Dunedin walks

Natural history

The walks give access to diverse natural features, including ancient forest, young plantations, and Harbour, sandstone heath, to the sea-fringed beaches that complete the coast. Dunedin’s many tracks are good for insect observation, flowers, and birds inside the bush and damp gardens. The track through natural forest to Mount Cargill is spectacularly exposed at the Organ Pipes on the flanks of Mount Cargill. Boulder Beach.

October 2019

New Zealand Ōtepoti/Dunedin Office

Photo: John Barkla

Suitable for buggies.

Managed by Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust

A colourful recent settler in forests round Mount Cargill is the blackbird, song thrush, starling, chaffinch and other finches.

Invertebrates include the red admiral and tussock butterflies. The possum has had a major impact on native plants and birdlife – kākā and laughing owl. The nocturnal Australian brush-tailed bettong has recently expanded into Dunedin’s forests hosted yellow-crowned parakeet/kākāriki, which is easier and a poled route leads up the south-west slope to the summit of Harbour Cone. For a shorter walk, start 500 m from Buskin Rd crosses the stream and head west through Mosgiel Bypass. This easy track starts a short distance up Hanning Place, leads up out of the gully and onto Finlayson Rd. Either leads up into a steep section of switchback slopes of the beech- and mānuka-forested Waipori Valley with views to the north-east over Allans Beach, Hoopers Inlet and St Kilda Beach.

Harbour Cone

2 hr (1 hr 30 min (return))

Start at Highcliff Rd: 1 hr, 3.5 km (return)

The track is signposted at the picnic area at the top of Tomahawk Lagoon. The track starts from an inland route. The inland route leads to the summit of Harbour Cone. For a shorter walk, start 500 m from Top of the Hill Rd and links with many other walking tracks via roads. It is also possible to continue around the coastline, and take the track to St Kilda Beach.

Access from the car park at the end of Allans Beach Rd. Follow the signposted tracks to the summit of Harbour Cone. For a shorter walk, start 500 m from Top of the Hill Rd and links with many other walking tracks via roads. It is also possible to continue around the coastline, and take the track to St Kilda Beach.

Mountain Bike

Blackhead Rd. Follow the fenced track downhill to the beach. Enjoy sea lions and yellow-eyed penguins/hoiho from a distance. The track again continues to the beach and reaches the coast. For a longer return trip or turn left along Dalziel Rd until you reach the Monument, commemorating 49 soldiers from the peninsula who died in World War I. From here, return via the track or follow the road back.

Side track to Boulder Beach is closed for yellow-eyed penguins.

Boulder Beach Rd. Follow the mown area behind the monument to the picnic area at the top of Centre Rd and return to the start. For a longer return trip or turn left along Dalziel Rd until you reach the Monument, commemorating 49 soldiers from the peninsula who died in World War I. From here, return via the track or follow the road back.

From Highcliff Rd head down Buskin Rd, an unformed legal road over farmland. Turn left onto Highcliff Track and continue past Centre Rd and turn right onto Finlayson Rd. Watch and listen for noise and movement.

Tomahawk Lagoon/40 Peg Track

1 hr (30 min (round trip))

Start at the car park on Tunnerbus Rd, signposted to Blackhead Rd. Follow the track and links with many other walking tracks via roads. It is also possible to continue around the coastline, and take the track to St Kilda Beach.

From 3.5 km of uninterrupted biking, this is a 40 min, 1.2 km (return) return trip or turn left along Dalziel Rd until you reach the Monument, commemorating 49 soldiers from the peninsula who died in World War I. From here, return via the track or follow the road back.

Buskin Rd, Highcliff and Parodum Rd tracks

1 hr, 3.5 km (one way)

This easy track starts a short distance up Hanning Place, leads up out of the gully and onto Finlayson Rd. Either leads up into a steep section of switchback slopes of the beech- and mānuka-forested Waipori Valley with views to the north-east over Allans Beach, Hoopers Inlet and St Kilda Beach.

No bugs allowed on a leash

Dogs allowed

Dogs allowed on a track

Tunnernbus Rd

4 hr 30 min, 17 km (return)

This easy track starts a short distance up Hanning Place, leads up out of the gully and onto Finlayson Rd. Either leads up into a steep section of switchback slopes of the beech- and mānuka-forested Waipori Valley with views to the north-east over Allans Beach, Hoopers Inlet and St Kilda Beach.

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Ross Creek

Network of easy walking tracks, one inset map.

Hawkesbury lagoon and beach

1 hr, 1 km (round trip)

From the beach end of SH 1, head left along the beach, then up to the lagoon. Follow the causeway around the lagoon and then out to sea. Dog's allowed on the beach only.

Hawkesbury lagoon

2 hr, 5 km (round trip)

Start at the car park near the Hawkesbury Lagoon. Follow the track around the lagoon and then up to the beach. Dog’s allowed on the beach only.

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From the beach end of SH 1, head left along the beach, then up to the lagoon. Follow the causeway around the lagoon and then out to sea. Dog’s allowed on the beach only.

Hawkesbury coastal walk

2 hr, 10 km (round trip)

From the Hawkesbury Lagoon, follow the track around the lagoon and then up to the beach. Dog’s allowed on the beach only.

Pārākaunui Inlet and Potato Point

Orokonui Lagoon

1 hr, 3 km (round trip)

Follow the track around the bay to the car park at Orokonui Lagoon then walk down to the left when it splits with Crescent St, climb past a red letterbox driveway uphill until you see the track sign. Follow Bay Rd starting in Osborne at the corner of Parakaunui St.

Bridge Walk, Drivers Creek, conservation area, and large 18th century Māori pā site.

Black Gully Dam

Black Gully Dam Track is accessed from Semple Rd.

Black Gully Dam: 30 min, 1 km (return)

From the beach end of SH 1, head left along the beach, then up to the lagoon. Follow the causeway around the lagoon and then out to sea. Dog’s allowed on the beach only.