

1 SETTLEMENT TRAIL

This short, circular route takes in the main features of this attractive red-and-white settlement, including an excellent little museum, various working structures and historical stone buildings. Drop down to the shoreline to look for birds, either at the north end where there is also a crumbling stone causeway, or close to the stone sheds. Do not step onto or try to cross the causeway.

The shearing sheds are located outside the main area of the settlement, and included in other route suggestions, but can also be added on as an out-and-back walk as part of settlement exploration.

The walk is mainly on tracks and fairly level, flat ground.

Main route

From the clubhouse, follow the road in a northerly direction i.e. with the clubhouse behind, turn to the left. Pass a low stone building on the left – there are two others visible, one to the right and the other ahead but also to the right.

The road forks; take the left option towards the large storage sheds. Pass to the right of these and turn right through a gateway, then immediately left through another gateway to continue walking north. Pass a pair of wind turbines which should be on the right. Follow the road as it turns right to the front of a private “double house” (semi-detached). From here a causeway can be seen and the farm managers’ house on the opposite shore.

Continue following the road, bending right to head back into the settlement in a southerly direction and passing the wind turbines, which again should be to the right! After a very short distance, a small house named “The Cadet’s House” is on the right, and immediately in front is the museum. Go to the left to find the entrance door for the museum and take a look inside.



Museum

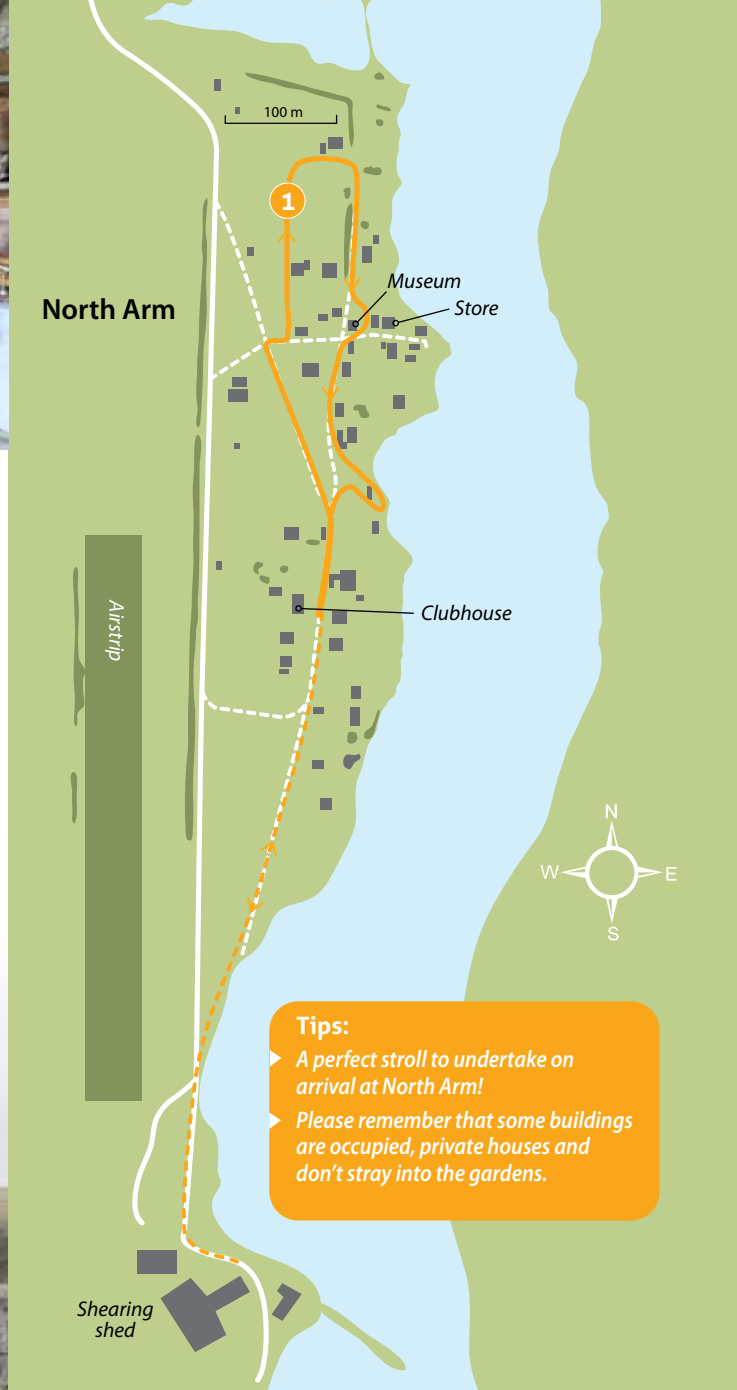
From the museum, continue south on the road; it’s an obvious route back to the clubhouse and not far to go. The stone buildings are worth a detour, being very photogenic on a pleasant day. Look for the diamond “F”, an old “Falkland Islands Company” logo, above the door. “FIC records related” A stone shed was begun in 1903, inside measurements thirty by fourteen feet and spare labour was used to build it in winter.” (Taken from “Falkland Rural Heritage”, Joan Spruce & Natalie Smith.) The shore below may have birdlife, including ducklings or goslings in the Spring.

Walk further

It’s further to the shearing sheds than the main circular route described! The road is obvious to the south; it’s an out-and-back walk of around 1.5km. The storage shed opposite the shearing sheds has the remains of the old railway track which was used to transport wool to the jetty. In the days before the growth of the road network, baled wool would be transported away from the settlement by sea. An old rail-truck and wooden scow (boat) are at the head of the jetty.



Stone shed



Tips:

- ▶ A perfect stroll to undertake on arrival at North Arm!
- ▶ Please remember that some buildings are occupied, private houses and don't stray into the gardens.

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 northarm@horizon.co.fk; phone 32080 / 52750 / 52027

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

NORTH ARM SETTLEMENT



Flora & Fauna highlights

Christmas bush	Black-crowned night-heron	Rock cormorant
Diddle dee	Blackish oystercatcher	Ruddy headed goose
Falkland lavender	Falkland flightless steamer duck	Silvery grebe
Pale maiden	Falkland thrush	Skua
Scurvy grass	Kelp goose	South American tern
Sea cabbage	Kelp gull	Southern caracara
Vanilla daisy	Long tailed meadowlark	Southern giant petrel
	Magellanic oystercatcher	Two-banded plover
	Patagonian crested duck	Upland goose
Brown hare		



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Self-Guided

WALKS

NORTH ARM SETTLEMENT

North Arm settlement is an attractive, compact group of red-and-white buildings set in the open plains of the flatlands of Lafonia. It is named for its location on the northernmost arm of the sea, in the Bay of Harbours and is the perfect start point for walks. There are impressive birding opportunities.

North Arm Farm provides an insight into farming life, past and present, with an excellent little museum in the settlement and opportunities to see farm-work in action.



2 A BIRDING BIMBLE

This simple out-and-back route is a perfect morning or evening stroll and, as the name indicates, perfect for birding enthusiasts! Ducks, geese, grebes, oystercatchers, black-crowned night herons, southern giant petrels and rock cormorants are all likely to be seen.

The walk uses a combination of vehicle tracks and fairly easy, grassy, scrubland terrain.

Main route

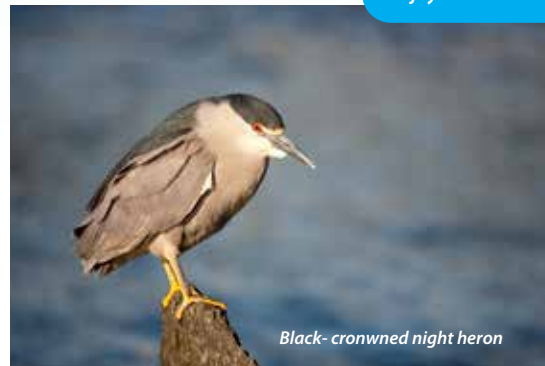
From the clubhouse, follow the road in a southerly direction (i.e. with the clubhouse behind, turn to the right) to the easily visible shearing sheds. The road passes between the shearing sheds on the right and storage sheds & tanks on the left. Stay with the road to reach a gate after around 800m of walking. Go through this gate.

Follow the fence, keeping it close to the right side, across an area of grassy plain. After around 1.9km a coastal pond is reached. The pond and the coastline just beyond are usually home to several species of bird. Explore the immediate area or find an observation point to sit and enjoy the sights and sounds.

Return by the same route.

Tips:

- Binoculars – definitely!
- Layers of clothing, drinks and snacks to enjoy whilst sitting and watching the birds.



Black-crowned night heron

Distance: 12 km Time: 2.5 - 3.5 hours Terrain: Moderate

4 SOUNDS OF THE SEA

This circular route begins by following the shoreline, with scenic sections embracing a variety of birdlife and the backdrop of coastal sights and sounds. On a calm day, enjoy the blissful sound of the waves lapping the shore or, when the Falklands' wind blows, the exhilarating crashing and splashing of a gusty squall.

The homeward section is across white grass flats culminating with a short stroll on the main road to North Arm.

The walk is fairly level, following vehicle tracks, some pebbly beaches and grassy scrubland.

Main route

From the clubhouse, follow the road in a southerly direction (i.e. with the clubhouse behind, turn to the right) to the easily visible shearing sheds. The road passes between the shearing sheds on the right and storage sheds & tanks on the left. Stay with the road to go through a gate after around 800m. Now hug the coastline, curving away from the fence-line, bending to the south-west (left) and then south towards the foot of the peninsula, named on some maps as "Garden Point". This lovely shoreline is home to a variety of birds.

The point itself is reached after 2.5km of walking and the coast turns to the west (right). The next section has items that have, in the past, been dumped on the beach. Unfortunately, this was the place to put waste in days gone by; today landfill is better managed and Islanders aware of the need to carefully dispose of rubbish and recycle where possible. The walk is worthwhile as there are still beautiful areas of shoreline to come.

Continue to follow the coastline, walking around the point and heading north-west. After 3.6km, walk along a bar of land or, if this is not possible, circuit the pond area encountered. This is an excellent place for birding with a good chance of observing grebes on the pond and geese around it. There is a fence-line here to cross at some point.

The coast turns westwards and at 5.5km, there is another fence-line to negotiate. Stay with the coast, aiming for the northern end of the inlet which will eventually come into view. At 7.4km, another fence-line is reached; do not climb this one but follow it, north. This is the key place to be aware of correct direction finding to get to the vehicle track which leads "home". There is a small stream to cross and then, after around another 400m (7.8km of walking in total), there is an obvious grouping of gates as a vehicle track traverses west-east (left-right).

3 COW PARK POND

This circular route takes in a pretty section of shoreline with a coastal pond and the inland, Cow Park Pond. There are excellent birding opportunities along the coastal section whilst providing the variety of a round-walk, starting and finishing with some settlement features.

The walk uses a combination of vehicle tracks and fairly easy, grassy, scrubland terrain.

Main route

From the clubhouse, follow the road in a southerly direction (i.e. with the clubhouse behind, turn to the right) to the easily visible shearing sheds. Route around the left of all the sheds to take in the jetty including a rail track, an old rail truck and the remains of a scow. Join the road running between the shearing sheds and the storage shed with tanks alongside, to arrive at a gate after around 800m of walking. Go through this gate.

Follow the fence, keeping it close to the right side, across an area of grassy plain. After around 1.9km a coastal pond is reached. This pond is frequently home to several species of birds including silvery grebes, teals, Patagonian crested ducks and upland geese.

Carefully climb the fence to walk around the west side of the



Tips:

- A map app is useful to track the distance and follow a moving dot to navigate to Cow Park Pond
- There are lovely spots at the coastal pond and along the shore to sit and relax with a drink and snack



Rock cormorant



Sea cabbage

Climb the fence to get onto this vehicle track and turn sharp right to walk along it. There's a small rise and at the top of it, the vehicle track is clear to see, heading east and then north-east. Take time also to admire the view to the south (right) of the inlet. Navigation is easy now, simply follow the vehicle tracks. At around 9km, North Arm settlement comes into view on the right.

At 9.6km, there is a gate and a sheep shelter straight ahead. Bear to the right of the shelter, following the vehicle track alongside the gorse hedge. The settlement is soon in view, straight ahead. After 11km of walking, the main road into North Arm is reached, just north of the farm managers' house. Turn right on to the road and return to the start point, taking any suitable route into the settlement.

Walk further

If time is plentiful, there is further coastline to explore but be **absolutely certain** to allow sufficient time to return to the settlement within daylight hours and that the direction to pick up the vehicle track leading home can easily be found. White grass flats are beautiful but easy to get lost on!

Tips:

- A map app with a moving dot is also useful for this walk to track distances and direction
- Consider a meditative walk approach for the pretty sections of coastline

pond, to meet the coast. Turn right to follow the coastline in a westerly direction. Continue with the coastline in a north-north-east direction until around 4km of total walking has been achieved on arrival at a fence-line. (Refer to map to assist.)

Turn sharp right to follow the fence-line inland. Walk initially with the fence to the left. On reaching a gate in the fence, go through it but keep walking in the same direction, now with the fence close on the right. The settlement and Cow Park Pond come into view ahead. Gradually deviate left, away from the fence, aiming for the pond.

Walk around the pond in a clockwise direction, i.e. towards the north end. Continue around the north end to reach a fence-line. Follow the fence-line and go through a gate to traverse the north end of the airstrip, then through another gate to reach the main road.

Cross the road directly and enter the settlement by way of the road with a communications mast. Return to the start point noting and perhaps taking in the stone sheds en-route.



Upland geese

Distance: 18.5 km Time: 5.5 - 6.5 hours Terrain: Moderate

5 SHAG ROOKERY POINT

This out-and-back route affords beautiful views of North Arm settlement from the opposite shore. It follows the coastline to a rock cormorant colony and is straightforward to navigate once on the ridge of land opposite the settlement. It's a great sociable walk for a group to leg-stretch and chat over level ground.

The walk uses a combination of vehicle tracks and fairly easy, grassy, scrubland terrain.

Main route

From the clubhouse, follow the road in a northerly direction (i.e. with the clubhouse behind, turn to the left) and choose any road option to the north-west (left) to leave the settlement and join the main road. Walk along the road, passing the farm managers' house on the right and then drop down to where the road crosses an inlet, after around 1.2km of walking. On the other side of the inlet, turn to head north-east (i.e. bear to the right) off the road. Use the map to assist with navigation – the aim is to reach the eastern side of the inlet that stretches alongside the settlement. There are vehicle tracks to follow.

Cross the northern end of a second inlet. Either ford the stream or use the wooden bridge. Follow tracks or walk overland to effectively double-back to begin walking south-south-east i.e. back in the direction of the settlement but now on the opposite shore.

The walk should now be relatively easy to navigate. If in doubt, hug the coastline as closely as possible but there are vehicle tracks which make the terrain easier and cut off a small peninsula. The coast should almost always be in sight, to the right on the outbound journey and, obviously, the left on the return. A cormorant colony (hence the name, shag rookery point) is reached after around 10km of walking. Cormorants may be peering over the cliff and there is an electric fence with a wire gate; a good marker of the turn-around point.

Walk shorter or further!

Confident off-road drivers can shorten the route by driving a first section. The route can be added to by following the coastline further. Discuss these options with the farm managers before setting out, as both are dependent on ground conditions and the farming calendar.



Tips:

- Waterproof footwear is an obvious asset for crossing the water inlets!
- Keep a map handy at the start of the walk to assist with navigation around the inlets