

OAK BAY WILDERNESS WALK

This is an easy one-booter that takes you through the wilds of Oak Bay and will take about 1.25 hours to complete (provided you don't go shopping in the village!)

1. Park at the Oak Bay Marina (there's a washroom just down the stairs to the right of the marina's store). Cross Beach Drive ('A') and walk up Currie Road. After crossing Newport Avenue you'll see Windsor Park on the right (no Royals, unfortunately); about two thirds of the way along the park you'll see a marked pathway, on the right, leading past the pavilion.
2. At Windsor Road, turn left and walk a short distance to Transit Road, where you turn right. Just after St Denis Street on the right you'll come to a footpath up a short hill on the left ('B'). This will bring you on to Brighton Avenue. Keep on Brighton, taking care to do the two little 'jogs' between St Patrick Street and Oliver Street.
3. At Hampshire Street you'll see a path leading up a short hill with some steps. Keep going straight on once on the path and you'll get to an extension of Brighton Street. Turn right off Brighton and take Victoria Avenue to Granite Street. At Granite, turn right and cross over to the north side. In a short distance, you'll see Oak Bay Municipal Hall on the left across a parking lot. Immediately after the entrance to the parking lot you'll find a path, on the left, leading through a small park and past the Municipal Hall ('C'). There are public washrooms available at the end of the park, on the left.
4. Cross Oak Bay Avenue on the crosswalk and continue straight on up Wilmot Place for a short distance. Turn left at 'D', down the wide alleyway at the back of the Cobs Bakery. Turn right onto the next road and cross over to the other side. After a short distance, you'll see, on the left, two new houses, up the side of which is a short road (Byron Street) that leads up a slight hill to the back of a church ('E'). When you get to the church's parking lot turn right on Elgin Street and continue to where it starts to turn right towards the entrance of Oak Bay's municipal yard.
5. Just on the turn you'll see a walkway on the left ('F') that parallel's the road for a few metres and then turns left. Follow that pathway. It'll take you past an enclosed tennis courts on the left to a short bridge over Bowker Creek. Follow the path along Bowker Creek to its end at 'G'. Across the road you'll see the firehall.
6. Cross the firehall's parking lot and over to the trees on the left at the end of the parking area. From there, wend your way between to two fenced playing fields to a road where you turn left. At the next junction (Cranmore Road), turn right. At Beach Drive, turn right and make your way back to the marina, past Glenlyon Norfolk School and along the water's edge.