The story behind the trail:
The Huu-ay-aht, Ditidaht and Pacheedaht First Nations have always had a connection to the waters surrounding their territories. During the late 1800s and the beginning of the 20th century, foreigners, many sailing ships met a tragic fate navigating in these waters; many lives were lost.

However, after the landing of the Valencia in 1906, the public demanded the government do more to help mariners along the coastline. The government built lighthouses, aid-stations and improved rescue and survival training for seamen. Pacheedaht Place Name

In response the government built a life saving trail along the coastline. The line was an attempt to this coast line as the "Graveyard of the Pacific".

Between 1860 and 1889 the First Nations built a indigenous trail to the coastline. The trail wove its way through many villages, the newly established Cape Flattery and Carmanah Lighthouses, and larger communities in hopes of saving mariner lives.

Today, hiking the West Coast Trail is about exploring Vancouver Island’s temperate rain forest and wild coastline, experiencing a fabulous land recounted during the Pacific’s gold rush and World War II. It is a trail of many sa iling ships met a tragic fate navigating in these waters; many lives were lost.

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