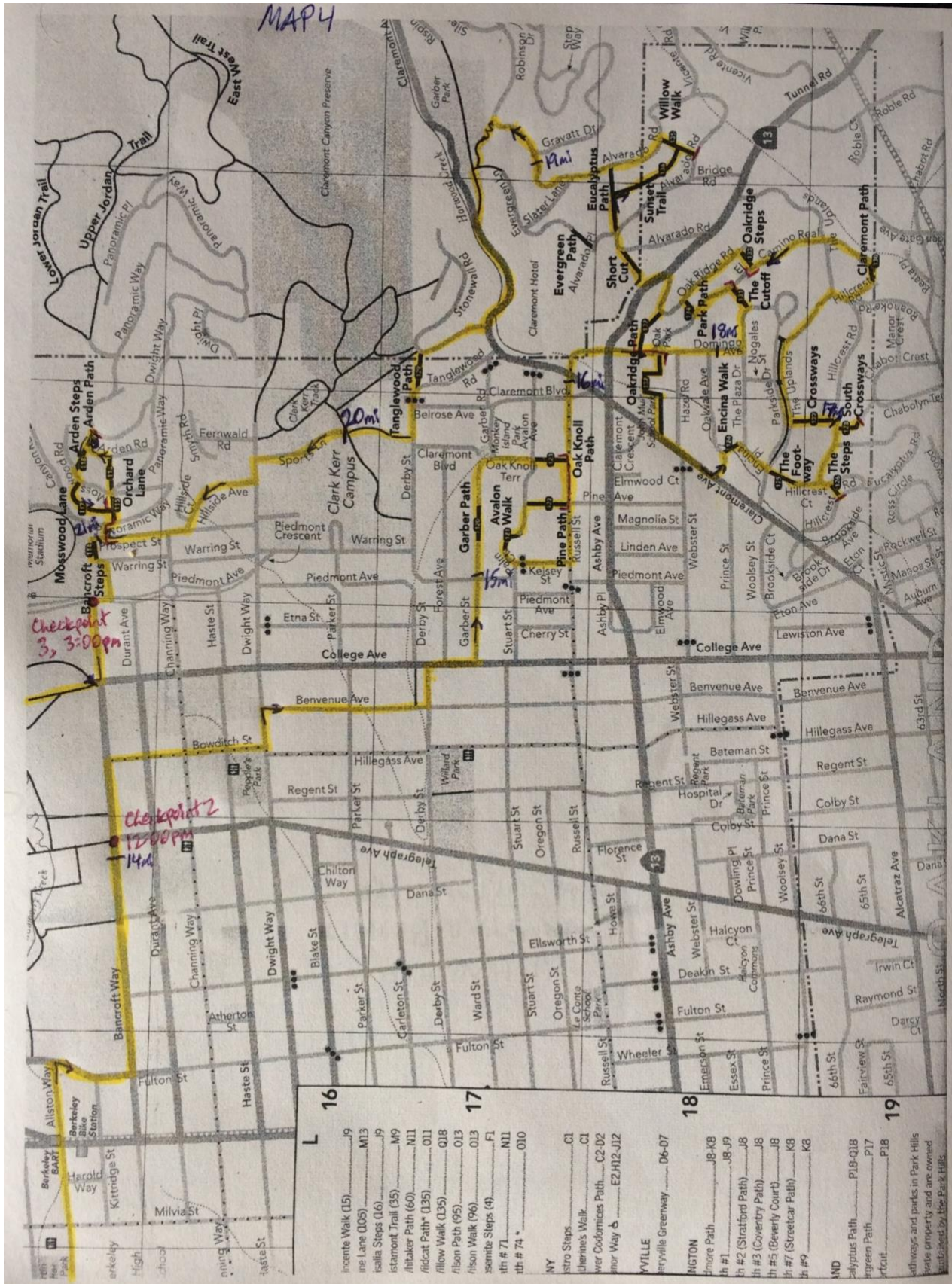




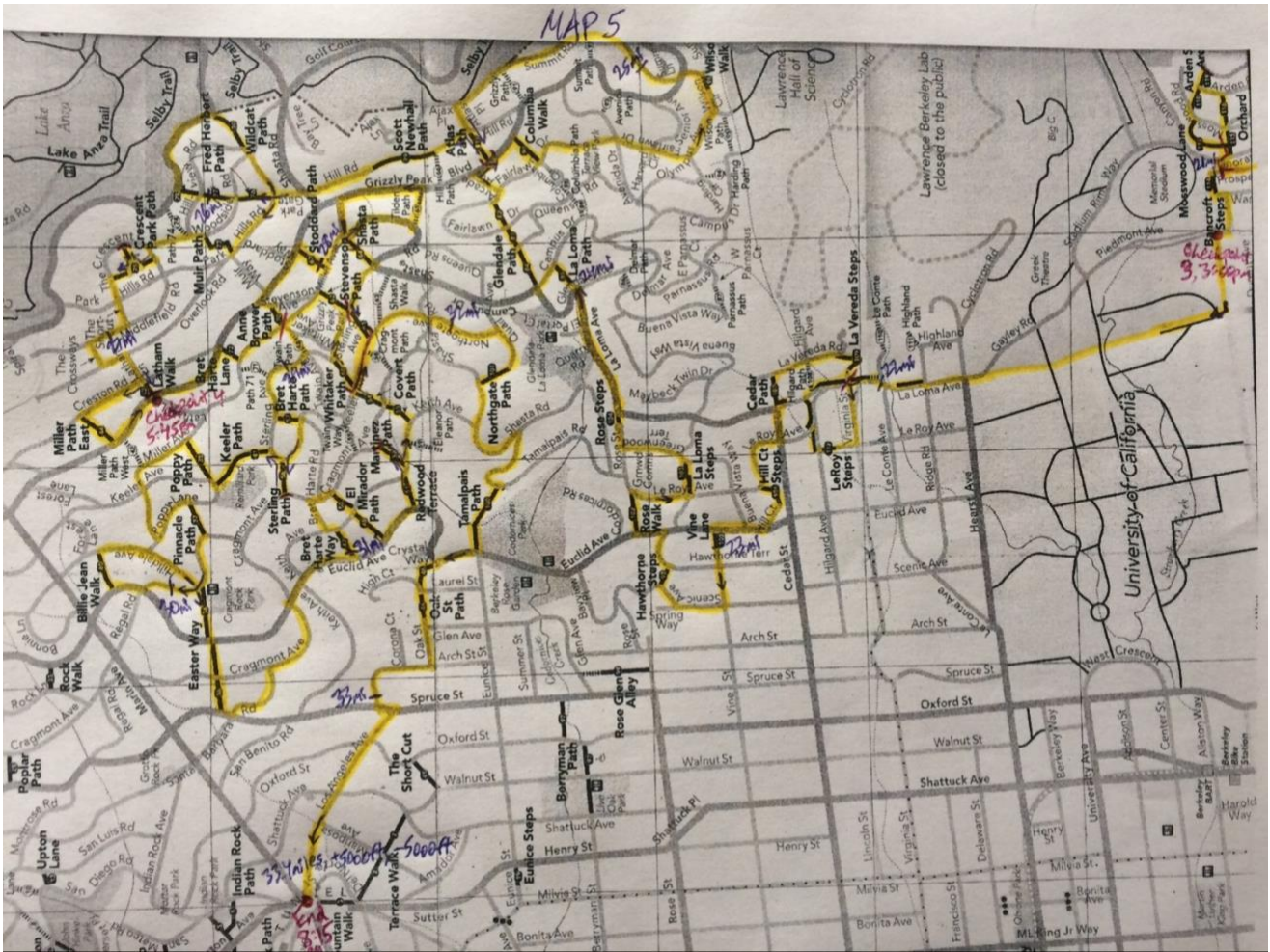
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