

Care for Aotearoa



Protect nature

Keep your distance and don't feed wildlife. Follow any rules restricting dogs, fires, drones or vehicles.



Keep NZ clean

Take all rubbish with you and use toilets where provided.



Show respect

Respect others, respect culture.



Be prepared

Stay safe in the outdoors by following the Land Safety Code.

- Choose the right trip for you.
- Understand the weather.
- Pack warm clothes and extra food.
- Share your plans and take ways to get help.
- Take care of yourself and each other.



Keep safe

- Lock unattended vehicles and don't leave valuables in view.
- The emergency telephone number for Police, Fire and Ambulance is 111. This can be dialled free from any phone.

Cover image: View from Sandfly Bay track, Otago. Photo: Michael McQueen

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For safety hazards and conservation emergencies

0800 ASK DOC 275 362

For general enquiries

R268973



Welcome to Dunedin

Dunedin's beaches, shrublands, forested valleys and tussocked hilltops offer a fascinating variety of walks close to the city, and the surrounding skyline ridges have spectacular views. Whether your interests are scientific, historic, or you simply want to enjoy the scenery, wildlife and the exercise, these tracks will give you pleasure. Many tracks are suitable for dog walking, and there are beginner and intermediate mountain bike tracks.



Natural history

The walks give access to diverse natural features, including ancient forests, young plantations, tussock-clad summits, developed farmland, spectacular coastal scenery, and rare wildlife. Dunedin's geology is equally varied, with igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks, and volcanic hills following eruptions around Port Chalmers 10–13 million years ago. Erosion has sculpted Otago Harbour, with old lava flows on the peninsula's coastal cliffs and at Aramoana. Rock columns typical of jointed basalt formations are spectacularly exposed at the Organ Pipes on the flanks of Mount Cargill, and the Pyramids in Okia Reserve.

Otago Peninsula was an island that became part of the mainland, thanks to the sand isthmus that is now South Dunedin. The creamy sands of the adjacent beaches come from quartz-rich sediments washed up the coast from the mouth of the Mata-Au/Clutha River.



Visitors on Sandymount Track, Otago. Photo: Michel McQueen

Dunedin had a substantial forest in pre-European times, with tall bush surrounding the harbour and Otago Peninsula down to the water's edge. Only a few small forest remnants remain. West of the harbour, native forest still covers the flanks of Mount Cargill, Flagstaff, Swampy Summit and neighbouring areas. Much of it is protected.

Above the treeline a diverse scrubland dominates all but the highest or wettest areas. Snow tussock and speargrass are prominent in the subalpine grassland areas of Swampy Summit and Silver Peaks.

There is a rich mixture of native and introduced birds. In North Dunedin the kererū/wood pigeon is common. These large colourful birds fly with whooshing wingbeats and eat berries, flowers and leaves in both the bush and domestic gardens. The smaller native birds are korimako/bellbird, riroriro/grey warbler, miromiro/tomtit and pīwakawaka/fantail. Higher up, flocks of pīpipi/brown creeper, busy little birds with a warbling song, can be seen. The tauhou/silvereye is common in winter, and there's a small population of the rarer toutouwai/ native robin in the Flagstaff area.

New Zealand has two raptors, the kāhu / Australasian harrier and kārearea / New Zealand falcon, which can both be seen in open areas around Dunedin. Common exotic birds include the blackbird, song thrush, starling, chaffinch and other finches. A colourful recent settler in forests round Mount Cargill is the eastern rosella, an Australian parakeet. In pre-European times Dunedin's forests hosted kākāriki kākā/yellow-crowned parakeet, and laughing owl. The nocturnal Australian brushtailed possum has had a major impact on native plants and birdlife throughout the Dunedin area. Extensive control programmes are in place to manage these, and other, pests.

Invertebrates include the red admiral and tussock butterflies. Skinks and geckos can be seen by keen observers in the wild places that surround Dunedin City.

Several streams are home to some of our reclusive native kōkopu, introduced fish such the common brown trout (Salmo trutta), and a huge variety of freshwater invertebrates such as mayflies, stoneflies and freshwater crayfish. Brown trout and salmon are common and even spawn in the Water of Leith.

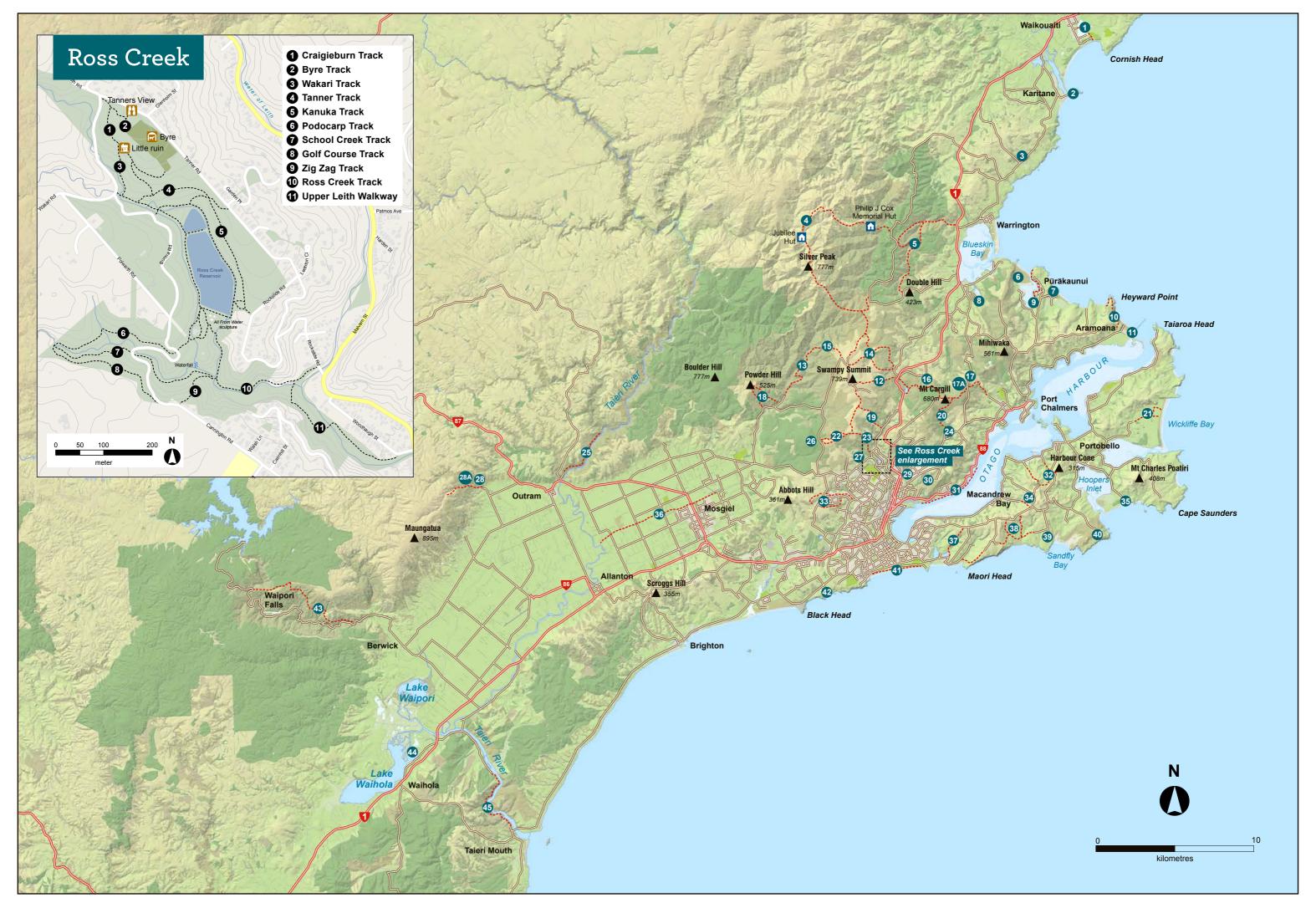


Banded kōkopu (Galaxias fasciatus) in Opoho Creek, beside the Big Easy MTB. Photo: Chris Arbuckle

Community involvement

Dunedin's many tracks and trails are developed and maintained by Mountain Biking Otago, the Green Hut Track Group, Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club, Task Force Green, Dunedin City Council, Department of Conservation, the Otago Regional Council, and others.





- Short walk easy walking for up to an hour.
- Walking track well-formed track, easy to moderate walking from a few minutes to a day.
- Tramping track mostly unformed but with track directional markers, poles or cairns. Backcountry skills and experience required.
- Route unformed track suitable only for people with high-level backcountry skills and experience.
- Wheelchair accessible
- Mountain biking
- Dogs allowed
- Dogs allowed on a leash
- Managed by Department of Conservation
- Managed by Dunedin City Council
- Managed by Clutha District Council
- Managed by Otago Regional Council
- Managed by Mountain Biking Otago
- Managed by Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust



Ross Creek









3-4 hr, 9 km (one way)

Silverpeaks Scenic Reserve.

6 Mapoutahi Pā Track







1 Hawksbury Lagoon Wildlife Refuge Walk

Network of easy walking tracks, see inset map.



30 min, 1.5 km (one way)

Hawksbury Lagoon is a must for bird-lovers. Large numbers of birds use the lagoon at different times of the year as a stop-off in their migration or for nesting. From the causeways crossing the lagoon, you can spot kōtuku ngutupapa/royal spoonbill, matuku moana/white-faced heron, kawaupaka/little shaq, poaka/pied stilt and many more.

Huriawa peninsula is the site of the pā of Te Wera and a

site and enjoy a combination of easy walking tracks and

spectacular views of Taiaroa Head, Matanaka and

legendary 18th century siege by Taoka. Explore this historic

2 Huriawa Pā Walk 30 min, 1 km (loop)









20 min, 1.5 km (one way) from Osborne Rd car park 20 min, 1.6 km (one way) from Doctors Point Rd low tide access

Separating the white sand beaches of Pūrākaunui Bay and Doctors Point, this striking peninsula was the site of a Ngāti Māmoe pā, and of a successful and bloody siege by a Ngāi Tahu war party during the 18th century. Today, some of the pā terraces can still be seen. Mapoutahi offers stunning coastal views.

Get out into the rugged, magical hills tucked away behind

Blueskin Bay. This track is challenging, but rewards you with native bush, a gentle stroll along the bubbling Careys

Creek and plentiful bird watching along the way. You will

encounter steep terrain as you wind through both young

and old kānuka stands and gullies filled with ponga,

kōtukutuku/tree fuchsia. Rongomai and Honeycomb

Tracks branch off this track (an additional 3.8 km),

climbing steeply to Mountain Rd and access to

3 Seacliff Walk

1 hr, 2 km (loop)

Butterfly Bay.









7 Long Beach (South) Track







The entrance gates to Truby King Reserve are on Russell 20 min, 600 m (loop) Road, Seacliff. There are numerous paths and vehicle tracks

> Explore one of Dunedin's loveliest beaches and catch the best of the morning or evening sun on the waves. The track provides a short walk through Long Beach Recreation Reserve, an easy walk for people to stretch their legs. There are stiles at both entrances to the track. The track opens onto a wide stretch of white sand, complete with dramatic geology and an excellent selection of rock-climbing routes. Note: Whakahao / sea lions breed at Long Beach during the summer period. Dogs must be on a lead within 20 m of wildlife.

4 Silverpeaks Circuit Track







12 hr 30 min, 25 km (loop)

though the ruined buildings, parks and forests of the old

Seacliff Mental Hospital, built in the 1880s.

Just a 40-minute drive from Dunedin, this two-day tramping track crosses tussock-covered schist hills with stands of mature and regenerating bush and beech forest. Pulpit Rock offers panoramic views of inland ranges and the coast. A mixture of day walks and challenging backcountry tramping, this track is suitable for experienced, well-equipped trampers. For more information, visit doc.govt.nz or DOC's Silverpeaks Circuit Track brochure.



• Weather conditions can change rapidly in this area. Check the weather forecast.

8 Orokonui Creek Track and Orokonui Lagoon Walk







20 min (one way) to Orokonui Ecosanctuary boundary 1 hr, 3 km (loop) around Orokonui Lagoon

Orokonui Creek Track is a short walk to Orokonui Ecosanctuary boundary. Access to New Zealand's tallest tree is via the Ecosanctuary (off Blueskin Rd). Orokonui Lagoon Walk is a gentle, accessible loop track guiding walkers around the lagoon. Saltmarsh, flax swamp, grassland and regenerating lowland forest surround the lagoon, providing habitat for a diverse range of coastal birds and native fishes.

Pūrākaunui Inlet and Potato Point





1 hr 30 min, 7 km (return)

Starting in Osborne at the corner of Purakaunui School Rd and Osborne Rd. follow what looks like a driveway uphill until you see the track sign. Follow Bay Rd when it splits with Crescent St, climb past a red letterbox (No.55) then walk down to the left behind the private boat sheds. Follow the track around the bay to the car park at the boat ramp on Bay Rd. Climb again and follow the track sign on the left to Potato Point.

10 Heyward Point Track









2 hr, 5 km (return) from Heyward Point Rd 3 hr, 7 km (return) from Aramoana Rd

Enjoy panoramic coastal views while following the contours of the cliffs along to Heyward Point headland. Stunning beaches lie in both directions and a range of bird species are at home on the exposed cliffs and rocky shores. This walk takes you through regenerating native bush and stands of macrocarpa as you venture along the hill and across a variety of terrain. Part of the track crosses private land, keep to marked track.

Heyward Point Rd and Aramoana Rd are closed for lambing: 29 Aug - 4 Nov.

Aramoana Saltmarsh Walk









15 Rain Gauge Spur







10 min, 0.5 km (one way)

Experience one of the finest saltmarsh habitats in the region with a wealth of bird, plant and insect life. From Aramoana Domain, stroll along the bush-lined path and appreciate the beauty and peacefulness of this rare ecosystem. From the boardwalk, see across the water to Pukekura / Taiaroa Head, Otago Peninsula.

12 Leith Saddle Track 1-2 hr, 3 km (one way)









This track climbs steeply at first, through native cloud forest dominated by podocarps. The gradient eases before arriving at a lookout with views over the city. From here the track changes to a tramping track with a steady climb to Swampy Summit 4WD road that traverses Swampy Summit to reach Swampy Ridge Track. This track (1 hr 15 min, 4 km) links

13 Racemans Track











1 hr 30 min, 6.5 km (round trip)

with the Silver Peaks Track.

From the Silverstream car park on Flagstaff-Whare Flat Rd, follow Racemans Track up to the disused water race (a channel cut across the hillside), and turn right at the sign. Follow the track down to the tunnels and continue out to Flagstaff-Whare Flat Rd. When you reach the road, turn right onto it and follow it back to the car park.

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14 Burns to Rustlers Ridge









2 hr 30 min, 6.5 km (round trip)

Four separate tracks make up a figure-8 circuit, which is a great day walk. The Pipeline Track tracks begin from Waitati Valley Rd (signposted Leith Saddle). Take either Burns Track or Rustlers Track to climb to higher ground, and then branch across to Swampy Ridge Track or up Burns Saddle Track to the Swampy Ridge Track. There are impressive views of Waitati and Silverstream valleys, Blueskin Bay, Mount Cargill and Silver Peaks.

Racemans tracks







6 hr 30 min, 21 km (round trip)

From the junction of Silverstream Valley Rd and Whare Flat Rd, head up Racemans Track following an abandoned water race (a channel cut across the hillside) past several weirs across side streams. Rain Gauge Spur is at the top weir. The track climbs steeply through mānuka and low scrub to meet the hairpin bend on Swampy Access Rd. You can reconnect to Racemans Track by following Swampy Access Rd south and turning right onto Steve Amies Track. To drop back down to the water race, continue on either Steve Amies Track or Little Coal Creek Track.

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16 Sullivans Dam to cloud forest





1 hr 45 min, 4 km (return)

The cloud forest is reached from the Sullivans Dam loop track, which starts near the top of Leith Valley Rd. Follow the track to the right and head east. It's a steady climb through broadleaf forest to where it meets a junction with Sullivans Bridle Track and Escarpment Track. As an extension you can follow the Escarpment Track, which is rough in places, up to Cowan Rd. Alternatively, the shorter 20-min circuit of the dam is suitable for families and is dog-friendly.

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Grahams Bush Track









1 hr 15 min, 2 km (one way) from Hall Rd

Park at the top of Hall Rd (sealed) and walk up the gravel road for about 1 km. This track follows a tumbling creek through kānuka and fuchsia before reaching more mature forest, including stands of rimu and miro. Pīwakawaka/fantail, ngirungiru/ tomtit and kererū are common. The track climbs steadily - in places there are good views of Otago Harbour and Otago Peninsula and is capped by a staircase that brings you out onto Mount Cargill Rd. Return the same way. For a longer walk, continue across the road to the Organ Pipes Track (20 min one way).

17A Organ Pipes Track 20 min, 1 km (one way)







From Mt Cargill Rd, a steep climb zigzags through bush, then sidles around the hill through native bush before emerging to a view of the incredible geological basalt pillars. The pillars were created by the volcanic formation of the Otago Peninsula.

(B) Chalkies Track









3 hr 30 min, 6 km (loop)

This track begins with a very steep climb through kānuka and broadleaf forest scattered with podocarps. Birdlife is abundant, with kererū, korimako/bellbird, tūī, riroriro/ grey warbler and pīwakawaka/fantail particularly common. As you climb higher up Powder Hill, the ascent mellows and provides magnificent views of the Silver Peaks and Taieri Plains. From the summit, the loop track takes you past impressive limestone cliffs, unusual in the Dunedin geological landscape.

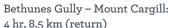
19 Nicols Falls and Nicols Creek Walks / MTB



From the bridge on Leith Valley Rd that crosses Nicols Creek, the left-hand track leads up to the Nicols waterfall and Swampy Ridge. On the right is the Nicols Creek/ Switchback mountain bike track. The walking and bike tracks merge at times so look and listen for other users.

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20 Mount Cargill



From the car park in Bethunes Gully head up the slopes of Mount Cargill, through pine and native forest to the summit with panoramic views of the city and countryside.

AH Reed - Mount Cargill: 20 min, 1 km (return)

From Cowan Rd car park, the short AH Reed track follows a gravel path to the summit.

21 Pyramids, Victory Beach and Okia Reserve













45 min, 2.5 km (one way)

From the end of Dick Rd, follow Riddell Rd (a farm track) past the distinctively shaped Pyramids to Victory Beach and the Okia Reserve. This yellow-eyed penguin/hoiho breeding site is also home to fur seals and sea lions.

22 Flagstaff loop

1 hr, 2.5 km (round trip)











From the Bull Ring car park on Flagstaff-Whare Flat Rd follow the track to the right, up onto Flagstaff summit. Either return the way you came or continue on, taking all left-hand turns to return via the firebreak.

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23 McGouns and Pineapple tracks







3 hr 30 min, 7.5 km (return)

To walk the Pineapple and McGouns Creek tracks you can either continue on from Flagstaff summit (see walk 22) or start at the locked gate on Booth Rd. From Booth Rd the McGouns Track is on the left, looking up the hill. This can be walked as a loop, returning past the water treatment plant to the car park. For a longer walk, follow the wellsignposted Pineapple Track to wind through native forest. A long steep climb reaches a signposted junction with the Swampy Summit Track. Return the way you came, or continue to the Flagstaff summit and over to the Bull Ring car park (1 hr, one way).

24 Forrester Park and **Bethunes Gully MTB**





Head up North Rd, then Norwood St. Forrester Park is on the right. Further up the road, Bethunes Gully is on the left. Forrester Park has a great beginner/intermediate track suitable for children. Bethunes Gully has three intermediate tracks covering both sides of the gully.

25 Outram Glen Track







Outram Glen to Taieri River beach: 30 min, 1.5 km (one way)

Outram Glen to Lee Stream confluence: 1 hr 30 min, 4.4 km (one way)

From the Outram Glen picnic area, the track takes you on a leisurely walk alongside the Taieri River for 30 minutes to a river clearing. The track then splits, becoming a tramp, with a short, steep section leading to a long traverse above the river and ending at a clearing where the Taieri River and Lee Stream converge. Soak in the native birdsong and explore the numerous swimming options along the way.

This track is prone to flooding. Take care after heavy rain.

26 Whare Flat MTB





From Flagstaff-Whare Flat Rd, turn into Laings Rd. The entrance to the mountain bike trails is 1 km along the road. This is a working forestry block operated by City Forests - access is available from 6 pm to dusk on weekdays, and all day on weekends and public holidays. Do not enter this area during times of strong wind. Do not enter forestry operational areas.

27 Wakari Creek MTB







A purpose-built network of beginner and intermediate tracks that traverse stands of redwood and fir trees, and sidle along streams. Do not enter this area during times of strong wind. Do not enter forestry operational areas.

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23 Woodside Glen Walk







15 min, 700 m (one way)

For those looking for a shorter, more relaxed walk through native forest, the track from Woodside Glen Reserve offers a chance to take in the sound of birdsong and be present in a place with cultural and spiritual importance to Ngāi Tahu. Winding from the car park, the track leads you to Lee Creek as it flows towards the plains. From here, take some time to enjoy the variety of native forest on the maunga and maybe find a boulder to perch on, before wandering your way back for a picnic in the reserve.

28A Maukaatua Route









1 hr 30 min, 1.5 km (one way)

From the Woodside Glen reserve, this challenging route using orange markers leads through forest from the base of Maukaatua to a tussock plateau, which is exposed in bad weather. After a steady ascent with magnificent views from the ridgeline, the route leads through a sea of golden tussock to a rocky high point where a great panorama unfolds across the Taieri plains to the coastline, and further inland to the hills beyond Ōtepoti/Dunedin. The managed route finishes at this point.



The weather can change rapidly, be prepared.

29 Botanic Garden





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There are multiple paths through New Zealand's oldest botanic garden, with international gardens, duck ponds, children's playgrounds, and the Water of Leith river. The information centre provides path maps, advice and duck food.

A purpose-built network of tracks for all skill levels. A main

feature is the Big Easy, a gentle climbing track that allows

easy access to the network of advanced downhill tracks.

The sealed harbourside path runs for 6 km from the

mouth of the Water of Leith through to St Leonards.

for families, especially young or new cyclists.

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30 Signal Hill Reserve MTB













35 Allans Beach









Paradise Track. The side track to Boulder Beach is closed for yellow-eyed penguin breeding 1 Nov - 28 Feb.

15 min, 560 m to beach (one way)

From historic McMeeking's Farmstead dating from the

through farmland with uninterrupted views of the South

Pacific, imposing Sandymount and picturesque Boulder

Beach. The track continues down the hill to Braidwood

Road. Alternative entry points are Buskin Track or

late 1800s (off Karetai Rd), this vigorous traverse takes you



A short walk from the car park leads you to the superb white sand beach stretching towards Sandymount, also known as Pikiwhara. A popular beach for whakahao/sea lions, kekeno / fur seals and various coastal bird species. Enjoy the chance to appreciate these marine species as they socialise and rest.

Dogs are not permitted on the left side of beach at the track end. Dogs are permitted on the right side of the beach.

32 Harbour Cone

1 Harbourside path

1 hr 15 min, 6 km (one way)









Built as a cycle and walking path, this flat ride is excellent

From Bacon St, follow a steep walk among trees, then alongside a stand of native bush leading to Highcliff Road. From here, cross the road and climb directly up the ridge to the summit of Harbour Cone. For a shorter walk, start 500 m back along Highcliff Road towards Dunedin, where parking is easier and a poled route leads up the south-west slope to the summit.

Closed for lambing 1 Sept - 1 Nov.

33 Frasers Gully / Brockville 2 hr, 7 km (round trip)











From the end of Frasers Rd, follow Frasers Stream up to Dalziel Rd. Either return the way you came for a 1 hr return trip or turn left along Dalziel Rd until you reach the southern end of Brockville Park. Take the track along the edge of the park, behind the houses on Travis St to Sanda Road Recreation Reserve. Follow the mown area behind the houses climbing onto Cockerell St, then down the gravel path to Brockville Rd and Glenross St, down through the reserve to Frasers Stream and back to the start.

36 Mosgiel floodbank. Silver Stream

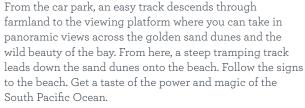












There may be stock on farmland - keep your distance and don't disturb. Part of Sandfly Bay Wildlife Refuge is closed from 1 Nov - 28 Feb to protect wildlife in the area.



39 Sandfly Bay

Take care when walking down the steep track as coastal erosion can make walking difficult.

2 hr, 9 km (one way)

There are several access points for this flat walk. On the eastern side of Silver Stream, start where Wingatui Rd crosses the stream and head west through Mosgiel township. Or, from Mosgiel township, head west or east. Suitable for buggies.

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37 Tomahawk Lagoon / 41-Peg Track

1 hr, 2.5 km (one way)





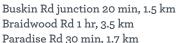






Starting from the picnic area beside the top Tomahawk Lagoon, the track meanders along the lagoon edge through regenerating bush. Climb through farmland to the Soldiers Monument, commemorating the 49 soldiers from Otago Peninsula killed in WW1. The steady climb offers stunning views of the city, Otago Harbour and the Pacific Ocean.

The track crosses private land, stay on the formed track. Stock may be present, do not disturb and keep vour distance.

















40 Sandymount









Sandymount 1 hr, 2.5 km (loop) Sandymount (carpark) to Sandfly Bay (route) 1 hr 30min (return)

A highlight of the Otago Peninsula, this track offers breathtaking ocean vistas across inlets, rolling hills and raw coastal swells. Native bush and farmland form the backdrop for dynamic panoramas of the open ocean and the impressive geology of the headland. On a clear day, kekeno/NZ fur seals can be spotted in the waves below, coming and going from the rocky enclaves. For the more adventurous, head down the steep sand dune on to Sandfly Bay (a further 1 hr 30 min return).

Closed for lambing 1 Sept-15 Oct (check the website for updates).



Large trees at the start of the track are a hazard in strong winds - take care.

41 St Clair Esplanade to St Kilda Beach









1 hr, 3.5 km (one way)

From St Clair Esplanade there is 3.5 km of uninterrupted beach-walking to St Kilda Beach. Either walk back along the beach or climb one of the numerous tracks to access John Wilson Ocean Drive and the inland route. The inland route goes through children's playgrounds and sports fields behind the ice stadium back to the Esplanade. Dogs are welcome, with some restrictions - see the signs for details.

42 Tunnel Beach

30 min, 1 km (one way)









Beautiful in any weather, Tunnel Beach will delight with sculptural sandstone cliffs, enchanting sea views and a historic tunnel leading to a secret cove. Discover why this is perhaps Dunedin's most renowned beach, complete with rare coastal turf ecology on a dramatic headland. A steep climb on the return walk. Take good walking shoes and stay on the track to protect the fragile flora. Beach accessible 2 hours either side of low tide. The car park is locked between 5 pm and 9 am (April-August) and 9 pm and 8 am (Sept-March). Tunnel Beach is still accessible outside these hours, but nearby parking maybe limited.

43 Government Track 2 hr, 8 km (one way)

until you meet a forestry road.









Plan and prepare

Dunedin's weather is changeable all year round be prepared!

Your safety is your responsibility. Before you go, know the Outdoor Safety Code – 5 simple rules to help you stay safe:

- 1. Plan your trip
- 2. Tell someone
- 3. Be aware of the weather
- 4. Know your limits
- 5. Take sufficient supplies

45 Taieri River and

44 Titri Creek Track

10 min, 745 m (one way)









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Leave your trip details – even for a day trip – with a trusted contact, and use adventuresmart.org.nz

Millennium Tracks

From Riverside Rd (Taieri Mouth) to John Bull Gully: 2 hr, 4 km (one way).

This track was built in the 1860s to provide access to the

Central Otago goldfields. Enjoy the journey gold miners took as you traverse the slopes of the beech and mānuka-

forested Waipori valley and climb at a gentle gradient

This easy track crosses over Titri Creek into the Titri

wetlands. An observation platform offers good views

of wading birds including koitareke/marsh crake,

mātā/fernbird, pāpango/scaup and tētē/grey teal.

From John Bull Gully to Taieri Ferry Rd (Millenium Track): 2 hr, 4 km (one way)

Spend a day wandering along the second largest river in Otago and soak in the sound of native birds among the trees. From Riverside Rd a boardwalk leads on to a track that winds uphill, providing a lookout for gorgeous views over the river and bush-covered hills to Taieri Island / Moturata. Enjoy a picnic at John Bull Gully and return the same way or continue along the Millenium Track which takes you to Taieri Ferry Rd.



