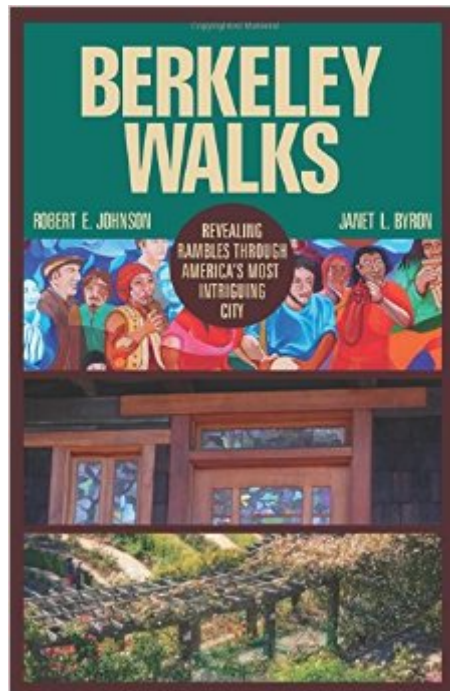


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Berkeley Walks: Revealing Rambles Through America's Most Intriguing City



Synopsis

Berkeley Walks celebrates the things that make Berkeley such a wonderful walking city—diverse architecture, panoramic views, tree-lined neighborhoods, historic homes, unusual gardens, secret pathways, hidden parks, vibrant street life, trend-setting restaurants, and intriguing history. Fascinating and surprising sidelights include the apartment building from which Patty Hearst was kidnapped; Ted Kaczynski's home before he became the Unabomber; and the residences of Nobel laureates and literary Berkeleyans such as Thornton Wilder, Ann Rice, and Philip K. Dick. Bob Johnson and Janet Byron—longtime city residents and tour guides—designed these 18 walks to showcase the many elements that make Berkeley's neighborhoods, shopping districts, and academic areas such fun to explore. Visitors will discover a vibrant community beyond the University of California campus borders, while locals will be surprised and delighted by the treasures in their own backyards. Highlights of the book include a focus on architects Joseph Esherick, John Galen Howard, Bernard Maybeck, Julia Morgan, James Plachek, Walter Ratcliff, Jr., and John Hudson Thomas, 100 archival and original photos, and 20 maps, including a map of Berkeley bookstores.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a really helpful, charming, knowledgeably written, multidimensional book. I've done several of the walks, splitting them up when I have less time to do them in their entirety and then coming back to resume them as time permits. On each walk I make dozens of memories because of this

book and the situations it allows me to stumble into. I take it out on Sundays or late afternoons, when owners of houses, dogwalkers, and walking groups are likely to be crossing paths with me, and either they spot the book in my hand or they sense the adventure I'm on, and we strike up delightful conversations tangential to the material in the book. The book has made me triply curious about all the different plant species, native and non-native, that inhabit the Bay Area; it has also made me into an avid novice architectural historian, which I never would have predicted. Admittedly, I really walk around each house pointed out and described in the book and try to notice every detail the authors remark on. Several times homeowners have come out and taken me on a guided tour of the backs of their houses, their yards, their creeks, and other notable features, and we have even consulted the Berkeley Walks book together when their house or area was on the tour. I love the book's well laid-out maps and the sensible progressions of the walks that go along clearly with those maps. The walks are also helpfully distinguished according to the level of challenge their topography and length present to walkers. The things these authors notice are the things not only I would want to notice on a walk, but have always had in my sights to know more about--as a result, the book feeds my hunger and curiosity in many different ways. It has become my pedestrian bible of sorts!

My family used Berkeley Walks while visiting Berkeley last month. We found the details about the history, homes, home owners and parks fascinating. The book is well-organized and all is related in a very folksy manner - with interesting, sometimes juicy, details.

Encyclopedic and fascinating descriptions of the streets and architecture of homes in an iconic city. We've done only two of the walks so far. We enjoy urban hikes enormously, and Johnson and Byron's engrossingly documented book is a valuable addition to our exercise. There are more characters and personalities associated with Berkeley than you know. This book names them all.

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