

The story behind the trail:

The Huu-ay-aht, Ditidaht and Pacheedaht First Nations have always lived along Vancouver Island's west coast. These nations used trails and paddling routes for trade and travel long before foreign sailing ships reached this



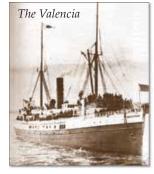
region over 200
years ago. Over the
century following
contact sailors
brought the
beginning of a
changing world to
the First Nations.
Trade increased, and

many sailing ships met a tragic fate navigating in these unfamiliar and hazardous waters. Sailors soon referred to this coastline as the "Graveyard of the Pacific".

Between 1888 and 1890 the government erected a telegraph line along the coastline. The line was an attempt to establish communications between the west coast villages, the newly established Cape Beale and Carmanah lighthouses, and larger communities in hopes of saving mariner lives.

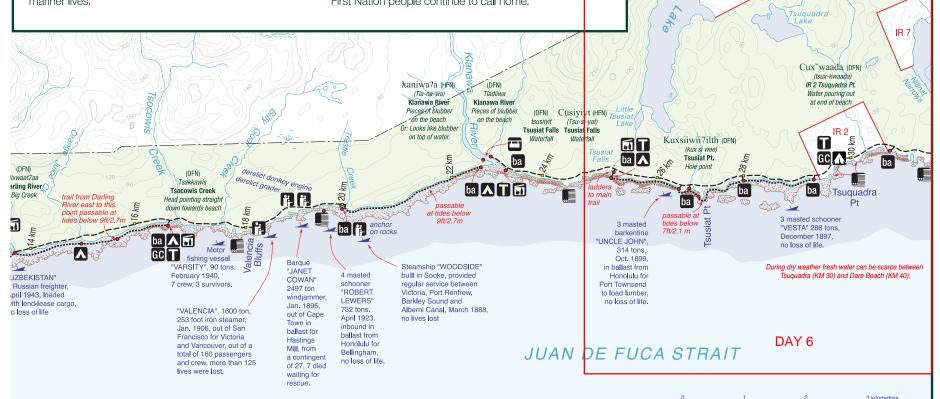
Please note, park boundaries are approximate.

However, 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

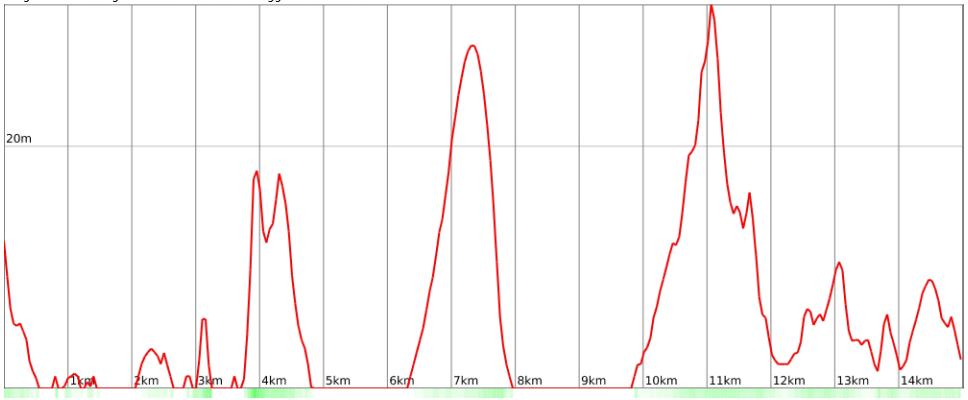


Little Squalicum

the telegraph route to become a life saving trail for shipwreck victims and their rescuers. With improvements to technology the frequency 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 Reserve. Today, hiking the West Coast Trail is about exploring Vancouver Island's temperate rainforest and wild coastline, experiencing a fabled land recounted in traditional histories, walking in the steps of shipwreck victims, and appreciating the beauty of territories that First Nation people continue to call home.



WCT Day 6 to Tsusiat Falls Jul 24, 2018 at 07:21 range 0m to 31m gain 127m loss 136m exaggeration 189.4x



Slope Angle (top), Land Cover (middle), Tree Cover (bottom)

