West Coast Trail Map

The story behind the trail:

The West Coast Trail (WCT) is one of the three units of the Pacific Rim National Park Reserve. The trail was established in 1904, and was used by windjammers and fishing vessels as part of a trade route between San Francisco and Victoria. The trail was abandoned in the 1940s due to the closure of the windjammer trade. The trail was later established as a recreational trail, and is now one of the most popular hiking trails in Canada.

The trail is open from May 1 to September 30, and is approximately 48 km long. The trail is considered to be one of the most challenging hikes in Canada, and is recommended for experienced hikers.

During the hiking season call 1-250-647-5434 to reach a Parks Canada representative for information on how to make a reservation for the trail. For essential planning information access our preparation guide at:


Maximum group size:

Due to the popularity of the West Coast Trail we suggest a maximum group size of 12 people. Groups larger than this size may cause disturbance to the natural environment.

Entrance and exit points:

The WCT is open from May 1 to September 30. Entrance or exit at any other point is not permitted unless an evacuation is required.

Overnight Use Permit in addition to a valid national park entry pass while visiting the national park reserve. National Park Reserve are required to have a valid national park entry pass while visiting the national park reserve.

Pets and firearms are prohibited on the WCT. Maximum group size: 12 people. Groups larger than this size may cause disturbance to the natural environment.

For information on how to make a reservation for the trail, visit our online reservation system in early January.

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