

Te Ara Pātaka, is the Summit Walkway traversing the central spine ridgeline of Banks Peninsula connecting the Lyttelton crater to the Akaroa crater.

A network of feeder tracks lead up to it from the valleys below.

The tracks are historic routes, traversed in pre-European times and later forming early stock droving routes.

Their use as recreational tracks was envisaged by Harry Ell 100 years ago.

The following pictures show the main track from Gebbies Pass to Hilltop – a 2 ½ day tramp perfect for families, youth groups and Christchurch trampers and visitors.



**Day 1 Gebbies
Pass to Packhorse
Hut- 2hrs**

Tussock gives way to
pines and then the
massive volcanic
Remarkable Dykes,.

The historic Sign of
the Packhorse Hut is
a favourite with
families introducing
children to tramping.



Day 2 morning

**Packhorse Hut- to Mt
Herbert/Te Ahu Pātiki
Summit**

3 hrs

A tougher walk suitable
for families with older
children ready for the next
challenge.

Climb through bush and
up southern flank of Mt
Bradley with views to Te
Waihora.

Have lunch on the
summit of Te Ahu
Patiki/Mt Herbert. 919m
high, it is Banks
Peninsula's highest point
with stunning views in all
directions.



**Day 2 afternoon Mt
Herbert/Te Ahu Pātiki
Summit to Rod
Donald Hut 3 hrs**

After lunch descend to
Port Levy Saddle, with
striking view to Te Pohue.

Remnant totara is
encountered at Waipuna
Saddle before the track
leads down to the new
Rod Donald Hut high
above Western Valley.



Day 3 morning Rod Donald Hut to Montgomery Reserve 4 hrs

Along the tops, with views to Koukourāata and Little River, through the totara skeletons alternating with reserves



**Day 3 afternoon Montgomery
Reserve to Hilltop 1.5 hrs**

Stunning views of Akaroa
crater, and a descent through
bush culminating at the ancient
totara, and ending at the
Hilltop Hotel where kids can
enjoy a reward.

