

Dunedin walking tracks



My two cents

The Silverpeaks are only 20 minutes drive from Dunedin and have given many people their first tramping experience, which has led them on to the Southern Alps and larger adventures. The new Jubilee Hut is a fantastic new facility, which may greatly increase the popularity of the area.

- Antony Hamel



Digging deeper...

Guides such as 'From Sea to Silver Peaks' by Graham Bishop and Antony Hamel and those found on the Dunedin City Council website give you every opportunity to explore the tracks of the city and its surrounds.



Local nuggets

Sullivans Dam, near the top of Leith Valley Road, is set amongst regenerating bush and grassland. It is a great place for a walk, fishing or a picnic.

Silverstream Valley has a superb network of tracks for walkers and trampers of all abilities in a wonderfully tranquil bush setting. Several tracks follow old water races built in the late 1800s to supply water for the rapidly expanding city of Dunedin.

Just 5km from the Octagon is the start of the Pineapple track, which climbs up to Flagstaff summit. The tradition of sharing a tin of pineapple, provided by a grocer who guided groups up the track, is how this track got its curious name.

The lower part of the Pineapple track climbs up the hill through forest and regenerating bush, while the upper part is set among snow tussock and flax. On a clear day you are rewarded with unobstructed views over the greater Dunedin area. This is one of the very many walking tracks found within the Dunedin City boundary.

The Ross Creek reservoir is an extremely popular place for walkers and runners. Accessible from many places, the network of tracks around the main reservoir can keep people busy for hours. The very well maintained tracks offer the chance to get into the native bush, hear the chorus of birdsong and explore some early Dunedin history. The dam, which is one of the oldest in New Zealand still in use, celebrated its 140th birthday in 2007.

The hills to the northwest of Dunedin, including Flagstaff, Mount Cargill, Swampy and the Silverpeaks are linked through a vast network of walking tracks. The tops of the hills are tussock-covered and very exposed to the elements while the valleys on the slopes are forested. The tracks exploring this rich variety of landscapes and wildlife are quite challenging but well worth the effort. Be sure to go prepared for all weather as it can turn quickly from sunny and warm to bitterly cold and wet.



Getting some exercise in the Ross Creek reservoir area



Walking through the tussock-covered Silverpeaks

