

Omahu Bush and Gibraltar Rock Reserve Walking Trails

Enjoy spectacular views across the Canterbury plains and explore rich mature podocarp forest on the trails of Omahu Bush reserve. All walks start at the Gibraltar Rock car park, located 8.5km south of the Sign of the Kiwi on the Port Hills Summit Road.

Walk 1: Rhodes Track - Kirks Track short loop:

Duration: 30 mins

From the Gibraltar Rock car park follow Prendergasts track a short distance to the track map and the deer fence gate. Follow Rhodes Track downhill 300m to the junction with Kirks Track. Turn left and follow Kirks Track back up to the Summit Road past a beautiful grove of giant tree fuchsia. Turn left and carefully walk back 200 m on the Summit Road to the car park.

Walk 2: Gibraltar Rock:

Duration: 45 mins return

From the Gibraltar Rock car park follow Prendergasts Track a short distance to the track map and the deer fence gate. Go through the deer fence gate then take the track on the right through a gate and up the hill to the base of Gibraltar Rock. The final 50m of this walk involves a steep scramble up rock slabs and is suitable for fit and agile walkers only. However, the walk to the base of the rock offers stunning views without the need for scrambling.

Walk 3: Kirks Track – Prendergasts Track round trip:

Duration: 90 mins

From the Gibraltar Rock car park, follow the Summit Road for 200m towards Gebbes Pass to the top of Kirks Track. Descend through a forest of giant tree fuchsia to the junction with Rhodes Track. Cross Rhodes Track and go through the deer fence gate. Kirks Track then continues downhill through a valley rich with ferns, lichens, and regenerating forest. After 800m, reach the junction with Nelsons Track. Turn right to stay on Kirks Track, where you'll soon find a grove of towering kahikatea and matai trees. This section also hosts numerous totara and matai seedlings, thriving as the forest regenerates after pest removal in recent years.

At the junction of Kirks Track and Prendergasts Track, turn right and follow Prendergasts Track uphill, returning to the car park.

Walk 4: Prendergast Track – Tōtara Grove Track – Kirks Track Loop:

Duration: 60mins

From the Gibraltar Rock car park follow Prendergast's track a short distance to the track map and the deer fence gate. Go through the deer fence gate and continue straight ahead initially uphill and then down for 20 minutes. Turn left when you reach the sign for 'Tōtara Grove Track.' After 10 minutes you will reach the beautiful Tōtara Grove. Enjoy the majesty of these 200-year-old trees before continuing along Tōtara Grove Track to the junction with Kirks Track. Turn left and follow Kirks Track back up the hill to the car park.

Walk 5: Stone Wall Track – Prendergast's Track – Tōtara Grove Track Loop

Duration: 60 mins (short loop)

1 hour 45 minutes or 2 hours (long loops)

From the Gibraltar Rock car park follow Prendergast's track a short distance to the track map and the deer fence gate. Go through the deer fence gate and after 20m take the track labelled Gibraltar Rock, on the right, to a second lower gate. Go through this gate and follow the track up the fence line. After 20 m turn right at the signpost to 'Stone Wall Track' and follow this around the open tussock grasslands beneath Gibraltar Rock. Enjoy the spectacular views across the Canterbury Plains and out to the Southern Alps. After 15 minutes you will reach another sign. Turn left for the short cut track back to Prendergast's Track (short loop) or carry on straight ahead to the historic Old Stone Wall. Observe forest regeneration along this section of the track where tall gorse is being naturally replaced by a varied ecosystem of native plants and animals.

At the bottom of the Stone Wall Track turn left and walk for 10 minutes to reach the junction with Kirks Track. Check the map here and decide how you would like to return to the car park.

Follow Prendergast Track, then Tōtara Grove Track, Kirks Track and then Rhodes Track (1 hour 45 minutes total time)

or Follow Kirks Track, then Rhodes Track (2 hours)

Walk 6: Rhodes Track to Annes Falls and return via Nelsons and Kirks tracks:

Duration: 120 minutes

From the Gibraltar Rock car park descend the short section of Prendergasts track to the start of Rhodes track near the deer fence gate. Turn left and follow Rhodes Track through forest to another deer fence gate. Continue down Rhodes Track through open regenerating forest for 30 minutes until you reach the sign for Annes Falls and Nelsons Track. Turn right and follow this trail down towards the stream at the valley floor. (Annes Falls is a short 5- minute diversion off this section of track and well worth a visit.)

Returning the short distance to the main trail, walk downhill and cross the stream, then walk for about 15 minutes to the junction of Nelsons and Kirks Tracks. Continue straight on Kirks Track through the forest and stay on this track to the junction with Rhodes Track. From here, the car park is another 10-15 minutes away, with two track options to choose from.

Enjoy your walk and absorb the beauty of Omahu Bush and Gibraltar Rock Reserve.