



## A mindful walk outdoors

**1. As you begin, walk at a natural pace.** Place your hands wherever comfortable: on your belly, behind your back or at your sides. Start down your own trail or simply envision walking on a trail like the one pictured here.

- If you find it useful, count steps up to 10, and then start back at one again.
- With each step, pay attention to the lifting and falling of your feet. Notice any shifting of your body from side to side.
- Should something else capture your attention, come back to the sensation of walking. Your mind will wander, so without frustration, gently guide it back again as many times as you need.
- Maintain a larger sense of the environment around you, taking it all in, staying safe and aware.



**2. Now for a few minutes, expand your attention to sounds.** Whether you're indoors, in the woods or in a city, pay attention to sounds without labeling, naming or getting caught up in whether you find them pleasant or unpleasant. Notice sounds as nothing more or less than sound.

**3. Shift your awareness to your sense of smell.** Again, simply notice. Don't force yourself to feel anything at all, just bring attention to the sense of smell, whatever you discover. Pay attention to the smells around you without labeling, naming or getting caught up in whether you find them pleasant or unpleasant.

**4. Now, move to vision:** Notice colors, objects and whatever else you see. Patiently come back each time something grabs your attention, or if something needs addressing, like avoiding an obstacle. Stay natural, not overly rigid, not daydreaming and drifting, but with sustained awareness. Take it all in.

**5. Keep this open awareness of everything around you,** wherever you are — nothing to do, nothing to fix, nothing to change. Be fully aware and walk. Utilize all your senses to experience this moment in time as you continue down your path.

**6. In the last moments of your mindful walk, come back to awareness of the physical sensations** of walking, wherever else your mind found itself throughout the practice. Notice your feet again touching the ground. Notice again the movements in your body with each step. Continue using your senses to observe your surroundings until your walk concludes.

When you're ready to end your walking meditation, stand still for a moment. Pause, choose a moment to end the practice. As you finish, consider how you might bring this kind of awareness into the rest of your day.