

MT. TOLMIE AND UVIC

This is a two booter which will take you about 1.5 hours. Park at the Henderson Recreation Centre off Cedar Hill Cross Road. There is an extension which you may want to do which takes you down into Mystic Vale – but don't go down there if it's been raining hard because the trail is very, very mucky in parts.

1. From the parking lot follow the trail the runs along the side of the tennis courts to Cedar Hill Cross Road. Across the road you will see a wide trail running into UVic's lands. Carry straight on until you come to a large parking lot where you turn left. If you want to do a bit longer walk follow the guide in the next section and if you don't want to do that go to Section 3 below
2. A short distance from Cedar Hill Cross Road, on your right, you'll see a concrete structure and a trail running down a steep hill into Mystic Vale. At the bottom of the hill keep to the left along the trail that follows the creek. After about 150m you will see a flight of stairs running up the hill to your left. These stairs will bring you back to the regular route. If you want to take a longer walk down Mystic Vale continue along the creek. After a while you'll cross the creek twice on bridges and after the second one keep an eye out for trail off to the left which takes you up a short hill to one of UVic's service roads. Turn left when you reach the road and soon after a largish building on the left you'll come to a chip trail leading off to the left – this is the Alumni Chip Trail. Follow the is trail back to the parking lot that was mentioned at the end of Section 1 above.
3. A short distance along the edge of the parking lot you'll come to the Alumni Chip Trail leading off to the left. You will pass three side trails on the right that lead back to the core of the campus – ignore them! Soon after the third junction you will come to a Y-Junction where you keep right. Ignore the next turn to the right and continue on until you reach University Drive which you will cross. Directly ahead is one of the entrances to Finnerty Gardens which are well worth a visit, especially when the rhododendrons are out in bloom. Once across the drive, turn left and follow the footpath back to Cedar Hill Cross Road, turning right when you reach the junction.
4. The chip trail parallels Cedar Hill Cross Road and runs through a stand of trees. Once through that stand turn left and left again. The trail will bring you to the junction with Gordon Head Road. Across Cedar Hill Cross Road you will see a trail leading up the hill towards Mt. Tolmie. Continue on up the hill until you come to a five-way trail junction. Remember the trail leading off to the left because you'll be coming back this way! Continue straight on and at the next

trail junction turn right. This will bring you out on to Mayfair Drive where you turn left. (Note: if you turn right too early you'll still end up at Mayfair Drive which you then follow up the hill).

5. Mayfair Drive brings you to a parking lot at the top of Mt. Tolmie and some spectacular views. Walk the short distance to the end of the parking area and across the crosswalk you'll see a path leading the flat concrete top of a water reservoir. Just to the right of the reservoir there is a trail running down a set of stairs. Follow the trail, keeping left at the first junction and then right at the next one. At the next junction keep to the left and then keep right which will bring you back to the trail that brought you up the hill from the Gordon Head Road junction. At the five way junction turn right and follow the sometime rocky trail to the houses and a short trail that runs downhill between two houses to a cul-de-sac. At Redwood Avenue, turn right and then right again on Cardiff Place (yes, you are in the Welsh area of Saanich). Follow Cardiff Place a short distance and then turn left down Avondale Road. Cross Henderson on the crosswalk and carry straight on to the playing field where you turn left.
6. If you don't have a dog with you, at the chip trail, keep left and follow the trail around the golf course and back to the parking lot. If you have a dog, cut across the field to the Henderson Recreation Centre and back to the parking lot.