

# Alki Beach Stair Walk



## Alki Beach Stair Walk-Clockwise

The loop is 5.9 miles, and it can be shortened to 4.8 miles by cutting the southern part. The walk can be either clockwise (717 steps up, 416 down) or counterclockwise. To walk around the lighthouse the tide must be lower than 6 feet, so consult the tide chart before you start.

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.

### CLOCKWISE DIRECTIONS

This way you will climb up the steep trail out of Schmitz Park, which is easier than slipping down it. You are then rewarded with a long walk down Orleans street with beautiful views towards the mountains.

Start on Alki Ave & Bonair Drive.



Up 109 steps

At the top, turn right and go down the hill on Halleck Ave.

When you get to 53rd Ave you'll climb up two consecutive stairs.



Up 124 steps



Up 50 steps

Turn left at the top, walk along Hughes Ave until it intersects with 52nd Ave, then turn sharply to the right and climb up the hill. Turn left on Waite St. and right in two blocks onto 50th Ave SW. Go one block.



Down 36 steps

Turn right at the bottom, go down Admiral Way to Lander St and go right. In one block go left on Campbell Place and walk to the end of the street. The stair is hidden behind a garden.



Down 55 steps

Veer left at the bottom onto Lander Place and then almost immediately turn left onto Teig Place, which ends at 57th Ave. Turn left and notice Schmitz Creek ending in a culvert. Follow the road around the corner onto Stevens St. When you get to the next corner, at the Alki Playground, make a U-turn and go up the hill on the road to the Schmitz Preserve.





After you walk under the Admiral Way bridge, take the stairs up.



Up 79 steps

Turn right and cross the bridge, then turn right again and re-enter Schmitz Park at the gateway. Go down a broad trail, which narrows to a Y-junction. Take the right fork and you'll reach a stair that goes down to the stream crossing.

Down 18 steps

Shortly after you go up the other side, you will come to an intersection where you make a "U" turn.

You'll now walk about 1/3 mile through the park.



You'll then come to a fork in the trail. Stay on the lower side.

The trails here form a maze (see last page for details). In the middle is a 4-way intersection with 2 log benches.

If it is muddy, go straight, following the main stream.



This route takes you out to Hinds street, next to a school. Walk around the school yard to Charlestown street and follow the main road down the hill.

On a dry day take the right turn at the benches, follow the trail along several boardwalks, until an intersection with another trail. Cross the intersection and find a small and rather hidden trail on the other side of a log.

This trail climbs steeply, but it is a maintained trail and does not fade out.



You will end up at the corner of Manning Street and 53rd Ave, going past some bear carvings. Walk a block down Manning to a bench, turn left and go two blocks to Orleans Street, the major road going down the hill.

When you reach Spokane Street, turn left and walk down until it ends in a new stair.



Down 60 steps

For the shortcut, walk straight to the beach. Otherwise, turn left, walk one block and turn left again.

Up 24 steps

Turn right, walk one block, then jog left then right onto 60th Ave SW which is a diagonal street. It will run into 59th Ave. Veer right and go two blocks to Carroll Street. Look left.







Up 193 steps

Turn right at the top, go one block and down again.



Down 133 steps

Go straight down to the beach.



Down 14 steps

The rocks on this part of the beach are large and difficult, so if you prefer go back to the sidewalk.



On the way back you will pass the beautiful stairs at Cormorant Cove.

Up 17 steps



### [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 also a portable toilet here.



At the Charles Rickey viewpoint, the sidewalk features diagrams of the constellations.

Walk down the far ramp to the beach and walk around the lighthouse.

If the tide is too high (more than 6 ft) or if it is foggy (loud horn), then walk along 64th Ave SW until you get to the sandy beach at Alki Park.







Seven little stairs go from Alki Ave SW into the park, and 6 stairs go down to the water. Go up and down as many as you like. The stairs to the water have cement blocks with "lessons" about history or nature that are fun to read. Several coffee shops along here offer welcome refreshment.



There are 185 steps altogether.



This is the last one, across from the first stair.

