This walking tour is a moderate level tour that lasts a little over an hour. The terrain includes sidewalks but also uneven pavement, streets and goes over railroad track crossings. This is a dog-friendly tour with many stops for you and your pet. The CA Welcome Center has a public restroom, other businesses have restrooms for their customers.

The Historic West End Neighborhood is a small, vital community that combines traditional neighborhood living with surprisingly urban amenities. The West End’s "downtown" is Historic Railroad Square known for its eateries, nightlife and shopping.

West End houses represent a good cross-section of modest regional residential architecture from the 1880s through the 1940s. The homes are small, predominantly bungalows and Queen Anne cottages. In 1996, part of the West End became a Preservation District significant as an example of a large and reasonably intact 19th and 20th century working-class neighborhood.

The neighborhood has two fine parks, De Moo and De Turk Round Barn Park. The West End also contains industrial and commercial buildings such as the notable DeTurk Round Barn and Winery building, Western Farm Center and France-American Bakery.

Many Italians proudly called this neighborhood "home". The first wave of immigrants came from Italy around 1885. By the 1920s, city records show about 90% of Italian residents in the district. Long standing West End businesses included Lena's Restaurant and night-club, Michele's Restaurant and the France-American Bakery. Residents worked in many of the surrounding businesses such as the De Turk Winery, California Packing Corporation, Santa Rosa Woolen Mills and, of course, the railroad. Many West End Italians worked or started businesses in Railroad Square.

This neighborhood is a living example of what today’s urban planners are trying to create—a small downtown neighborhood with local businesses easy accessible without a car. The West End's vintage way of life has once again come into vogue.
THE TOUR...

1 | HISTORIC RAILROAD SQUARE & DEPOT PARK
Santa Rosa visitors first saw Railroad Square as they disembarked the Northwestern Pacific train. Alfred Hitchcock filmed scenes from Shadow of a Doubt at the depot. Depot Park features a bronze statue of Charlie Brown and Snoopy dedicated to Santa Rosa’s own Charles Schulz. Significant structures surround the park, including the Western Hotel, Hotel La Rose and the Railroad Express Agency Building (Aloma Roasters), all constructed of locally quarried basalt stone. The CA Welcome Center (depot building) is a handy place to gather information and offers dog biscuits and water.

2 | SMART STATION AT RAILROAD SQUARE
All aboard! The new Sonoma Marin Area Rapid Transit trains will bring rail service to the Depot once again starting in 2014. An exciting, innovative retail/residential project for the five-acre site is also planned. Until then, the area serves as a weekend home for Dr. Eamans P. Kitty’s Great West End and Railroad Square Hand Car Regatta, a kinetic celebration of art, science, ingenuity and general merriment.

3 | WILSON STREET CORRIDOR
At one time, many Italian-owned businesses line Wilson Street. It is the only surviving historic commercial district outside of Railroad Square. The community is committed to enhancing and preserving the historic look and feel of this area.

4 | WESTERN FARM CENTER 21 W 7th Street
Western Farm is a well-loved institution for pet lovers and farmers countywide. Opened in 1967, the Bertolini family has operated this feed and pet store in the very same neighborhood where they grew up. Well-behaved dogs (and humans) are always welcome. The Western Farm storage barn, next to the railroad tracks was the American Produce Company warehouse built in 1895.

5 | 521 ADAMS STREET
West End Restaurants and hotels once lined Adams Street and this site is the last remaining restaurant. In 1900 it was originally Toscana’s Hotel. The three-story hotel was razed in 1934 to build the current Hotel Goldeneagle. It was then Micheln’s for decades. In 2006, new owners extensively renovated the building while taking great care to preserve its historic character. The current Stark’s Steakhouse has an elegant bar that is a neighborhood favorite.

6 | Chop’s 509 Adams Street
Charles “Chop” DeMoe, Santa Rosa’s first Italian-American Mayor, left the bulk of his estate with instructions to create a facility to serve Santa Rosa youth. Built on the site of Lena’s Restaurant, a well-loved Italian eatery, the Club 509 entrance pays tribute to the original Lena’s building.

7 | 6TH STREET PLAYHOUSE 53 W 6th Street
This is the permanent building of the Del Monte Cannery Complex that stretched from W. 6th to W. 3rd Street. The cannery played a significant role in Railroad Square and West End history. This building (ca. 1889) was renovated in 2004 and is now the 6th Street Playhouse, a top quality live theater.

8 | PIERSON ST. S R. CREEK GREENWAY TRAIL
Pierson Street is the West End entrance to the Santa Rosa Creek trail system. This network of trails stretches from downtown Santa Rosa to Fountville and beyond. The path east of Pierson (toward the hotels) is filled with public art including a stunning tile mosaic wall.

9 | FRANCO-AMERICAN BAKERY 202 W 7th Street
This corner has housed a bakery since 1900. The Bostoni family have run the bakery since 1938. If the bakery store is open, you can buy a fresh loaf or just stand outside and take a deep breath. Momamento Bread.

10 | DE MEO PARK 27th Pole Street
This beautiful park, built in the 1930s, was named for Santa Rosa’s city attorney Nick DeMeo. A massive Luther Burbank Parthenium Walnut tree provides a shady area for picnics. The DeMeo family added two box courts in 1990s which have been a focal point for neighborhood gatherings ever since. The park underwent a major renovation in 2003 with input from neighborhood residents.

11 | DETURK COMMONS Coulter & Joyce Street
These 31 homes were built through a sweat equity program. The original families committed to work 30 hours a week for 11 months to help build these houses. To comply with the West End Preservation District, the development incorporated architectural elements such as front porches and horizontal siding from the historic homes in the area.

12 | DETURK ROUND BARN & PARK
This is the only truly round barn in Santa Rosa. Isaac DeTurk had this barn built to house his champion trotter horses. The City of Santa Rosa eventually purchased the property where they operated the city corporation yard from 1910 until 1984. Eventually, it was developed into a 1 acre park. The much loved West End Dog park is dedicated to “Maverick”, the first Sonoma County Sheriff K-9 killed in the line of duty.

13 | DETURK WINERY
Across Donalas Street stand the massive brick walls of the DeTurk Winery. These brick buildings (ca. 1879) replaced the original wooden winery buildings that were destroyed by fire. There are currently plans afoot to build townhomes within the walls of this beautiful structure.

14 | WILSON STREET RETURNING TO RAILROAD SQUARE
• 625 Wilson The Lee Bros. Warehouse
• 514/512 Wilson Forn’s Commercial Building
• 412 Wilson The Fasoli Building
• 39th Street The Sperry Flour Mill built in 1888 and restored after the 1906 earthquake.

15 | RAILROAD SQUARE 4th Street
An excellent example of an early 20th century commercial block, Railroad Square is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Railroad Square has a fine collection of restaurants, coffee houses and specialty shops that both locals and visitors enjoy.