

Painted Stairways Self-Guided Walking Tour of Silver Lake

Overview - The 2017 Painted Stairways Tour of Silver Lake is 6.7 miles long and climbs just over 1,000 feet. It traverses 11 painted stairways as well as 1 unpainted stairway in a loop that is west of the Silver Lake Reservoir. You can find the Google map for the 6.7 mile route [here](#), and for the 5 mile “lite” tour, which skips the Effie/Rotary stairs, and the Fluid City Rising mural, [here](#), to load onto your phone should you want to use these maps while you are walking. Or if you prefer paper, the next page, with a printable map of the tour route can be printed to take with you on the walk. On the page following the printable map is the detailed route description with photos of all of the stairways on the route.

Note 1: The tour travels mostly residential streets, many without sidewalks. We encourage you to be respectful of the neighbors, and watch for traffic, especially where streets separate consecutive stairways.

Note 2: When you take the tour, please share your photos and use the Instagram hashtag [#paintedstairwaystour](#)



2017 Painted Stairways Tour

Painted Stairways Tour - Printable Google Map

Detailed Route Description

Part I - The Stairway Art of Corinne Carrey @CorinneCarrey



Leave **Sunset Triangle Plaza**, where Sunset, Griffith Park Blvd, and Maltman all meet, and head southeast on Sunset Blvd, crossing Maltman, then crossing Sunset to end up on the south side of Sunset, and walk southeast ward to Micheltorena, making a right turn just past the intersection onto a walkway heading to the right. After turning right, look ahead and see Corinne Carrey's hearts and stripes on the lower flights of the 109 step **Lower Micheltorena Stairway** followed by her tilted hearts on the upper flights. At the top of the upper flights, head to the left instead of climbing the second set of stairs across the street and above you, and head downhill on Larissa Dr. Stay on the sidewalk to the left,



and you will come to a nice view of the **Murray Stairway**, marked as a camera icon on the Google map above. Continue down Larissa, then turn left onto Descanso, and in a short block you are back at Sunset. Cross the street at the traffic signal and continue northwest on Sunset past the Ali Mama Café. Turn right onto what looks like a walkway between properties. You will then notice that the large, 90 step **Murray Stairway** is straight ahead of you, adorned with Corinne's painted piano keys! Climb these stairs, and once at the top, you will have reached the end of Part I of the tour.

If you are doing the 1 mile option, turn left here, and continue on Hamilton until it intersects Micheltorena. Then turn left and go downhill to Sunset, turn right, and take Sunset back and slightly uphill to the start at the Sunset Triangle Plaza.

Part II – The Stairway Art of Joey Franks

At the top of the Piano Keys stairway, straight ahead is the continuation of Murray Dr, that goes uphill and to the left. Climb Murray Dr, then it descends a bit, then climbs some more, and in 2/10th of a mile, you reach a fork with Murray Dr left and Murray Cir right.

Take the left fork and continue downhill until Murray Dr ends in a T. To the left is Redcliff St, and to the right is Berkeley. Cross to the far side and turn left to continue uphill on Redcliff. The road bends to the right and at the end of the curve it straightens out. Look to your left to see the bottom of the unpainted Cicero Dr stairway. Climb the 90 steps and at the top, turn left onto Cicero Dr, and walk to the end of the block,



which Ts into Effie St. Turn right on Effie and follow it past Dillon on the left to the intersection with Dillon St and Rotary Dr. Veer left onto Rotary and go downhill as the road bends to the right. At the bottom of the hill, right as the road levels out briefly before climbing again, look right for the entrance to the down-going **Effie/Rotary Stairway**, adorned with animal themed stencils on the retaining walls of the stairway.



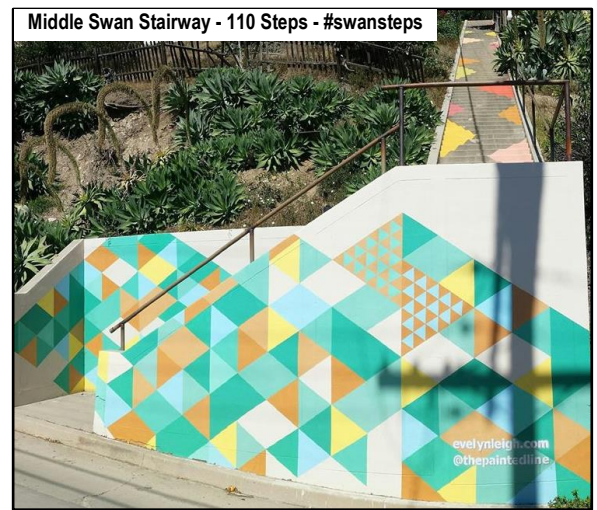
This stairway was painted by Joey Franks, an artist who lives near the stairway. She created the stencils of the local fauna she painted, to bring to life a theme desired by the stairway adopter. From the top you'll see a coyote, raccoons, a squirrel with oranges, a skunk, and then by a raven of the Edgar Allan Poe variety! As you bend to the left to head to the bottom of the stairway, the retaining wall on the left has some tribal art, with the words: "HOWLED AT THE MOON, FELT GOOD". At the bottom of the stairway you have reached Effie Drive and the end of Part II of the Tour.

Part III – The Stairway Art of Evelyn Leigh @ThePaintedLine

The next part of the tour is a trek to the **Swan Stairway**. From the bottom of the **Effie/Rotary Stairway**, Go straight down the sidewalk downhill on Effie until you reach Westerly Terrace. Turn left (northbound) onto Westerly Terrace, and continue in the street, at the side of the road, to the intersection at Swan Place. Now turn to your left, and notice Evelyn Leigh’s blue ombré steps of the 77 step **Lower Swan Stairway**. Leading up through the ivy, climb this stairway. At the top of this section, cross the street to continue up the 110 step



Middle Swan Stairway, which is adorned with Evelyn’s signature triangle and diamond motif. When you reach Rotary Drive, cross the street and climb the 100 step **Upper Swan Stairway** with a blue 3D cube mural as well as “Los Angeles, I’m yours”, on the other retaining wall. The climb up these 287 steps on three stairways is difficult, and will be by far the hardest physical test of the tour.



Pace yourself, take a step to the side at the top of lower and middle sets of stairs to look at the gorgeous mural artwork, and catch your breath! Take note that the two streets, Redesdale and Rotary, between the stairway sets, are streets with possible car traffic, so do look

both ways before crossing to the next stairway. It is easy to gawk at the artwork across the street and forget to look for car traffic, so please put safety first! Once you reach the top, and pause to let your heart slow down, continue downward and to the left on Webster Ave, until it reaches Dillon, where you turn left and continue down again until it reaches Effie St. At Effie, turn right, and go down a very steep hill that takes you down to Redcliff St, ending Part III.

Those wishing to take the 2.2 mile option can turn left on Redcliff and take it to Murray Dr, turning right, and then another almost immediate right onto Berkeley Ave, downhill to Micheltorena. From there turn left and go down the hill to Sunset, and turn right taking you back to the start at Sunset Triangle Plaza.



Part IV – The Stairway Art of Kimberly King

To reach Kimberly's artwork, turn right onto Redcliff Street, taking it due north up the hill to Rock, and then Micheltorena, which we follow down to Fernwood, and make a hard left, heading back to the southwest past the point where Panorama Terrace merges into it. From there, make a triple S-bend, and at the end of a short straightaway, you will reach the 93 step downward, **Meadow Valley Terrace Stairway** on our right. Read the words Kimberly painted on these stairs. And note that the next two stairways also will have her art. At the bottom of Meadow Valley Terrace, continue up and over a hill to

Upper Flight, Meadow Valley Terrace Stairway - 93 steps



reach a fork with Drury Lane; take the left fork staying on Meadow Valley Terrace, until it reaches Silverado Dr, where you turn left and head down to Griffith Park Blvd. Those wishing to end after 3.8 miles, should turn left onto Griffith Park Blvd and walk 8/10 of a mile back to the start at the Sunset Triangle. Those continuing on will turn right onto Griffith Park Blvd and take it northward until the intersection with Tracy St. To the left is the road, to the right is an uphill walkway between houses, take it up the hill and near the top you will see little human and animal feet that Kimberly painted on the 23 step **Tracy Stairway**. Don't miss the heart at the top. From the top go left, and continue up the hill via Meadow Valley Terrace to the fork with Panorama Terrace, taking it to the right and continuing toward the south and climbing to walk a short relatively level straightaway, then bending up and to the left, then down and to the right in an S-bend, the next stairway is to the left side of right hand S-



bend. This is the 51 step, **Panorama Terrace/Lanternman Terrace Stairway**, and after climbing the lower flight, you will look ahead to see Kimberly's string of little hearts, making the set-back upper flight stairway beautiful in a very paint efficient manner! At the top of the stairway, go to the right and up the hill to Micheltorena, then turn right, and right again at the next street, Silver Lea Terrace. Head steeply downhill on Silver Lea Terrace, and turn sharply to the right when it dumps into Panorama Terrace, continuing on a flat but curvy street that Ts into Scotland Street, not far from little hearts stairway you just climbed. Turn left onto Scotland, and head down the street, and after passing Meadow Valley Terrace for the final time, get on the right side sidewalk and take it all the way past Griffith Park Blvd to Hyperion Ave. Turn left, crossing Scotland, and continue south on Hyperion past the Lyric Café (and cool murals of Bowie and Bernie on the near side to your left) to reach the intersection of Hyperion and Landa St, ending Part IV.

Panorama/Lanternman Stairs - 51 steps

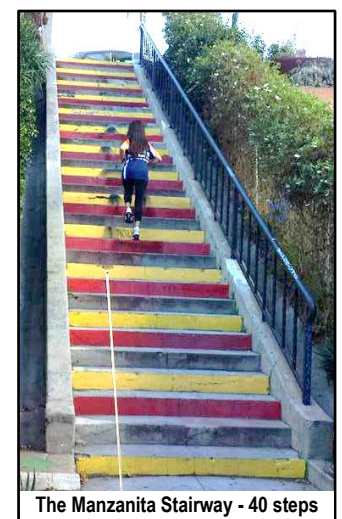


Anyone wanting to skip the Hoover Walk stairway and Ricardo's mural, can continue west on Hyperion, which after crossing Landa, becomes Fountain, and take it to the corner of Manzanita. From here, turn left to head south on Manzanita. Travel up the stairway to Sunset, turn left again taking Sunset back to Sunset Triangle Plaza, for a 5.5 mile total trip.

Part V – The Stairway Art of Ricardo Mendoza



To reach Ricardo’s artwork, you will cross to the other side of Hyperion in the crosswalk at Landa Street. Once across, head west on Fountain (Hyperion becomes Fountain after crossing Landa) to Manzanita Street. Turn right after crossing Manzanita to walk along the east side of King Middle School. Turn left when you reach Sunset Drive (not Sunset Blvd), and near the middle of the school, cross to the other (north) side of Sunset at Myra, continuing west up Sunset Dr past Talmadge, to Hoover St. Turn right on Hoover, and head north, jogging right at Clayton to stay on Hoover. After passing Clayton, look north to the end of Hoover St, and you cannot miss Ricardo’s stunning ‘**Fluid City Rising**’ mural from 2009 that adorns the **Hoover Walk Stairway**, built in 1923. I’ll bet you’ll think “Wow!”, when you see the mural at the end of the block. When you reach the mural, which is the oldest stairway art on the tour, take some photos, then climb the 38 steps of the stairway, taking the right stairway fork, and at the top, continue on Prospect Ave, heading east, back to Talmadge. Turn right on Talmadge, staying on the west side of the street, heading southbound until you reach Sunset Drive. Cross the street (across Sunset Drive), then turn left and cross Talmadge. Now head east on the south side of Sunset Drive, continue to Bates Avenue, cross it, then turn right to walk along the west side of King Middle School, heading south. After reaching Fountain Avenue, turn left, and continue eastward to the crosswalk at Myra Avenue. Cross Fountain at Myra, and take Myra for one block, turn left on Effie, then right at the next intersection onto Manzanita Street. At the end of the block is the 40 step **Manzanita Stairway** with red and yellow painted step faces, and I am not sure who painted them (I am still researching this). After climbing these last painted stairs of the tour, you reach the northwest side of Sunset Blvd. Turn left and take the wide sidewalk 3/10 of a mile back to the Sunset Triangle Plaza where you started.



Congratulations! You did it!

All 6.7 miles, 1,000 feet of elevation gain, traversing 11 painted and 1 unpainted stairways!