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Trip Report

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Sun Aug 17 to Sat Aug 23, 2014

 Leader: **Harold Osborne**

Co-Leader:

Hello Everyone,

Just wondering how to describe a 6 day & 5 nights Trip on the Wonderful West Coast Trail !!! Well well, it was Amazing, Fabulous & a Must do... :-0)

It all started back in April with the registration and then Waiting until the Trip day :(.

Unfortunately, we lost our Team Leader Harold who broke his right Leg hiking the week before. We tried to find a last minute replacement with No luck. It was now only the four (4) of us Newbies: Pathfinder - Louise, Rear Tail Lookout - Kurtis, Our Respectable Elder - Margaret & none the least Replacement Leader - Claude. Except for Tilou & Claude, weve never met before the departure day-orientation briefing at 12:30hrs. We started at 14:00hrs & already separated in two, Moi & Tilou wanted to attack those 1st ladders while Kurtis & Marg did their first steps on the beach. We reunited just 15 mins later & stayed together for the rest of the Hike. We can definitely say that the Weather-Sunshine was on our side from Start to Finish, this really helped on the Traction & time saving. So After many many many. Bridges, Ladders, 1 Cable Cart, 2 Rivers Crossing, 2 Lighthouses, 2 Donkey Engines, 2 Pit Stops Snack Bars, 5 Campings, many Outhouses, 2 Ferries, Lots & Lots of Hikers, Lookouts, Beaches Sand., Misc Rock formations., Log-Rock Hopping & Crossings, Roots., Slippery Roots, Hills. & Mud & More Mud..., Whale sighting, Sea Lions, Seals, Hermit the Crab, Seagulls, Racing against the High Tide, & One Difficult Surge Channel Anchor on the Rock next to km 38 - Oops !!! Our Beautiful journey ended after 6 days & 88.47 km & NOT 75km because of Mud & Obstacles detours has follow:

Day 1: 13:50-19:30hrs, 14.98km, slept at km 14 Darling River (Inland Easy Hiking with heavier Packs) - Margaret had her 1st encounter of Wild Life !! Yesssss.. What seemed to be a Giant Beast was a Cute Tiny Little Mouse that infiltrated her Tent while she was ZZZZZzzzzzzz, she woke up with Mini Mouse Hiking on her chest :0) 'Quite the scare LOL ;

Day 2: 08:20-13:45hrs, 11.95km, slept at km 23 Tsusiat Falls, 1st & Only Cable Cart at Klanawa River (Half Inland-Beach Easy Hiking & Scrambling at the 38km);

Day 3: 07:30-15:25hrs, 18.7km, slept at km 41 ish Cribbs Creek, 1st Ferry at Nitinat Narrows (Half Inland-Beach Easy Hiking & Made it just on time at the Arch before High Tide). We also caught up with Kim Beniski & Her husband Berry;

Day 4: 07:00-16:20hrs, 18.2km, slept at km 58 Cullite Creek instead of Walbran, Extra 5km to save on next 2 Days hiking distance. Pit Stop Chez Monique for Omelette 'Yummy Yummy & bought Beer for the evening :) (Mainly Beach Hiking in the Hot Sun - broke a sweat, Ladders & Suspension Bridge);

Day 5: 07:00-16:30hrs, 15.42km, slept at km 71 Thrasher Cove instead of Camper (Inland only, Roots, Ladders & Mud - One of the Toughest day + 1km switch backs

to Trasher & up 1st thing in the morning after);

Day 6: 09:15-13:15hrs, 7.22km, slept at km 76 Pacheedaht Campground, Gordon River Access Ferry & The End - Oops !! Nope, 1km hike to Campsite & 1km back to showers (Inland only - Roots, Ladders, a bit of Mud & Lots of Steep Hills, 2nd Toughest day) rewarded by a Dinner at Coastal Kitchen Caf;

This Trek would not have been possible without the Pre-Planning & Initial Segment brake down of Ex-Team Leader Harold Osborne - Merci

However, we 'The Team' made it happen on the Go, All Newbies-1st timers of the WCT, we made the necessary re-adjustments of route & distance segments, Tide reading during the Hike. Moral was pretty high throughout with the Weather in our favour. We set up camp really close together, enjoyed the Down time at our own pace: Water Purification, Re-fueling, Bathing & a well deserved Napp. Some or most of us had to adjust to the sound of waves crashing all night.. ZZZZZzzzzz..

We've met Lots & Lots of Hikers from every country, some really prepared, smiling, enjoying themselves & quite a lot without poles & a few that just wanted to get it over with. One Hiker had Vibram Toe shoes - Ouch... Good Luck.

It was really a Phenomenal West Coast Trail Discovery for All Members.

Looking Forward for the next Hike.

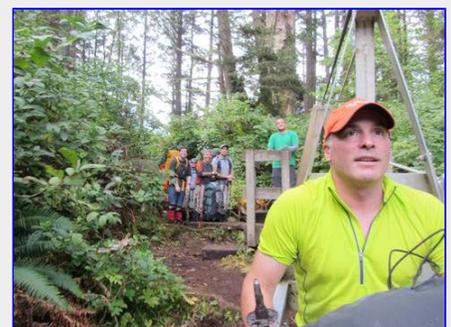
Claude Poirier
Team Leader



*The Start Point at
Pachena Bay
[Claude Poirier photo]*



*Kurtis & Marg on there 1st Cart
ride - Oops !! & Last
[Claude Poirier photo]*



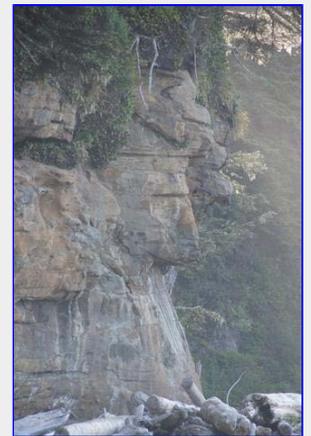


*Looks really Fast & Ferious :)
[Claude Poirier photo]*

*Kurtis & Marg unloading
there Packs
[Claude Poirier photo]*



*At Nitinat Narrows with a Little
Friend
[Claude Poirier photo]*



*Cool Rock Face
[Claude Poirier photo]*



*One of the Guardian Cabin
[Claude Poirier photo]*



*At one of the many
Beach access point
[Claude Poirier photo]*



*Arriving or Climbing down to
Tsusiat Falls
[Claude Poirier photo]*



*Up Up we go,
another Ladder
(*&%?%(...
[Claude Poirier photo]*



*Enjoying Down Time at Tsusiat
Falls
[Claude Poirier photo]*



*Brainstorming for tomorrows
Route...
[Claude Poirier photo]*



*Marg enjoying a little walk on
the beach after a long day
[Claude Poirier photo]*



*Yummy Yummy Omelette Chez
Monique..
[Claude Poirier photo]*



*Another Cute Little Friend
leaving Chez Monique
[Claude Poirier photo]*



*Going through a Flock of
Seagulls - Watch out !!!
[Claude Poirier photo]*



*Hey Girls, It's a very very close
call from High Tide, come on...
[Claude Poirier photo]*



*1st Ferry at Nitinat Narrows
[Claude Poirier photo]*

*On the Road again.....
[Claude Poirier photo]*



*Don't get wet Kurtis :)
[Claude Poirier photo]*



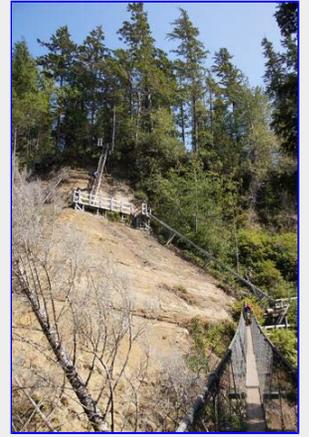
*Where are the Boys !!
[Claude Poirier photo]*



*So many Roots, at least there
not so slippery...
[Claude Poirier photo]*



*Some of the Boards-
Trail conditions....
[Claude Poirier photo]*



*Suspension Bridge &
More Ladders -
Awesome :)
[Claude Poirier photo]*



*Just love it - Do U Marg ! :)
[Claude Poirier photo]*



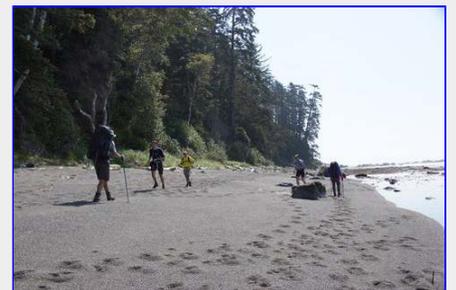
*Lets go before the Tide comes
back in..
[Claude Poirier photo]*



*No ! The other way Marg... Am
Stronger then U Claude....
[Claude Poirier photo]*



*Some more Climbing
[Claude Poirier photo]*





Watch your Heads...
[Claude Poirier photo]

*Those Guys were Running the
WCT - Crazy :)*
[Claude Poirier photo]



*Enjoying Down time with
Friends & Beer*
[Claude Poirier photo]



*Tsunami Exit Route
!!!! :(*
[Claude Poirier photo]



Some more Roots..
[Claude Poirier photo]



*WCT completed at 75km point -
Yesss, but more like 85ish km :)*
[Claude Poirier photo]



*Bravo Team - we did it - Woo
Hoo..
[Claude Poirier photo]*



*Yessss Tilou, U can go on Have
a Nice Warm Shower :)
[Claude Poirier photo]*

Report contributors: Claude P,

Participant list (5 of 4): Margaret D, Kurtis F, Louise M, Harold O, Claude P,

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