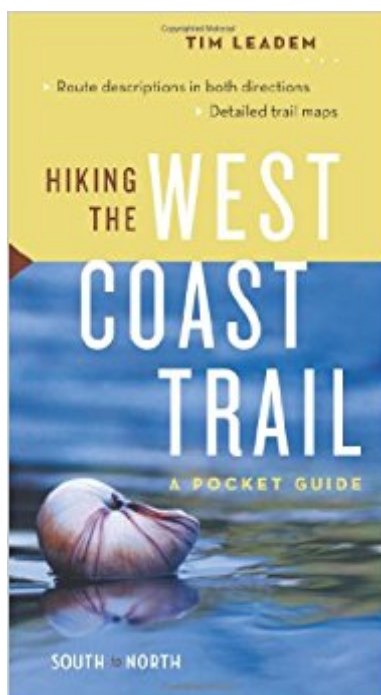


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Hiking The West Coast Trail: A Pocket Guide



Synopsis

The West Coast Trail, which traverses 50 miles of gorgeous Northwest Canadian coastline, has been dubbed the "Graveyard of the Pacific," having claimed 60 ships since 1854. Tim Leadem, who's hiked it many times, shows readers how to make the most of this demanding trail. The book contains two-color maps covering trailhead to terminus; checklists for food, clothing, and gear; easy reference charts for navigating tricky tidal areas; and a brief text describing the historical, cultural, and geological highlights along the way.

Book Information

Paperback: 88 pages

Publisher: Greystone Books (March 8, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1553651553

ISBN-13: 978-1553651550

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 4.5 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,638,812 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #78 in Books > Travel > Canada > Cities > Vancouver #215 in Books > Travel > Canada > Provinces > British Columbia #814 in Books > Travel > Canada > General

Customer Reviews

It would be impossible to keep a book like this 100% current but anyone preparing to hike the West Coast Trail needs to be aware of changes. One specific: the book leads you to believe that the required trail orientation at the South end is held near the Gordon River ferry. That orientation is currently held at the Port Renfrew Community Center 2 kilometers away. We would have missed our start date on the trail had we not discovered that in time. The author failed to place adequate emphasis on footwear and hiking techniques. This trail is mucky and slick. People that are used to dry mountain hiking will not be adequately prepared. Plan on hiking with wet feet. You will waste much time and energy trying to pick your way around the mud. Just maintain your normal stride and walk on through it. Knee-high, snug fitting gaiters over your boots will filter out most of the mud. Thick socks will embed any sand that might get in, thus preventing abrasions and blisters. Rubber soles with a aggressive tread should be selected over the harder urethane soles found on most boots. Don't try to get by with an old pair of boots. One member of our group didn't want to get her

new boots dirty so she brought her old one. The worn soles resulted in a lot of unnecessary slips and the water soaking resulted in both soles falling off before the trip was over. To the positive: There is a lot of good contact information in the book. One gem was the Juan de Fuca Express water taxi. We hadn't initially considered doing the shuttle by boat but are very glad that we did. It was a great trip in and of itself. For what it is worth, the ranger that gave our orientation felt that "Blisters and Bliss" gave a better picture of hiking the trail than Leadem's book.

Use this with Blisters and Bliss for some good, some redundant and some worthless information. This and a pound of bravado will get you on and off the trail!

Good to pre read. Kind of hard to deal with on the trail. Good content and recommendations

This guide is a "must-have" to carry on this Top 10 hike. I will be writing about the West Coast Trail in a sequel to my book, "By Foot, Pedal, or Paddle."

Very good. Convinced me I would never be ready to hike this trail.

A friend and I hiked the WCT this past summer. As the other reviewer noted some things have changed so this is no substitute for the Parks Canada website. We carried this book with us on the trail and used it to plan our days.

Very useful.

An update from a previous review: As of 2010, orientation sessions at the south end are indeed by the Gordon River ferry, not the Port Renfrew Community Centre. I finished the trail recently, and I did find the book very useful at times. I was glad to have it. Having chronological instructions for both north-to-south and south-to-north was user-friendly. With a few exceptions, I found it factually accurate, and its recommendations were sound. It's best used in conjunction with the official park map, which has kilometre markings on it that the book doesn't have. One of the things I didn't like about this book was its suggested six-day itinerary. Most hikers take seven days, spending three days to cover the 22 km in the south end rather than two days as suggested. Things that were inaccurate, out-of-date, or annoying were:- West Coast Trail Express bus does not operate daily in the shoulder season.- p. 52 says Tsusiat Point is impassable; this is probably a typo. It is nearby

Tsuquanah Point that is impassable even at low tide.- In at least one place it says to use the forest trail rather than the beach without saying why. The reasons should have been better explained.- The northernmost 1.5 km of trail no longer follows an old road, which got washed away some time ago. In its place there is an umpteenth ladder system.- Time estimates for the south end are very optimistic. In bad conditions, you might find yourself averaging 1km/hr over the day.

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