

# Walk to Easter Bluff



This is a short but intensive walk up to an amazing viewpoint of the Discovery Islands, Desolation Sound and Cortes Bay. The hike, although less than half an hour, has some tricky sections and it easy to get confused. It is best done in the company of someone who has done it before; if you follow these directions they will help guide you, however you proceed at your own risk. The trail has some minor cliff sections that require dexterity and the grade is a good cardio-vascular test.

## The Trailhead

The trail can be accessed from two directions. The shortest way from Potlatch Haven is to drive back towards Manson's and turn right on Bartholomew Road. (Bartholomew Road is about 2.8 km from Potlatch Haven, just past the logged area on the right.) Follow Bartholomew Road for about 4.0 km through Cortes Bay and at the very summit of the hill the other side of Cortes Bay there is a small parking area on the right. You will know you are in the right place if you look up and see sign on a large fir saying "Easter Bluff".

## The Hike Up

The trail bears left and winds gently through some low bushes until it opens to the forest proper. The next landmark is a large sign identifying this as the Easter Bluff trail and asking you to respect the eco-system. The trail turns left and starts to climb gently. After about five minutes to reach a clearing where the trail seems to fork left and right. Take the left fork and climb over a rocky area. At times the trail is a little indistinct but when you look ahead you will see it continue. After a steep climb it gets a little tricky as the trail seems to end. Go left up a rocky climb and it becomes easy to find again. Then you will find yourself on a long ridge. Follow this until you see a dead pine tree on your right, the trail makes an abrupt left turn just after you have passed this dead tree. Before you leave the ridge, turn around and see the amazing views of Cortes Bay that have opened up behind you.

## Two Arbutus Trees



Look for two small arbutus trees, (the ones with no bark); the trail runs between them as you come down off the ridge temporarily before you start to climb again. The trail heads to the right and becomes quite steep and rocky. You are getting close to the top now. As you emerge into the summit area, the trail goes to the right of a knoll and is easy to miss. If you find yourself on the knoll, retrace your steps and find the trail passing through some unusual bushes with rust

brown limbs. IT IS IMPORTANT TO TURN AROUND AND OBSERVE THESE CLOSELY BECAUSE THE TRAIL IS QUITE DISGUISED BY THE FOLIAGE AND YOU WANT TO FIND YOUR WAY DOWN! It is easy to lose your bearings as you explore the rocky spacious viewpoint. Enjoy the spectacular view of Discovery Islands, Desolation Sound and Cortes Bay before you retrace your steps.

### **The Hike Back Down.**

Bear left to the edge of rocky outcrop and look for the bushes on the left edge that hide your trail. Once you have found them, the route is quite clear. There is one tricky area when you emerge back on the ridge from the trail that passes between the two arbutus trees, make sure you walk down the ridge with Cortes Bay in front of you and Linnear farm on your right. This will ensure you find the trail down to the parking area.