

T-255 2012 Replacement High Adventure West Coast Trail, Vancouver Island, Canada

Approx. July 16-29, 2012

The West Coast Trail is a 75 km (47 mi) long backpacking trail following the *very edge* of southwestern Vancouver Island, part of Pacific Rim National Park, in British Columbia, Canada. The trail was built in 1907 to facilitate the rescue of survivors of shipwrecks along the coast, part of the treacherous Graveyard of the Pacific. Hiking is often *below the high tide line*, and there are 5/6 hand cable-car river crossings and 2 intra-hike ferry crossings. This is also wolf, black bear and cougar country. **The West Coast Trail is often rated as one of the world's top hiking trails.** The hike is rated as “**strenuous**” by the Canadian Park Service due to the rainy and foggy weather, cool temperatures, steep and rugged terrain, mud, trail often passable only at low tide, and the weight of the back packs necessary to carry 6-8 days worth of food *with no resupply points*.

Itinerary: Day 1: Fly to and tour Seattle; Day 2: Drive to and tour Vancouver, BC; Day 3: Ferry to Vancouver Island and drive to either Bamfield or Port Renfrew trailheads; Days 4-9: hike the West Coast Trail; Day 10: Off trail and clean-up at a campsite; Day 11: Visit Victoria, BC; Day 12: Ferry to Olympic Peninsula – camp; Day 13: slow drive to Seattle; Day 14: Fly back to DC.

Timing: Approximately July 16-29, 2012. **HOWEVER:** T-255 has to win a lottery – and there is a lot of competition for available slots. Dates and the trailhead will depend on the outcome of the lottery. The lottery is for a fixed crew size – thus the \$200 pp Canadian Park Service fee is non-refundable if someone drops out. No slots can be added after the lottery. The lottery is **May 2012**. The actual dates will be adjusted in accordance with the itinerary above to match with the actual dates from the lottery.



Qualifications: First Class, 14 years old by the time of the trip. Approval of the Scout Master and adult HA leaders. Must have demonstrated good hiking ability, camping skills, and good spirit. Must have a completed BSA Annual Health and Medical Record, Parts A thru C, with no restrictions relevant to this trek. Adults must be T-255 registered and have certain certifications.

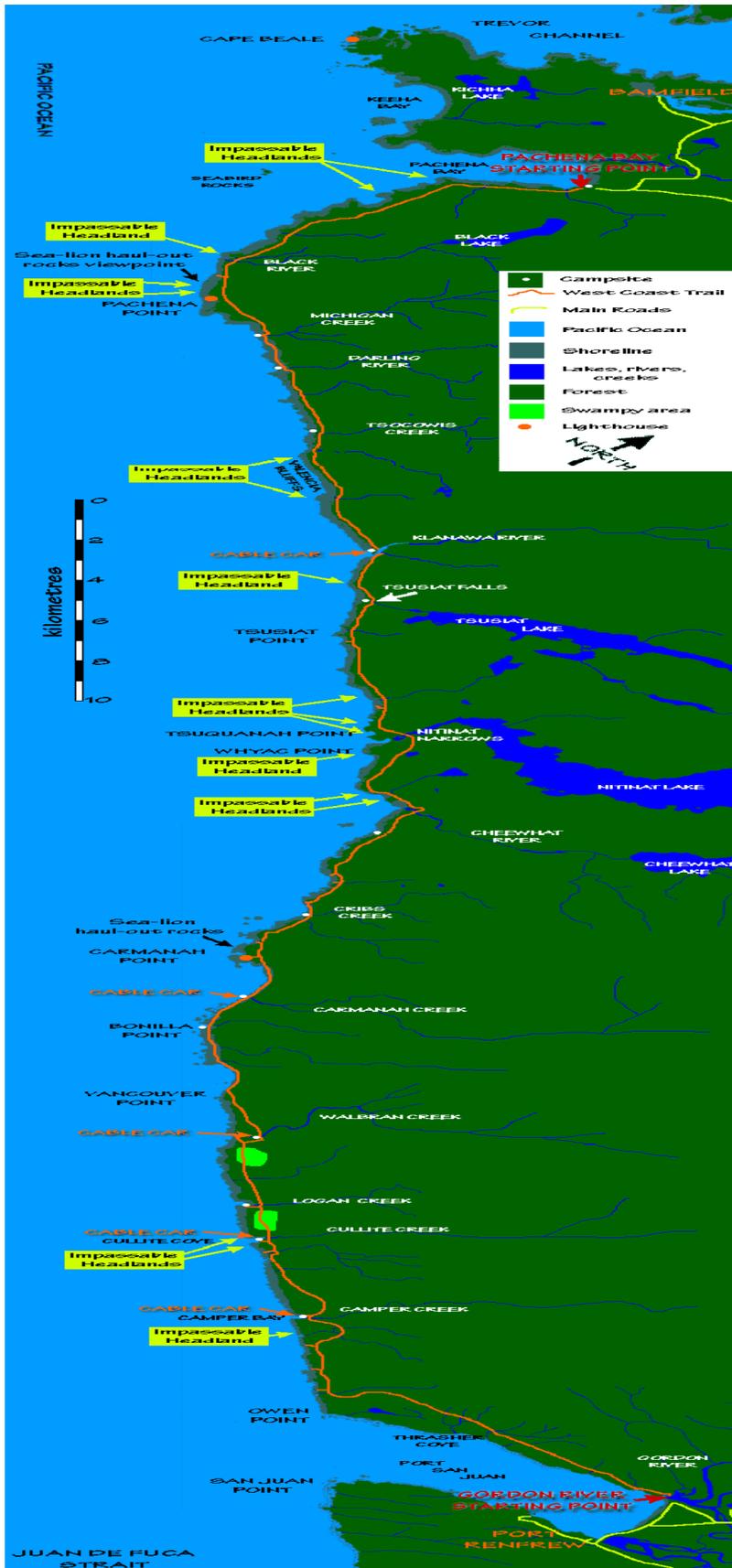


Crew: Minimum of 6; maximum of 10. Multiple crews are possible if stars align. The trip requires one adult volunteer to shuttle the van to the pick-up point [Mrs. Pierce has volunteered].

Cost: \$1400 for each participant, including adults. Includes air fare, van transportation, hotels, shakedown, Park fees, camping fees and trail food. Most of the costs will not be refundable. Does not include food on the road or other personal expenses. Reconciliation for cost over-runs or surplus to be made in September 2012. Make checks payable to BSA T-255, and note West Coast Trail HA.

Payment	Payment Date	Payment amount
1 st	Tues, February 21, 2012	\$400
2 nd	Tues, May 8, 2012	\$1000
Reconciliation	September 2012	\$ + or -





Shakedown Date: Memorial Day – 3-day weekend May 26-28, 2012.

Further Information:

Canadian Park Service brochure and map:
<http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/bc/pacificrim/visit/brochures.a.spx>

Keith Pierce,
hkp255@piercehome.us or 301-951-5290.

Next Steps: Shortly after a crew is known (which is February 21, 2012) we will hold a parents/scout meeting to discuss trip planning and paperwork. All BSA HA trips require a lot of paperwork. As this is an international trip, passports and a notarized parental permission form from the non-accompanying parent (or both if neither is accompanying) will be required to fly and to cross the Canadian border.

T-255's 2012 High Adventure West Coast Trail

Approximately July 16-29, 2012

Risk Advisory: Parents, guardians, and potential participants in T-255's 2012 West Coast Trail High Adventure, located in the Pacific Rim National Park of Canada, are advised that journeying to and from West Coast Trail, and the hike on the West Coast Trail, can involve exposure to accident, illness, and/or injury associated with a physically demanding high adventure program located in a cool and wet environment in a remote coastal area. Campers may be exposed to occasional severe weather conditions such as lightning, rain, flash floods, cold, and heat. Other potential problems include: injuries from tripping and falling, motor vehicle accidents, worsening of underlying medical conditions such as diabetes or asthma, heart attacks, heat exhaustion, and falls. The West Coast Trail is steep, muddy, wet, rocky, in parts below the high tide line and requires multiple stream crossings. Wild animals such as bears, wolves, and mountain lions are native and usually present little danger if proper precautions are taken. Medical and search and rescue services will be remote and may not be available to respond to an accident or emergency. Response times can be affected by location, weather, or other emergencies and could be delayed 24 or more hours.

Each participant in T-255's 2012 West Coast Trail High Adventure who has a condition requiring medication should bring an appropriate supply for the duration of the trip. There is no assurance that certain medicines will be readily available at pharmacies we will be near. In certain circumstances duplicate or even triplicate supplies of vital medications are appropriate. People with an allergy to bee, wasp, or hornet stings must bring with them to West Coast Trail an EpiPen or equivalent that has not expired.

I have read the Risk Advisory, and I wish to participate in T-255's 2012 High Adventure to the West Coast Trail, approximately July 16-29, 2012:

Participant: _____

Print

Sign

Parent or Guardian: _____

Print

Sign

Date: _____

Please sign and deliver to Mr. Pierce with the reservation fee of \$400 no later than February 21, 2012.