

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. Made up of rural farmland, rugged coast and sandy beaches, the seaside city of Timaru, and our towns Geraldine, Pleasant Point and Temuka.

In Timaru city, you can enjoy easy scenic walks, 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 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 amoungst 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 Walk Otipua Creek walk Otipua Wetlands Track Saltwater Creek Track South Beach Coastal Track **Timaru Botanic Gardens** Tuhawaiki (Jack's) Point

Temuka

Opihi Walkway Taumatakahu Stream Reserve Temuka Domain Track Waitohi Bush

Geraldine

River Walk Ribbonwood Track Pekapeka Gully Track

Talbot Forest

Kahikatea Track Matai Track **Reservoir Track Totara Track**

☐ Peel Forest

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

Others

Orari Gorge Track **Homebush Track White Pine Track Mount Nimrod Pareora River Track**

Your Trail checklist

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



Know before you go

Walking is a great way to explore the Timaru District. From easy family tracks through to advanced and experts 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 conditions reports with the Department of Conservation.

Know your limits

Make sure you choose a track that is within your physical capabilities and experience levels. Make sure you tell someone your plans before leaving so they can raise the alarm if need be.

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 (PBL) if you are adventuring high into the

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.











Caroline Bay



30-45mins



🗳 2-3km



Easy – Medium



Bike



Wheelchair accessible



Dogs only allowed on beach from 1 October – 31 March

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. In summer this area is busy with the carnival rides. 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)





Centennial Park





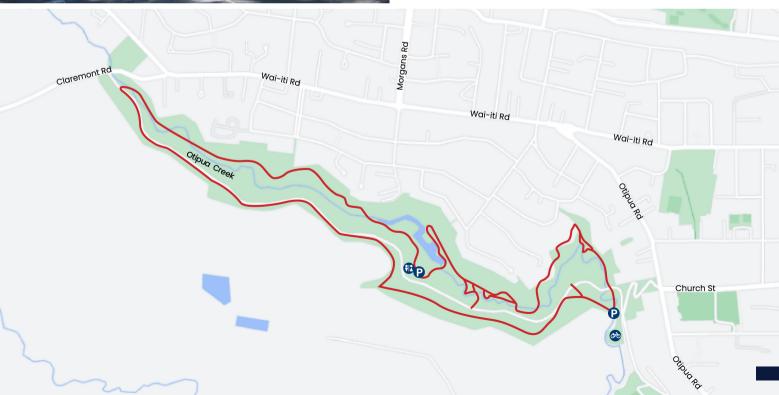






Centennial Park spans 65 hectares at the edge of the Timaru City limits. In the heart of the park, you'll find the Centennial Park Lake recreational area. It has ample parking for cars, an expansive sheltered picnic area, BBQs, children's playgrounds and toilet facilities. It's also the starting point for an orienteering course.

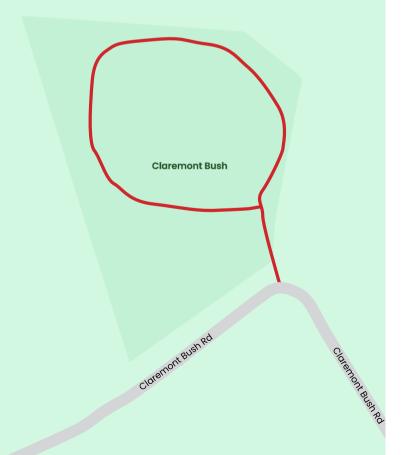
From here, a variety of tracks span out around the park to offer a fantastic range of trails for walkers, runners, mountain bikers and amblers. Some of the tracks are shared use for walkers and bikers, while others are exclusively for mountain bikers and cover a range of terrains, for bikers of all abilities.









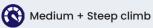


Claremont Bush Track





3km



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) and Fantails (Piwakawaka).

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

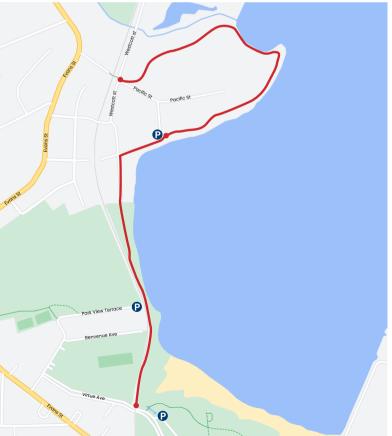
The track then moves into a variety of native plants. Claremont Bush has a circular track with a steep climb up one side and a sharp drop on the other. The slope can be slippery in wet weather.

A rare native climbing daisy with a bright yellow flower can sometimes be seen in this bush.

Getting to Claremont Bush can be tricky if you do not know the area. After coming down the Taiko zigzag, it is about two kms to the turnoff to Claremont Bush Road. Turn right onto Claremont Bush Road which is loose gravel. The bush is a further two kms, if you get to the Pareora River bridge you have gone too far.







Dashing Rocks Coastal Walk







Off lead allowed





Easy + gradual inclines

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.

You'll cross a style into a paddock at the back of Smithfield Beach just before the freezing works.

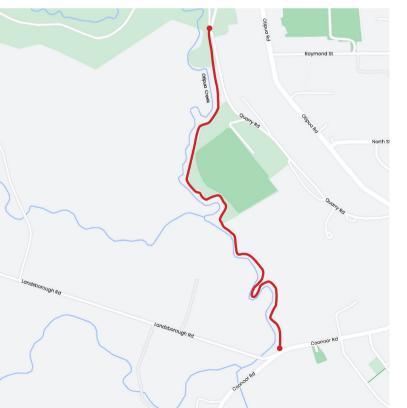
Through the paddock walk up Westcott Street, and back down Richmond Street to rejoin the coastal stretch back toward Blackett's Lighthouse.

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 Wetlands Track





Easy

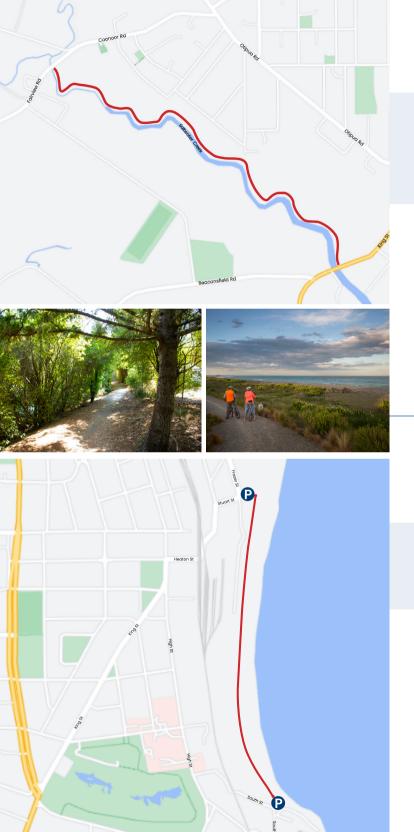


Bike

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.

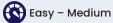
As you explore, discover the rich history of the land, marked by the ancient basalt lava rock wall, a testament to the geological heritage of Mt Horrible. Whether you're a nature enthusiast, birdwatcher, or simply seeking a peaceful stroll, the Timaru Otipua Wetlands beckon you to experience their timeless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



Saltwater Creek Track









On lead only



Wheelchair accessible



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.

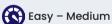
If you wish to keep going, you can cross Coonoor Rd and walk the Otipua Creek walkway, which takes another half hour and ends at Centennial Park.

South Beach Coastal Track



30-45mins







Off lead allowed



Starting at the Patiti Point car park, this wide, well made track has been formed on the edge of a shingle beach. It follows the coast line north towards Timaru harbour. It is an easy short walk which currently finishes at Stuart Street. This track is good for cycling.

The sea on one side and the occasional, seal, penguin or surfer provide visual interest.









Timaru Botanic Gardens









On lead only



Wheelchair accessible



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 (1) Graeme Paterson Conservatory and Fernery. Just past this is the (2) Anderson Rose Garden, named after Walter Anderson, a former Curator of Reserves.

On the bend of the road, on the left, there is the (3) Cenotaph War Memorial which is flanked by the SC War Memorial Wall which lists all 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 (8) Queen Victoria Sunken Garden. Turn right here and walk down the hill on the grass where you will pass toilets, the (6) aviary and (7) playground. 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.



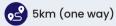






Tuhawaiki (Jack's) Point









Off lead allowed



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.

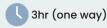








Opihi Walkway









Off lead allowed



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.



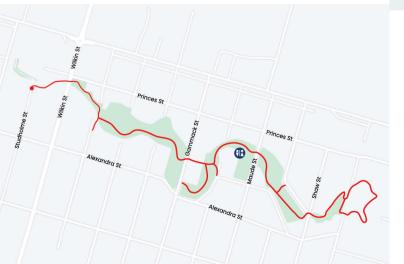
Taumatakahu Stream Reserve



3.5kms

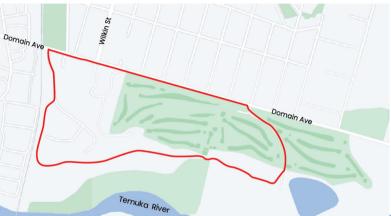


On lead only



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 Temuka Domain Walk.





Temuka Domain Track











Off lead allowed



Wheelchair accessible

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.









20-40mins



省 1-3kms



Medium



On lead only

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.







River Walk







Easy



On lead only



Wheelchair accessible

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.

Ribbonwood Track



1hr



4.5kms



Medium (



Bike

Off lead allowed

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 onto Pye Road and Davies Street until you reach the beginning.







Pekapeka Gully Track



hr



3.8kms



Medium

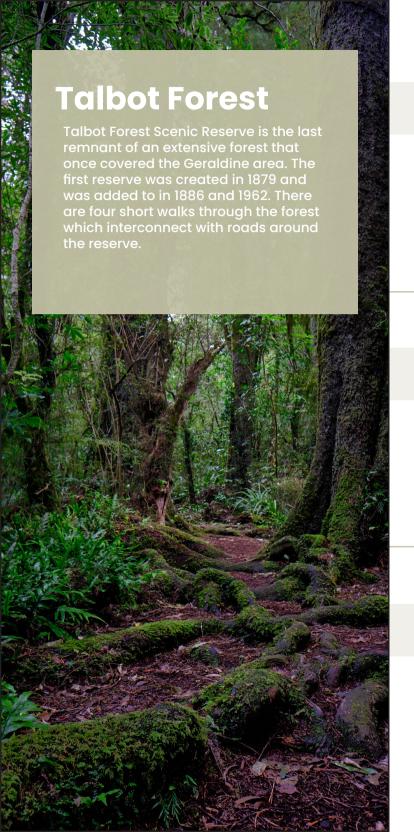


Bik

Off lead allowed

The track is named after the rare native Long Tailed Bat (Pekapeka) which inhabits the area. The tiny bats (which are the size of your thumb), can occassionally 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 going up and down but rewarded by a good view at the top. It is suitable for fit mountain bikers and walkers.



Kahikatea Track



10mins



680m



Easy



On lead only

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

Matai Track



10mins



680m



On lead only

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

Reservoir Track



5mins



225m



Easy



On lead only

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.







Totara Track



5mins



302m



On lead only

This track connects Totara 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.

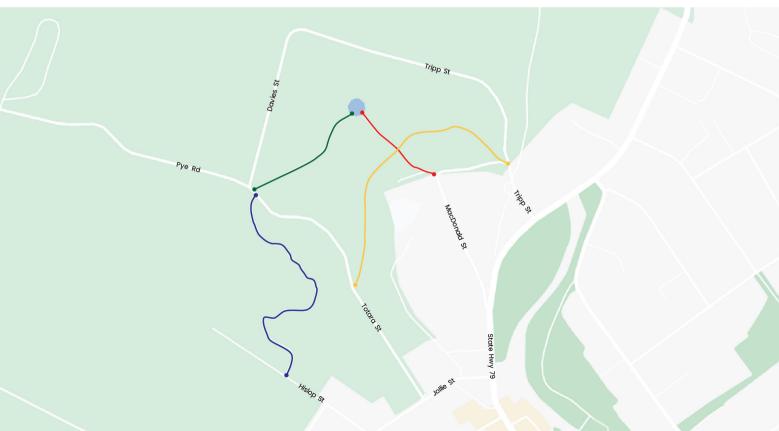
KEY

Kahikatea Track

Matai Track

Resevoir Track

Totara Tack











Acland Falls





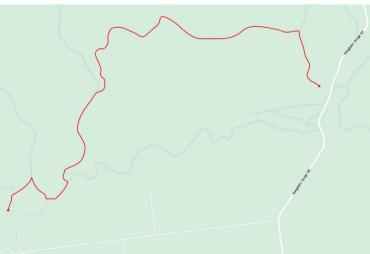


Medium

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



🗳 5km



Hard

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.



Big Tree 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







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





Emily Falls







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 onto 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, wife of J B Acland and daughter of Bishop Harper, the first bishop of Christchurch, and a keen mountaineer.



Kahikatea Walk











Fern Walk

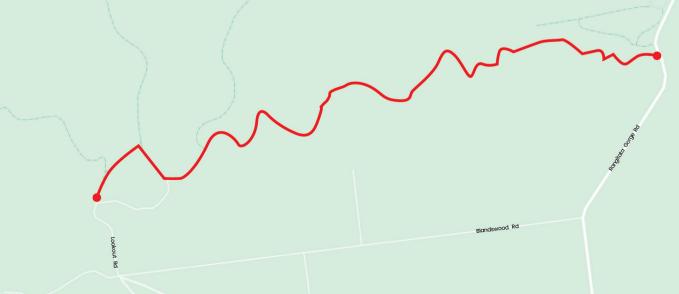






The early part of the track passes through Mills Bush, 16.2 hectares of virgin podocarp forest containing giant lowland tōtara, mataī and kahikatea trees, many of them probably 1000 years old. Their roots are spread across the path.

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 (Tītitipounamu), Grey Warblers (Riroriro), Tomtits (Miromiro) and Silvereyes (Tauhou).











via Deer Spur 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 onto 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. Tristam 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.

Little Mount Peel/Huatekerekere

via South Ridge Track









Via South Ridge Track

An alternative to climbing or descending Little Mt Peel/ Huatekerekere 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/Huatekerekere it is important to keep to the ridge until the track sign shows the route down a tussockcovered 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.





Others

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 got its name 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









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



30min



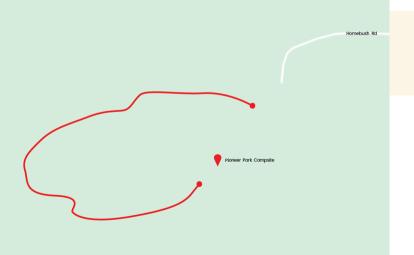


Easy + stream crossing



Off lead allowed

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.



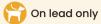


White Pine Track

Pioneer Park Conservation Area



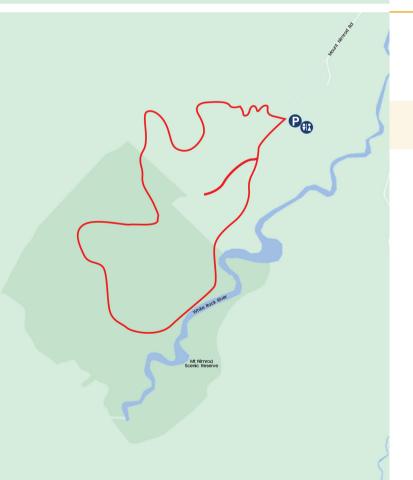






Medium + stream crossings

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.



Mt Nimrod Hunter Hills



3-4h





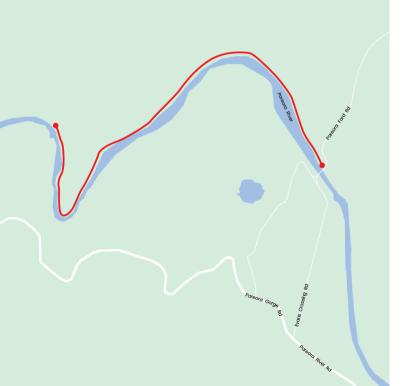
Advanced

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.









Pareora River Track



1hr 30min







Off lead allowed

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. Swimming near the dam is not advised.

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.



Your Trail checklist

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Caroline Bay Walk	
Centennial Park	
Claremont Bush Track	
Dashing Rocks Coastal Walk	
Otipua Creek Walk	
Otipua Wetlands Track	
Saltwater Creek Track	
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Timaru Botanic Gardens	
Tuhawaiki (Jack's) Point	
Opihi Walkway	
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Pekapeka Gully Track	
Ribbonwood Track	
Acland Falls	
Allans Track	
Big Tree Walk	
Dennistoun Bush	
Emily Falls	
Fern Walk	
Kahikatea Walk	
Little Mount Peel/Huatakerekere via Deer Spur Walk	
Little Mount Peel/Huatakerekere via South Ridge Track	
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White Pine Track	
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