

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 8.5 km south of the Sign of the Kiwi on the Port Hills Summit Road.

Walk 1: Rhodes Track - Kirks Track short loop:

Duration: 30 mins

At the Gibraltar Rock car park look for the track that starts near the Reserve sign and follow it a short distance (5 minutes walking through the trees) to the deer fence gate where there is a track map. Don't go through the deer fence gate, but follow Rhodes Track downhill 300 m to the junction with Kirks Track. Turn left and follow Kirks Track back up to the Summit Road passing through a beautiful grove of giant tree fuchsia. On reaching the Summit Road, turn left to return to Gibraltar Rock car park (5 minutes walking up the road – take care).

Walk 2: Gibraltar Rock:

Duration: 35 mins return

From the Gibraltar Rock car park look for the track that starts near the Reserve sign and follow it a short distance (5 minutes walking through the trees) to the deer fence gate where there is a track map. Go through the deer fence gate, then take the track on the right through a gate and walk up the grassy hill to the base of Gibraltar Rock. The final 50 m of this walk involves a steep scramble up rock slabs and is suitable only for fit and agile walkers. However, the walk to the base of the rock offers stunning views without the need for scrambling any higher.

Walk 3: Kirks Track – Prendergasts Track round trip:

Duration: 90 mins

From the Gibraltar Rock car park, follow the Summit Road for 200 m south towards Gebbes Pass to the start 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. Keep on Kirks Track at the junction with Link Track and reach the junction with Nelsons Track. Turn right to stay on Kirks Track, where you'll soon find a grove of towering kahikatea and mataī trees. This section

also hosts numerous tōtara and mataī 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: Rhodes Track to Annes Falls and return via Nelsons and Kirks track:

Duration: 120min

From the Gibraltar Rock car look for the track that starts near the Reserve sign and follow it a short distance (5 minutes walking through the trees) to the deer fence gate where there is a track map. Turn left and follow Rhodes Track through forest to a second deer fence gate. Continue down Rhodes Track through open regenerating forest for about 30 minutes until you reach the sign for Annes Falls and Nelsons Track. Turn right and follow this trail down and over the stream at the valley floor. (Annes Falls are a short 5-minute diversion off this section of track and well worth a visit.)

Back on the main trail, cross the stream and ascend to the junction of Nelsons and Kirks Tracks. Continue right on Kirks Track through the forest 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 take in the beauty of Omaha Bush and Gibraltar Rock Reserve.