

Golden Gardens Stairs and Beach



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Golden Gardens is a park for all ages and all seasons. This 3 mile walk includes a sandy beach, a stroll along the Shilshore marina, and a climb up the steep hillside. There are 266 steps up and 260 steps down. You can do the walk regardless of the tide, but when it's really low you could keep walking along the beach to Carkeek Park. Or you can walk an extra mile along the bluff to Sunset Hill park and back, with glimpses of the mansions that overlook Puget Sound and the Olympic Mountains. Caffe Fiore at the top of the stairs is a great place to rest and take a break.

Start at the Golden Gardens parking lot near the pedestrian tunnel that goes under the railroad tracks. You are guaranteed to see at least one train during your walk.

Go under the tunnel and



Up 16 steps



Walk all the way to the end of the parking lot and look for these small and irregular stairs. There is a well structure at the bottom.

Up 117 steps

There is another well-like structure made of stones with a tiny waterfall, partly up the stairs. Ignore the side trail here and keep climbing up the uneven cement and then timber steps. At the top you will intersect another trail (the trails around here form a maze, as shown on your map). Turn right (south) and contour along the hillside. In a short distance the trail will split; either trail will get you to the same destination: the top one goes along the fenced-in off-leash area, and the other one is parallel and a little nicer. They join again at a modern yellow

statue of a dog. Stay on this path, pass a rest-room, and keep going until you get to the parking lot, which you should cross diagonally. You will cross a path with a staircase that you will come down later. It is much easier to go up the uneven stairs and come down the regular ones. On the other side of the street from the corner of the parking lot is the next stair going straight up:



Up 35 steps



Walk along the trail and shortly climb more stairs.

Up 21 steps

You will reach a "T" intersection.

Go up.

Up 79 steps

At the top is a nice bench, but even better is the coffee shop at the street corner.



From here you could walk south 1/2 mile to Sunset Hill Park, a pretty viewpoint with an informative sign identifying the Olympic peaks. It shows where the sun sets at the winter and summer solstice.

It is necessary to go back **down 79 steps** to the "T" intersection.

At the bottom, turn right and go

Down 54 steps



Cross the street

Down 16 steps

Follow the path to the best stairs on this walk.

Down 111 steps



There is a small creek that runs right next to the stair. At the bottom, turn right and you will return to the tunnel under the tracks.

Next is the beach section of the walk. Cross the street, turn right and follow the cement path along the picnic tables to the small bridge. Follow the path above the breakwater, lined with benches. There are several options; if you want to minimize back-tracking, then cross the street at the end of the parking lot to the beginning of the Burke-Gilman trail, and follow the trail until it is opposite the statue of Leif Erikson. Cross the street. The Shilshore Port of Seattle building has nice restrooms here. Or you could just walk along the marina back and forth.



Return along the marina. When the wind blows you will hear a percussion symphony as all the lines hit the masts.



Back at the beach, stay near the water and walk around the point until you see the boardwalk coming across the wetlands area. Follow this to the parking lot at the start.

