

A Circular Walk to Hollyhock and Back



This is one of my favourite walks from Potlatch Haven. It combines ocean, forest and a short section of road and brings you to Hollyhock where you can enjoy the beautiful garden and ocean views. There are even a couple of sections with some old growth cedars and one massive Douglas fir.

Exit Potlatch and turn right and walk down to the Hayes road beach access. descend to the beach and enjoy a beautiful beach walk around Smelt Bay. This is Cortes's

sunniest and sandiest beach. Watch for Great Blue Herons. Bald Eagles and notice the oyster beds when the tide is low. Follow the beach around until you get to Smelt Bay Provincial Park. Your beach walk joins the road that leads to the provincial park.

Leave the beach when you see the grassy picnic area and follow the road through the park up to Sutil Point Road (the stop sign). Take a right then an immediate left on Raven Road and walk up the gravel road. Once you reach the top of the hill start down but observe the numbers on the hydro poles. You are looking for no. 6, the path through the forest to Hollyhock. Behind the pole is a trail and a sign saying Hollyhock. Follow the trail into the forest; you will encounter some huckleberry bushes with their delicious red fruit when in season. Then the trees start to become larger. Watch for some old growth cedar on your right. You will come to a trail on the right marked Hollyhock campsites. Take this trail, note the detour into the old growth grove of trees. It is worth the stop to see these venerable giants and a massive Douglas fir.



Follow the trail from here down through the camping area. The ocean is visible through the trees. You will see the bathhouse, keep this to your left and soon the trail ends at a wider path. Turn left and walk on the trail which begins to descend. You will



come to a fork, bear right, pass Kiakum one of Hollyhock's workshop facilities on your left, continue to a junction where you see the Hollyhock Garden on your left hand side. Turn left and enter the gate to the garden. This is a stunning spectacle in and of itself. The garden from May to September on is a gem. From here you can explore Hollyhock's lodge, the gift shop as well as the clothing optional beach.

The route home is back through the garden, exiting via the gate you entered and walking straight ahead, crossing a rope and through a forested trail. This trail enters a wonderful grove of old-growth cedars and then emerges into Hollyhock's orchard. Bear right then left onto the trail and start to ascend a little. You will see a sign that indicates Smelt Bay, follow that past a beautiful building named the Sanctuary on your left hand side and enter the forest again. This trail winds upwards to connect with a trail which runs between Smelt Bay Road and Raven Road. (which you came in on.) Turn right to Smelt Bay Road. When you emerge onto the road turn left and walk down the hill. The ocean opens up before you. At the bottom of the hill is Potlatch Road. Turn right and you will shortly complete the circuit at Potlatch Haven.

