

Welcome to the Juan de Fuca Marine Trail

This 47 km wilderness trail stretches along the western shoreline of Southern Vancouver Island from China Beach, west of Jordan River, to Botanical Beach near Port Renfrew. It offers scenic beauty, spectacular hiking, wildlife viewing and roaring surf in its course along the Pacific coastline of the Strait of Juan de Fuca in the Salish Sea. Most of the trail is designed for strenuous day or multi-day hiking in this rugged and isolated area. There are four trailheads to the Marine Trail: Botanical Beach, Parkinson Creek, Sombrio Beach and China Beach. Single day and multiple day hiking trips can begin at any of these trailheads, which also offer many day-use opportunities.

The park lies within the traditional territory of the Pacheedaht First Nation. Pacheedaht territory includes the lands and waters along the southwest coast of Vancouver Island between Bonilla Point and Sheringham Point. The name "Pacheedaht" translates to English as "Children of the Sea Foam".

Things to Do



Juan de Fuca Marine Trail

China Beach day-use: A wide, gravel trail (some steep areas) suitable for most young children and the elderly (20 minutes one way) leads through mature forest to the beach. A viewing deck offers views of the beach and Juan de Fuca Strait. The fine sand beach is ideal for picnicking, sand building, wading and relaxing. Take a stroll to the waterfall at the east end of the beach or wander at length to the east.



China Beach: Second Beach Trail (accessed from China Beach campground via stairs and 1 km fairly steep gravel trail). The 15-20 minute hike (each way) through mature forest of Sitka spruce, Douglas fir and Western redcedar leads to great rolling breakers of a tumultuous sea. Benches allow visitors to enjoy the views of Juan de Fuca Strait along the way.

Botanical Beach: A low tide of 1.2 m or less is best for viewing tide pools; check local tide tables. The beach area offers parking, toilets and picnic areas. **Please look only; do not touch marine life.** Do not remove, collect or disturb any tide pool life, shells, plants, flowers, kelp, etc. Even touching the water in a tide pool with sunscreen on your hands can create an "oil slick" that could kill the vulnerable creatures in this sensitive ecosystem. **Trails:** Mill Bay (some steep sections); Botany Bay; and Botanical Beach are suitable for most young children and the elderly (each trail is 20 minutes one way). No camping or fires allowed.

Parkinson Creek: The trailhead begins or ends a day-long (10 km) hike to Botanical Beach or a 9 km hike to Sombrio Beach. This moderate section of the trail is through beautiful mature forest. Watch for marine mammals that frequent this area.

Sombrio Beach - This large cobble beach is an easy 10 minute (one way) walk from the parking lot. Explore the beach, camp, surf or hike eastward along the beach (30 minutes one way).



Some areas of this park are open to salt-water fishing. **Botanical Beach, Parkinson Creek from Little Kuitsche Creek to about Payzant Creek are closed to fishing.** Fishing is subject to provincial and federal fishing regulations. All anglers should check the current regulations issued by Fisheries and Oceans Canada prior to fishing. Anyone fishing or angling in British Columbia must have an appropriate licence.



Sombrio Beach is a world class surfing area, primarily in the winter months. Windsurfing is also a popular activity in this area.



Small fires only are permitted on beaches below the high tide mark. **No fires allowed at Botanical Beach.** Use driftwood for fires - do not cut trees, snags or other vegetation (ticketable offence under the *Park Act*). Portable campstoves for cooking are required at some campsites.



This park has pit toilets, located at each campground and in the day-use areas. There are no flush toilets.

Visitor Services



Pets/domestic animals are allowed in the beach area and day use area of China Beach, but must be on a leash at all times. You are responsible for their behaviour and must dispose of any waste. Dogs are not prohibited on the trail but backcountry areas of this park are not suitable for dogs due to potential for problems with bears and cougars. Keep your pet safe by leaving them at home.



Bring your own drinking water; potable water is not available. Be sure to boil, treat or filter stream water before drinking.



Camping is available in both beach and forest; please camp at established camping sites to minimize impact.

Beach Sites - Beach camping at Mystic Beach, Bear Beach, Chin Beach and Sombrio Beach (East). No designated sites - please camp on the beach to prevent degradation of the forest vegetation.

Forest Sites - Forest camping at Little Kuitche Creek and Payzant Creek but only on designated tent pads. There is limited or no shoreline access. **Fires are not permitted.** Use a portable campstove to cook.

Group Size is limited to 10 people max. Trail and park facilities cannot accommodate larger groups.

Enjoy Your Stay

Park regulations protect the natural state of the park and ensure a quality experience for all visitors.

Emergencies: Report Search and Rescue and other emergencies to the RCMP using 911 phone service.

The Juan de Fuca Marine Trail is a wilderness hiking trail - Conditions are always changing; please get up-to-date info before hiking. Advisories may be posted at trailhead info shelters. Your fitness, knowledge, skills & equipment must meet the challenges of the area. Be prepared for: rugged, uneven ground, slippery conditions on muddy trails, wooden surfaces, boulders and rocky shorelines, wading creeks, steep slopes, climbing embankments, and following an irregular trail. Damaged structures, wear and tear, storms and other factors may quickly change conditions.

Be prepared for rain & damp mists - incidents of hypothermia and physical injury increase significantly during prolonged wet period.

Accidents and injuries - It may take hours before help arrives if an accident occurs. Hikers are advised to leave a trip plan, including the trail they are hiking, and arrival and departure times with a friend or relative.

Surf and waves: Exposed beaches along Juan de Fuca Provincial Park are subject to "rogue" waves. Please show respect for surf and waves. Watch for unusually large rogue waves that occasionally hit the beach. The waves are capable of pulling a person into the water. Keep children away from the surf.

As you hike, watch for orange balls as they mark an exit from the beach to the trail. Beaches may be cut off from the trail during high tides and storms.

Contact Information

Park Operator: R.L.C. Enterprize Ltd. 250-474-1336 and office@rlcparks.ca

Reservations: Discover Camping toll free: 1-800-689-9025
online: www.discovercamping.ca

Visit bcparks.ca for more information!

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Juan de Fuca Provincial Park

Park Map and Information Guide



Photo: Tidepool at Botanical Beach by Iain Robert Reid

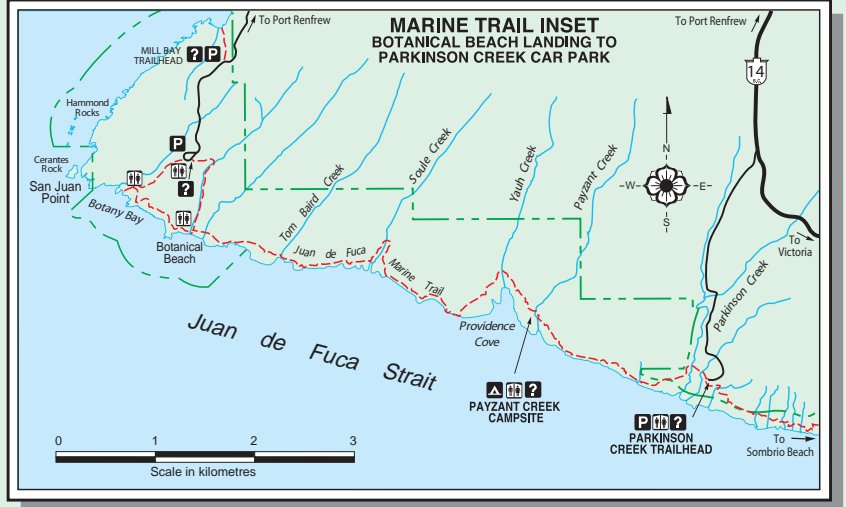


BRITISH
COLUMBIA

BC Parks



This line indicates the relative degree of difficulty between each section of the trail. All hikers must make their own judgement as to what is difficult.



JUAN DE FUCA MARINE TRAIL DISTANCE REFERENCE TABLE
Distances are approximate based on field measurements and rounded to the nearest kilometre.

TYPE	DESTINATION	KILOMETRE MARKER
P	CHINA BEACH	0
A	MYSTIC BEACH	2
A	BEAR BEACH	9
f	LOSS CREEK BRIDGE	24
A	SOMBRIO BEACH (EAST)	27
P	SOMBRIO	29
A	LITTLE KUITISHE	33
P	PARKINSON	37
A	PAYZANT	40
P	BOTANICAL	47

Juan de Fuca Strait

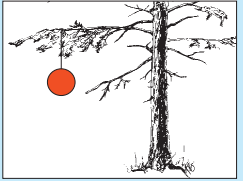
Moderate

Difficult

Most Difficult

Orange Balls

- Watch for orange balls as you hike, they mark an exit from the beach to the trail.
- With high tides and during storms beaches may be cut off from the trail.



There are no garbage containers along this trail. Please: IF YOU PACK IT IN - PACK IT OUT!

BEACH CUT-OFFS			
No.	Location	Km. marker	Passable below (approx.) tide height of (m/ft)
1	Bear Beach	8.7	3.00/9.8
2	Chin Beach (East)	20.6	2.75/9.0
3	Chin Beach (West)	21.3	2.75/9.0
4	Sombrio Beach (East)	28.0	3.00/9.8
5	Sombrio Beach (West)	29.6	2.60/8.5
6	Sombrio Beach (West-west)	30.2	3.00/9.8

