



## THE NORTH COAST TRAIL ITINERARY

*The North Coast Trail goes through challenging terrain including forest, mud, rock, sand, cable cars and bridge crossings. This itinerary is subject to change - the exact schedule including daily distances hiked will be dictated by factors such as weather and safety, as well as group strength and preferences. Parts of this trail is only 10 years young and because of that can be challenging and muddy terrain to hike over. However the experience and beauty of the area is well worth the effort.*

### **Day 1: Victoria or Nanaimo - Port Hardy (Driving day)**

We will pickup guests between 10-10:30am at your choice of 3 different locations in Nanaimo: **Best Western Dorchester Hotel - Nanaimo (70 Church St. - 10:00am), The Buccaneer Inn (1577 Stewart Ave - 10:15am) or Departure Bay Ferry Terminal (689 Trans Canada Hwy - 10:30am)**. The drive up to the Northern corner of Vancouver Island, and the city of Port Hardy (our starting point for our hike) is about 5 hrs. from Nanaimo, BC. The first night of this trip will take place in Port Hardy, accommodation is included in your price (based on double occupancy\*), where we will get to know each other over a group dinner (meal at your own cost) and have time to go over the hike, any rental gear, trip food, etc.

*\*single room options available for an additional cost of \$299/person*

### **Day 2: Port Hardy - Shuttleworth Bight (8 kms hiked)**

This morning to start our adventure we will be up bright and early and after a quick breakfast will take a water taxi over to Cape Sutil where we will start our hike on the North Coast Trail. We will make sure to spend some time exploring Cape Sutil once we are dropped off as it has cultural and historic importance as a site of an old "Nahwitti" First Nations village and the northern most point of all of Vancouver Island. As well it is the station of 1 of 2 Ranger Cabins along the North Coast Trail where hopefully we can pick the brain of the local Park Ranger. Our hike today will be a combination of beach and inland forest hiking among trees and boardwalks. The views and scenery are absolutely amazing as we pop in and out of the forest along many of the pocket beaches we will cross today. Be sure to have your cameras accessible along the way. Today will be a good break in to the hike as it will be challenging but rewarding and will bring us into camp at Shuttleworth Bight with plenty of time to catch the sunset and enjoy the evening on the beach.

### **Day 3: Shuttleworth Bight - Laura Creek (12 kms hiked)**

A large part of today's hike will be spent on the beach and we will hike through a mix of sand, gravel, rock and cobble beaches. That being said there is a tough section of muddy thick forest to work through on our way to a cable car crossing and then back through the forest to get back to the beach. Do not take the beach walking lightly as it can be tough and challenging terrain to hike on depending where the tides are and how much room we have to operate. We should have the opportunity to see lots of marine life in tidal pools including sea urchins, anemones and hopefully even some starfish. We once again should get into camp at a reasonable time and be able to enjoy the small but secluded camp of Laura Creek.

### **Day 4: Laura Creek - Nel's Bight (13.5 kms hiked)**

Today, we will hike the last part of the newer section of "North Coast Trail" before jumping onto the original "Cape Scott / North Coast Trail". The day will start with a good climb and lots of muddy forest hiking that will take us up into the Nahwitti Cone where we will hike along the "Laughing Loon Lake", a little bit of boardwalk and a whole lot of muds and roots before we work our way back down to Nissen Bight and the beach for a beautiful and scenic lunch. From here we will head on towards Nel's Bight, known as one of the most popular campsites of the entire hike, and this is where



we will connect with the original part of the trail and the hiking gets considerably easier from this point on. We will see some historic landmarks as well as signs and remains of the old Danish settlers that originally tried to settle and farm in the area. Soak up the beauty of camp tonight as Nel's Bight is a beautiful long sandy beach and the home to the 2nd of 2 Ranger Cabins on the trail.

### **Day 5: *Nel's Bight - Cape Scott Lighthouse (Return Trip - 15 kms hiked total)***

Today is an optional day for anyone feeling tired and just wanting to relax on the beach. For those wanting to hike this morning we will leave our tents and gear setup at camp at Nel's Bight as we will be doing an out and back hike and will not need to take all our gear, only water, snacks, cash, swimsuit, camera and hiking poles. Although today's hike is about 15 km in distance, it is very easy terrain and we should have no trouble making it out to the beautiful Cape Scott Lighthouse for a visit with Lighthouse Keepers: Tod and Harvey. Along the way we will pass 2 of the more beautiful beaches on the whole hike in Guise Bay and Experiment Bight where if the weather is cooperating we can hopefully stop and take a swim in the Pacific Ocean off the NW corner of Vancouver Island. After the Guise and Experiment Bight we will work our way up to the Cape Scott Lighthouse where if lucky we will be able to buy some snacks and a coffee before making our way back the way we came, passing more historic remains of the Danish settlers and First Nations that originally settled in the area. We should be back at our base camp in the early afternoon and have time to relax and enjoy our last night of camp on the hike.

### **Day 6: *Nel's Bight - Port Hardy (16 kms hiked)***

Although today's hike is about 16 km in distance, it is very easy terrain as it is the original trail and a lot of it is the old corduroy settlement road. On this section of the trail there are a few more opportunities to see some old WW2 buildings, a lighthouse, telegraph lines and other historic settler remains. We will also cross Eric Lake which is a great place to stop to have a quick lunch/snack before making our way out to the Trailhead. We will have to get up bright and early however as we want to make sure we make it to the Trailhead by 1:00pm so we are in time to catch the shuttle bus that will take us back in to Port Hardy. On the way home we will stop for a celebration lunch and beer (meal included, beverages at your own cost) before getting driven back into Port Hardy where we will check back into our hotel for a well earned night of a rest, showers, cold beer and a warm meal. Accommodation is included in your price, based on double occupancy\* (meal at your own cost).

*\*single room options available for an additional cost*

### **Day 7: *Port Hardy - Alert Bay - Nanaimo or Victoria (Cultural Centre & Driving day)***

This morning we will load the gear in the van and hit the road. Before heading back to Victoria however we have one last surprise for you! We are going to take a ferry across to the beautiful and secluded village of Alert Bay to go and view the internationally renowned U'mista Cultural Centre to go and view some of the First Nation's history and culture that North Vancouver Island is so well known for. This is a unique experience and is a highlight for anyone that makes their way up to the area. After that we will ferry back to the main land and make our way back to Nanaimo. The drive should be about 5 hrs. and we can expect to arrive back between sometime between 6:00-9:00pm (if preferred we can arrange transportation from Nanaimo to Victoria for an extra fee).

Happy Trails and Congratulations!

*Thanks for joining BCA Tours on this amazing journey of the North Coast Trail. We'd love to hear your feedback, and hope to see you back in BC for another one of our summer adventures!*



**BCA TOURS**

604 671 9730  
INFO@BCATOURS.COM  
BCATOURS.COM

*See the BC we See*

**[www.BCATours.com](http://www.BCATours.com)**  
**[www.Facebook.com/BCAToursInc](http://www.Facebook.com/BCAToursInc)**  
**[www.Instagram.com/BCATours](http://www.Instagram.com/BCATours)**

---

SEE THE **BC** WE SEE