

Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools Self-Guided List of Walking and Biking Paths

Explore the hidden walking and rolling paths of Alameda County!

The Safe Routes to Schools team has worked across Alameda County for a number of years, and we want to share some of our favorite family-friendly trails and Bay Area-focused outdoor guides with you! Whether you live right next to one of these gems or in a neighboring community, we wish you happy and safe adventures!

Want to share your favorite trail with us? Feel free to send your recommendations to info@alamedacountysr2s.org.

For information on how to access public spaces safely, [please refer to this guide from the East Bay Regional Park District](#).

Trails in Multiple Cities

1. [Ohlone Greenway](#) – This 10-mile round trip trail goes through Berkeley, Albany, and El Cerrito while also connecting you to Richmond's greenway.
 - a. Here is a [guide](#) where you can learn about finding dinosaur trees and other exciting things along the greenway!
2. [Bay Trail](#) – Below are two highlights of this expansive 500-mile trail. Visit the Bay Trail website to learn more about this amazing trail around the Bay!
 - a. [Learn about the Birth of the Bay Trail](#) – An audio guide starting at the [Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center](#).
 - b. [See art, learn about history, enjoy expansive vistas](#) – Explore this Bay Trail portion starting in Albany and ending in Richmond.
3. [Iron Horse Trail](#) – Did you know this 32-mile trail starting in Concord follows the abandoned Southern Pacific Railroad?
 - a. Follow [Bob "4WheelBob" Coomber's](#) adventure along the Iron Horse and [learn why he gives this trail "two wheels up!"](#)
4. [Alameda Creek Trail](#) - This trail spans around 12 miles and takes you from the San Francisco Bay to Niles Canyon, crossing Union City, Newark, and Fremont.
5. [San Francisco Bay Wheelchair Accessible Trails](#) is an amazing compilation of trails throughout the Bay that are accessible to wheelchair users. It's a little outdated, but is still a great resource!



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The Alameda County Safe Routes to Schools Program is a program of the Alameda County Transportation Commission (alamedactc.org) and is funded with Alameda County's local sales tax Measure B, regional, state and federal funds.

Trails and Outdoor Guides by City

Alameda

- [Alameda's architectural tour](#) highlights 19th century architecture when buildings looked more like castles than houses.
- [Alameda Point self-guided tour](#) allows you to wander through a former naval air station and quickly developing community. See if you can spot the [endangered Least Tern!](#)
- [Slow Streets Alameda](#) is mirroring efforts across the region and the country to create more space for socially distanced walking and biking.

Albany

- [Albany Strollers and Rollers](#) highlights some of the most family-friendly walking and bike paths in Albany

Berkeley

- [The Berkeley hills' hidden paths](#) are a series of walking paths that can be linked together into a proper urban hike. Be sure to check out the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association's list of [past walk routes](#).
- [Berkeley Walks](#) put together 15 self-guided tours that shine a light on Berkeley's vibrant history.
- [Berkeley's landmark tour](#) is a 3.9-mile self loop that hits on 11 buildings of historical significance and/or architectural beauty. There is even a downloadable app that can serve as your personal tour guide on the walk!
- [UC Berkeley](#) brings a lot of history, people, and prestige to the city of Berkeley. Get to know the 178 acres of the core UC Berkeley campus in not [one](#), but [two self-guided tours!](#)

Castro Valley

- [Lake Chabot](#) is more than a recreational destination; it's also a standby emergency water supply for the East Bay. Learn more on this [history walk!](#)

Dublin

- [Dougherty Hills Open Space](#) has beautiful scenic views and is the perfect place to bring your dog on a walk.
- [Walk through Dublin](#) and encounter murals, motorcycles and a century-old cemetery in this tour created by BART! Scroll to the bottom for tips to shorten the route for younger children.



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Emeryville

- [Slow Streets](#) has come to Emeryville, mirroring efforts across the region and the country to create more space for socially distanced walking and biking.
- [Emeryville's Art in Public Spaces](#) can be found throughout the city. Try this tour by bike or walk around the neighborhood to [learn more](#) about these installations.
- [Emeryville Greenway](#) is a designated bike and pedestrian pathway to help you move through Emeryville to Berkeley, Albany, and eventually to the Bay Trail!
- [The Bay Bridge bike and pedestrian path](#) will get your blood pumping while giving you some beautiful bay views.

Fremont

- [The Centerville Walking Tour](#) is packed with local history. Learn about the evolution of this part of Fremont in this tour created by Timothy Swenson of the Museum of Local History.
- [Alvarado Walking Tour](#) is another history-packed tour created by Timothy Swenson. Take this tour and peer into Fremont's history from another era.

Livermore

- [Livermore Winery Loop](#) is a 5.2-mile easy bike loop that goes along Livermore's beautiful scenic wine country.
- [Isabel Trail and Arroyo Mocho Trail](#) are two trails that connect and take you through parks in Livermore while keeping you mostly away from interacting with cars. Enjoy this bike ride along the Arroyo Mocho waterway.
- [Sycamore Grove Park](#)'s website will show you all this park has to offer, including our personal favorite, its [wildflower guide](#).

Newark

- [Ohlone College's self-guided garden tour](#) only requires your feet and a smartphone. This tour highlights the plant specimens used in the gardens and landscaping on the campus.

Oakland

- [Once Upon a Time, Happily Ever After](#) is an audio tour that “explores the natural, social, and economic forces that have shaped, and continue to shape Lake Merritt and its surroundings.” The total audio tour takes around 6 hours, but you can always just do part of it. The map is available [here](#).
- [10K steps](#) is a two-part self-guided interactive tour of downtown Oakland. This looped walk reveals the city within the city: hidden local lore, architectural and cultural history and points of urban transformation all centered around four historic parks.



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- [Grow Your Oakland](#) has three awesome tours that are each unique. Take a stroll from the lake to Mountain View Cemetery, through the beautiful Fruitvale District up to Dimond Park, or along the shore in the Embarcadero tour.
- [Slow Streets](#) is spreading throughout Oakland and making space for families to get out and be active while also staying a safe distance apart. So far, 20 miles of Slow Streets have opened up, and there's more to come.
- [Old Oakland Tour](#) walks you through this neighborhood with some of the oldest buildings in Oakland while highlighting buildings of historical significance.
- [Oakland Geology](#)'s walk will clue you in on your surroundings and make you more curious about the environment we live in.

Piedmont

- [Piedmont Park](#) is a beautiful oasis in Piedmont with a little-known history. Walk along it's shaded creek and learn about years passed.

Pleasanton

- [Pleasanton's self-guided ghost tour](#) covers 13 buildings that have been known to have ghost sightings. This creepy tour also covers some local history!
- [The Preserve and Moller Ranch trails](#) are located in a 38-acre open space with plenty of wildlife and natural beauty to enjoy. Most trails are shorter than 1 mile, making them very kid-friendly.

San Leandro

- [San Leandro History Walk](#) will familiarize you with the city's past in 16 notable stops. Most stops have a [video](#) to give you a little more information.
- [Oyster Bay Regional Shoreline](#) is a landfill that has been transformed into a park. The park's [brochure](#) informs you about the flora and fauna that now call this place home. It also teaches a little park history.

Union City

- [Dry Creek Cottage and Gardens](#) covers the history of this park and its buildings. This beautiful park has over 20 miles of trails and a [wildflower guide](#). Check [East Bay Regional Parks](#) for up-to-date access.
- [Decoto Bicycle Tour](#) takes you to old historical sites and teaches about the origins of some of Decoto's enduring establishments.



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