

Alki Beach Stair Walk



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This loop is 5.9 miles. The walk can be either counter-clockwise (717 steps down, 416 up) or clockwise, and you may need to adjust the starting place so the **tide will be lower than 6 feet** when you are walking around the lighthouse.

The beach is long and sandy, with views of the ferries and the Olympic Mountains, as well as downtown Seattle, but around the point it is rocky and you will need sturdy shoes. The walk also goes through some old growth areas in Schmitz Park. There are several coffee shops and cafes along Alki Ave.

COUNTER-CLOCKWISE DIRECTIONS

Chose this if you prefer to climb down stairs and walk up roads. In this direction you go steeply down into Schmitz park, so on muddy days take the alternate route.

Start on Alki Ave & Bonair Drive. The first stair goes to the water - go up and down as many stairs as possible.



Down and up
21 steps

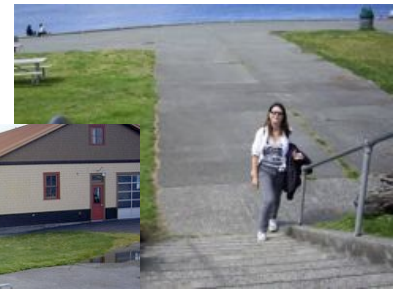
Continue to Alki Beach Park, where you will weave up and down a series of small stairs. It is fun to read the inscriptions on the stairs to the water. Each one has a symbol and something about the history or nature.

Down 8 steps



Up 3 steps

Up 9 steps



Down 10 steps

The building has a pottery studio and restrooms.

Down 6 steps

Walk along the beach to the first of 3 up-and-down steps, but swing back to catch the "Statue of Liberty" before going back down to the beach.



Up 15 steps



Up 15 steps
Up 9 steps



Down 9 steps
Down 15 steps



Walk along the beach to other two sets of up and down steps.

Up 15 and Down 15

Up 11 steps

If you are feeling compulsive, go down and up the other side. Then go back to the sidewalk.



Up 14 steps

Finally go down to the beach again.

Down 17 steps



At the end of the park, stay on the beach and walk around the lighthouse. If the tide is higher than 6 feet or if it is foggy take the alternative along 64th Ave SW. (The fog horn is very loud.)



Around the point you will reach the Charles Richey Viewpoint. It's worth it to go up the ramp and walk along the sidewalk because there are constellation diagrams embedded in the cement.



At the end of the viewpoint go back down to the beach and walk until you reach the beautiful stairs at Cormorant Cove Park.

Up 17 steps

From here the rocks on the beach are bigger and the walking is slow. You can either go back to the beach or stay on the road until Douglas Place. These stairs are somewhat obscure from the beach.



Up 14 steps

Turn at Douglas Place and go up the hill to Chilberg Ave.

[OPTIONAL SIDE TRIP]
Keep going along the beach or the sidewalk to the beach viewpoint and stairs at the Me-Kwa-Mooks park. There is may be a portable toilet here. On the return, go up Chilberg Ave to Douglas Place.





Up 133 steps

At the top, turn left, go one block and then back down again.

Down 193 steps

Turn right on 59th Ave, and in 2 blocks angle left on 60th Ave. Cross Charlestown; stay on the upper level



Down 24 steps

You will be across the street from Cormorant Cove. Turn right on 61st Ave and in one block go up the stair on Spokane St.

Up 60 steps



Next is a long climb up the hill. You can stay on Spokane Street until the dead end, then scramble up a very steep slope to the corner of 55th Ave and Manning Street, where there is a bench with a great view. Alternately, turn right on Hillcrest Ave, follow as it turns into Orleans St, and turn left on 55th Ave until the bench. Walk down Manning to the corner, next to some bear carvings, and find the trail down into Schmitz Park. (see park map on last page)

This is a maintained trail that is fairly steep, so if it is raining the trail will be muddy and slippery. You could, instead, walk around the south end of Schmitz park on Charlestown, turn left on 51st Ave, and walk around the elementary school to Hinds Street which looks like a driveway going down into the park.



In any case, follow the creek downstream. The trails cross and re-cross the stream, and you want to end on the north side.

The trails on the south side will form a broad path that goes under the Admiral Way bridge; you do NOT want to do this. Just before it gets wide, there is an intersection, shown above. Make a "U"-turn down to the stream, and go up the stairs on the other side.

Up 18 steps

Follow the path uphill and out of the park. You will be on Admiral Way. Crossing the bridge, admire the architectural features. On the other side, go down the stairs to the wide path at the bottom, which goes under the bridge.



Down 79 steps



Follow the path until it lets you out at the corner of the Alki Playground. Turn around and go back on Stevens Street, which will jog to the left and turn into Teig Place, which will intersect with Lander Place. The next stair comes down to that intersection.



Up 55 steps

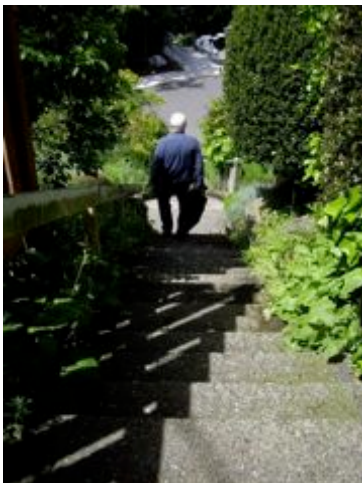
The top entrance to this stair is a nice garden on the end of Campbell St. Walk up until it ends at Lander Street, and continue uphill to Admiral Way.

Walk up the Way until the stair at 50th Ave.



Up 36 steps

After one block, turn left on Waite Street, then right on 51st Ave which becomes College street. As it curves down the hill, it is named 52 Ave SW.



When you reach an intersection with Hughes Ave, turn sharply left. In one block find the first of two stairs that will take you way down to Halleck Ave.

Down 50 steps



Down 124 new steps

At the bottom of these stairs, it is only natural to keep going to the beach, but you have one more stair to do. Turn right and climb up the hill on Halleck which intersects with College.



Down 109 steps

This takes you back to the starting point.



