

950

Naples, Long Beach – city/beach

June 10, 2009

Leader: Anneliese

Overall description:

This hike is on flat, paved walkways. There is no shade, but it has a great variety of architecture of private homes and beautiful gardens along the canals. Most walks are next to water, beach or canal, with many boats to admire.

The idea began in 1904 when the father-and-son team Arthur Parsons announced plans for a "Venetian-style" community that featured a series of canals and pedestrian walkways. To accomplish this, they enclosed, dredged, filled in, and stabilized a marshland with concrete bulkheads to create the seaside neighborhood. The first 6 houses were built as speculative homes. Waterfront lots in Naples ranged from \$900 to \$4000, which was costly at the time. In 1907, the Parsons partnered with oil-and rail baron Henry Huntington to incorporate a stop at Naples on the Pacific Electric Railroad's Newport Line.

Hike:

We meet at **Bluff Park on E Ocean Blvd near Paloma in Long Beach**. There is free parking on both sides of the road. We descend the stairs to the bike path and follow it east, past the Belmont Plaza public pool, to Bay Shore Ave and go on it to 2nd St Bridge. After crossing the bridge we go on E The Toledo to the Rivo Alto Canal. After crossing the bridge we walk a little bit to the next bridge and cross over to the small island and circle around it along Naples Canal, E Corso DI Napoli, Geneva. Walk back to the bridge, cross it and follow the walkway all around the Naples Island to E Neapolitan Ln., where we cross another bridge back to E Corso Di Napoli to Vista Del Golfo. If you like you can go around the yacht club, look out to the entrance to the harbor and walk along Angelo Walk back to E The Toledo. This time walk around the canal on the outside, then trace your steps back to E The Toledo, 2nd St Bridge and the bike path to where we started. If you don't want to take the bike path the small streets between 2nd St and Ocean Blvd are quite interesting too.

In the middle of the Island on Ravenna Dr. is a little park, which would be a nice place for cookie break and on the way back for lunch.

This can be done in the opposite direction and shortened if you feel like it.

For a little longer walk you can continue on a nice board walk facing the Pacific on E Seaside Walk after we reach Bay Shore Ave, go to the tip of the peninsula and return on the Alamitos Bay side. On some stretches you have to walk in the sand or the road.

There are some public toilets along the bike path and one on 62nd St. on the peninsula. I did not see one on the Island; it is all private, residential property.

We will have refreshments back at Bluff Park.

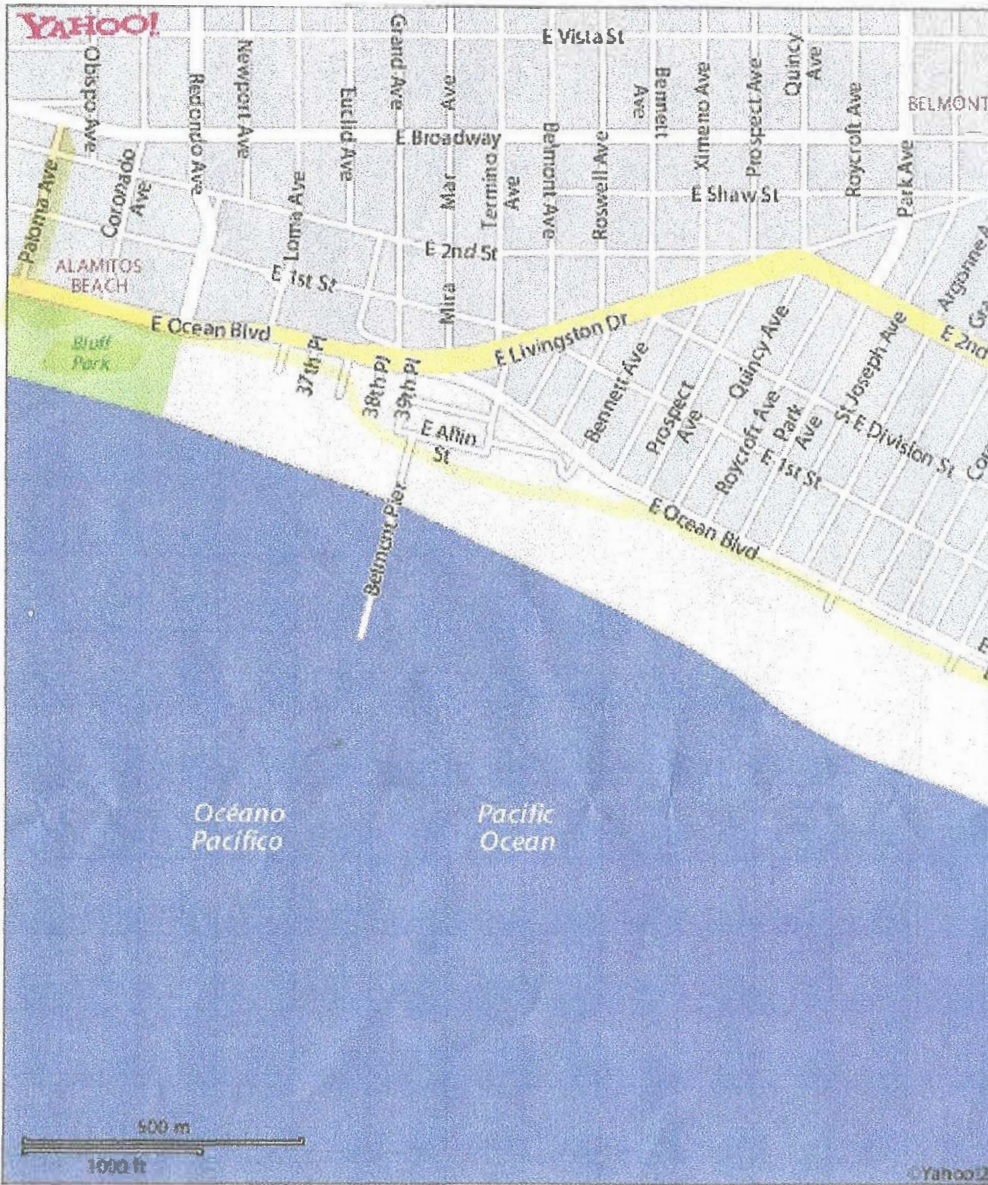
Getting there:

Take 710 freeway south to the end and drive through Long Beach on Ocean Blvd till you get to Bluff Park, just after the LB Museum of Art. One can also take the 110 freeway to Vincent Thomas Bridge, drive east over Terminal Island and then continue to Bluff Park on Ocean Blvd.

From the South turn off Pacific Coast Hwy on E 2nd St. and drive west, crossing over Naples Island, make a left onto E Livingston Dr. to E Ocean and the Bluff Park.

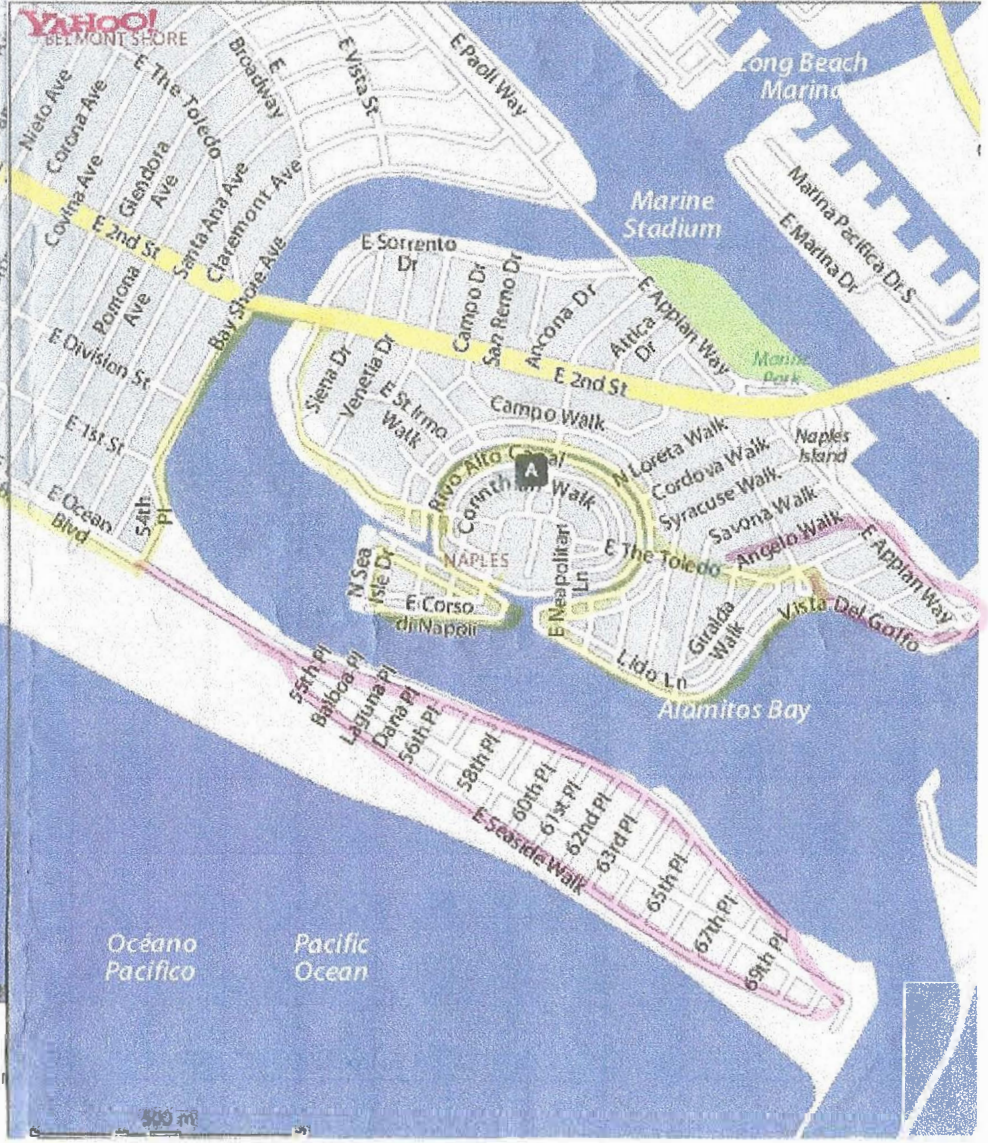
If you want to spend more time in the area, the art museum or a stroll on 2nd St with many shops and restaurants are interesting. There is also the MOLAA (Museum of Latin American Art) just down the street on Alamitos Ave.

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When using any driving directions or map, it's a good idea to do a reality check and make sure you watch out for construction, and follow all traffic safety precautions. This is only to be used as an