

# Thistle Stair Walk



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This 3.6 mile walk takes you along the beach, up the Thistle stairs, and back via Fautleroy Park. There are 517 steps up and 241 down. You can watch ferries crossing the sound, and on a clear day there are beautiful views of the Olympic mountains. The Original Bakery and Endolyne Joe's are nearby places to get coffee and some food. The tide must be lower than 4 feet to get around the point, so consult the tide table before you go.

Start at the southern end of Fautleroy Way SW. Drive past the ferry and keep going until the street ends. You can park on the street. There is a pedestrian walk around the side of the barricade. The street then turns into 48th Ave SW. Follow this for about half a block until a garage, address is 9667. A small, unmarked path leads along the side of the garage to the stairway.



Down 108 steps



Keep going straight down to the beach. Turn right and follow the beach, walking under the ferry dock, until you get to Lincoln Park.



Just before the first picnic shelter take the path up the hill, going past the stone restroom built into the hill.

Up 38 steps



Climb the path and at the interstion go straight, past picnic shelter 2 on your left and swings on your right. Continue, crossing a paved path and another restroom on your left, on to the parking lot. Then carefully cross Fautleroy Way. Turn right (South) for 1/2 block to Thistle Street.



Turn left, go up one block and then climb the featured stairway for this walk.

Up 367 steps



When you reach the top, continue up SW Thistle street - you still need to climb 5 blocks to the crest of the hill. Then turn right on 39th Ave SW and walk to the stairway.

Down 76 steps



At the next intersection, angle right on Trenton St, which takes you to 41st Ave SW. Turn left and walk down to SW Barton St. Cross the street and turn left until the entrance to the Fautleroy park trail system.



There is a confusing network of trails in this park. Your aim is to exit just above the Foutleroy church on the west side of the park.



Walk down the trail to the creek and cross the bridge without a handrail:



From here there are 3 options. For the main route, turn right at the next junction and go west. At the next junction stay right and soon climb up some timber stairs.



Down 16 steps

Turn left and head for a play-ground behind the church. Follow a path behind the building to the left of the playground which takes you to California Drive.

**Up 32 steps**

Stay on the main trail as it switchbacks down the hill. Pass a trail joining from the right \*\* and you will see the next stairs - some timber and some granite.



*The longer options should be avoided if it is muddy. You stay on the main trail, which climbs up the hill, then up a short flight of timber stairs to an intersection next to a huge maple tree with many trunks. At this point you can turn right and go up the hill on a narrow path and down again until an intersection with a broad trail. Turn left and you will join the main route (marked with \*\*)*



*For the third option, turn left at the tree with many trunks. Shortly you come to a few steps down to a junction.*



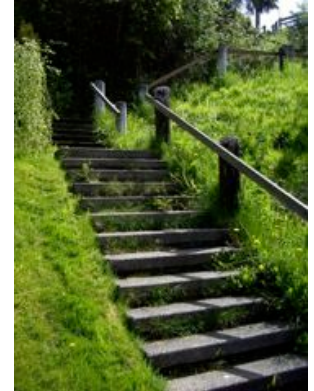
*Turn right. Walk in a valley until the trail goes up very steeply towards the right. Climb this steep*

*but short hill, then follow the path until it intersects with a broad trail going down the hill, which you follow back to the maple tree with many trunks. Turn left and follow directions for the second option.*

Once on California Drive, walk left a short ways to the next stairway. However, you may want to take a detour down the hill for 3 blocks to the Endolyne corner. Years ago there was a street car from downtown Seattle to Fauntleroy and this corner was the end of the line. The original bakery is still there and worth the side trip. Then back up California drive.

**Up 80 steps**

At the top walk along California Ave until Roxbury St. Turn right. In one block is a barricade and the street ends but there is a pedestrian path down to the next street. Turn left for 1/2 block then turn right on Roxbury Place. At the corner with 45th Ave SW, turn right and go down a driveway at 4500 Roxbury Place. The next stair is hidden.



Turn left at the end of the driveway.



**Down 41 steps**

Back on Roxbury Street, go down the hill to 47th Ave Turn left. Walk about one block, to the address 9638.



On the other side of the street is a narrow path that will bring you to the starting point.

