



Great Walks
OF THE WORLD

Salcombe House
Long Street
Sherborne
Dorset
DT9 3BU

Tel: 01935 810820
Fax: 01935 815815

E-mail: info@greatwalks.net
Web: www.greatwalks.net

The West Coast Trail

Developed as a rescue trail for shipwreck survivors in the early years of the 20th century, nowadays, the West Coast Trail is a world famous backpacking classic. Part of Pacific Rim National Park, the West Coast Trail has everything on its 70 km route; soaring sea stacks, coastal rainforest, sandy beaches, hidden coves, waterfalls and abundant wildlife. All this, combined with the areas rich history, makes for one of the best trekking routes in the world.

Day 1

We fly from the UK to Victoria in British Columbia via a change of aircraft in Vancouver. We stay at a homely bed and breakfast where we can recover from the long flight and jet lag.

Day 2

A free day in Victoria. Victoria is the provincial capital of British Columbia and has a definite old English atmosphere to it. Conde Naste Traveller Magazine recently rated it one of the top ten cities to visit in the world. The city is one of western Canada's premier tourist destinations with its beautifully manicured gardens, London style double-decker buses, Victorian museums and art galleries. You can take afternoon tea and soak up the last vestige of British imperialism in the Western Hemisphere. In the evening we can eat out at the famous 'Sticky Wicket' restaurant at the Strathcona Hotel.

Day 3

We depart from Victoria very in the morning, travelling by scheduled shuttle-bus to the trailhead in Bamfield. This is the headquarters for the Pacific Rim National Park and we will be required to sign in here. We then have a short orientation session before commencing the hike. We begin at Pachena Bay where we will hike through the rainforest to Pachena Point Lighthouse. We will then continue through the forest that emerges onto Darling River and our first nights camp near to Michigan Creek.

Day 4

Today we hike on the beach until we stop for lunch at Klanawa River cable car crossing. We cross the river and continue through the forest for a couple more hours. On the route today we will pass the site of one of the worst maritime tragedies on the rocky shores; the location where in 1906 the SS Valencia was wrecked with the loss of 126 lives. Our camp today will be at Tsusiat Falls, one of the highlights of the entire trek, where on a warm day this is the most refreshing spot you could ever find. It's time to take a dip.

Day 5

Today is our longest day so we will get an early start. After 2-3 hours of hiking along the cliffs, we arrive at Nitnat narrows which we cross by boat. Here we can purchase some fresh seafood from the local natives. At the other side, we will continue on and arrive at our camp at Dare point near to Cribs Beach. Today is one of the most scenic on the entire trail.

Day 6

We will spend all of today hiking on the beach, passing Carmanah Lighthouse and the Camanah River, ending the day at Walbran Creek.

Day 7

The trail becomes somewhat more rugged today, but as we approach the final stages of the trek our packs will be lighter. For the most part of the day we will be walking on a forest trail. En route there are two cable bridges to cross, one suspension bridge and a notorious set of ladders by Cullite Creek. The views from the cliffs are outstanding all the way to our destination at Camper Bay.

Day 8

If the tides are favourable we will be able to trek along the beach for most of the route today. This is a beautiful section of coastline, hiking around Owen Point. If we cannot follow the coastal route we will trek inland a little way, hiking through the forest, crossing bridges and climbing up and down ladders before descending to Thrasher Cove.

Day 9

We will continue on to Gordon River where we will be picked up by boat and taken to Port Renfrew. From here we will travel back to Victoria by bus.

Day 10

Depart

Day 11

Arrive UK

