

F R E E

Downtown Oakland

90-MINUTE GUIDED

WALKING TOURS



City of
Oakland



1 OLD OAKLAND

2 CITY CENTER

3 UPTOWN TO THE LAKE

4 PRESERVATION PARK

5 CHINATOWN

6 JACK LONDON WATERFRONT

7 CHURCHES AND TEMPLES

8 NEW ERA/NEW POLITICS

TOURS are scheduled between May and October on Wednesdays and Saturdays. All tours start at 10:00 a.m. and last approximately 90 minutes. Reservations are recommended but not required. The tour schedule can be found at oaklandca.gov/walkingtours.

SPECIAL GROUP TOURS can be arranged for adults at a time that is convenient for the group for a fee. Special group tours must be scheduled no less than four weeks in advance.

SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS— Our “Know Your City” 60-minutes tours are offered year-round. Chaperones must be provided by the school at a 1-to-5 adult-to-child ratio. Reservations must be scheduled no less than four weeks in advance.

VOLUNTEER AS A TOUR GUIDE! If you love Oakland and want to help share its vibrant history with new people, please contact us about volunteering to be a tour guide. English and multilingual speakers are encouraged to volunteer.

For reservations and questions, call the **OAKLAND TOURS HOTLINE** at (510) 238-3234 or email Annalee Allen at aallen@oaklandca.gov.

All tours may be arranged in Spanish or Mandarin/Cantonese at no additional cost.

TOUR 1

Old Oakland

This tour explores the 1870s business district where elegantly restored, brick commercial buildings now house offices, galleries and eateries. The historic district is a visible reminder of Oakland’s designation in 1869 as the Western Terminus of the Transcontinental Railroad.

MEET in front of Ratto’s Market & Deli, 821 Washington Street.



TOUR 2

City Center

Turn-of-the-century landmarks alongside modern high-rises are the focus of this tour. Explore the upbeat style of the modern City Center Square and discover a “there” there. Examine symbols of Oakland’s arrival as a modern 20th century metropolis — the Beaux-Arts-style City Hall and Rotunda Building, the Tribune Tower and the art deco Financial Center Building.

MEET in front of Oakland City Hall, One Frank H. Ogawa Plaza.



TOUR 3

Uptown to the Lake

Surrounded by many new restaurants and clubs, Oakland’s vibrant art deco-era landmarks, including the Fox Oakland Theater, the Paramount Theatre and the jazzy blue and silver terra cotta Floral Depot Building, are the focus of this tour. The tour also features the Kaiser Center’s “secret” rooftop garden overlooking Lake Merritt.

MEET in front of the Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway.



TOUR 4

Preservation Park

On this tour, view fine details of the Victorian style architecture of several 19th century houses that have been relocated and restored as a nonprofit office and meeting complex in a tranquil garden setting. Other tour highlights include the landmark First Unitarian Church, the Pardee Home Museum and the African American Museum Library at Oakland, housed in a former Carnegie library which served as Oakland’s Main Library for nearly 50 years.

MEET at the entrance to Preservation Park, 13th and Martin Luther King, Jr. Way.



TOUR 5

Oakland Chinatown

Explore this pan-Asian downtown district packed with shops, restaurants and cultural institutions and learn about the contributions made by Chinese and other Asian immigrants to the history of the Bay Area and California. Stroll along sidewalk markets filled with fresh fish, exotic fruits and vegetables.

MEET at Pacific Renaissance Plaza fountain, entrance at 388 Ninth Street.



TOUR 6

Jack London Waterfront

Follow the footsteps of Oakland’s famous literary son Jack London and see some of his favorite haunts. Visit a wholesale produce market that has been in operation since the early 1900s, alongside newly built residential loft developments. Also featured, a look at the USS POTOMAC, the restored yacht of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

MEET by the Jack London Square entry arch, at the foot of Broadway.



TOUR 7

Churches and Temples

Visit historic places of worship and learn about their architecture and influence on the development of Oakland. Among those highlighted are First Presbyterian Church, First Congregational Church, Temple Sinai, the Oakland Catholic Diocese and the Cathedral of Christ the Light.

MEET in front of the First Presbyterian Church, 2619 Broadway.



TOUR 8

New Era/ New Politics

This tour highlights African American leaders who helped shape present-day Oakland and the Black Arts Movement Business District cultural zone. Learn how Lionel Wilson, Delilah Beasley, Robert Maynard, Byron Rumford and others changed the city and the Bay Area.

MEET in front of the African American Museum and Library, 659 14th Street.

