

Choose Your Akaroa Country Walk



Key to walks

- 1 **Woodills North** Excellent 2 hour easy tramp. Lovely views. Best combined with Woodills South, or add in a visit to Heritage Park and the lower part of Purple Peak Curry Reserve.
- 2 **Woodills South** 2 historic streets and a country track. Best combined with Woodills North.
- 3 **Heritage Park** Easy walk and scenic picnic spot in commemorative tree plantings with great views. Access on foot from Woodills North or by car from Long Bay Road.
- 4 **Round the Mountain via Curry Track** Full day circuit around Purple Peak visiting Heritage Park and Purple Peak Curry Reserve. In good weather add a climb up Stony Bay Peak. For a shorter walk drive to Heritage Park and loop around the lower reserve.

- 5 **Skyline Circuit** Spectacular full day tramp climbing 800 m to Stony Bay Peak with ridge walk and descent on quiet road. Other options include extension along Misty Peaks, driving to ridgeline trail heads for shorter routes and access to lower Hinewai reserve on other side.
- 6 **Misty Peaks** Explore Misty Peaks reserve above the southern part of Akaroa with a steep and challenging tramp to the tops, or drive to one of the upland trail heads for an easier walk along the tops. Alternatively for a challenging mountain bike ride take advantage of quiet roads and the ride to the trail heads. Avoid in low cloud.
- 7 **Newtons Falls** Gentle walk to a traditional Akaroa beauty spot.

- 8 **Children's Bay Farm Walkway** An easy 1 hour return tramp to the Rhino on the ridge, or extend to a 3 to 4 hour circular route around headland or via Takamatua. Part only shown above.

Safety is your responsibility

Plan, prepare and equip yourself well.

- Weather can change quickly** – check the forecast before departure.
- Hills are colder than Akaroa** – always take layered and waterproof clothing.
- When cloud covers hilltops** – choose a lower level walk.
- Tracks slippery after rain** – sturdy footwear and walking sticks recommended.
- No food or water available on tracks** – take these on the longer tracks.
- Cliffs and other hazards** – keep children under supervision.
- High fire danger** – absolutely no fires to be lit anywhere.
- Before departing** – register intentions with a trusted contact.

Discover Akaroa hill country

Whether you choose a short walk, easy tramp, hike or mountain-bike ride, your exploration of the hills surrounding Akaroa will be rewarded with superb views, pastoral scenery and native bush.

The eight main routes described in this brochure are designed to depart from and return to Akaroa village, so you can leave your car behind and enjoy the challenge of climbing the hills under your own steam. The routes traverse a mix of stock driving tracks, private farmland and private and public reserves, linked together by quiet back roads. If you want a shorter experience with less climbing, you can drive up the hills on the back roads to the trail heads and do parts of the routes.

The adjacent map shows all the routes from a harbour viewpoint, enabling you to see how they are accessed from Akaroa and how much climbing is involved. Solid red lines show the gentle walks. Dashed lines indicate the more challenging tramps, which involve climbing, rougher surfaces and require a greater level of fitness. Black lines show sealed roads and brown lines gravel roads. Where walks are routed on roads, these are generally very quiet with low traffic levels, but listen for vehicles and get off the road as they approach. **Mountain bikes are not permitted on off-road tracks except where indicated.**

Signposting is patchy in places, and varied in style. Once you have selected your route using this map, take the brochure with you and follow the detailed directions and map for your walk.

Please read the safety notes below the main map and the etiquette notes on the back of the brochure. These walks are available due to the generosity of our landowners, who in return expect walkers to respect their property and farm or conservation operations.

Finally, choose a route that is appropriate for your ability and weather conditions on the day and prepare well.



Easy tramping on well formed track



Walking on formed track, some up and down hill, maybe muddy



Mountain bikes permitted, medium grade



Mountains bikes not permitted



Tramping on unformed track with prolonged up and downhill



Dogs permitted under effective control



Dogs on leads only



Dogs prohibited

ETIQUETTE ON THE AKAROA COUNTRY WALKS

Most routes cross private farms or land managed by private trusts. If you see the owner, staff or volunteers, please thank them for the privilege of walking on their land. Continued access relies on you behaving responsibly and treating properties with respect.

Toilets – Most walks do NOT have toilets. Toilets are only available at Heritage Park and Brocheries Road. Take this into account before departing, and if caught short ensure any human waste is well off the tracks and completely buried. Leaving tissue paper around is totally unacceptable.

Rubbish – Bins are NOT provided. Check for litter and carry all rubbish out with you.

Dogs – Respect the dog regulations applying to your chosen walk, keep dogs under strict control and remove all faeces.

Mountain bikes – NOT permitted on off-road tracks except where indicated. Give way to walkers on shared use tracks.

Fires – Absolutely no fires are to be lit anywhere on walks, including stoves and billy boiling. No Smoking along tracks.

Farm animals – You are likely to encounter sheep and cattle grazing on most of these walks. Please give them plenty of space and go past them quietly.

Gates – Leave gates as you find them. In groups – please ensure people at the front wait for those behind, or shut gates that were shut. Use stiles where provided and climb gates at hinge end.

Keep to public routes – Access to private land and reserves is on the routes described only. You do not have permission to wander at random or look in buildings.

Track closures – Please stay off tracks when closed for lambing or other reasons.

Respect biodiversity – Take care not to tread on rare plants. Leave plants and animals where you find them.



This brochure is produced by the Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust. The Trust's vision is to create a thriving and enduring ecosystem of trails and regenerating landscapes on Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū Banks Peninsula.

Purchase of this brochure helps to fund the work of the Trust.

Read about the Trust at
www.rodDonaldtrust.co.nz



Exploring the volcano

The Akaroa volcano commenced about 9 million years ago and activity continued sporadically for 3 million years. The main magma vent was under Ōnawe Peninsula, the distinctive landform bisecting the upper reaches of the harbour. The dome of Stony Bay Peak above Akaroa village was a late formation created when trachyte lava oozed up through cracks in the existing cone. There are good views of these features on most of the walks.

Once volcanic activity ceased, the processes of erosion dominated. The hills were whittled to half their original height as streams carved out the radial pattern of valleys and bays. Eventually the sea broke through the weakest point in the crater rim to create Akaroa harbour. The extinct volcano stood as an island until about 20,000 years ago. Then the Canterbury Plain - continually extending as debris washed down from the Southern Alps - finally reached it and turned the island into a peninsula.

During the last ice age, alpine glaciers deposited fine dust into riverbeds on the plain. Strong winds picked this up and blew it over the peninsula, where it formed a layer of pale clay – called loess soil – over the volcanic rock. This can be very slippery to walk on after rain.

The hills were once cloaked in dense forest which thrived on the fertile volcanic and loess soil.

Humans in the crater

The Waitaha people were the first humans to arrive approximately 800 years ago. The forest and sea were so lush with food resources that they named the place Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū – the food storehouse of their great ancestor. Stories tell of how the ancestor Rākaihautū carved out the South Island's lakes with his giant digging stick, Tuhiraki. When finished, he buried Tuhiraki in these hills, creating the rocky peak (Mt. Bossu) that dominates the southern end of the crater rim above Wainui.

European settlers arrived in the mid 19th century and soon began logging on a commercial scale, making extensive use of fire to create open pastureland. By 1900 the hills were shorn bare, with less than 1% of the forest left. Since then a mix of exotic tree planting and native bush regeneration have restored a patchwork of vegetation to the hills. Today the local community and landowners are working hard to protect the original forest remnants and encourage native regeneration. Hinewai Reserve, accessible via the Skyline Circuit and Round the Mountain tracks, is a leader in this process.

Behind Akaroa – routes and options

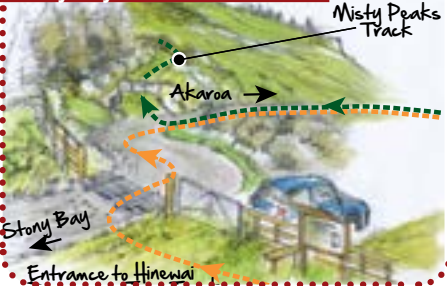
Tracks up the hills behind Akaroa offer many different interconnecting options. Follow one of the full routes suggested in this brochure, combine routes for longer walks or shorten walks by driving to upland trail heads and doing part only.

Upland Trail Heads

Stony Bay Trail Head (unsuitable for campervans)

Drive up Rue Balguerie and then Stony Bay Road. Access easy walk along Misty Peaks ridgeline or Tara Track for the easiest route up Stony Bay Peak (about 1.5 hours return).

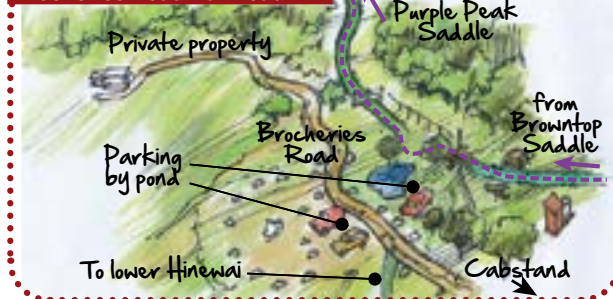
Stony Bay Road trail head



Birdseye view of hills behind Akaroa



Brocherries Road trail head



Brocherries Road trail head – suitable all vehicles

Gives access to Stony Bay Peak, Hinewai Reserve and upper Purple Peak Curry Reserve.

Driving directions: From SH75 take Long Bay Road and drive to Cabstand junction at the top. Turn right onto Brocherries Road. Drive slowly along this narrow gravel road. Car park is 1.6km further along. The walk from car park to Purple Peak Saddle takes 15 minutes. From the Saddle you can make a 2 hour circular tramp up Stony Bay Peak returning down Tara and Paripai tracks. Good fitness required.

For a shorter ridgetop experience, climb to Browntop Saddle through Purple Peak Curry Reserve (20 mins return on good track). For longer walks or in low cloud head downhill from the car park to lower Hinewai Reserve. Pick up a Hinewai brochure before you go, or get one at the reserve entrance.

Nettle Creek junction



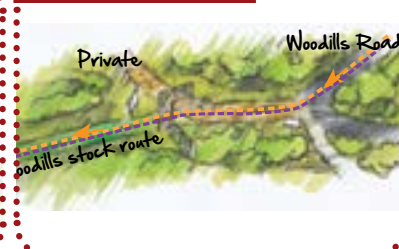
Upper Tree Crop gate



Upper Tree Crop Gate

Continue uphill to Heritage Park or branch right through gate to continue on Woodills North.

Woodills trail head



Woodills trail head

No Parking. Go straight ahead when Woodills Road bends left.



WOODILLS NORTH



2 hours circular
5 km, 280 m climb.

Stream crossing on stepping stones at Tree Crop Farm. Avoid after heavy rain or be prepared to get wet feet.

2½ hours circular
5½ km combined with Woodills South

Delightful pastoral walk winding high up Grehan Valley behind Akaroa past small farms and patches of native bush with wonderful views of the valley and harbour.

Directions: Start in north Akaroa on Woodills Road. The road goes up a steep hill and then levels out bending sharp left. Leave the sealed road at this bend going straight ahead on a gravel track leading to the trail head and stock route, a grassy track bounded by two fences. Take care not to touch the native stinging nettle along this track.

The track starts off gently through open country and bush with valley views.

Keep right when a farm track branches off and then cross two little streams. After the second stream the track goes uphill staying between the two fences and then past a row of enormous stumps and logs to arrive at the Happy Hollow farm gate. Bear right here, go over a stile and carry on uphill.

When you reach a stile signposted as Woodills North shortcut you can either cross over it to go direct to Tree Crop Farm, or stay between the two fences and carry on uphill for a longer walk with better views. If you carry on up you will reach the upper Tree Crop Farm gate. At this point you can go through the gate to stay on Woodills North or continue up to Heritage Park, another 5 minutes of climbing and a rewarding side trip.

To continue on Woodills North, go through the Tree Crop Farm gate and follow the route marked with poles down until you reach a T junction with a farm track; turn left here. The track from the shortcut stile joins the main route here.

Now follow the farm track through a logged area until it emerges on a grassy hill and then winds down through a rustic rose arbour to the Grehan Stream. Cross the stream on boulder stepping stones, taking care particularly if the stones are wet. There is a toilet and water available to walkers at Tree Crop Farm cottage if needed.

From Tree Crop Farm it is a 20 minute walk down Grehan Valley Road back to Akaroa. Alternatively, cross the road and return via Woodills South Track, which will take 55 minutes. Either way, be alert for vehicles and keep to the verge on the roads.



WOODILLS SOUTH



1½ hours circular
4½ km, 200 m climb
2½ hours circular,
5½ km when combined
with Woodills North

A relatively gentle tramp including two of Akaroa's most historic streets and a country track with lovely views. Also makes a good extension to Woodills North and dogs are now allowed on both.

Directions: For walkers doing Woodills South only, depart from Akaroa on Rue Grehan, where you pass many charming cottages and gardens. Carry on until you reach Tree Crop Farm.

On the right, immediately past Tree Crop Farm is a stile marked Woodills South. Woodills North joins at this point.

Follow the pole markers on this property, under walnut trees, and then up-hill through tall stands of kānuka and regenerating bush until you reach open grassland and a stile at the end of the paddock.

Climb over the stile and return down the hill to Akaroa on the gravel road, keeping to the left when another gravel road branches off. The road soon turns to tarseal and goes past various entrances to Mount Vernon lodge. Listen for vehicles and step well off the road and onto the verge if you hear one coming.

You will emerge on Rue Balguerie, opposite Nettle Creek studio, well worth visiting to see the unique work of local artisan Dave Walker if he is there. After stopping at the studio, make your way down Rue Balguerie, another of Akaroa's most charming old streets, back to the town centre.

Watch for Ongaonga - Stinging Nettle

Look out for Ongaonga, the New Zealand native nettle, as you walk the tracks. This raggedy shrub grows in regenerating forest areas alongside tracks where there is more light. It can range in size from a small young plant up to 2 m tall.

The white hairs and stems give a painful sting even if you only brush against it and a large number of stings can be dangerous. It is particularly prevalent along Woodills North and South.

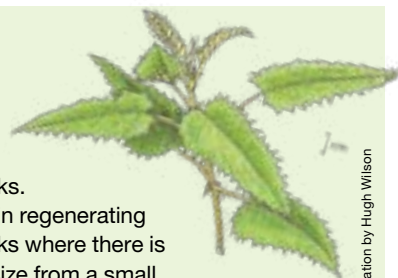
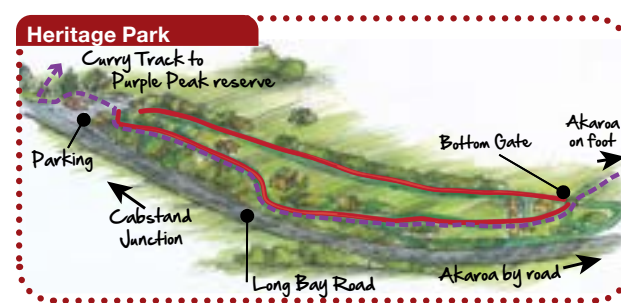


Illustration by Hugh Wilson



Heritage Park and car park trail head

Walk to Heritage Park following Woodills North or drive there on Long Bay Road.



HERITAGE PARK



20 minutes circular

Walk or drive to the park, view the commemorative tree plantings and enjoy the fabulous views over Akaroa harbour. Allow extra time for a picnic.

Directions: Walk to the park on the Woodills North Track and continue up past Tree Crop Farm for another five minutes to arrive at the bottom gate. To reach the park by car, take SH75 from Akaroa and turn right up the Long Bay Road. The Heritage Park is 2½ kms on the right.



A network of little tracks take you around the park where you can see the various commemorative plantings. There are picnic tables near the road entrance and a shelter at the bottom gate. Don't miss the superb viewpoint featuring a carved Tekoteko and map of the harbour.

Planting a tree in the Heritage Park

Established in 1992, the Heritage Park occupies a dramatic site high above Akaroa. The Park is managed by a local Trust and gives people the opportunity to plant a commemorative tree to celebrate any event or special occasion. The trees are recorded in the Park's record book, held at the Akaroa Library, and include a photograph of the tree being planted and the reason for planting. Once planted the trees are looked after by the Trust volunteers. If you would like to plant a tree, check out the book at the Library for details on how to contact the Trust.

4

ROUND THE MOUNTAIN via CURRY TRACK



2½-5 hour options

9.5km

600m climb

Easier options: 2.5

hours circular walk from Akaroa returning via Grehan Valley or drive to Heritage Park and loop back up through Tree Crop Farm

Longer options

6-7 hours adding Stony Bay Peak or add a side trip to lower Hinewai Reserve

When you reach Hoheria Junction, you can turn right signposted Rue Grehan if you want to make the shorter walk. The return to Akaroa village will take about 1 hour, or you can loop back up to Heritage Park via Woodills North at Tree Crop Farm.

To continue on the full Round the Mountain bear left on Curry Track to reach Kowhai knoll viewpoint and then the giant Matai and Kahikatea trees. The side track to the site of Captain Frank Worsley's childhood home is well worth taking.

After the Worsley junction, Curry Track climbs through more open country with regenerating kānuka and then gorse to reach Browntop Saddle on the summit ridgeline. Take the sidetrack to visit Skyline Beech lookout or stay on the main track to Brocherries Road car park, where there is a picnic area and toilet.

At Brocherries car park you have well signposted choices. Turn left to explore lower Hinewai Reserve or turn right signposted Akaroa to complete Round the Mountain. It takes about 15 minutes on the Akaroa track to reach Purple Peak Saddle. From here follow the Purple Peak Stock Route down to Akaroa ending up on Rue Balguerrie. In fine weather you can add a 1.5 hour circuit from Purple Peak Saddle up Stony Bay Peak and use Paripai track (see Skyline Circuit route 5) to rejoin the Purple Peak Stock route back to Akaroa.

Akaroa's best full day circuit climbing to the summit ridgeline through the new Purple Peak Curry Reserve on lovely Curry Track, with shorter and longer options.

Directions: Follow the directions given under Woodills Track North (route 1) to Heritage Park. Continue through the park to the car park at its upper entrance. You can also drive to Heritage Park on Long Bay Road. Curry Track starts with a ladder stile tucked in the hedge at the upper side of the car park. The track crosses the paddock and then sidles along the bush margin. You are on private farmland here, so stick to the marked track and do not walk on the nearby airstrip. Soon you descend to the Purple Peak Curry Reserve entrance with bush dominated by large fuchsia with the orange fawn papery bark.

Purple Peak Curry Reserve

A mix of remnant old growth and regenerating native forest and beautiful views characterise this new 192 hectare reserve above Akaroa. Purchased from the Curry family in 2015, the reserve incorporates Akaroa's main water catchment.

Well-marked walking tracks with many points of interest create connections from Heritage Park, Grehan Valley and over the Purple Peak summit ridgeline to join long established Hinewai Reserve in the Otanerito valley.

Botanist Hugh Wilson and his team from Hinewai also manage this reserve for the protection of vegetation, wildlife and water. Visitors are welcomed, but must recognise that conservation comes first. Please make use of toilets provided at Heritage Park or Brocherries Road and keep strictly to the marked tracks to ensure the waterways are not contaminated. Dogs and mountain bikes are not permitted.

Like most of Banks Peninsula, this area was once covered in dense native forest, cleared in this case by the pioneering Curry family who acquired most of the property in the 1870s. They ran a dairy farm, and later grazed sheep, but the bush began to slowly regenerate, spearheaded by kānuka, which copes with competition from grass and is unpalatable to stock.

On upper slopes yellow flowering gorse has also taken hold. While gorse is a problem for pastoral farmers, it assists native regeneration by providing a nurse canopy. With grazing stock now removed, natives will rapidly regenerate and soon smother the gorse, enabling a diverse forest with a rich undergrowth to recolonise the property. Management of the reserve focusses on facilitating this natural process. Reserve parking at Brocherries Road, Heritage Park or Grehan Valley just past Tree Crop Farm. To walk from Akaroa see Round the Mountain Curry Track.



The site of hero Frank Worsley's childhood home is marked with an interesting panel.

5

SKYLINE CIRCUIT



4-7 hours circular,

Shorter options from Trail Head carparks.

11km

800m climb

Easier options: drive to Brocherries Trail Head for 2 hour circular peak climb or drive to Stony Bay Road Trail Head for a 1.5 hour there and back peak climb

Longer options

5½ to 8½ circular walk with return on Misty Peaks

A spectacular full day hike to upper Hinewai Reserve including Stony Bay Peak summit and the Skyline ridge with lots of options.

Directions: The full Skyline circuit starts in Akaroa at Rue Balguerrie. Follow this historic street to Nettle Creek Studio and make sure to turn left up Purple Peak Road (see Nettle Creek junction illustration above). Go past Mt. Vernon to Purple Peak stock route, a wide track between two fences. Follow the track uphill, through trees and then open grassland. Eventually, after passing a metal water tank, you reach a gate and stile. The track narrows climbing through a rocky area with a steep drop-off.

When you reach the Paripai Track junction, go straight ahead for the main Skyline circuit route to Purple Peak

Saddle. For a shorter route take Paripai Track straight to the ridgeline and skip the peak climb – recommended in low cloud.

At Purple Peak Saddle turn right onto Summit Track to enter the highest part of Hinewai. Round the Mountain walkers join here. Climb steeply through scrub and tussock on a rough track marked with arrows, up the side and then bearing left losing the view of the harbour. When you reach the summit plateau follow the track to the cliff top for harbour views again and the start of Tara Track. Follow Tara Track to the junction with Paripai Track.

Now if you intend to return on Stony Bay Road or continue to Misty Peaks stay on Tara Track. To return to Purple Peak stock route turn right onto Paripai track. If you stay on Tara Track make sure you turn left after crossing the next stile to reach Stony Bay Road. At Stony Bay Road Trail Head turn right. Returning to Akaroa on Stony Bay Road takes 2 hours.

To continue on to Misty Peaks walk 100m down Stony Bay Road towards Akaroa to the Misty Peaks Reserve entrance. To return via Misty Peaks to Newtons Waterfall stay below the pine forest (2 hours). Be aware this is a pole marked route and very steep in places. For a longer less steep return, branch left at the pine forest and return via Lighthouse Road (3½ hours).

6

MISTY PEAKS



16kms 5-7 hour circular tramp from Akaroa with 740m climb or challenging mountain bike ride

4kms 2 hour return option from Stony Bay Trail Head

Combine with Skyline Circuit for the best tramp

A stiff climb through Misty Peaks Reserve on foot, or reach the summit ridge line track by bike or car.

Directions: Tramp from Akaroa: Follow Track 7 for Newtons Falls. Just before the waterfall (worth a quick detour) turn left up a steep track marked with orange topped poles. Follow the marked route along the bush line eventually emerging high above Akaroa on open grassy slopes. Continue up through open pasture veering left after scrambling past a rocky outcrop to the edge of the pine forest. Now relax on a wide grassy path skirting below the forest and enjoy sweeping views over the harbour.

Soon after the forest ends you reach a junction. Turn right up hill to take the Misty Peaks Track to Lighthouse Road, or continue straight ahead to Stony Bay Trail Head. Returning to Akaroa via Stony Bay Peak and Purple Peak Track makes an excellent option.

Misty Peaks Track to Lighthouse Road For those continuing on Misty Peaks, follow the wide track over the ridgeline, through a metal gate (it may be open) and down the eastern side with views over the open ocean and Flea Bay. You lose about 100 m in altitude before the track rounds a bluff and climbs again to reach the ridgeline south of the Ōteauheke/Brasenose summit. Follow the farm track to Flea Bay Road. Walk up Flea Bay Road to Lighthouse Road and down Lighthouse Road back to Akaroa.

Directions: Mountain bike from Akaroa: For a challenging ride head up Rue Balguerue and straight on up steep Stony Bay Road. About 100m before you reach the top, look out for the Misty Peaks Reserve entrance at a farm gate on the right. Follow the farm track and bear left when you reach the junction taking the Misty Peaks Track to Lighthouse Road route described above. No mountain bikes to ride down track to Aylmers Valley.

Directions: Easy tramp on the tops: Drive up Rue Balguerue to Stony Bay Road trail head. Park and walk 100m back down the road to Misty Peaks Reserve entrance. Follow farm track bearing left when you reach the junction for an easy upland there and back walk on the Misty Peaks to Lighthouse Road section described above.

7

NEWTONS FALLS



1 hour return
3 km 175 m climb
(gentle)

Easy option: drive to road end for 10 min walk to falls

A delightful walk past charming cottages and along a quiet lane to a waterfall beauty spot.

Directions: Walk up Rue Jolie past the school. Turn left onto Bruce Terrace and after a little bridge turn left again onto Percy Street where you will pass many lovely cottages.

Turn left when you reach Aylmers Valley Road. Now follow this quiet gravel road

for 1 km to its end at the lower entrance to Misty Peaks Reserve.

Lower Misty Peaks trail head



If you prefer to drive, there is a small parking area at the end of Aylmers Valley Road.

At the reserve entrance, walk through the metal gate and along a farm track.

Bush Track



Then after going over a stile, branch right and then almost immediately sharp right again into the bush on a small track signalled by an

orange marker. In another few minutes you will reach the falls. Take care on the bush track after rain as it will be slippery.

A former beauty spot re-opens

Newtons Falls was such a popular beauty spot that it was put forward for protection as a reserve under New Zealand's first Scenery Preservation Act in 1906. However, it was passed over, and some time later, being on private land, it was closed to public access. In a twist of fate the land was purchased by Christchurch City Council in 2007 to create Misty Peaks Reserve, enabling public access to be restored a century later.

Whose land am I on?

The routes described in this brochure cross land that is owned and managed by different people. You will find that track signage is patchy and can vary in style, even on a single walk.

Childrens Bay Farm, Woodills North and South: These routes traverse private farm land whose owners, very generously allow the public onto their properties to share their love for the area. Please respect their generosity by sticking to the routes described in the brochure and ensuring you leave the property as you found it. Expect to encounter farm animals and occasionally farming operations in progress.

Hinewai Reserve: Stony Bay Peak is the upper part of the privately owned Hinewai reserve. The lower part occupies most of the Otanerito and Stony Bay valleys on the Pacific side of the ridgeline. Before exploring Hinewai, obtain the separate brochure from the Akaroa Information Centre or download from hinewai.org.nz. Hinewai includes old growth forest and much regenerating forest. Under the skilled management of botanist Hugh Wilson, Hinewai has demonstrated how block infestations of the invasive weeds gorse and broom can act as nature's nursery by providing a canopy cover protecting native bush growing from naturally spread seed. From upper Hinewai you can observe how regenerating native bush below is topping out large areas of gorse and broom, depriving these sun-loving weeds of light and rapidly replacing them.

Purple Peak Curry Reserve: Curry Track is in this new reserve purchased by NZ Native Forest Restoration Trust with assistance from Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust and Christchurch City Council. The reserve is managed by the team from neighbouring Hinewai using similar principles.

Heritage Park: The park is on Christchurch City Council land, and managed by a Trust of local volunteers.

Misty Peaks: Christchurch City Council purchased this farm to create a new reserve in 2007. Most of it is leased out as a working farm while Council ranger staff develop more recreational opportunities. Please stay on the routes described to avoid disturbing farm operations.

Stock routes: The Woodills and Purple Peak double fence tracks are used by local farmers for droving stock and occasional grazing, and the ranger team mow the tracks.

Children's Bay Farm Walkway



1 hour there and back
(2.4 km) to Rhino
viewpoint 160 m climb
3 to 4 hours circuit
including Takamatua
and/or Moa Point

Childrens Bay farm offers beautiful views and intriguing sculptures on well-marked tracks with lots of options. Walk to the Rhino, continue out on the headland to Moa Point or make a circuit via Takamatua. Allow 4 hours to explore the whole headland.

Directions: The track starts at the end of the Recreation Ground car park past the boat storage compound and under the Ngaio Trees. Follow it to a

boardwalk and at the end, turn left on the gravel road.

Shortly you come to Childrens Bay. The Walkway to the Rhino starts on the right just before the white bridge. You are now on private farmland, so please respect the owners' generosity in allowing you to be here. Dogs are permitted but must be on leads at all times, keep to the marked track, and give farm animals plenty of space.

The track climbs through bush and past the giraffe sculptures and eventually ends at a stile. The rhino sculpture ahead marks the crest of the hill.

Options onward from the Rhino are either:

- Continue exploring the headland
- Make a circuit via Takamatua

Continue exploring the headland Turn uphill from the Rhino and follow the track over a narrow cattle stop and onto a formed track past big water tanks. The track turns left off the gravel road to arrive at the Old Machines Junction.

At Old Machines Junction fork right for Takamatua or to access the lower track to Moa Point. Fork left to reach the highest point on the headland and then on to Shaun the Sheep junction. Moa Point is well worth a visit either way.

At low tide you can return from Shaun the Sheep to Akaroa via the foreshore to Children's Bay. At high tide or if unsure make a circuit back to Old Machines Junction. From there return to Akaroa via the Rhino or continue to Takamatua, joining the more direct route from the Rhino where it exits the farm.

Make a circuit via Takamatua To continue from the Rhino to Takamatua, follow the markers down the hill. The track bears west through gorse and planted redwoods and mānuka. After crossing the stile into grazed pasture keep left along the fence until you join a farm track. Turn right up the hill where the farm

Childrens Bay Farm Walkway



track seems to peter out. Soon you pick it up again and turn left when it meets another farm track well above the houses, heading west toward a line of eucalypts.

Exit the farm, follow the road down and turn right along Kotare Lane. Just past some large water tanks, take the steps on the left down into a reserve. Continue down through the bush to a gravel track at the bottom. Turn right and then left on the sealed road to the waterfront. Here you will find toilets, Takamatua jetty, and a lovely spot to swim and picnic.

To return to Akaroa, follow the road around the bay and then turn right towards the main highway and right again up Old French Road. If cows are grazing duck under the single electric fence strand, taking care not to touch it. When you reach the top of the hill turn right along a gravel track. Take the right fork and follow it back to the Rhino. Now retrace your steps back to Akaroa.

Sculpture animals

On the first part of the Children's Bay Farm Walkway you will encounter a variety of sculptures. Look carefully to find the wily crocodile lurking in the bush on the lower slopes. The giraffes and crocodile were made in Zimbabwe from recycled oil drums. The magnificent rhino on the ridge is constructed of agricultural parts by Chris Meder of Dunedin.

Farm animals

From the rhino paddock onwards you will see the equally magnificent Black Angus cattle grazing as the farm is a breeding unit for top quality beef. Farming is taking place alongside conservation work. While the open paddocks are grazed, stream gullies are fenced and increasingly filled with native bush, both planted and naturally regenerating.