

Timaru District

Walk & Bike

trail guide



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TIMARU
welovetimaru.nz



Timaru
District Council
Te Kaunihera ā-Rohē
o Te Tihi o Mara

Nau mai, haere mai Welcome to Timaru

Timaru District is the ideal coastal location for a holiday, and the perfect base to take in the jaw-dropping landscapes of New Zealand's central South Island. The seaside city of Timaru, together with the towns of Geraldine, Pleasant Point, and Temuka, is a region defined by its rural farmlands, rugged coast, and sandy beaches.

In Timaru city, you can enjoy scenic walks and biking through picturesque Caroline Bay and along nearby coastal tracks, or wander through our CBD to take in the Edwardian architecture and discover our locally owned speciality boutiques. We're home to the most significant collection of ancient Māori rock art in New Zealand, and at dusk in the summer months you can catch a glimpse of the world's smallest penguin.

Nestled under the protection of Aoraki/ Mount Cook, the Timaru District has varied landscape from the stunning coastline to sub-alpine hills. The region offers a fantastic range of walking, biking and tramping tracks that are ready to be explored.

Stick to the coastline exploring the history of the early Māori and European settlers taking in lighthouses, war bunkers, volcanic cliffs and stunning beaches, or head inland and walk amongst the giants of the forest discovering waterfalls and native birds.

For more information about the Timaru District, head to welovetimaru.nz



Timaru District Walks & Bikes

Timaru City

- Caroline Bay
- Centennial Park
- Claremont Bush Track
- Dashing Rocks Coastal Track
- Otupua Creek Track
- Otupua Wetlands Track
- Saltwater Creek Track
- Coastal Track
- Timaru Botanic Gardens
- Tuhawaiki (Jack's) Point

Temuka

- Opihi River Track
- Taumatakahu Stream Reserve
- Allan Jones Walkway
- Little Kiwi Trail

Geraldine

- River Walk
- Ribbonwood Track
- Pekapeka Gully Track
- Kakahu Bush Track
- Kakahu Escarpment Track

Talbot Forest

- Kahikatea Track
- Matai Track
- Reservoir Track
- Tōtara Track

Peel Forest

- Acland Falls
- Allans Track
- Big Tree Walk
- Dennistoun Bush
- Emily Falls
- Kahikatea Walk
- Fern Walk
- Little Mount Peel/Huatakerere

Others

- Orari Gorge Track
- Homebush Track
- White Pine Track
- Mount Nimrod
- Pareora River Track
- Central South Trail
- Timaru Circuit Trail

Your Trail checklist

Geraldine Sculpture Trail

- Waihi River Trail
- Rhododendron Dell Trail
- Talbot Forest Trail
- Domain Trail

Please note all times are walking times.

For more information about what to do in the Timaru District, head to welovetimaru.nz

May 2025

! Know before you go

Walking and biking are great ways to explore the Timaru District. From easy family tracks through to advanced and expert trails. Most tracks can be safely walked without any specialist gear or equipment, however, if you are planning on tackling some of those more advanced trails, you will need to be prepared with the right equipment and have relevant experience.

Before you head off, consider these tips below:

Allow Time

Check route maps for suggested times and plan accordingly. Make sure you allow for daylight hour changes and track conditions. Find the current track condition reports with the Department of Conservation or contact Timaru District Council. Follow signs and safety instructions onsite.

Know your limits

Make sure you choose a track that is within your physical capabilities and experience levels. To be safe make sure you tell someone your plans before leaving.

Be prepared

Check forecasts before departing. Make sure you pack enough food, water, clothing, equipment and first aid equipment for the duration of your trip. Ensure you have appropriate means of communication such as a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) if you are adventuring high into the hills.

Look after the environment and be respectful

Ensure you are careful not to damage any environment or structures, remove all rubbish, do not light fires and be respectful of places of cultural significance.

Adhere to all signage

Please check that tracks are dog or cycle friendly before departing. If the tracks are multi-purpose, please be respectful of all other users.

Timaru City

Situated on the coast, in Timaru City you'll find loads of coastal walks with ancient volcanic rock and potential wildlife sightings.



Caroline Bay



30-45mins



2-3km



Easy – Medium



Dogs only allowed on beach from 1 April – 30 September



Wheelchair accessible



Bike



Walk



A return track from the city to the clifftop for a view along Caroline Bay.

Start at the top of the Piazza steps. The Trevor Griffiths Rose Garden (1) is opposite and is well worth a visit. Follow the Willow Walk to the right. Cross over the road and follow the Memorial Walkway back towards the Caroline Bay Community Lounge(2).

The Memorial Wall (3) was built in the 1920s to commemorate the land and sea battles in which New Zealanders fought in the Great Wars. When this wall was built it marked the line where land and sea met. Turn right onto the diagonal path and left at the fountain.(4) Continue towards the Community Lounge.

The Palliser Fountain is on the corner of the lawn on the left side towards the end of the wall. This area is busy during the two week Caroline Bay Carnival at Christmas and also for various events throughout the year. Turn right at the end of the wall, pass the back of the Community Lounge, and left to continue across the car park, past the skate park (5) and CPlay playground (6) or grassed area alongside. Follow the road up to the railway bridge.

Take the cliff path up to the Benvenue Cliffs and enjoy the view of Caroline Bay, Blackett's Lighthouse is to the north of the bridge. Cross the footbridge over the railway line to Benvenue Avenue. On your left you pass the ASB Tennis Centre and the CBAY Trust Aoraki Centre (7).

Walk back down Virtue Avenue and follow the track to the right behind the Bay tennis courts to the Aviary(8). Take the right diagonal path and turn left at the Bay Tea Rooms. Continue walking on this path through the Sound Shell (9) until you reach the Piazza.

Or explore the lookout (10) or Caroline Bay beach (11). From Marine Parade continue along Port Loop Road, Hayes Street and Stuart Street to the Coastal Track.

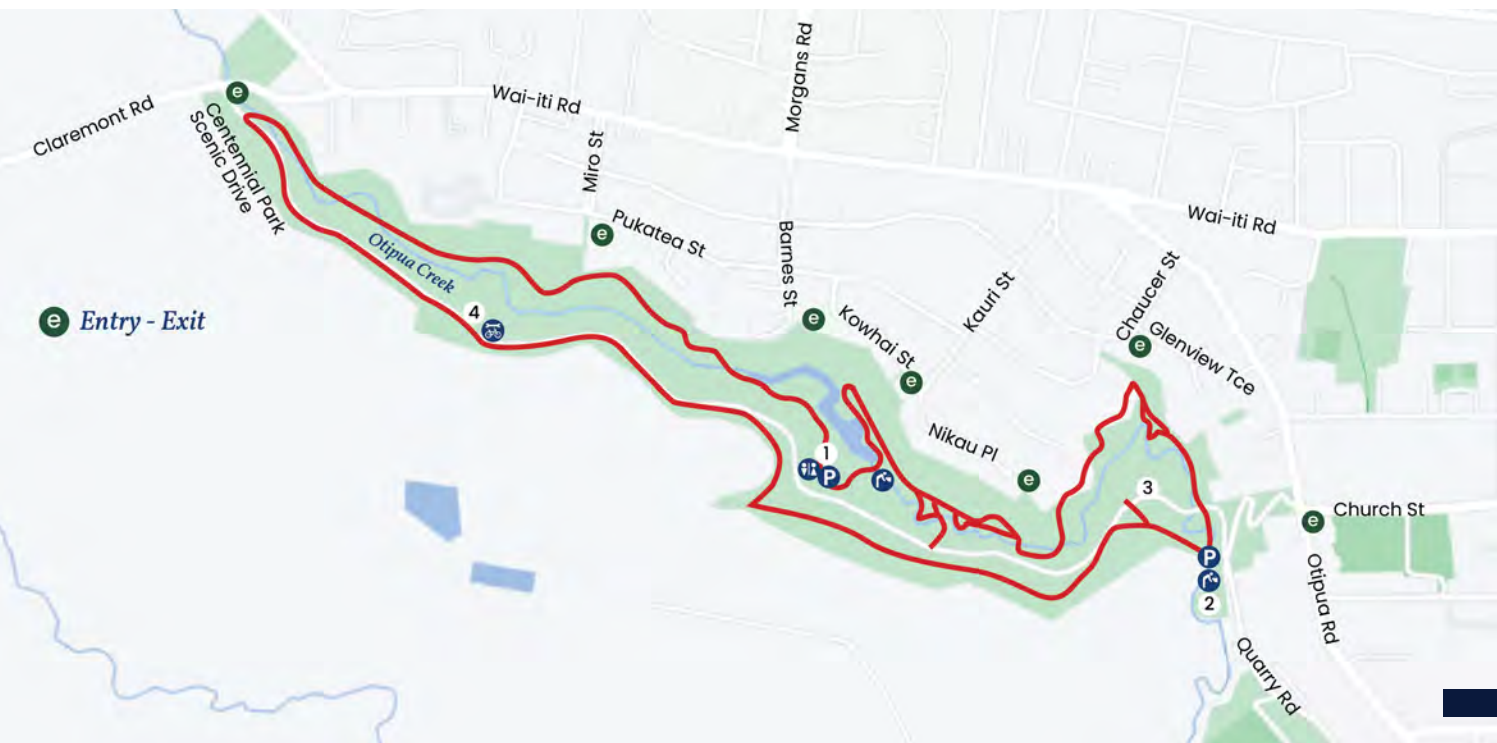


Centennial Park

- 1hr
- 5km
- Easy + gradual inclines
- Off lead allowed
- Wheelchair accessible
- Bike
- Walk






Centennial Park spans 65 hectares at the edge of the Timaru City limits. In the heart of the park, you'll find the Centennial Park Lake recreational area. It has ample parking for cars, an expansive sheltered picnic area, BBQs, children's playgrounds and toilet facilities (1). It's also the starting point for an orienteering course. At one end of the park is a BMX track (2) and a MTB skills track (3). At the other end is a pump track, great activity for all ages (4).

A variety of tracks span out around the park to offer a fantastic range of trails for walkers, runners, mountain bikers and amblers. Some of the tracks are shared use for walkers and bikers, while others are exclusively for mountain bikers and cover a range of terrains, for bikers of all abilities. Signs show the grade level of the tracks.





Claremont Bush Track

-  30mins
-  1km
-  Medium + Steep climb
-  Not permitted
-  Walk



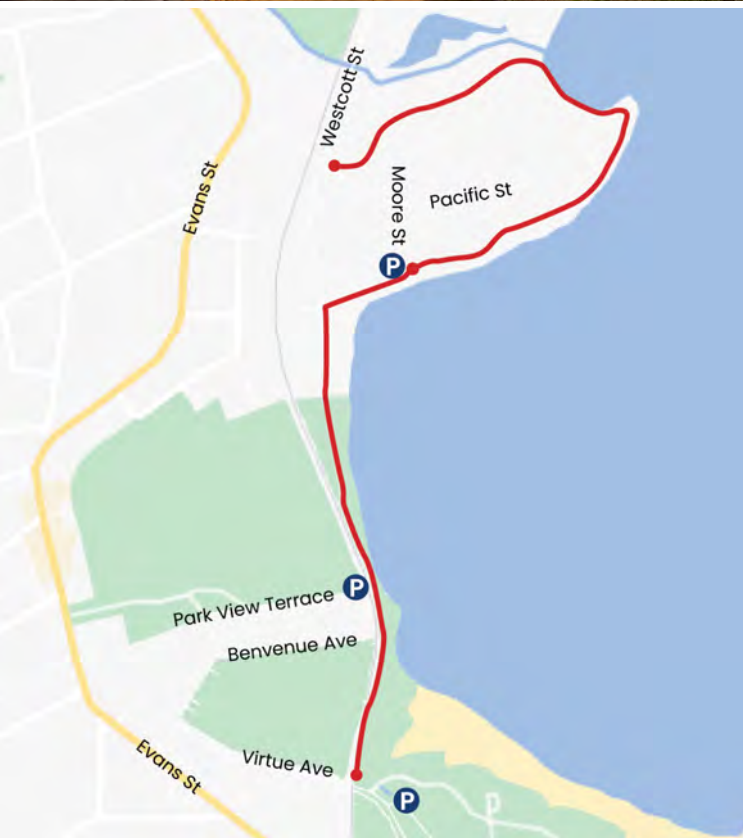
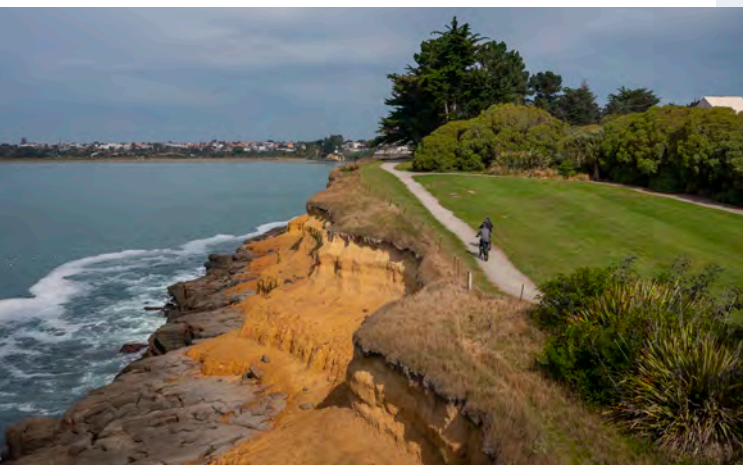
A short, but sweet walk, the Claremont Bush track allows you to take your time and enjoy the native bush and bird life. Keep an eye out for bellbirds (korimako), fantails (piwakawaka) and a rare native climbing daisy with bright yellow flowers.

Start next to the sign, walk through the macrocarpa plantation and over the footbridge into the bush.

The track then moves into a variety of native plants. Claremont Bush is a circular track with a steep climb up one side and a sharp drop on the other, which can be slippery when wet.

To get there, at the Holme Station Road/Beaconsfield Flat Road intersection turn on to Claremont Bush Road which is loose gravel. The bush track is a further two kms down the gravel road.





Dashing Rocks Coastal Track



30mins



2.2km



Easy + gradual inclines



On lead only



Bike



Walk

Experience the beauty of Timaru's coastline, enjoying panoramic views over Caroline Bay, wandering over ancient lava flows and examining the rocky cliffs that proved treacherous to early shipping.

Set off on this loop walk from beautiful Caroline Bay, wander the Benvenue Cliffs past the historic Blackett's Lighthouse, and the site of ancient shipwrecks.

You'll turn right up Climie Terrace and along more cliffs where waves crash noisily on to 2 million year old lava from Mount Horrible.

The track takes you from the beach to Westcott Street, and back down Richmond Street to rejoin the coastal stretch back toward Blackett's Lighthouse.

Just before the lighthouse cross the footbridge over to Benvenue Ave, wander past Caroline Bay Aquatic Centre, then back down Virtue Ave to your starting point at Caroline Bay.

Otipua Creek Track



20mins



1.5km



Easy



On lead only



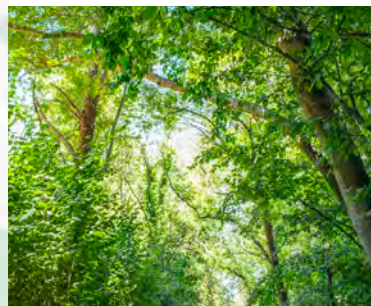
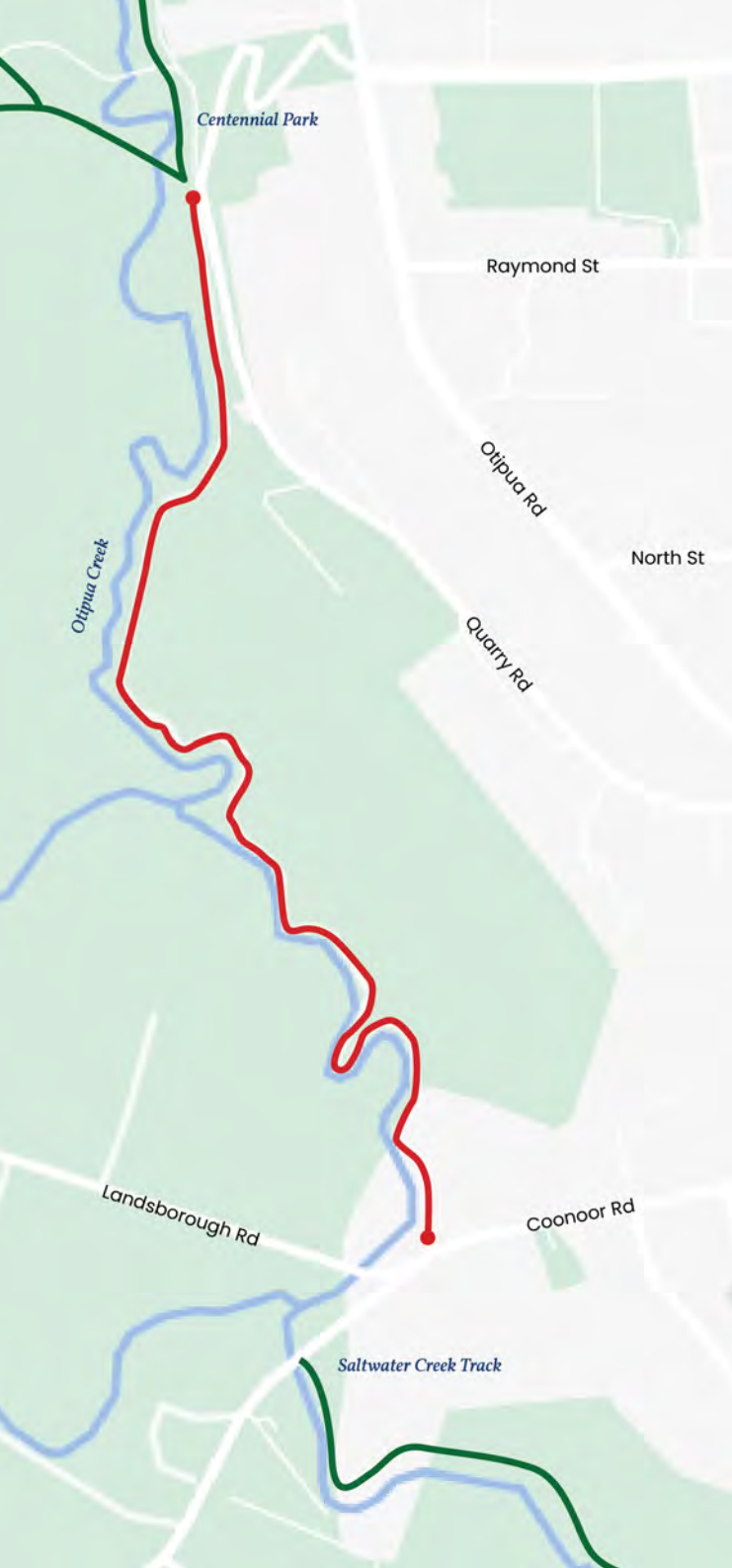
Bike



Walk

Start on Coonoor Road, across the road from the Saltwater Creek/Coonoor Road walk. This walk follows Saltwater Creek to link up with the Centennial Park walk.

Paddocks on both sides of the river provide interest with farm animals and aquatic birds. Extensive native plantings have been made as part of the development of this track.





Otipua Wetlands Track



1hr



4km



Easy



North side on lead only
Not permitted South side



Bike



Walk

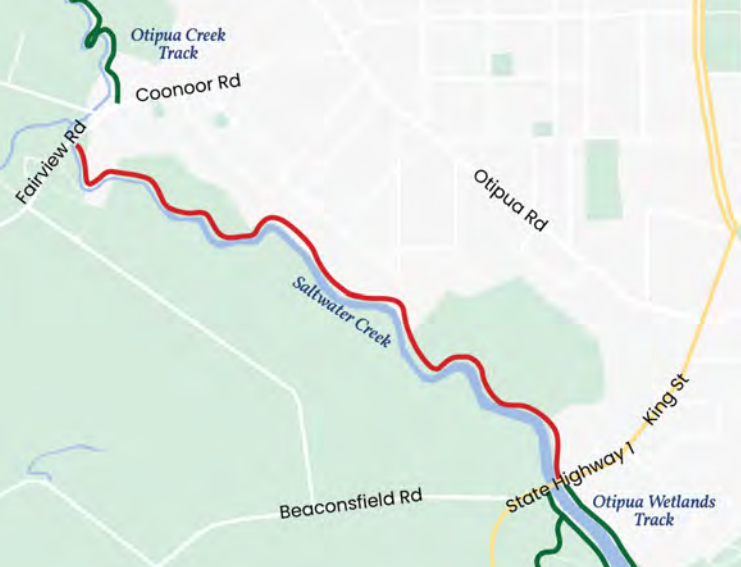


Embark on a journey through the captivating Timaru Otipua Wetlands, where nature's beauty unfolds at every turn. Immerse yourself in the lush greenery of native trees, tussocks, and sedges, creating a haven for local flora and fauna.

Wander along the well-formed gravel tracks that wind gracefully around the four-hectare lake, offering picturesque views and serene moments of reflection. Marvel at the diverse array of native birdlife that call this wetland sanctuary home, from majestic swans to elegant royal spoonbills. Keep an eye out for geese nesting at certain times of the year.

As you explore, discover the rich history of the land, marked by the ancient basalt lava rock wall, a testament to the geological heritage of Mt Horrible. Whether you're a nature enthusiast, birdwatcher, or simply seeking a peaceful stroll, the Timaru Otipua Wetlands beckon you to experience their timeless charm.





Saltwater Creek Track

- 30mins
- 2.2km
- Easy
- On lead only
- Wheelchair accessible
- Bike
- Walk

A well formed, gravel track mostly on the flat following the winding Saltwater Creek. Start on King Street beside the bridge and follow the track along the north side of the river.

If you wish to keep going, you can cross Coonoor Rd and walk the Otipua Creek Track, which takes another half hour and ends at Centennial Park. Or if you started at this end and finished at King Street you can continue onto the Otipua Wetland's track by crossing State Highway 1. Look carefully before crossing.

Coastal Track

- 1hr
- 5.7km
- Easy
- Off lead allowed
- Bike
- Walk

Start this track at Fraser Street car park, Pātītī Point car park or the cemetery. This wide, well made track has been formed on the edge of a shingle beach. It follows the coast line north towards Timaru harbour. There is a bike repair station and drinking fountain at Fraser Street car park (1).

This track is good for cycling. The sea on one side with the occasional, seal, penguin or surfer providing visual interest.

Heading North the track ends at the break water. If you wish to continue keep following the track on Stuart Street, Hayes Street and Port Loop Road to Caroline Bay. From Pātītī Point car park (2) or the cemetery (3) head south to Otipua Wetlands and Tuhawaiki (Jack's) Point tracks.





Timaru Botanic Gardens



30mins-1hr



2-2.5km



Easy – Medium



On lead only



Wheelchair accessible



Bike



Walk

Wander around Timaru's stunning Botanic Gardens. There are lots of tracks, you can follow the map or just plot your own course.

Start at the Queen Street entrance and follow the road to the left past the entrance to the Graeme Paterson Conservatory and Fernery (1). Just past this is the Anderson Rose Garden (2), named after Walter Anderson, a former Curator of Reserves.

On the bend of the road, on the left, there is the Cenotaph War Memorial (3) which is flanked by the SC War Memorial Wall which lists the fallen from the wars.

The road passes the hospital and takes you to the lower duck pond. From here the road rises slightly, bordered by cistus and azaleas. A species rose garden is on the top flat.

Follow the road through the woodland area until you come to the Queen Victoria Sunken Garden (8). Turn right here and walk down the hill on the grass where you will pass toilets, the aviary (6) and playground (7). Enjoy the azalea and rhododendron borders before the climb up the hill to the Robert Burns Statue. Either finish here, or take the road to the right among the flower beds to the Timaru Botanic Garden Interpretation Centre. Take the path opposite and pass the Park Bowling Green, turn left and return to your starting point.





Tuhawaiki (Jack's) Point



- 1hr
- 5km (return trip)
- Medium
- Off lead allowed
- Bike
- Walk

This walk follows the coast past the historic (1) Tuhawaiki (Jack's) Point Lighthouse, and offers spectacular coastal views.

You can walk, run or bike and it's also dog friendly. Please ensure any dogs are under control as you may see penguins and seals on the rocky beach.

You can start at either the Scarborough or Ellis Rd end. There is more car parking space at the Ellis Rd end. About half way, you'll find the Tuhawaiki (Jack's) Point Lighthouse. The lighthouse was constructed on site in 1903 by the Timaru harbour board. It was built to overcome the ineffectiveness of the harbour light. The lighthouse originally resided on Somes Island in 1866.

It's a 5km return trip if you walk to either end, or just walk out to the lighthouse and back for a shorter stroll. For a longer walk or bike at the end of Scarborough Road you can continue on to Otipua Wetlands Track or the Coastal Track.



Temuka

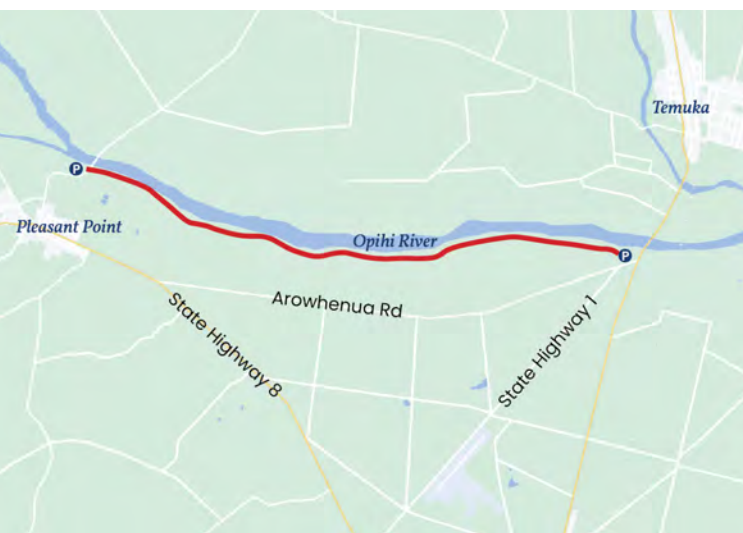
Temuka was once known by local Māori as “The Place of the Hot Ovens”, or Te-umu-kaha, as they used huge earthen ovens to bake the roots of the cabbage tree. With two rivers, a splendid domain and reserves, there are plenty of walking tracks to explore.



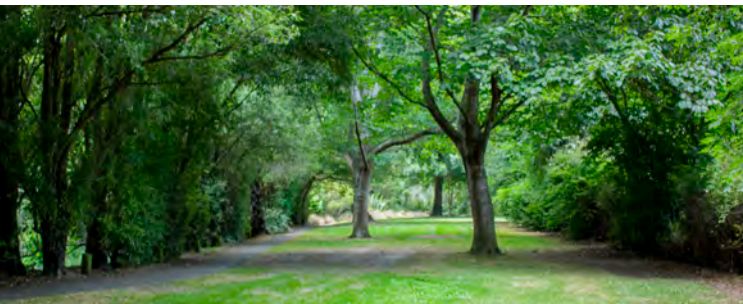


Opihi River Track

- 3hr (one way)
- 11km
- Medium
- Off lead allowed
- Bike
- Walk



Follow along the stopbank of the Opihi River from Temuka through to Pleasant Point. Stop along the way for a picnic, a swim or a fish. Return the same way you came, or arrange for someone to pick you up at Pleasant Point.



Taumatakahu Stream Reserve

- 1hr
- 3.5km
- Easy
- On lead only
- Bike
- Walk



Starting at the end of Studholme Street and running through the centre of the township, the walk is an easy, flat track that meanders along the Taumatakahu Stream. Stop to feed the ducks or play on the playgrounds. This track finishes on Shaw Street. However, you can carry on through to Murray Street and around the back of the Cemetery, and link on to the Allan Jones Walkway.



Allan Jones Walkway



1hr



3.5km



Easy



Off lead allowed



Bike



Walk



Start at the Domain entrance beside the Temuka Police Station and walk through to Torepe Fields which features an off-lead dog exercise area and frisbee golf course. Carry on through Torepe Fields and behind the golf course before returning to Domain Avenue for a stunning walk through the tall gum trees back to the start.

The Little Kiwi Trail (1), based on the book 'Time For Bed Little Kiwi', is a great trail for children. Find little kiwi by following the 10 signs.



Waitohi Bush



20-40mins



1-3km



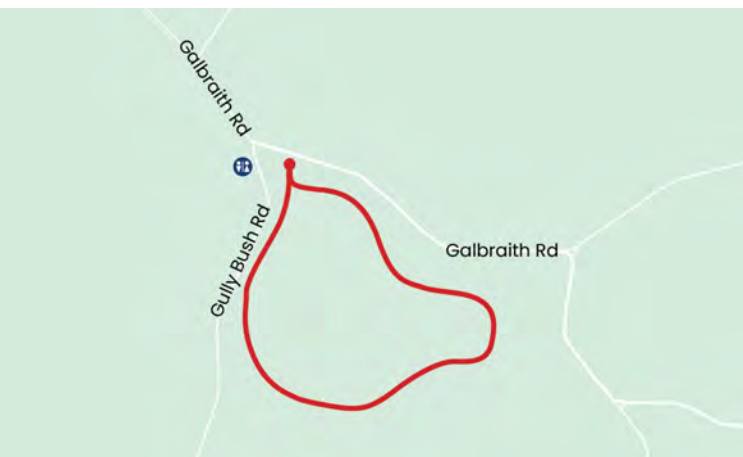
Medium



On lead only



Walk



Here you will enjoy unrivalled panoramic views of the district, the abundance of native bird life and the wonderful walks through the native bush. Waitohi Bush features a small campground with a toilet as well as a picnic area with a BBQ and running water.

To get here, follow Main Waitohi Road and turn right on to Galbraith Road. Go up the hill and stay on Galbraith Road until you come to the Waitohi Bush Reserve.

Little Kiwi Trail

20-30mins

1.5km

Easy

Off lead allowed

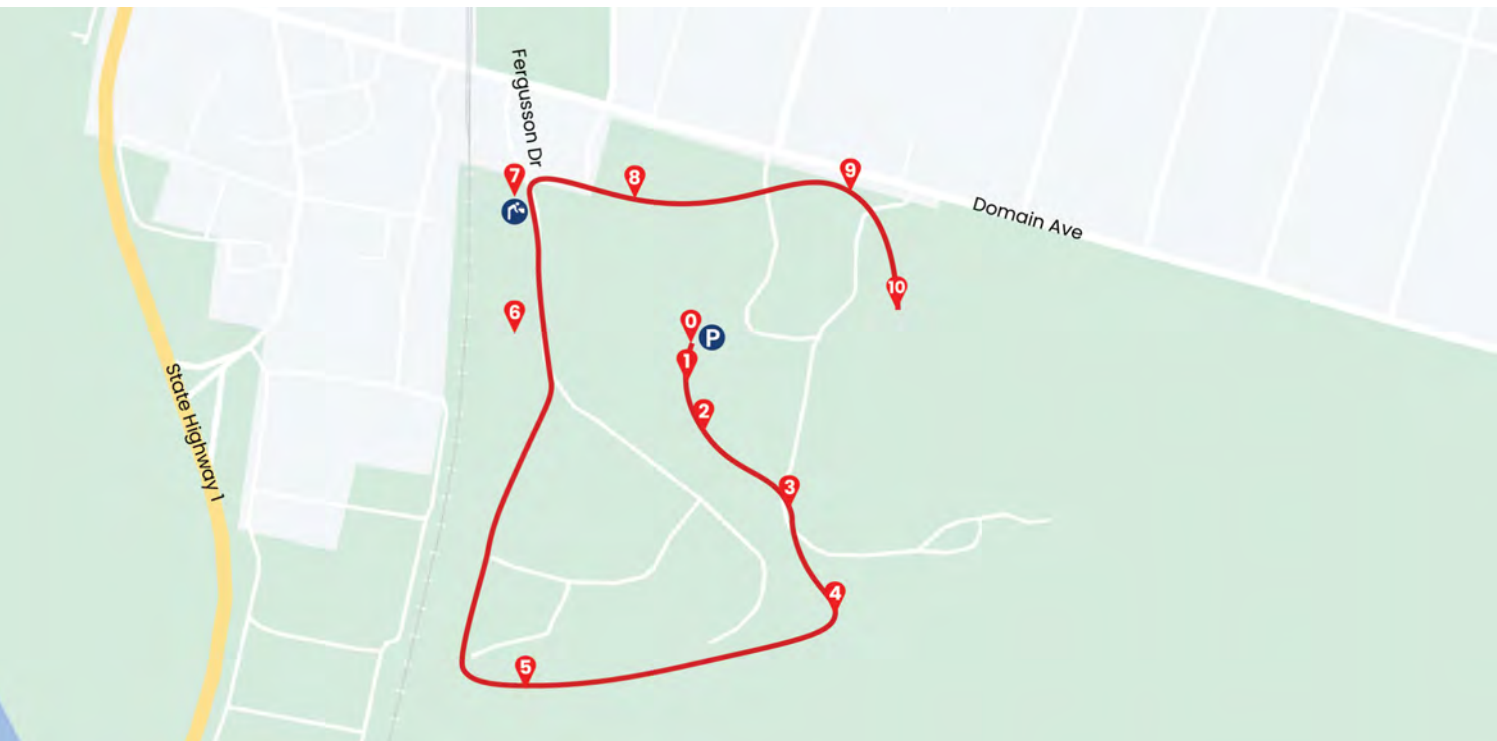
Bike

Walk

Time for bed little kiwi! But where is he? Help mum kiwi find him.

Follow the signs 1 - 10 around the Temuka Domain, starting at the carpark and help track little kiwi down. Enjoy the walk on the way!

Based on the book 'Time For Bed Little Kiwi' by Temuka author / illustrator Bob Darroch.



Geraldine

From a relaxed riverside stroll, hidden just steps from the bustling town centre, to tracks through native forest, Geraldine has plenty to offer walkers and bikers of all levels.



River Walk

- 30mins
- 2.5km
- Easy
- On lead only
- Bike
- Walk

The riverside walk, located right in the heart of Geraldine, winds its way along the Waihi River taking in Rhododendron Dell, magnificent in spring, as well as a small oasis of native bush found adjacent to Todd Park.

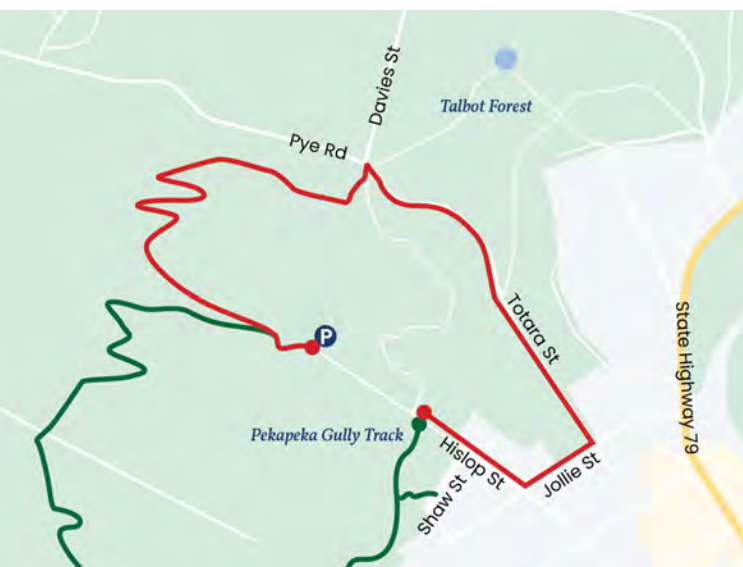
While on this trail keep an eye out for the sculptures showcasing local history, culture and nature which are part of the Sculpture Trail (1).

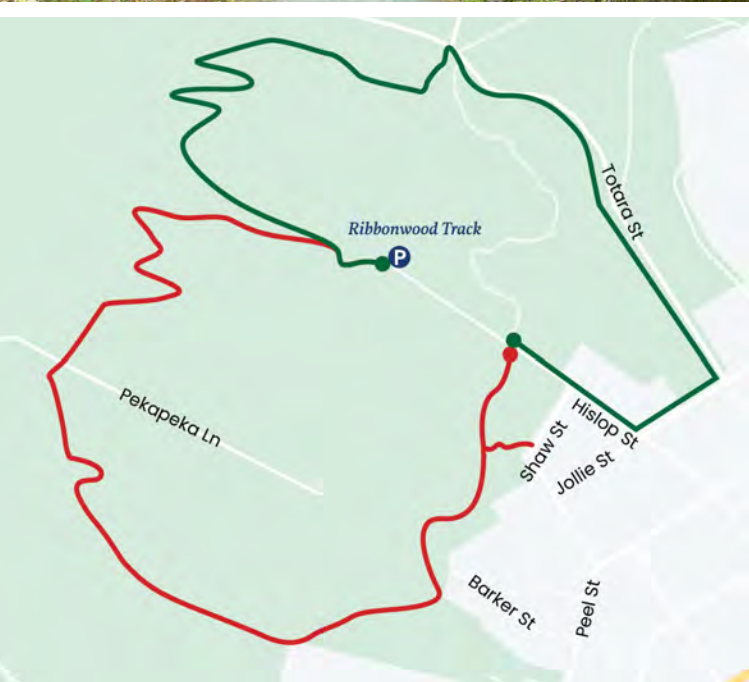
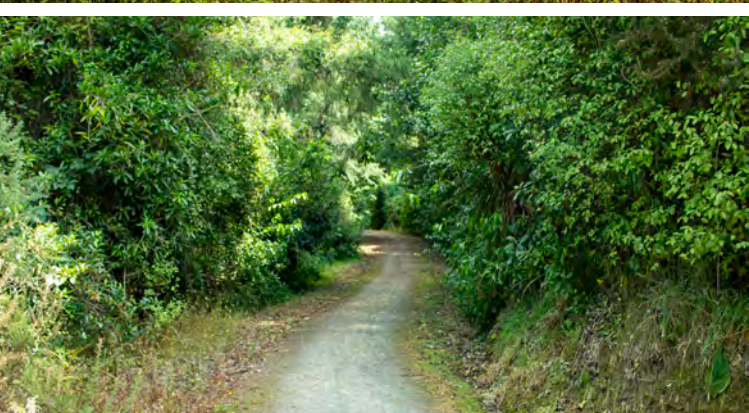


Ribbonwood Track

- 1hr
- 4.5km
- Medium
- Off lead allowed
- Bike
- Walk

This track starts with a steep climb with rewards of breathtaking views across Geraldine. Along the way, you can enjoy paddocks to the left and bush and mountains to the right. The climb provides a rewarding view over the plains below. Carry onto Ribbonwood Road and then turn left on to Pye Road and Davies Street until you reach the beginning.





Pekapeka Gully Track



1hr



3.8km



Medium



Off lead allowed



Bike









Walk

The track is named after the rare native long tailed bat (pekapeka) which inhabits the area. The tiny thumb sized bats can occasionally be spotted in the evenings. Start at the end of Hislop Street and follow the track up and over the ridge.

This is a steep grade but rewarded by a good view at the top. It is suitable for fit mountain bikers and walkers.



Kakahu Bush Track

 3hr	 8km	 Medium
 Not permitted	 Walk	 Bush Track







The first part of the track follows the route of a wooden tramway, which over a century ago, brought marble chips from quarries in the gorge to the Hall Road kiln.

Follow the marked farm track round the edge of the bush, crossing a small stream before climbing up to Pinnacles Lookout.

Continue downhill over a small stream before climbing up to the Balancing Rock. This huge stone sits on top of a buried pinnacle.

To get here follow along Winchester Hanging Rock Road until you reach Hall Road, turn right and the carpark is on the left beside a large limestone kiln.

Kakahu Escarpment Track

 10mins	 500m	 Easy
 Not permitted	 Walk	 Escarpment Track

From the car park walk 250 metres to the road bridge where the track leads across paddocks to the limestone cliffs. At the foot of the impressive limestone escarpment are large mushroom-like rocks which were eroded around their bases thousands of years ago. This area is of great spiritual significance to local Māori and should be treated with respect.

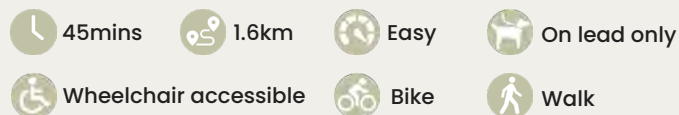
Geraldine Sculpture Trail

The Sculpture trail includes four tracks, taking you through Talbot Forest, along Waihi River and around Geraldine Domain. The trail is beautiful in spring with rhododendrons and other flowers in full bloom.

The trail is currently underdevelopment and at this stage sculptures can only be seen at Todd Park.

Find more information about the Geraldine Sculpture trail at geraldinesculpturetrail.nz

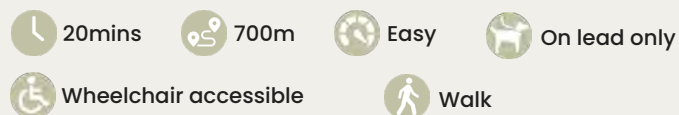
Waihi River Trail



This trail follows the banks of the Waihi River, winding through a stretch of forest in Kennedy Park.

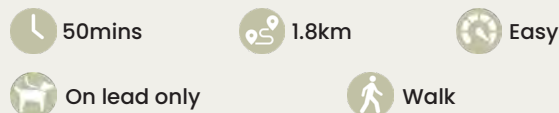
This track is beautiful in spring with rhododendrons in full bloom between Todd Park and the town centre. The first sculptures on the trail can be viewed [here](#).

Rhododendron Dell Trail



Stroll through the Rhododendron Dell, a peaceful trail with birdsong and a colourful backdrop in the spring. This is an easy short walk, with colourful backdrops of rhododendrons in the spring.

Talbot Forest Trail



Talbot Forest Reserve is the last remnant of an ancient podocarp forest. Walk the four short tracks through the native forest with kaihikatea, matai and tōtara.



Domain Trail



1hr



2km



Easy



On lead only



Wheelchair accessible



Bike



Walk

This track is an easy loop around the Geraldine Domain, a large open space with a children's playground, Top 10 Holiday Park and adjacent community open air swimming pool. View the street art alongside the playground while you're there.

KEY



Waihi River Trail



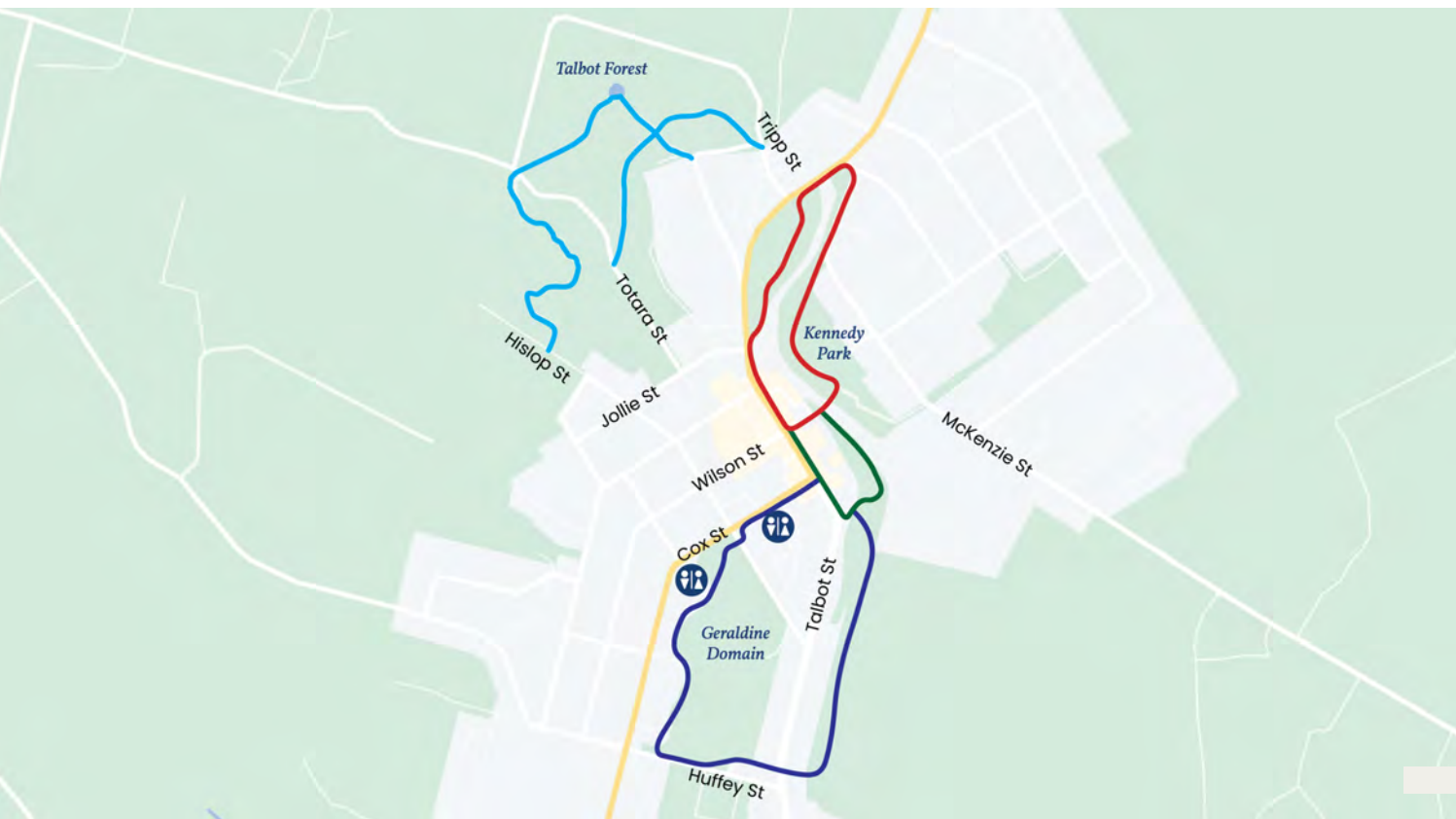
Rhododendron Trail



Talbot Forest Trail



Domain Trail



Talbot Forest


Talbot Forest Scenic Reserve is the last remnant of an extensive forest that once covered the Geraldine area. The first reserve was created in 1879 and was added to in 1886 and 1962. There are four short walks through the forest which interconnect with roads around the reserve.


The Talbot Forest trails are DOC tracks, find more information on their website doc.govt.nz

Kahikatea Track

 10mins

 680m

 Easy

 On lead only


 Walk


This track connects Hislop Street with Totara Street picnic area. There are some fine kahikatea trees at the Hislop Street end where the land is wetter. Kahikatea can grow to be the tallest tree in the forest, reaching 40 metres.

Matai Track

 10mins

 680m

 Easy

 On lead only


 Walk


This track connects Tripp Street with Totara Street. The track passes some impressive forest trees including matai with its needle leaves and 'hammered' bark.

Reservoir Track

 5mins

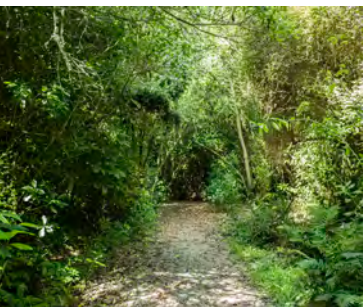
 225m

 Easy

 On lead only

 Walk

This track connects Tripp Street picnic area with Bridge Street. The picnic area is a good starting point from which to explore the reserve. The iron gates on Bridge Street mark the old main entrance into the reserve.



Tōtara Track



5mins



300m



Easy



On lead only



Walk

This track connects Tōtara Street with Tripp Street picnic area. Next to the track is the largest tōtara in the reserve which is estimated to be 800 years old. Tōtara were used by Māori to build canoes. A large tree could be made into a waka taua (war canoe) capable of holding 100 warriors.

KEY



Kahikatea Track



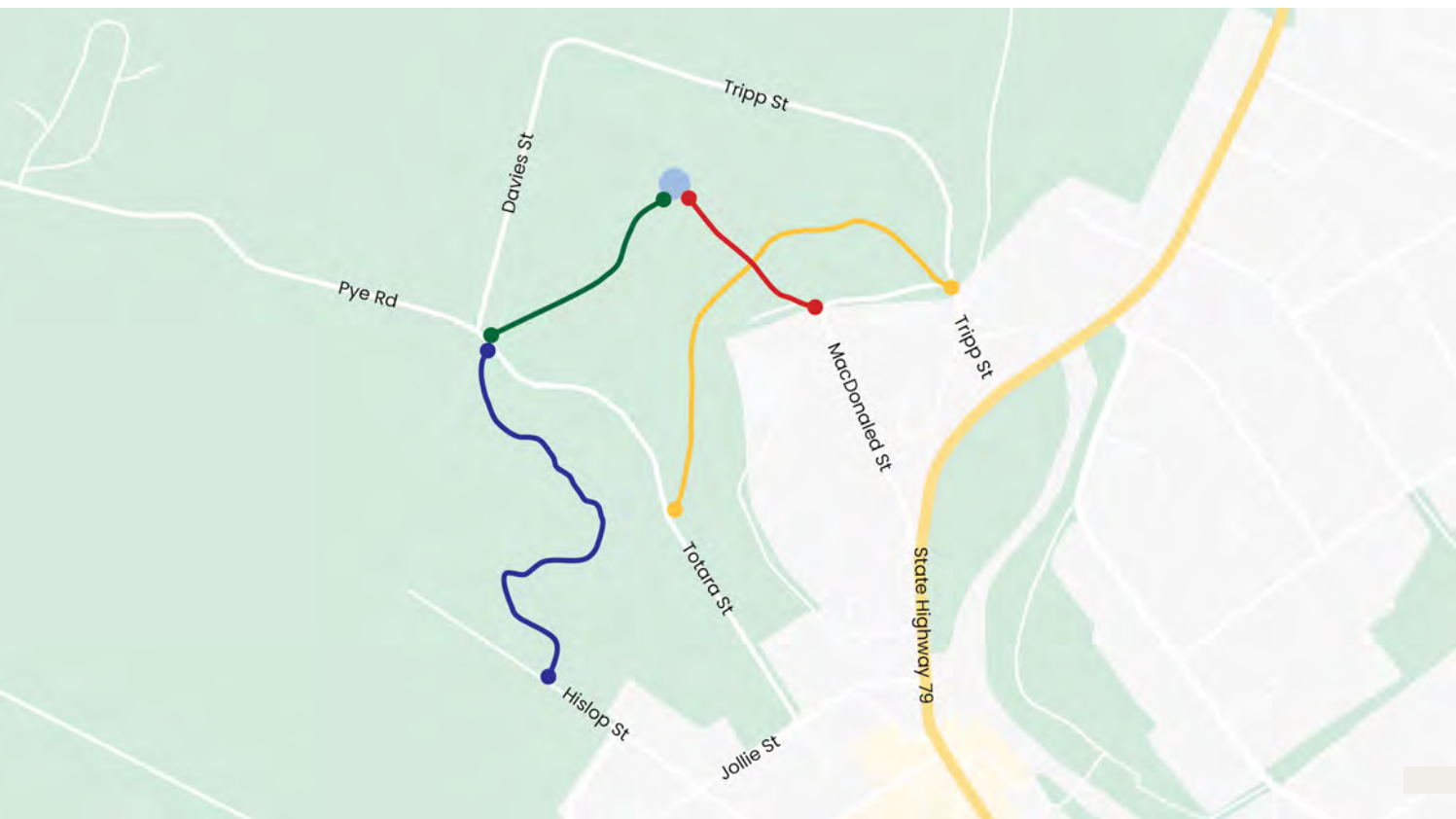
Matai Track



Reservoir Track



Tōtara Track





Peel Forest

Peel Forest Park Scenic Reserve has extensive walking tracks from the awe inspiring 30 minute 'Big Tree Walk' to the heady heights of Little Mt Peel, the climb to its 1311m summit is a walk of several hours.

Other tracks will take you to pristine waterfalls of Emily and Acland Falls, both of which are around an hour's return. If you'd prefer a shorter walk, you'll find easy and flat access via the Kahikatea Walk and Dennistoun Bush loop walk – perfect for a forest stroll with the kids.

PLEASE NOTE: Dogs are not permitted on any walks within the Peel Forest Park Scenic Reserve.



Acland Falls



1hr



1.6km



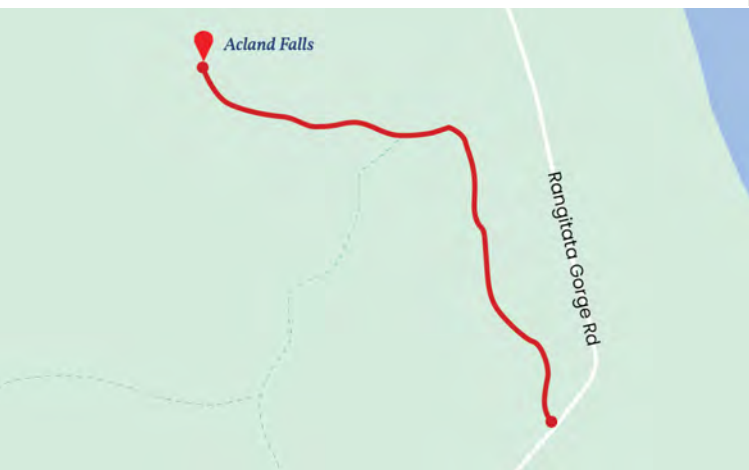
Medium



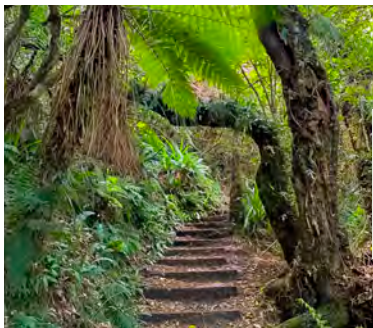
Not permitted



Walk



The track climbs steeply and then drops into a small stream. The falls (14 m), a short walk up the stream bed, are named after J B Acland of Mt Peel Station. The sunnier and drier aspect of this northern flank of the park has produced vegetation strikingly different from that found elsewhere, dominated by fuchsia, māhoe, kōwhai and kānuka.



Allans Track



3hr



5km



Advanced



Not permitted



Walk



Follow Acland Falls Track from Te Wanahu Flat and turn left onto Allans Track after about 500 metres. Allans Track then joins Deer Spur before dropping steeply to Fern Walk, which can be followed back to the starting point. This track passes through a range of botanical communities from the tall podocarp forest near the valley floor to the subalpine and alpine vegetation on the higher slopes. The track is named after H H B Allan (1882–1957), a pioneer botanist. He was best known for his Volume One of the Flora of New Zealand, a book published in 1940 about the vegetation of Peel Forest.

To get here follow Geraldine–Arundel Road and turn left on to Peel Forest Road. Follow along the road and turn right on to Rangitata Gorge Road. Follow this until you reach the Peel Forest carpark on the left.



Big Tree Walk



30mins



1.6km



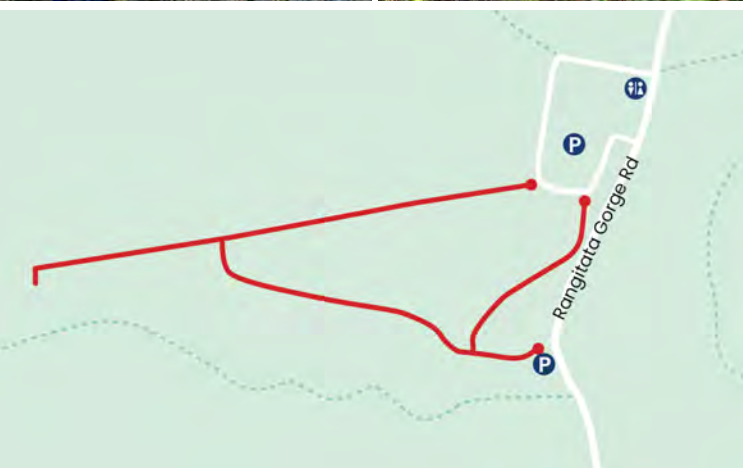
Easy



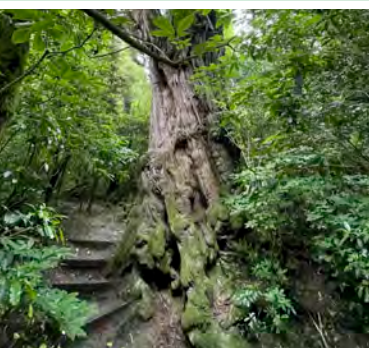
Not permitted



Walk



There are large mataī, kahikatea and lowland tōtara along the track, some of which are thought to be 1000 years old. The largest tree, a huge lowland tōtara, is almost three metres across. Look out for the remains of a bush tramway route running alongside this track. These tramways had wooden rails and were used for hauling out logs. At the top of the embankment you can see the original width of the tramway, marked by wooden edging.



Dennistoun Bush



1hr



1.8km



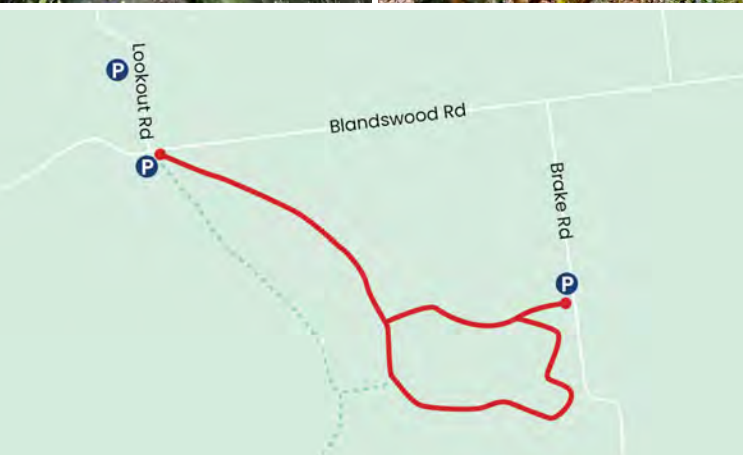
Easy



Not permitted



Walk



This is a flat, easy walk through 40 hectares of magnificent ancient forest with huge kahikatea, lowland tōtara and mataī. There is a short side trip to one of the historic saw pits in the area. Also near Brake Road look out for a hollow tōtara stump large enough to encircle a family.



Emily Falls

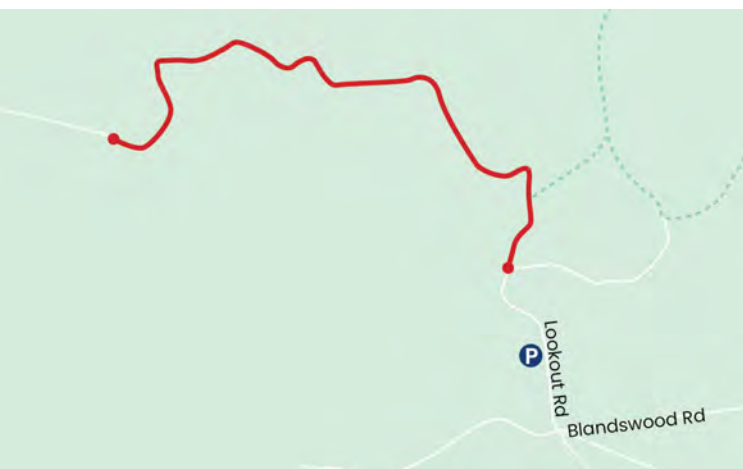
🕒 1hr 30mins

📏 3.2km

🌿 Medium

🐕 Not permitted

🚶 Walk



The track starts on the left a little way up the steep Blandswood/Lookout Road. After a steeper section the track forks left down to Rata Stream. Follow the stream down for 100 m then exit right back on to the track. This track crosses another small stream before descending steeply to Emily Stream at the base of the falls.

The stream and falls are named after Emily Acland, daughter of Bishop Harper and wife of J B Acland, the first bishop of Christchurch, and a keen mountaineer.



Kahikatea Walk

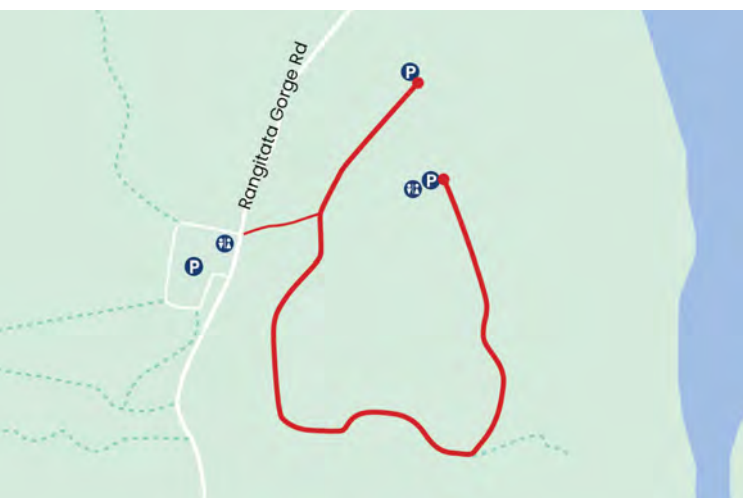
🕒 1hr

📏 1.9km

🌿 Easy

🐕 Not permitted

🚶 Walk



This track offers flat easy walking, with board walks over wetter areas. Saw pits are a reminder of the fate of most of this forest, with just a remnant of kahikatea swamp forest remaining.



Fern Walk



1hr 30mins



3.3km



Easy



Not permitted



Walk

The early part of the track passes through Mills Bush, 16.2 hectares of virgin podocarp forest containing giant lowland tōtara, mataī and kahikatea trees, many of them probably 1000 years old. Their roots are spread across the path.

In 1881 these were saved from the axes and saws thanks to the efforts of a visiting English MP (Arthur Mills) who bought the land to protect the forest. Ferns abound along the walk – most of the 68 species of ferns in Peel Forest can be seen along the way. Look out and listen for bellbirds (korimako), riflemen (tītītipounamu), grey warblers (riroriro), tomtits (miromiro) and silvereyes (tauhou).





Little Mount Peel/Huatakerekere

via Deer Spur Walk

- 4-6hr
- 9.2km
- Advanced
- Not permitted
- Walk
- Via Deer Spur Walk

This is one of the most popular peaks in Canterbury. From the car park at Blandswood, walk up the steep Blandswood Lookout Road to the top. Follow Fern Walk for about 350 m before turning left on to Deer Spur Track. The track follows a ridge up to the summit (1311 m). There are magnificent views to Mt Somers, Mt Hutt and across the plains to the coast. Tristram Harper Memorial Shelter is just below the summit. Note: This is an alpine summit. Here the weather can be very different from at road level. Ensure you take appropriate clothing and equipment, and check the weather forecast.

Little Mount Peel/Huatakerekere

via South Ridge Track

- 7hr
- 7km
- Advanced
- Not permitted
- Walk
- Via South Ridge Track

An alternative to climbing or descending Little Mt Peel/Huatakerekere from Deer Spur is to use the South Ridge Track. The South Ridge is steep and involves a couple of rocky scrambles. South Ridge Track connects with Deer Spur at the top of the mountain and Emily Falls Track near the bottom. When descending from Little Mt Peel/Huatakerekere it is important to keep to the ridge until the track sign shows the route down a tussock-covered spur to the bushline and Emily Stream.

There are other tracks that cross private land which can be accessed via the public tracks within Peel Forest. Please see the Department of Conservation website doc.govt.nz for more details.



A photograph of three children walking a small, scruffy brown dog on a leash across a wide, rocky riverbed. The children are smiling and looking down at the dog. The background shows a lush, green forested hill under a clear sky. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

Wider Timaru District

Orari Scenic Reserve

Orari Gorge Scenic Reserve is mostly regenerating forest, though there are some large tōtara, kaikahikatea and mataī. Within the reserve, kaikahikatea are regenerating particularly well. There is a circular walk through the reserve.

Pioneer Park Conservation Area

Pioneer Park was named in recognition of the early pioneer families who settled in this area. Mr Burke was the first settler to drive a bullock cart over the pass (which now bears his name) into the Mackenzie country. Within the reserve, a chimney is all that remains of the house he built in 1885. There are two walks through the conservation area as well as a campsite.

Hunter Hills

The Hunter Hills are named after chief Te Kaumira, who was travelling across the Hunter Hills when a snowstorm separated him from the others. Te Kaumira's body was found under a rock shelter and the mountain range was named Te Tari a Te Kaumira (The Long Range of Te Kaumira). This land has been an important area for gathering food and other resources.

Pareora

A small settlement town to the south of Timaru, Pareora situates around a local freezing works and features a tranquil river.



Orari Gorge Track

Orari Scenic Reserve



1hr 30mins



3.3km



Easy

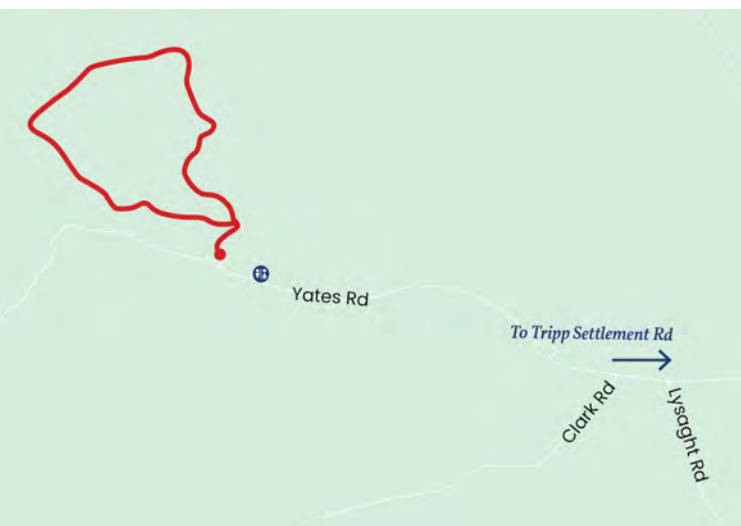


Not permitted



Walk

The track initially follows an old bush tramway, which was used to extract logs. Continue straight on through a mosaic of regenerating trees before climbing to an open high point. The return leg is through bush with some extensive stands of kānuka. Turn right at the track junction back to the car park.



Homebush Track

Pioneer Park Conservation Area



30mins



1km



Easy + stream crossing



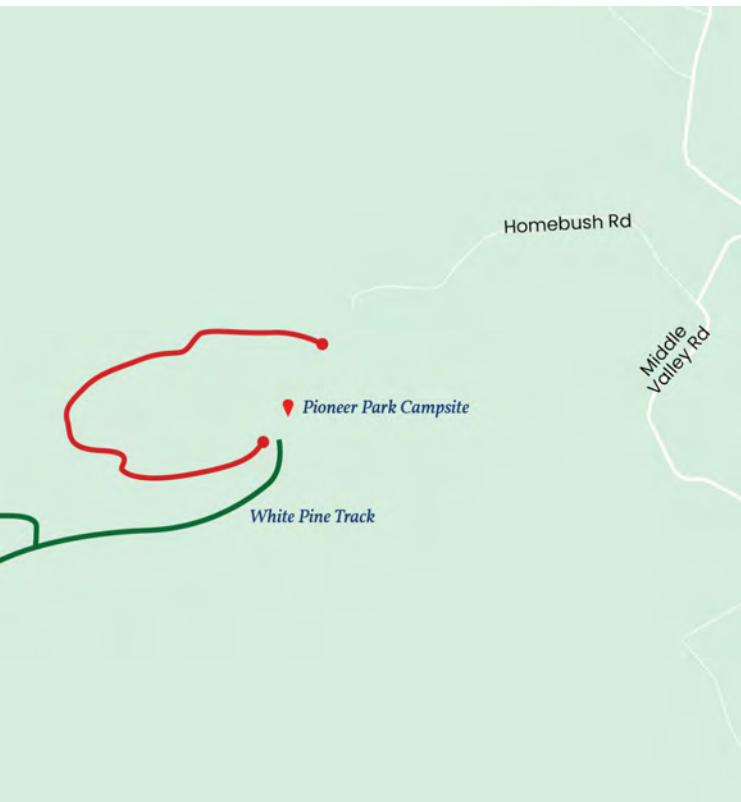
Off lead allowed



Walk

This loop track starts from the campground, crossing a small stream and then gently climbing to a ridge where there are large kaikahikatea and tōtara. The most impressive is a stately tōtara about three metres in diameter. The track then returns via the Burke Hut memorial.

To get here follow along Raincliff Road, which will then veer right onto Middle Valley Road. Turn left on to Homebush Road, at the end of the road is the Pioneer Park Campsite where both Homebush and White Pine tracks start.



White Pine Track

Pioneer Park Conservation Area



- 2hr
- 5km
- Medium + stream crossings + rock climbing
- On lead only
- Walk

This track starts from the campground and climbs through regenerating native bush and then through introduced forestry trees. The return leg drops steeply into a native bush gully and zigzags (seven times) across the stream before meeting the original track. A left turn takes you back to the campground.

See the Homebush Track for directions on getting there.

Mt Nimrod

Hunter Hills



- 3-4hr
- 3km
- Advanced
- Not permitted
- Walk

This track has great views and a waterfall that plummets through a rock arch. From the campground, take the bridge across Nimrod Stream where the loop track takes you on an anti-clockwise circuit of the reserve. Initially it climbs steeply up out of the forest to a lookout point which gives good views out to the coast.

To get here from Timaru follow Beaconsfield Road turn left on to Holme Station, then turn right on to Pareora River Road. Turn left on to Craigmere Valley Road, turn right on to Timaunga Road and then left on to Elders Road. Turn right on to Back Line Road and stay on this road until you reach Mount Nimrod Road, turn left and the camp and parking area is at the end of this road.

Pareora River Track



1hr 30mins



3.8kms



Medium



Off lead allowed



Walk



Follow along the banks of the Pareora River to the river dam. Limestone rocks provide drama on the banks and tall trees provide plenty of shade.

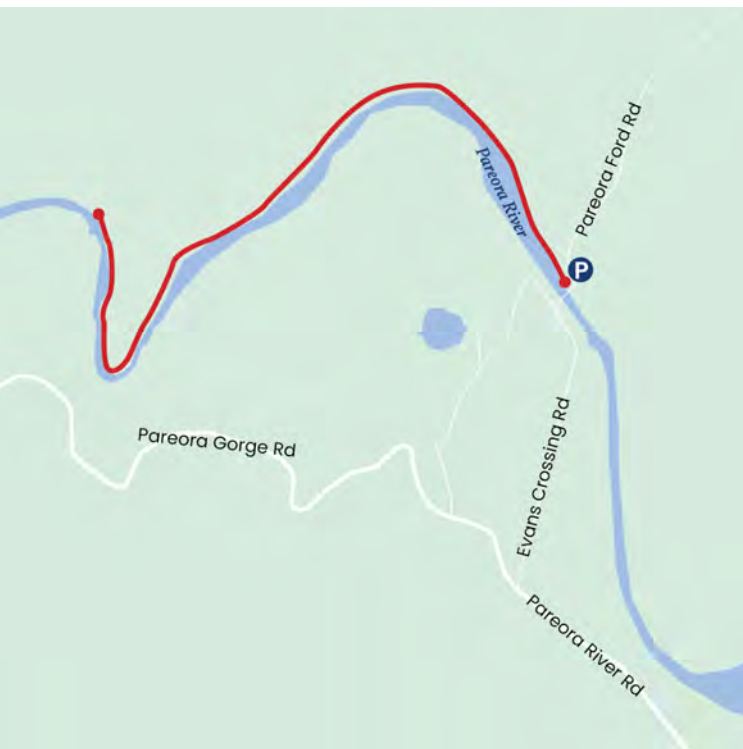
Start by climbing over the stile on the road indicated by the sign. The track is well trodden but has an uneven surface and can be muddy in the winter. It is grassed to begin with, but under the trees is beaten earth and tree roots.

The track is never far from the river which is fast running and provides a happy murmur in the background. Limestone rocks provide drama on the banks and in the distance.

The dam can be reached in an easy 40 minutes and rewards your walking effort. It is unsafe to swim directly above and below the dam.

This walk can be reached from either side of the river but if you arrive at Evans Crossing you will need to drive or walk across the ford to get to the track on the northern or true left side of the river, 4WD is recommended.

Please note at certain times of the year river conditions can change quickly. Do not attempt to cross the ford in flooded or fast flowing river conditions.



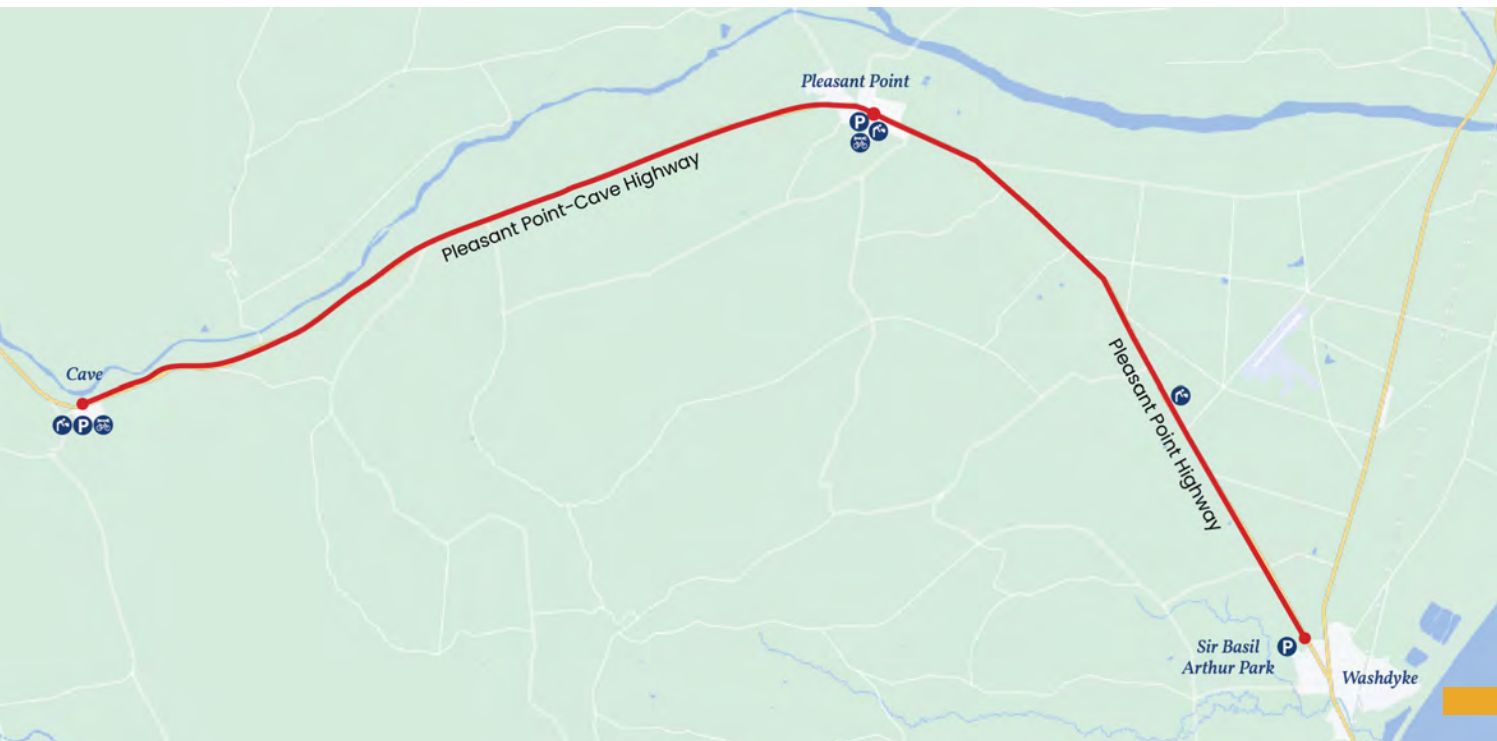


Central South Trail

- Washdyke - Pleasant Point
3hr walk, 1hr bike
 13km
- Pleasant Point - Cave
3hr 30mins walk, 1hr bike
 15km
- Easy-Medium
 On lead only
- Wheelchair accessible
 Bike
 Walk

This easy track is a great way to see some of the best scenery that the South Island has to offer. The Central South Trail takes you along the countryside from the seaside town of Timaru, through Pleasant Point to Cave via State Highway 8. Bike the Timaru to Cave trail stopping at Pleasant Point along the way.

Start the trail from Timaru at Sir Basil Arthur Park in Washdyke, or the other end at Cave. If you want to do half the trail, start or end at Pleasant Point's Town Square. It is suitable for all ages.





Timaru Circuit Trail

100mins bike	25-30km	Easy-Medium
7hr walk	Bike	Walk

This circuit is an excellent choice for people looking to connect multiple trails for an extended walking or cycling track. The 25-30km Timaru Circuit comprises a collection of eight tracks around the seaside town of Timaru. It is particularly well-suited for cyclists seeking a longer route to bike.

Choose to complete the full circuit from end to end or select specific sections to walk or bike.



Your Trail checklist



Caroline Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Centennial Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Claremont Bush Track	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Dashing Rocks Coastal Track	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Otipua Creek Track	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Otipua Wetlands Track	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saltwater Creek Track	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coastal Track, Pātītī & beyond	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Timaru Botanic Gardens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tuhawaiki (Jack's) Point	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Opihi River Track	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Taumatakahu Stream Reserve	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Allan Jones Walkway	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Waitohi Bush	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Little Kiwi Trail	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
River Walk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ribbonwood Track	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pekapeka Gully Track	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kakahu Bush Track	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Kakahu Escarpment Track	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Waihi River Trail	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhododendron Dell Trail	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Talbot Forest Trail	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Domain Trail	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kahikatea Track	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Matai Track	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Reservoir Track	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Tōtara Track	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Acland Falls	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Allans Track	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Big Tree Walk	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Dennistoun Bush	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Emily Falls	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Kahikatea Walk	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Fern Walk	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Little Mount Peel/Huatakerekere via Deer Spur Walk	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Little Mount Peel/Huatakerekere via South Ridge Track	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Orari Gorge Track	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Homebush Track	<input type="checkbox"/>	
White Pine Track	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Mt Nimrod	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Pareora River Track	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Central South Trail	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Timaru Circuit Trail	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>