

West Coast Trail Map

Bamfield to Port Renfrew,
Vancouver Island



The West Coast Trail is recommended for experienced backpackers only.



LEGEND

- highway
- all-weather road
- West Coast Trail forest route distance in km from Pachena Trailhead
- West Coast Trail - beach route
- Indian Reserve (IR 4-13)
- swampy area
- buildings
- sand, foreshore flats
- rocky ledge, rocky reef
- shipwreck, general location only
- campsite - all campsites are located on the beaches
- West Coast Trail Information Centre - register on and off
- Pacific Rim National Park Reserve
- Pacific Rim National Park Reserve Marine Zone
- contour interval - 30m
- Tide heights quoted on the face of the map are approximate and assume calm seas; use tide tables for Tofino, B.C. Add one hour during summer months for Pacific Daylight Saving Time.
- outhouse
- trailhead
- beach access
- parking
- cable car
- impassable headland
- difficult surge channel
- viewpoint, point of interest
- (HYA) Huu-ay-aht place name
- (DTD) Ditidaht place name
- (PCD) Pacheedaht place name
- photographs courtesy Parks Canada 2007 edition

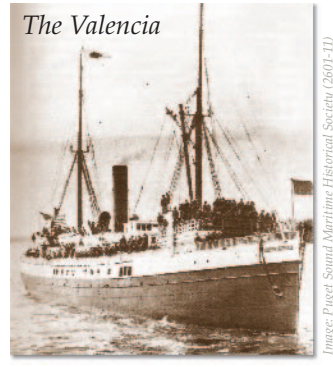
The story behind the trail:

The Huu-ay-aht, Ditidaht and Pacheedaht have always lived along Vancouver Island's west coast. Ancient trails and paddling routes were used for trade and travel by the first nations long before foreign sailing ships reached this region over 200 years ago.

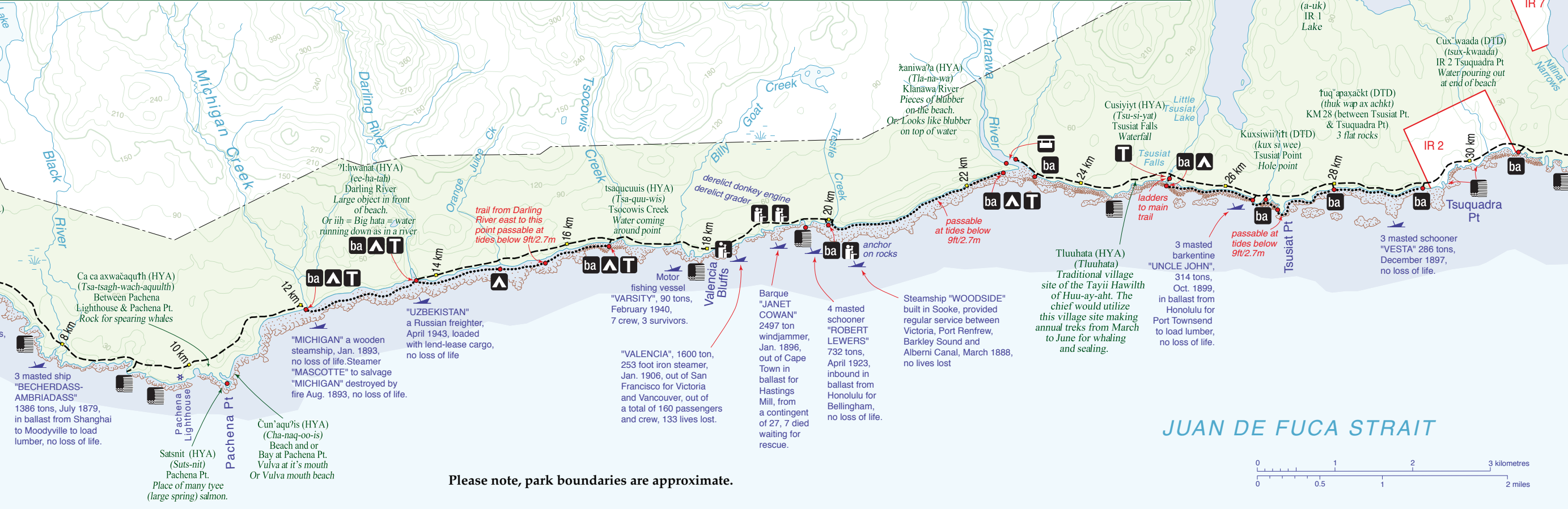


Over the next century sailors, "matmalthni", meaning "those whose houses float about on the water" brought the beginning of a changing world to the First Nations. Trade increased, and many sailing ships met a tragic fate navigating in these unfamiliar and hazardous waters. Sailors named the coastline the "Graveyard of the Pacific".

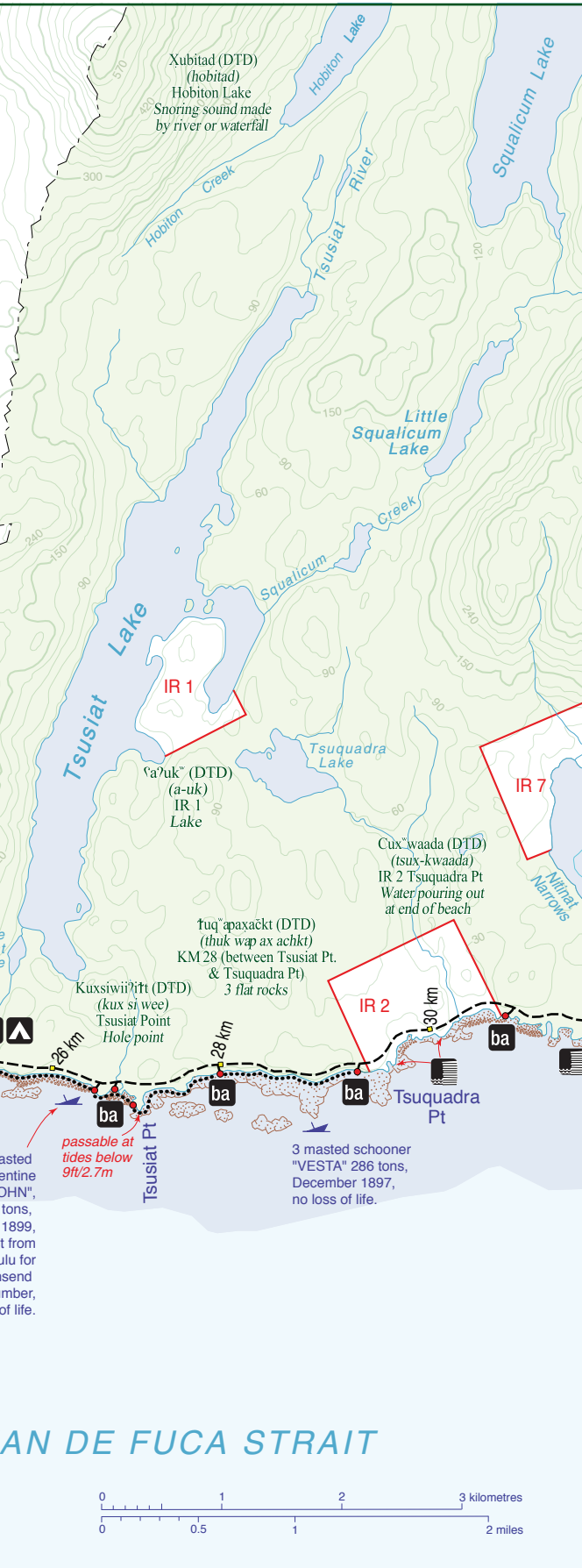
Carmanah lighthouses, and larger communities. It wasn't enough, after the wreck of the Valencia in 1906, with the loss of 133 lives, the public demanded the government do more to help mariners along this coastline. In response the government built Pachena Lighthouse, established lifesaving stations and improved the telegraph route to become a life saving trail for shipwreck victims and their rescuers.



With improvements to technology the number of shipwrecks decreased and the life saving trail was gradually abandoned. In 1973 the trail became part of the newly established Pacific Rim National Park. Today, hiking the West Coast Trail is about exploring Vancouver Island's temperate rainforest and rugged coastline, seeing the remnants of past stories and walking in the footsteps of shipwreck victims and the First Nations people that continue to call this area home.



Please note, park boundaries are approximate.



PACIFIC RIM NATIONAL PARK RESERVE OF CANADA
WEST COAST TRAIL UNIT
The West Coast Trail (WCT) is one of three units of Pacific Rim National Park Reserve (PRNPR), administered by Parks Canada. Pacific Rim protects and presents the coastal temperate rainforest, near shore waters and cultural heritage of Vancouver Island's west coast as part of Canada's national park system.

WEST COAST TRAIL POLICY AND PROCEDURES
The WCT is open from May 1 to September 30. The trail is closed October 1 to April 30 due to frequent and prolonged periods of heavy rain, strong winds, high tides, large waves and short days. The Park superintendent may close the WCT at any time to address public safety, environmental or operational concerns.

Peak season is July and August - to avoid crowds schedule your trip during May, June or September.
Entrance points: Pachena Bay (north) and Gordon River (south).
Exit points: Pachena Bay, Gordon River and Nitinat Lake. Entrance or exit at any other point is not permitted unless an evacuation is required.

Two ferry crossings are operated throughout the hiking season: Gordon River and Nitinat Narrows (additional fees apply).
Maximum group size: 10 hikers.
Pets and firearms are prohibited on the WCT.
All users must obtain a permit.
• Day users require a Day Use Permit.
• Overnight users require a WCT Overnight Use Permit (a Park Use Fee applies). A quota system limits the number of overnight users to 8000/year.

OPTIONS FOR OBTAINING A PERMIT
1. Reservations can be made for the current year only. Starting April 1st, contact Super Natural BC at: 604-435-5622 Greater Vancouver, 1-800-435-5622 Canada and USA, 250-387-1642 International
2. Standby spaces are available. Apply at West Coast Trail Information Centres.
3. Hike with a commercial group: obtain a list of operators from the national park.
4. Schools, non-profit groups and commercial operators: contact the national park school and commercial group coordinator.

For detailed and essential pre-trip planning information:
Pacific Rim National Park Reserve
2185 Ocean Terrace Rd.
P.O. Box 280
Ucluellet, BC, V0R 3A0 Canada
Phone: 250-726-7721 Fax: 250-726-4720
Email: pacrim.info@pc.gc.ca
Website: http://www.pc.gc.ca/pacificrim