

## The Trails of Albany Bulb

**Length:** 3.7 miles

**Time:** 1 ½ hours

**Difficulty:** 1

**Elevation Gain:** 34 feet

**Starting Point:** The bottom of the Buchanan pedestrian bridge (at Pierce Street)

**Transportation:** AC Transit Bus 25A. Parking is available at the bottom of Buchanan or in the parking lot just south of it.

**Overview:** This short walk offers a great tour of the bay shore, sculptures, and artistic graffiti to be found at Albany Bulb. From the mudflats near I-80 to the yellow “brick” trail along the Bay; this walk explores a little-known trail system right next to an interstate.

### **Directions and pictures:**

Begin at the bottom of the Buchanan Bikeway pedestrian bridge at the intersection of Pierce St. and Buchanan Ave. Head west on the bridge to walk over Interstate 80, and you will soon find yourself dumped unceremoniously at a busy intersection. If you can ignore the bustling freeway on ramp, the nearby mudflats make a superlative spot for bird watching. Despite the nearby interstate, cormorants, coots, and mallard ducks often frequent these mudflats. If the hour is right, they also make an excellent place to view the sunset.

From the mudflats, walk west on the bike trail parallel to Buchanan, staying left after the road ends (see map) until you reach a popular beach on San Francisco Bay. The beach is bustling with dogs and their owners, and is often a great spot to people watch. If you can tear yourself away from the Frisbee-happy dogs, continue west on the Albany Waterfront Trail, noting a large shape of blocks that looks somewhat like the ruins of a castle.



Pretty soon, you'll spot a side trail heading south; scramble down it and walk along a rocky bayside trail, on which many of the rocks have been colored yellow, and someone has written 'Follow the Yellow Brick Rd.' Continue along the "yellow brick road" until you reach a picturesque lagoon, which connects to the Bay at high tide. If it is high tide, scramble up the steep trail that leads up the nearby hill, connecting with the Albany Waterfront Trail, which will bring you back to the start. Otherwise, follow the rocky path along the western edge of the lagoon, and head up a steep trail to the north of the Albany Waterfront Trail. If you take the left fork from here, the trails continues, narrowing until you are literally brushing up against the nearby plants. You eventually connect back to the Albany Waterfront Trail and can retrace your steps back to your starting point, or stay to the left while heading east for a slightly different route.



*The Yellow Brick Road, your gateway to adventures at the Albany Bulb...*