

# 1 BIRDS & BEACHES

This glorious circular route takes in several stunning white sand beaches and small coves with ample birding opportunities. Historical features add to the interest en-route so there are many delightful places to rest awhile and enjoy a snack, whilst taking in the views and surroundings.

The terrain is uneven underfoot with scrambles up and down sand dunes and rocky areas, but the route climbs no higher than around 30m above sea level.

## Main route

The walk begins and ends at Hooker's Point, alongside the HMS Glamorgan memorial with space for parking or an easy taxi drop-off from central Stanley.

Follow the vehicle track away from Surf Bay to the Airport Road. At the road, turn right and walk along it for a short distance before taking a track to the left which leads up a slight hill to the "Canopus Guns". These are easily seen on the immediate horizon. Continue from the guns in a westerly direction to a big metal eagle on a rock (Black Eagle Camp) and then down towards the Lady Elizabeth shipwreck in Whalebone Cove.

Turn to the right to walk a short distance around the coastline, passing the wreck of the Plym then routing up and over the hill in a roughly northerly direction. Over the brow of the hill turn left on to the part tarmac-part gravel track which leads to the parking area for Gypsy Cove. Walk downhill, look for a well-defined track leading to the right and on to the expansive Yorke Bay. Once on the beach make another right turn to head east. Take care not to disturb any penguins encountered; keep a clear distance from them (6m is the recommended minimum). Yorke Bay and the north coast are recently de-mined areas.

Follow the coastline as the tide permits, taking in the bluffs and headlands as wished along the northerly shores of the Cape Pembroke peninsula. Be aware that from time to time there may be very soft sand or quicksand – look out for and take notice of signage. Scrambling through rocks and sliding up and down the sand dunes is inevitable at some point.

A gravel road runs along the main part of the north coast and provides easier walking conditions but the shoreline itself offers picturesque, sheltered bays with birdlife and better chances of spotting dolphins. On reaching the lighthouse, take some time to explore the surrounding area.



Walking the dunes



Riding the waves

The southern coastline meanders back to Surf Bay. Look out for a grassy track which makes the walking easier. Again, there is a scramble through the rocks to reach the eastern end of the beach or continue along the tracks across the headland for an easier route. A narrow path leads off the south-western end of the beach, through the marram grass, to return to the memorial.

## Walk further

In summer months, on a beautiful day, this added section is likely to provide views of Magellanic penguins. Instead of routing north over the hill after the Plym, follow the coastline around the peninsula in a westerly direction. Stay with the coastline, even if other tracks lead off to the right and continue to Engineer Point which marks the entrance to the harbour, named the Narrows and just 300 m wide.

At Engineer Point, the path bears right to head uphill then drops down to Hadassah Bay. When penguins are present, circuit the tussac grass (there is a vehicle track running in the right direction which is easily joined) to avoid undue disturbance. Walk to the rocky outcrop on the corner by the shore.

The track continues a little further inland to Ordnance Point and then bends right, after the Second World War gun to overlook Gypsy Cove beach. Be sure to follow the inland track and do not



Grass wren



Kelp

stray through the tussac or to cliff edges as there is a danger of falling. The gravel path then leads onto the carpark from where Yorke Bay can be seen and the route picked up to continue around the coast.

Allow another hour for this scenic add-on.

### Tips:

- ▶ Paddling is often irresistible – come prepared!
- ▶ Good footwear is essential



## Countryside Code

Our Islands for all to enjoy. Help us protect them by:

1. Always ask for permission before entering private land.
2. Keep to paths wherever possible. Leave gates, open or shut, as you find them.
3. Be aware of the high fire risk throughout the islands; particularly when lighting fires, BBQs or smoking.
4. Do not litter\*. Take your rubbish home with you or use a bin provided
5. Never feed, touch, handle, injure or kill any wild bird or animal\*.
6. Always give animals the right of way. Do not block the routes of birds or animals coming home to their colonies. Do not startle or chase wildlife from resting or breeding areas\*.
7. Prevent disturbance to wild birds and animals. Always stay on the outside of colonies, remain at least 6 m (20 ft) away.
8. When taking photographs or filming, stay low to the ground. Move slowly and quietly. Make sure your flash is turned off\*. Always be aware of the location of your camera and equipment, including "selfie-sticks". Do not use this to get closer to wildlife.
9. Some plants are protected and should not be picked\*. Wildflowers are there for all to enjoy.
10. Whalebones, skulls, eggs, etc. may not be exported from the Falkland Islands\*. They should be left where they are found.
11. Do not disfigure rocks or buildings\*.

\*Such actions may constitute an offence in the Falkland Islands and could result in significant fines.

## Stay Safe

Always tell someone where you are going with an estimated return time. Ensure you have plenty to eat and drink. Wear layers of clothing to allow for changing weather conditions.

Please respect fences, stepping over or through the wires not onto them, and leave all gates as found; they are there for a reason!

Following the hard work of the de-mining teams, the Falklands are now mine-free. In the extremely unlikely event of finding any suspect item, photograph, log and mark the position. Inform the landowners and/or the Royal Falkland Police on 28100. DO NOT touch the object.

# Self-Guided WALKS

FROM SURF BAY



### Flora & Fauna highlights

- |                                       |                        |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Diddle dee                            | Falkland pipit         |
| Pale maiden                           | Gentoo penguin         |
| Pig vine                              | Grass wren             |
| Sea cabbage                           | Kelp goose             |
| Scurvy grass                          | Long-tailed meadowlark |
| Teaberry                              | Magellanic penguin     |
| Blackish and Magellanic oystercatcher | Magellanic snipe       |
| Dolphin gull                          | Southern giant petrel  |
| Falkland steamer duck                 | Two-banded plover      |
|                                       | Upland goose           |



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Self-Guided

# WALKS

FROM SURF BAY

Surf Bay needs little introduction as a beautiful white expanse of sand, perfect for all kinds of sea-side enjoyment. It is also an ideal location to begin walks to explore nearby areas. Strike off in any number of ways to discover wildlife, history and heritage. Follow these suggestions and then create variations of your own!





Distance: 1.25 km Time: 30 – 40 minutes  
Terrain: Moderate/challenging

## 2 EXPLORE HOOKER'S POINT

It's easy to overlook Hooker's Point, but this is the perfect area for a short walk to enjoy beautiful views whilst looking out for birds and marine mammals. Nearby is the memorial for HMS Glamorgan with a bench to sit and pause a while. The relaxing sound of the sea is always present; it's lovely to just stop and listen.

The terrain is uneven underfoot, but the route climbs no higher than around 30m above sea level.

### Main route

Take a taxi drop off or park at the obvious entrance to the beach, by the "no access" sign.

Walk on to Surf Bay at this point to enjoy the white sand, kelp and look out for small birds at the edge of the surf and the dunes. Dolphin-spotting is a "must" throughout the walk. Turn right and head to the southern end of the beach. It's a fairly easy scramble up a low area of rocks and a left-turn onto a well-worn path on Hooker's Point but, for those who prefer not to scramble, there's a path through the marram grass to the right; then walk around the dunes to pick up the path out towards the point on the north side.

There are a few options of tracks to follow. The lower tracks drop down to sheltered, stony coves where marine mammals sometimes bask onshore. Please keep a safe distance. (6m is the recommended minimum.) Towards the end of the walkable area there are good views to colonies of rock cormorants.

Follow the tracks to return on the south side. Again, there are choices of routes; take care on the lower paths as they sometimes fall away; be sure to have a safe place to tread. Look out to sea for possible whale-blows.

As the end of the point nears, a pebbly bay and the HMS Glamorgan memorial appear in view. Drop down to the bay and listen to the comforting sounds of the sea and birds calling before continuing up and round to the memorial.

Return to the start point via the beach, taking the path through the marram grass, or along the vehicle track.

### Walk further

Add in Surf Bay itself! A walk to the north-eastern end is always exhilarating and if the tide is low there are delightful sandy coves along from the main area of the beach. This will probably take around the same time as the main route; it's easier walking but at least 1.5km.



Thrift

Distance: 10 km Time: 2 - 3 hours Terrain: Moderate

## 3 SHORELINES AND RIDGES

This figure-of-eight route affords lovely views towards Stanley, the lighthouse, the Lady Elizabeth shipwreck and across beautiful white, sand beaches. It combines some of Stanley's less frequented shorelines with a stretch along a low ridgeline and takes in a number of interesting, historical features including a memorial cairn, a black eagle and the "Canopus Guns".

The terrain is uneven underfoot at times but there are paths and vehicle tracks to follow for the most part. There are short uphill and downhill sections but the highest point is less than 70m.

### Main route

This circular route begins and ends at any point of Surf Bay. Parking or taxi drop off is easy, anywhere to the west side of the dunes.

Follow the vehicle track away from Surf Bay to the Airport Road. At the road, turn right and walk along it for a short distance before taking a track to the left. Walk through the gate, then continue along the low level vehicle track, roughly parallel to the coastline, heading in the direction of Stanley.

At Boxer Bridge, perhaps stopping first to consider the memorial on the right, cross over the road (not the bridge!) to keep walking in the same direction. There is a gravelled vehicle track for access to the boats which becomes a grassy track and then a coastal green. Turn right at the green, so continuing on around the peninsula, towards the Lady Elizabeth shipwreck in Whalebone Cove.

Stay with the path to bend round to the left and pass by the "Lady Liz" and then the remains of the Plym. Ignore signs to "Gypsy Cove", stay with the track and the coastline to pass the Samson. Keep walking parallel to the shore, heading for the "Narrows". This is a fairly long stretch, about 1.5km from the Plym. A large stile is reached, just before "Engineer's Point". Don't climb the stile, stay on the same side of the fence but turn sharp right to head uphill on a clear vehicle track.

### Tips:

- Allow sufficient time, take binoculars and a snack to relax and enjoy the sights and sounds at both beaches
- At Rookery Bay, try to discover the remains of the "Mon-Star Hotel", once a converted Second World War Officers Mess building



Lady Elizabeth



Southern Giant Petrel

As the top of the ridgeline is approached, the vehicle track splits. Take the right fork to continue towards the higher ground. At the top, pause to enjoy the view to Stanley before turning away to head east along the ridge. Keep fairly central, alongside a line of low rocks. There are excellent views to the lighthouse straight ahead and the "Lady Liz" to the right.

The vehicle track joins the gravel road and a sign for walkers, "To Stanley"; this points back down to the "Lady Liz". Take a few minutes to enjoy the view over Yorke Bay then follow the direction of the sign to return to Whalebone Cove.

Join the gravel road at any suitable point, turning left onto it and then right at the junction, aiming for Stanley Airport. As the airport is neared, a large metal eagle on a rock (Black Eagle Camp) comes into view on the ridge to the right. There is a clear track to it. Follow the track, admire the eagle, but pass to the left of it to the highest area of ground. Here the "Canopus Guns" should appear and a grass vehicle track leading to them. Once the guns are reached, the end point is in sight with wonderful views of Surf Bay. The track winds a way back; stay with it to walk on firmer ground and be aware that there are some deep trenches in this area.

### Walk shorter

From Whalebone Cove on the return route, there is a track over lower ground to leave out the black eagle and "Canopus Guns".

### Tips:

- Try it out in both directions to compare the views whilst walking!
- Allow additional time to enjoy the sands of Surf Bay itself

