

Distance: 3.3 km Time: 0.75 - 1 hr, plus fishing time
Terrain: Moderate/hard

3 HELL'S KITCHEN

This circular walk combines the pleasures of both fishing and walking. Alternatively, it's a lovely short trail for casual walkers or a "warm-up" before tackling Bodie Peak. There are beautiful views across to the Sussex farmhouse, the hills of West Falkland and a panoramic vista of the Sussex mountain range across to Mount Osborne. There is a delightful inlet for fishing as well as the black sand beach close to Trout Court cabin.

The terrain is a mix of shoreline, scrubland and vehicle tracks with some undulations and gradual slopes.

Main route

With Trout Court behind, turn right to follow the coast as it bends in a westerly direction. A black sand beach is quickly reached, followed by a wide green area with a fence-line entering the sea after just 1km of walking. Just before this fence-line, turn right, away from the shore and head uphill – there's a grass "path" between the ferns and diddle-dee to pick out for the easiest walking.

It's a convex hill but the top is reached with a vehicle track crossing from left-right (west-east) after around 200m of walking from the shore. Turn left along the track and negotiate the wire gate to continue along the track in a north-westerly direction. Take time to appreciate the views in all directions.

The track bends down to a pretty little inlet and an excellent fishing opportunity, after just 1.8km of walking.

To leave the inlet, the track can be re-traced to the wire-gate or follow the wide green valley which contours gradually, veering right to pick up the vehicle track and gate.

Tips:

- ▶ Plan to spend a little time in Hell's Kitchen – a scenic, sheltered area perfect to just relax.
- ▶ Be prepared to negotiate a wire-gate and look out for electrified fences.

Go through the gate and remain walking at this level. The track forks soon after; take the option to the right. Vehicle tracks become harder to follow but the cabin of Trout Court soon comes into view to assist with route finding.



Mussel shells



Long-tailed meadowlark



Night heron



Mountain berry



600 m

Distance: 2 km Time: 0.5 hr Terrain: Moderate/hard

1 TROUT COURT TEATIME TRAIL

This simple, out-and-back walk meanders along a coastline of black shingle beaches set below slopes of diddle-dee and balsam bog, to reveal views to the Sussex farmhouse, all accompanied by the gentle sounds of the waves lapping the shores.

The walk is flat but the beaches are a mix of shingle with some larger rocks and stones.

Main route

With Trout Court behind, turn right to follow the coast as it bends in a westerly direction. Navigation is simple but the terrain underfoot is variable and tide dependent! A black shingle beach is reached, followed by a wide green area with a fence-line entering the sea after just 1km of walking. Enjoy the views and sounds of the sea before returning by the same route.

Walk further

If the tide is sufficiently low, sure-footed walkers can continue along the coast, beyond the fence-line. There are interesting cliffs, interspersed with areas of green, small creeks and the possibility of seeing nesting peregrines as well as plenty of upland geese. Take care as the route becomes more difficult underfoot and watch the tide, turning back if conditions appear unsafe in any way or on reaching the inlet for Hell's Kitchen - and certainly in time for tea!

Tips:

- ▶ Those keen to start fishing should take suitable equipment.
- ▶ There's a lovely flat area to sit and enjoy the outdoors.



Trout Court



Fishing

Distance: 4 km Time: 0.75 - 1 hr Terrain: Hard

2 SCURVY GRASS SNUG SETTLE-IN STROLL

This lovely little, out-and-back walk is the perfect opener to a stay at Scurvy Grass Snug. There are beautiful views, on a clear day stretching to West Falkland, as well as delightful coves to explore and a pretty coastline with birdlife and flora to enjoy. Look out also for Commerson's dolphins, seals and, in the summer, sei whales.

The walk is undulating but not onerous, traversing scrubland and close to low cliff edges.

Main route

With Scurvy Grass Snug behind, turn right to follow the coast in a westerly direction. It's easy to navigate, hugging the coastline, but take care to choose a route that is sufficiently inland to stay safe whilst experiencing the sights and sounds of the shore. Look out for sheep tracks for easier walking. There are coves aplenty to explore, fish, or simply sit and enjoy the surroundings.

There is only one fence-line which can be crossed then ensure to turn around at the forked inlet after around 2km, to remain on Sussex land.

Return by, roughly, the same route.

Scurvy Grass Cordial

Put scurvy grass and a little sugar in a pan with boiling water. Once sugar is dissolved, leave overnight to cool and steep. Chill further and serve.

Tips:

- ▶ Collect a handful of scurvy grass to enjoy a tasty cordial.
- ▶ Carry fishing gear, if time permits to linger in the coves to catch a fish for supper!



The Snug



Scurvy grass

Self-Guided WALKS

PORT SUSSEX



Flora & Fauna highlights

Balsam bog	Sea cabbage	Falkland pipit
Christmas bush	Scurvy grass	Kelp goose
Cinnamon grass	Tall fern	Long-tailed meadowlark
Fachine	Teaberry	Magellanic oystercatcher
Falkland lavender	Vanilla daisy	Magellanic snipe
Falkland violet	Black-crowned night-heron	Patagonian crested duck
Ladies Slipper	Blackish oystercatcher	Rock cormorant
Mountain berry	Dark-faced ground tyrant	Ruddy-headed goose
Pale Maiden	Falkland flightless & flying steamer duck	Rufous-chested dotterel
Yellow Pale Maiden		Southern giant petrel
		Turkey vulture
		Two-banded plover



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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 seek local advice before heading out on any walk in the camp (countryside). Weather changes quickly and the terrain can be tough. Permission is needed from the landowners to drive or walk off-road. Always tell someone where you are going with an estimated return time. Ensure you have plenty to eat and drink along with additional warm clothing.

Any fence in the Falklands can be crossed, it is not necessary to find a gate, **unless it is electrified**. Please respect fences, stepping over or through the wires not onto them.

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

PORT SUSSEX

Port Sussex Farm is the perfect place to spend a few days, with walking and fishing as highlights. The land area contrasts a spectacular range of hills, the Sussex mountains, with pretty sheltered coves and varied shorelines. Views are stunning from many different perspectives. Hike up Bodie Peak, walk the flat terrain of Terra Motas Point, follow a gaucho trail or take a short, simple stroll along the coastline. Everywhere there are sights, sounds and scents to enjoy!



Falkland Islands
TOURIST BOARD

Distance: 13.4 km Time: 3 - 3.5 hrs Terrain: Moderate/hard

4 THE WHALE WAY



Whale sightings can never be guaranteed but this is a great route to possibly spot a whale-blow, or a marine mammal quietly making its way along the shoreline. It's a social walk with glorious panoramic views that display the varied lie of the land, spanning Sussex and neighbouring farms. On a clear day the hills of the West feel close at hand, whilst the Sussex range, to Mount Usborne and small stone runs, provides a beautiful backdrop to the north and east. Southwards and westwards are pretty inlets and islets. Pick out the Sussex farmhouse and the self-catering cabins whilst walking along. Ground nesting birds are plentiful.

The route is mainly on vehicle / rotivated tracks amongst scrubland. Only a little height is lost and gained. Walkers should be confident to identify a track and able to traverse balsam bog heath should a mistake be made. There are wire gates to negotiate with barbed wire along the top.

Main route

Park off the road, alongside a large metal stockade (see map and photo). Travelling from the east, this is on the brow of a hill around 3km after passing over the cattle grid marked "Port Sussex Farm". From the west, it's at the top of a rise after passing the head of Sussex creek. Those of a certain mindset will dub it "Ironhenge"!

Find a route through the metal construction or the fence alongside (please respect both the stockade and fence), to walk close to the right side of the fence running in a north-west direction immediately beyond it, along the top of the ridge. Around 500m from the stockade there is a wire gate. Go through the wire gate and continue; the track is visible ahead.

A faint fork appears after around 1km of walking with a gate to the right which leads to a private cabin. Stay to the left of this gate and fence-line, on the higher ground.

Another, more definite fork is a further 1km (2km total) along. The easiest route in terms of both navigation and terrain is to the left. This track takes a lower route bending in a north-westerly direction with a shoreline, the south of the Terra Motas peninsula, visible to the left. It reaches a wire gate after another 1km. Confident walkers who are prepared to negotiate a fence and balsam bog heath, may prefer to take the right fork on higher ground; this definite track is easy to follow and affords excellent views to the north of the Terra Motas peninsula, across Port Sussex. It arrives at the same fence-line after just over 1km but does not continue onwards and there is no gate! Climbing carefully through or over the fence, walkers will soon see the rotivated track ahead and can join it by picking a way through the scrub-heath.

From here navigation is straightforward. Follow the track which continues north-west to the end of the point. The track is less distinct as the point is reached but it's easy to find the end, and a lovely, open aspect to sit and enjoy the peaceful surroundings.

Return all the way along the track for easy route finding.

Walk further

There are other rotivated tracks leading off the main north-west route, to the shorelines in both directions. With plenty of time available, walkers may wish to investigate. There are some amazing examples of large balsam bog. All walking should be discussed in advance with the land-owners so, if further exploration is the intent, be sure to talk through all aspects possible.

Tips:

Ask the land-owners for their advice on negotiating the start of the route, which will depend on the electrification of fences.

Cattle are routinely rotated through the paddock. Whilst unlikely to be a problem, do ask if concerned.



Balsam bog



Metal stockade

Distance: 10 km Time: 3 - 4 hours Terrain: Hard

6 ON THE TRAIL OF THE GAUCHOS

The word 'gaucho' refers to men employed in the cattle industry. These cattle hands were brought to the Islands in the days of the cattle industry; a number of locally written books include this fascinating piece of Falkland history. This route links the interesting remains of different types of corral and includes Sussex Mountain (294m) for spectacular views.

It is suggested as a one-way trail so two vehicles or a drop-off/pick-up will be needed. Keen walkers or those without this option could create a circular route easily enough by walking back along the road, visiting at least three corrals within a day. The 'main route' is written as approached from the east and it's worth reading through the whole walk description carefully to decide on the preferred option of route and whether to walk as presented or in reverse!

The terrain is a mix of scrubland and white grass. The route involves much up-and-down with the climb to the summit of Sussex Mountain the longest and steepest section.

Main route

If using two vehicles, park the first vehicle around the area of **what3words dishonesty.bumpier.comprehends**, alongside a large metal stockade (see map and photo) taking care to pull off the road to the grass verge.

Drive on in the second vehicle to begin the walk close to the highest point of land, the communications mast on Sussex Mountain. Park at a convenient off-road location, nearby the access road for the mast. Walk to the mast if wished, but the first corral is back down the road in an easterly direction towards the Port Sussex turn-off. Set **what3words** to **rely. footwear.thighbone**

The first, stone, corral is located in a small stone run. Described as 'a small low rectangle of stones built as a wall its origins are unknown but it may have been built to hold animals overnight, such as on sheep and cattle gathers'.

After viewing the corral, continue downwards on the main road, having set **what3words** to **lighters.sullenness. checkmate** After passing the right turn to Port Sussex, a hand painted wooden sign will be seen, also pointing right, to 'Trout Court'. Take this turning, following the vehicle track which heads to the brow of the hill and then bends left to lead to 'Trout Court'. Just behind this low building, on the slope, is the second corral of a very different type, 'a large rectangular turf wall shape, worn low in the ground

folklore says it was an Argentine penal settlement', however 'a specialist of Falkland Islands political history, Peter Pepper', suggests 'it was an animal pen' and that 'he and Graham Pascoe did not believe that the proposed Argentine penal settlement was ever built'.

Continue down to pass 'Trout Court' on its left side and bear left to walk along the shoreline. Join the road at the lowest point and turn right to walk uphill along the road. Set **what3words** to **engrave.soaked.absences** to locate the next corral, a circular turf corral. In a direct line, it's quite close but there is a creek to be crossed and a private cabin nearby. The easiest and safest route, which also respects the privacy of the cabin owners, involves routing along the road.

The corral can be seen to the right as the road is followed on its slightly meandering route. After dropping down again to the head of the creek and crossing it, gain a little height, and walk a very short distance to where a clear vehicle track veers off the road to the right. Follow the track; stay with it as it leads round to cross a fence-line using wire gate. Got through the gate and turn sharp right, down to the corral.

Retrace the route to the wire gate but this time, go straight ahead, negotiating the fence at the side of the iron gate. There is a sign here noting FIC private land but this dates from times past and can be ignored. Follow the track to the left to return to the start point at the metal stockade.

Walk further

There are various options to create longer trails with more corrals. The land-owners suggest levels of 'bronze', 'silver', 'gold' and 'platinum' as follows.

Bronze

Start and finish points are the same as for the 'main route'.

Staying only on Sussex land, an additional shepherd's turf corral can easily be added to the end of the 'main route'. At the final corral described in that route, set **what3words** to **padding.registrar.switching**. Retrace the route to the wire gate and go straight ahead as described, but bear right (instead of left) on the vehicle track and then straight ahead to aim for the point set. There are vehicle tracks which lead almost to the corral but use of a tracking app and the map is needed to carefully choose the correct tracks.

Once this turf corral is reached, re-set **what3words** for the start point. The return route is either back along the tracks, turning right at the highest point of the land to follow a clear vehicle route to the road. Or, it's a walk across the white grass using the original **what3words** location for a direct trail of just 1km.

Silver

The finish point is the same as for the 'main route' but the start point is on Kingsford Valley Farm land. It requires a slightly longer drive and, most importantly, **permission from the owner of Kingsford Valley Farm**. (See landowner information for contact details.)

After dropping the first vehicle at the metal stockade, drive on in the second, beyond the communications mast at the top of Sussex Mountain and down to the lowest point at Kingsford Valley Creek. A cattle grid marks the boundary between Sussex and Kingsford Valley Farms, then the head of the creek is crossed. Follow the first vehicle track that leads off to the right. Around 1.5km up this valley is the first corral at **what3words intermarry.wicked.figure** It is built into a stone run and believed to have been 'used as a holding enclosure for horses, cattle and sheep'. It is thought to have been built by a Mr Reive who lived nearby. Study the size of the corral and some of the massive rocks that have been heaved into place by hand. This structure took some effort to construct. If it was Mr Reive, one man, it is an incredible feat, along with all the other tasks of that time.

From the corral, continue along the track which leads to Kingsford Valley Farm lamb marking pens at around 2.4km from the road. Head to the right to start walking uphill. There is a fence-line to the left; cross the fence as soon as possible then simply walk on up. Aim for the largest communications mast for the easiest walking, best views and a sheltered location for a well-earned break. Pick up the instructions for the 'main route' and continue.

Gold

Discuss all aspects of this route with the land-owners.

If keen to explore other corrals there are further turf corrals on Sussex land at **what3words** locations **timer.fiddling.flirt** and **quaked.illiterates.genuine**. There are some vehicle tracks, but open scrubland must also be negotiated. Keen, fit walkers may embrace all the corrals mentioned up to this point in one day, but it is important that the land-

Distance: 14.5 km Time: 3.5 - 4.5 hours Terrain: Hard

5 BODIE PEAK AND SUSSEX MOUNTAIN

Go dragon hunting in the Falklands – with imagination, a sleeping dragon can be seen spanning Bodie Peak! This circular trail climbs to the highest points of Sussex land and, on a clear day, affords fantastic vistas in all directions. The view from the telecommunications mast on Mount Sussex is one of the most spectacular on East Falkland, across to the settlement of San Carlos and San Carlos water.

The terrain is a mix of scrubland. Walkers should be confident to pick out and negotiate wire gates. This is a hill walk with Bodie Peak at 402m and Sussex Mountain at 294m, whilst the lowest point is just 41m.

Main route

Begin at Sussex quarry, as shown on the map. Park off the road, to the south-east side of the quarry, then walk along the vehicle track in an easterly direction. The first gate is soon reached after a fairly level walk. Start climbing gently to reach a second gate after around 2 km of walking. Bodie Peak is slightly to the right, but the track meanders to the left, leading to another gate at 2.8km. Go through the gate. This fence is always electrified so the gate must be used. Bodie Peak is clearly visible; choose any way to reach the top, using the lie of the land and safe walking surfaces.

The summit is reached after around 4km of walking. Enjoy time and the views at the top before turning north-west to head along the ridgeline. Vehicle tracks, although faint, can be discerned and followed as wished to the summit of Mount Sussex, just over 5km from Bodie Peak. The communications mast is easy to see, and the stunning vistas over San Carlos are well worth the walk. Around the summit, look out for small stone shelters from the 1982 war.

Maintain the same direction to follow the access road which soon meets the main San Carlos road. Turn left onto this road and return to the start point.

Walk shorter

With two vehicles, it's an obvious plan to leave one at the access road for Mount Sussex summit to avoid the road walking at the end! This results in a walk of 9.5km.

Tips:

Corral locations are identified using **what3words** – download in advance. It's also worth looking at the corrals on a "terrain view" of a map app which show them off well.

Be prepared to negotiate fences.

Landowners:

Contact in advance to obtain permission to walk or drive off-road and to check for any land-access fees. Landowners can also advise on places to stay.

Email portsussex@horizon.co.fk; phone 32203 / 51359 / 53203

Adjoining farms:

Kingsford Valley phone 32044, 52124

Goose Green goose.green@horizon.co.fk 32270



Stone corral

owners are aware of walkers' intentions. Do not embark on this without thorough discussion!

Platinum

Enthusiasts may also be interested in the stone corrals located on Goose Green Farm, Cerritos Corral, Darwin Corral and at Cutter's Cove. These are magnificent examples of stone corrals. Visits would not all be achieved within the same day as a walk and **should be discussed with the manager of Goose Green Farm** (See landowner information).

More information about the history of corrals can be found in 'Corrals and Gauchos' by Joan Spruce. Other reference material may be found in the Falkland Islands Christie Community Library.

Note: all information about corrals, *in italics*, is taken from 'Falkland Rural Heritage' by Joan Spruce & Natalie Smith.

