



## Secret Stairs: A Walking Guide to the Historic Staircases of Los Angeles

By Charles Fleming

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**Secret Stairs: A Walking Guide to the Historic Staircases of Los Angeles** By Charles Fleming

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.

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### Editorial Review

#### About the Author

**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.

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