



Walk About



Indian Rock Path, Berkeley to Kensington

One of the best things about living in the East Bay is all the places we can go to get outside and take a walk. Of course, you can walk anywhere, but we have especially wonderful neighborhoods to explore, trails at Tilden Park, the Bay Trail and the Point Isabelle Dog Walk, to name a few. We all have our favorites, and as it turns out, walking is an extremely popular activity. So much so, that now there's a website called walkscore.com that ranks your home and city for its "walkability."

Local realtors have caught on to the

marketing potential and are now advertising properties' walk scores on their flyers. According to the Walkscore website, they help find "walkable" places to live by calculating the number of nearby stores, restaurants, schools, parks libraries, etc. that are within a one-mile radius of the property, with more weight given to closer proximity. They do not take into consideration hills, public transportation, safety or how pretty the area is for walking.



Indian Rock Path, Top of Solano Avenue

If you are looking for an especially interesting, historical and pretty walk, we recommend looking up the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association and discovering these lovely shortcuts through the Berkeley Hills. The



Neighborhood art on Regal Road Path, Berkeley Hills

Path Wanderers publish an attractive and accurate map showing all 135+ paths of Berkeley, and some in Kensington, too. They also lead free walks, not just in Berkeley, that are divided into three categories: Theme Walks, focusing on lo-

cal history, art and architecture, more casual Friendly Walks, and energetic Power Walks. To receive their newsletter and e-mails, you can join the BPWA with a tax-deductible donation of only \$5 per household. Go to www.berkeleypaths.org. Another handy resource, "A Wheelchair Rider's Guide: San Francisco Bay and the Nearby Coast," describes wheel-chair accessible parks, trails and beaches along the bay shore and the coast. It's free from the CA Coastal Conservancy: calcoast@scc.ca.gov or 510.286.1015. And finally, here at Marvin Gardens Real Estate we give out biking and walking maps of Berkeley and the UC Campus, including Albany, El Cerrito, Kensington, Richmond, North Oakland, and Piedmont. They also list all the public transportation options, and of course, streets for cars, too. So walk on by to one of our offices and pick up a map.



Redwood Path, North Berkeley

Thanks, But No Thanks!

Do you receive a lot of unsolicited credit card offers in the mail?

You may have read in the news that credit reporting agencies are selling certain personal information to their corporate subscribers. In particular, any time you apply for a mortgage loan, car loan, or credit card, whether you are solicited by the corporate subscriber or not, your information is being sold by a company called Experian to other agencies.

Not only is this annoying and intrusive, it disseminates your personal information to entities with whom you may not have a relationship, and increases the potential for abuse. Identification theft is one of the largest criminal activities in the United States.

Attached is a link to the website for opting out and having your name removed from solicitations that may compromise your personal and private information. You can access this information on the web at:

http://www.experian.com/preapproved_credit/opting_out.html

It takes a few weeks to take effect, but soon the amount of junk credit card and refinance offers you receive in the mail should be greatly reduced.