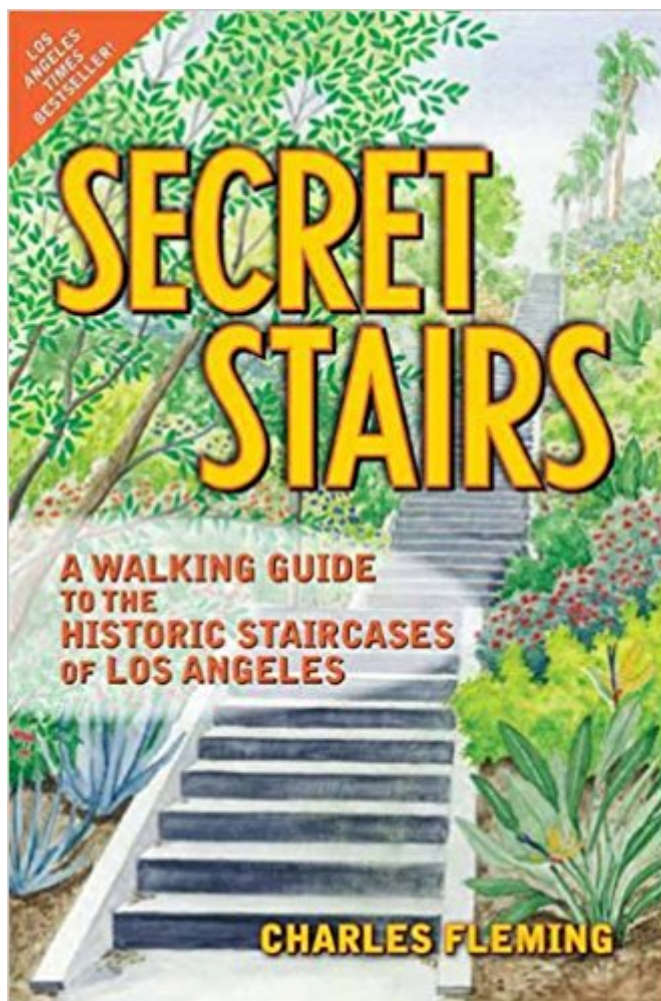


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# Secret Stairs: A Walking Guide To The Historic Staircases Of Los Angeles



## Synopsis

Containing walks and detailed maps from throughout the city, *Secret Stairs* highlights the charms and quirks of a unique feature of the Los Angeles landscape, and chronicles the geographical, architectural, and historical aspects of the city's staircases, as well as of the neighborhoods in which the steps are located. From strolling through the classic La Loma neighborhood in Pasadena to walking the Sunset Junction Loop in Silver Lake, to taking the Beachwood Canyon hike through Hollywoodland to enjoying the magnificent ocean views from the Castellammare district in Pacific Palisades, *Secret Stairs* takes you on a tour of the staircases all across the City of Angels. The circular walks, rated for duration and difficulty, deliver tales of historic homes and their fascinating inhabitants, bits of unusual local trivia, and stories of the neighborhoods surrounding the stairs. That's where William Faulkner was living when he wrote the screenplay for *To Have and Have Not*; that house was designed by Neutra; over there is a Schindler; that's where Woody Guthrie lived, where Anais Nin died, and where Thelma Todd was murdered . . . Despite the fact that one of these staircases starred in an Oscar-winning short film, *Laurel and Hardy's The Music Box*, from 1932; these civic treasures have been virtually unknown to most of the city's residents and visitors. Now, *Secret Stairs* puts these hidden stairways back on the map, while introducing urban hikers to exciting new trails all around the city of Los Angeles.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Charles Fleming is the author of the national bestseller *High Concept*: Don Simpson and the

Hollywood Culture of Excess, and co-author of the New York Times bestsellers *Three Weeks in October: The Manhunt for the Serial Sniper*, *A Goomba's Guide to Life*, and *My Lobotomy*. A former staff writer for *Newsweek*, *Variety*, and the *Los Angeles Herald-Examiner*, and a frequent contributor to *Vanity Fair*, the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Los Angeles* magazine, and *LA Weekly*, Fleming teaches journalism at USC. He lives with his wife and two daughters in Silver Lake, California.

I've done several of the hikes. They are very unique and I've enjoyed them all, I've not found anything like this in any other book. For the most part things are very accurate. I would say the maps are not very good. Update 5/2/16: I would recommend skipping hike 28 in Atwater Village. First the map is not really correct as specifies taking Glendale Bl to Riverside, this is not correct, taking the stairs puts you on Hyperion. The reason why this is important is because we were walking from hike 27 and wanted to pick the trail up mid-way. We were looking for a stair at Glendale instead of Hyperion. But the main reason to skip it is because once you cross over the five freeway both the north bike path and pedestrian bridge over the LA River are welded shut. You have to go south to Glendale/Hyperion.

This book is an excellent guide to interesting walks in the older parts of L.A. I've tried the Pasadena La Loma walk and am looking forward to the others. The map, while not to scale, and the written guide are easy to follow. Pretty soon you can differentiate the public stairs from any private stairs at street level as they were constructed in a uniform manner. The only alteration in this walk over the last few years is that it is not as shady as described. Many of the homeowners have removed older growth and replaced it with drought resistant plants. I would advise an early walk of warm or hot days.

Love this book! Would highly recommend the series for your own area. Some cover local monuments or tourist attractions, whatever is particular to your town but I love how this particular book mentions not only the steps in the title but interesting statues, gardens or local historical houses. Super way to find little-known gems in your own town.

Read about the Secret Stairs in the newspaper, then visited the website and took one of the walks posted there with my family. We had such a great time discovering a part of LA we'd never seen before. Had to buy the whole book after that. Can't wait to visit all these other magical staircases.

This is such a fun book! Easy to follow and a great way to see Los Angeles on foot :)

If you live in LA, this is the book you need. Fleming has done a tremendous amount of extremely creative work organizing numerous wonderful hikes of all levels exploring many of the secret staircases in Los Angeles. Each hike has a lot of historical information as well. I love this book and love the hikes!

If you live in Los Angeles and like to \*hike\*, this book is for you! While L.A. has much park land and hiking trails, it's fun to mix things up and enjoy an "urban" hike that is both a good work-out and good for sightseeing, especially if you're into architecture. I've lived in Los Angeles for most of my life and never even KNEW many of this hidden staircases even existed! The author has made all the stair walks into loops (easy return to your car or public transportation -- the author lists what bus routes each walk is on!) And the book explains what you're seeing along the way. The stairs can often be quite challenging! But the book takes you both up and down for a varied work-out. The author lists the times the walks will take, which I find to be generous (I can usually finish them in 10 minutes less than he estimates). My one criticism would be that sometimes the directions are a bit confusing, but then again, many of these stairs are in the hills and other twisty and turn-y parts of Los Angeles, and directions in general in these areas are confusing! This book would make a wonderful gift for any active Angeleno.

Great book to plan a day with friends, family, long dog walks, picture taking and exploring LA! Love this book, anytime anyone is at my house they pick up this book and immediately find somewhere they want to visit because of this book. When commenting on a friend's VERY COOL PIX, she let me know about this book. The very next day I found it and had it delivered in 2 days. Even turned my mother on to this book because she is taking some amateur photography classes and this book will give her plenty of LOCAL places to start her picture taking adventures but only with an escort or my Boxer Dozer to ensure her safety. I love my momma!

just barely used this for the first time this past weekend out in Santa Monica coast line. the book is laid out very nicely with detailed directions/maps, incredible Hollywood lore, and awesome details/descriptions of landmarks/etc. this is the first book of its kind that I've purchased and used. I will definitely go through this one and then look for some other hiking books from this author once I'm done.

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