Self-Guided Tours

Our campus is spectacular, and to really appreciate it, one needs at least a month. But if you have only a day, you might want to take one of these three self-guided walking tours. Be prepared for some effort, as the terrain rises and falls sometimes steeply. Wear comfortable shoes. If you are not taking the campus shuttle to the starting points, please stop by the kiosk at the Main Entrance and purchase a day parking pass.

East Campus Tour (90-120 minutes)

Highlights: Cowell, Stevenson, Crown, and Merrill Colleges; Humanities/Social Sciences Complex; McHenry Library; Quarry Plaza; East Field House (sports facility).

1. From the East Entrance take the road to the second stoplight. Turn left and travel up Hagar Drive past the East Remote Parking to the parking lot for the East Field House, (2) on your right. The main physical education and recreation facilities are located here, including a fitness center, a gymnasium, dance and martial arts studios, an Olympic-sized swimming pool, and several playing fields and courts.

2. Walk up Hagar Drive to Steinhart Way. To see McHenry Library, turn left and immediately left again to head down a hill. Hahn Student Services, the large gray building on your right, contains offices for Student Housing, Admissions, the Registrar, and Financial Aid.

3. Walk around the building on either side going toward the west and take the bridge to McHenry Library, (3) about a 10-minute walk. McHenry Library is undergoing renovations that will provide the campus with outstanding new facilities and resources.

4. After you have seen the library, retrace your steps through the redwoods back to the Quarry Plaza, (4). As you walk through the Plaza, you will see the Bay Tree Bookstore on your right and the Student Union on your left. As you continue through the Plaza, note Joe's Pizza restaurant and the Graduate Student Commons above it. The Bay Tree Building on your right houses the Ethnic Resource Centers and the Career Center.

5. Walk to the end of Quarry Plaza and climb the right-hand stairs. When you reach the top, you are facing McLaughlin Drive and Hagar is just to your right. Cross McLaughlin at the crosswalk and take the path uphill that is immediately to the right of the bus shelter. Climb the hill. At the top continue left to the double flight of stairs. Pass straight through the residence hall courtyard to the parking area. Turn right and come to a sign for Crown College, (5). Enter the plaza with the fountain. Then go to the right of Banana Joe’s Café and follow the footpath. When you come to Baobab Lounge, veer right and walk through the quad between the buildings with the orange Merrill office on your left until you can see a traffic circle with sculptures in it ahead on the left. Merrill College, (6) is off to the left. As you stand and look at the circle, take the path on your right that descends sharply down the hill. Take the steps midway along that path on your left.

6. When you regain McLaughlin Drive, walk a few steps to your right and cross at the flashing light to the Humanities and Social Sciences Complex. Take a glance at the plaza and then return to the drive among parking spots. As you face McLaughlin, turn right and descend gently along the path until you see a sign for Cowell College, (7). After you enter Cowell College, step to the railing for a great view. On a clear day, you see the ocean from here.

7. To get to Stevenson College, (8), take any open path to your left as you face the ocean or go back to the drive and turn right down the hill. Enter Stevenson. Walk past the Stevenson Café and past the Event Center to another charming quad. Looking toward the ocean, exit the quad down a small set of steps toward the meadow and turn right on the footpath in front of Casa 9. Follow the path until you pass between Apartment 3 (on the right) and the Cowell Provost House (on the left). At the main road, turn left and then almost immediately left into the parking lot that contains your car if you have driven.

Central Campus Tour (45-75 minutes)

Highlights: Science Hill, Colleges Nine and Ten; Jack Baskin School of Engineering.

1. Drive up Empire Grade and take the West Entrance. Proceed up Heller Drive to the West Core Parking Structure, which will be on your right just shy of McLaughlin Drive. Enter the structure. You are entering the Parking Structure on the west side. Park and take note of what level you are on. On foot, exit through the opening on the east side of the building. Take the footpath through the gully for a couple of minutes until you reach a road. Cross at the crosswalk to the small back parking lot, and take the five-step concrete staircase ahead of you. Immediately turn left and walk to the end of the concrete corridor, under an overpass. To your right are Thimann Labs, (9), which house the biology advising office, and ahead of you is a courtyard with the well-known sea lion sculpture. Before the courtyard, turn left and mount the stairs. A curving entrance will take you into Sinsheimer Labs, which house the MCD Biology Department.

2. With the curving entrance to your back, follow the brick path. On your left you will soon come to the Science and Engineering Library. Natural Sciences 2 is on your right. Just before Natural Sciences 2, turn right down the stairs. As you descend, the Library is behind you.

3. At the bottom of the stairs, take an immediate left, walking under the futuristic retrofitting of Natural Sciences 2. Visit the Center for Adaptive Optics on your right to see its unusual open space plan. Also on your right is Earth and Marine Sciences, another building with an interesting lobby.

4. Beyond Natural Sciences 2 is the Interdisciplinary Sciences Building, on your left, home to Environmental Studies. Walk to the end of it, and turn
a sharp left. Hug the building until you come to a bridge. Cross the bridge to McLaughlin Drive. Cross at the crosswalk and take the footpath that climbs to your right. Now you are in the complex of Colleges Nine and Ten. Take the first left turn, toward Café Revolución. Climb the stairs and keep on the path until you come to the University Center on your right. On the ground floor is the College Nine/Ten Dining Hall. Upstairs is Terra Fresca, a lively restaurant open to faculty, staff, students, and visitors.

5. With University Center behind you to the right, you see Social Sciences 2. To the right is a charming grassy yard and beyond, Social Sciences 1. Turn left and walk in front of Social Sciences 2 to the roadway, veering to the left. At the traffic circle, turn left again and descend the drive back to McLaughlin. Turn right and stay on the sidewalk on the east side of the road, crossing a bridge over a gorge. When the sidewalk ends, take the small footpath veering right and then take the first branch to the left. This brings you to the Communications Building where resides the fabled Department of Film and Digital Media. Just beyond you see Baskin Engineering, an original campus building, and the new Engineering 2 (E2) and Baskin Auditorium of the Jack Baskin School of Engineering. Baskin Engineering has undergraduate laboratories on the first floor, and houses Electrical Engineering, Applied Mathematics and Statistics, Mathamatics, and Baskin School Advising. You can read about undergraduate and graduate research on the posters displayed on E2’s balcony overlooking the plaza. Upstairs you can visit the departments of Computer Engineering, Computer Science, and Economics.

6. After visiting the Engineering complex, return to McLaughlin Drive by going down the short driveway. Facing you is the new Physical Sciences Building, home to Chemistry, Microbiology and Environmental Toxicology, and Biomedical Engineering. Cross McLaughlin Drive at the crosswalk and turn right. Within a few minutes you will see the Parking Structure on your left.

**West Campus Tour** (60-75 minutes)

**Highlights:** Oakes College; College Eight; Porter College; Kresge College; Theater Arts Center; Elena Baskin Visual Arts Center; Music Center.

1. Drive up Empire Grade and take the West Entrance to campus. Drive up Heller Drive, past Porter College (on your left) and turn right on Meyer Drive to reach the parking lot. Park your car in the lot. Use meters only if you do not have a parking pass. When you get out of your car, stand in the lot so that the hill climbs to your left and you see the Music Center (a low, sand-colored building) in front of you. On your right across Meyer Drive is a curving footpath going toward steps and flanked with lights. If you are clever, you will figure out how to reach the path. Take it in the direction of Heller Drive and turn left when you see the stairs in front of you.

2. Walk five minutes through a grove of trees to Oakes College. Enter the Oakes quad by walking to the left of the area map. Cross the small yard, where classrooms and offices are on your left, and descend the stairs at the end of the yard. Turn right and skirt the Oakes Café. Turn right again at the end of the building and then climb the stairs at the end of the building to return to the yard. Retrace your steps to the entrance of Oakes College. As you exit from Oakes, take the driveway to the left of a small parking lot. When you reach Building 6, take the Emergency Service Vehicle Road (center footpath). Progress between the dorms in College Eight. Take the second set of stairs to your right, cross a small quad, and continue up the staircases to the arch. When you reach the top, catch your breath by stopping and turning 180 degrees to see the ocean view.

3. Follow the drive out to Heller Drive. Cross at the crosswalk and continue up the path. The Porter Wave sculpture is to your left. Continue along the footpath until you see the restrooms. Here you can enter the southwest corner of the Porter College, courtyard, where you will find the Koi Pond. Upstairs is the Mary Porter Sesnon Art Gallery. Exit through the northwest corner of the Koi Pond courtyard, and turn right (without entering the next courtyard), taking a path past a pergola on your right and through a courtyard with a totem pole.

4. Cross the road at the crosswalk and take the roadway to the left, walking until you see a sign for Kresge College. Enter Kresge, following the climbing path that runs between Annex A and Annex B. Keep climbing, going to the right of a small plaza, past Classroom 319, Classroom 327, and the long corridor of Bauhaus-style dorms. When you reach the final plaza, turn right down deep stairs, entering the woods. Cross the bridge back to Heller Drive.

5. When you come to the intersection of Heller and McLaughlin Drives, with the Parking Structure on your right, walk along McLaughlin, keeping the Parking Structure on your right. Turn right at Steinhardt and follow the sidewalk as it crosses the road. Keep walking until you find steps descending on your right. Descend the stairs (either way) and rejoin Steinhardt at Kerr Hall. Continue along the road with Kerr Hall on your left and then keep going straight ahead.

6. Soon after you pass the Sinsheimer-Stanley Festival Glen, the summer home of Shakespeare Santa Cruz, on your right, you will come to a vista where, on a cloudless day, Monterey Bay sparkles below you. To your right is the Theater Arts Complex, where you can see the Mainstage and other facilities. To your left is the Elena Baskin Visual Arts Center. The center includes facilities for drawing, painting, installations, photography, casting, sculptural construction, and printmaking. Beyond the Arts Center is the spectacular view of the ocean. Climb down the drive to the parking lot that contains your car.

7. As time permits, go to the east end of the parking lot and explore the Music Center. Housing the Music Department, the center includes a recital hall, an ensemble rehearsal hall, a performance studio, electronic music studios, a gamelan studio, classrooms, and practice rooms.