

Welcome to the



Experience Canada's longest hut to hut hiking trail - 180 km of extraordinary wilderness on the beautiful Sunshine Coast of British Columbia

- Easy day trip access
- Epic coastal and mountain views
- Incredible wildlife and old growth forests



sunshinecoasttrail.com

The Story of the Trail

The Trail was inspired by a clear-cut, with a vision to protect the region's last stands of old growth before it was too late. In 1992, a dedicated group of outdoor enthusiasts formed the Powell River Parks and Wilderness Society (PRPAWS), to establish parks and protected wilderness areas and connect them through a long-distance hiking trail.

Originally seen as an impossible task, by 1996 the first of 3 provincial parks (Malaspina, Inland Lake, Duck Lake) were successfully created and linked by hiking trails.

By the year 2000, the entire 180 km trail along the Northern Sunshine Coast had been established. Over the next decade, PRPAWS volunteers continued to upgrade, maintain, and promote the extensive trail system.

In 2009, the group received its first grant from the Island Coastal Economic Trust to build shelters and improve trail surfaces and signage, and with Powell River Community Forest grants, continue to build huts and composting toilets.

In 2023, PRPAWS officially changed its name from Powell River to qathet, the Tla'amin word meaning 'working together'.



Support for the Trail

If it weren't for the talents, patience and a common vision of dozens of volunteers driven to protect the vanishing old growth and mature forest stands, this awe-inspiring trail would not exist.

Thank you to the tireless crews 'working together' either in the forest or at their desktops to make this happen. And thanks to the thousands who love and support the Sunshine Coast Trail so it continues to grow.

You can help with the growth and maintenance of the trail by making a donation to:

sunshinecoasttrail.com/donate

Donations of \$20 or more can request a tax receipt.



Thank you for your support!



Getting to the Trail

The Sunshine Coast Trail spans the length of the Northern Sunshine Coast, with the City of Powell River in the middle. Located northwest of Vancouver on Highway 101, the area is only accessible by car ferry, private boat, or plane.

BY FERRY: From Vancouver, two ferry rides are required - Horseshoe Bay (West Vancouver) to Langdale (Gibsons), and then Earls Cove (Egmont) to Saltery Bay (Powell River). Note that payment is only required once on each leg of the trip (in Horseshoe Bay and in Saltery Bay). From Vancouver Island, one ferry ride from Little River (Comox) to Westview (Powell River) is required. Visit BCFerries.com for information about ferry fees and schedules.

BY AIR Daily and charter flights are available to the Powell River Airport via Pacific Coastal Airlines, or to Powell Lake via Harbour Air (float plane).

GETTING AROUND Once in Powell River, travel by car is the easiest option, but you'll also find access to public transit and taxis. Transport to Sunshine Coast Trail access points is available via water taxi to Sarah Point and also by private shuttle to various access points.

Learn more and start planning your trip at:

sunshinecoastcanada.com

Main Access Points

1 SARAH POINT ROAD - book transportation with a local operator. Reserve a water taxi from Lund or go with an experienced 4x4 shuttle service to reach the trailhead. Road terrain becomes very steep and rugged, and tow truck service is extremely limited and expensive.

2 GILPIN ROAD - drive 2.2 km north of Lund on Sarah Point Road and park at Gilpin Road. Access to Wednesday Lake, Malaspina Inlet, and Gwendoline Hills.

3 MALASPINA ROAD - drive north toward Lund and turn right onto paved Malaspina Road for 1.4 km. Access to Manzanita Bluff Hut, or Thunder Ridge on the opposite side of Malaspina Road.

4 SOUTH VIEW ROAD - drive north from the Westview ferry terminal for 14 km and then follow Southview Road for 3.6 km. Access to Toquenatch, or Marathon Trail.

5 WILDE/TOMKINSON ROAD - drive north from the Westview ferry terminal for 12 km, and follow Wilde, then Tomkinson Road for 6 km to gravel pit parking lot. Access to Appleton Canyon and Rieveley's Pond Shelter, as well as Sliammon Lakes Trail section.

6 SHINGLEMILL - drive north just across the Powell River Bridge and find parking along the road, or in the pay parking lot. Access to Scout Mountain and Sliammon Lakes, as well as Mowat Bay and Tony's trails.

7 HASLAM STREET - drive around the back of Cranberry Lake in Powell River, and head up Haslam Street to Inland Lake and Haywire Bay roads. Access to Tony's Trail, Lost, Inland and Confederation lakes trail sections.



Photo: Destination BC/Andrew Strain

8 DUCK LAKE - drive 5 km south of Powell River from Joyce Ave at Highway and go up Duck Lake Road Branch 1 for 8.5 km to Duck Lake and turn right, stay on Branch 1 for 3 km then right onto Branch 3 for 3.3 km, then left onto Granite Lake Main for 4 km of 4WD just short of Granite Lake. Access to Elk Lake and Walt Hill sections.

9 DIXON ROAD - drive 19 km south of Powell River to Lang Bay. Access various sections of the SCT off Dixon Road leading into the Smith Range, to Walt Hill, Elk Lake, Fiddlehead and Tin Hat, Lewis and March lakes.

10 CANOE MAIN - drive 21 km south of Powell River and follow Canoe Main onto Lois Main following it to Lois Lakeshore, Creek Four, or to Branch 41 (Lois Lake Branch 3) which you can use to access Elephant Lake Trail and the West Troubridge Trail sections.

11 SALTERY BAY MAIN - drive south to the Saltery Bay ferry terminal and access a variety of SCT trail sections (Saltery Bay, Fairview Bay, Rainy Day Lake and East Troubridge). Great views, old growth and beachcombing.



Safety & FAQs

YOU ARE ENTERING THE WILDERNESS. PLEASE BE AWARE AND HIKE WITH CARE!

TRAIL ACCESS & ROAD SAFETY Many logging roads are industrially active, and DANGEROUS to use during operations. Active logging hours are generally 6am-6pm, Monday-Friday, and sometimes on weekends. A locally programmed/permitted radio, and knowledge of how to use it, are essential for entering any Forest Service Roads (FSRs), at any time. Radios can be rented/purchased from Markcim Industries: **604.485.4398**

RE-ROUTES The trail lays within a working forest, and re-routes along some sections may occur to accommodate forest licensees.

HUTS/CAMPING Most qPAWS huts have indoor tables/benches, and outdoor composting toilets and picnic tables. The high-elevation winterized huts (#6, 8, 10,12) have pellet stoves, but it is strongly advised to bring your own pellets. Huts are open to anyone on a first-come, first-served, shared-use basis and can accommodate 8 to 10 hikers. There are limited tent sites next to the huts in case there is an overflow of hikers. Everyone should carry a light tent, or a bivy sack with a mosquito net. Most of the campsites, located roughly halfway between huts, also have an outhouse and a picnic table. Please adhere to *Leave No Trace* principles (Int.org) at all huts and campsites, and pack out what you pack in.

TOILETS There are composting toilets at most huts, and pit toilets at various locations along the trail.

FIRES Campfires are allowed if there is no fire ban in effect. Use existing fire pits and dead wood only, and fully extinguish any fires.

CELL PHONES Reception on the trail is sporadic, and coverage is best on slopes facing Powell River or the Salish Sea.

CLOTHING Bring proper rain gear and footwear; weather can change dramatically without warning.

LEVELS OF DIFFICULTY Few sections of the trail are flat and easy, and challenging ups and downs are a frequent encounter. The majority of the trail is moderate with many challenging, and even difficult, sections. The trail was designed to be family-friendly, but cumulatively, it can be a challenge, even for seasoned hikers. Depending on skill level, hikers may take between 7 to 14 days to complete its entire length. You can hike shorter sections of the trail by making use of the trail's various entry and exit points.

WATER Water is available via creeks and lakes, except on some higher summits. Carrying more water with you during periods of drought is advised. Boiling or purifying water is advised.

PLANNING Visit AdventureSmart.ca to learn more about the Three Ts: trip planning, training, and taking the essentials.

Trail Water Taxi from Lund

Local Knowledge!
Cabins, SCT Guide book and map,
dehydrated meals
and more...

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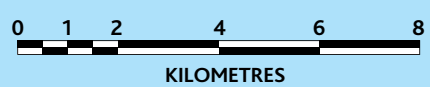
SUNSHINE COAST SHUTTLE

Shuttle, Resupply & Outfitting services to many locations along the SCT and more!

Book Today! www.sunshinecoastshuttle.ca



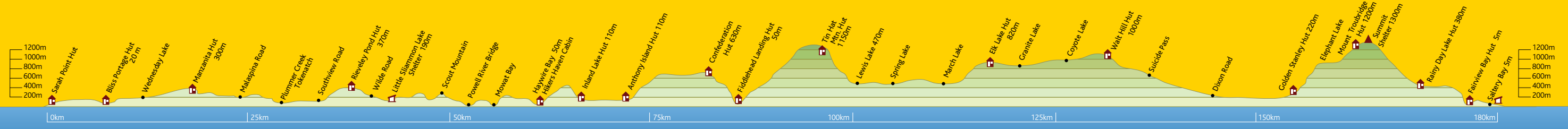
The Sunshine Coast Trail passes through traditional, unceded, and ancestral territories of the Tla'amin, Klahoose, Xwémalhkwu, and shíshálh Nations, who have stewarded these lands since time immemorial. Visitors are reminded to travel with respect for the land and its inhabitants, to support a lasting legacy of conservation for generations to come.



MAP LEGEND

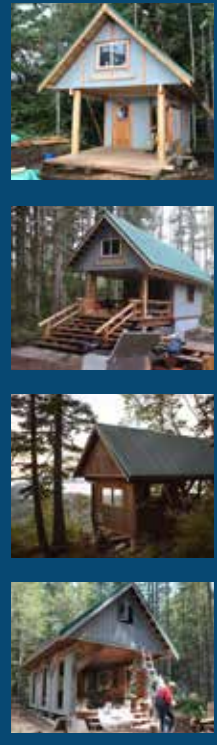
- Highway 101
- Paved roads
- Gravel roads
- 4x4 road access
- Sunshine Coast Trail
- SCT access trails
- Powell Forest Canoe Route
- Portage on Canoe Route
- SCT access point/road
- Lookout
- Campsite
- SCT Hut
- Shelter
- Independent Cabin
- Park or protected area
- Tla'amin treaty lands
- Elevation contours at 200 metre increments

This map was printed in 2024, for latest updates and information, please visit: [SUNSHINECOASTTRAIL.COM](https://www.sunshinecoasttrail.com)

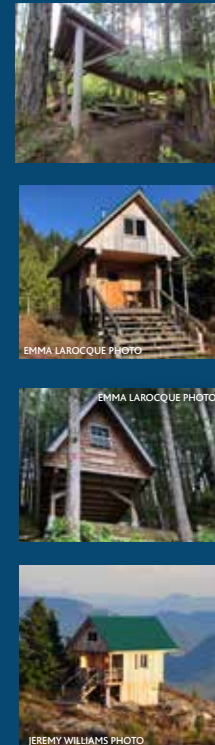


Canada's Longest Hut-to-Hut Hiking Trail

- 1 Sarah Point** The SCT trailhead hut overlooks the entrance of Desolation Sound Marine Park and the beginning of Malaspina Park, an area which protects the first 15km of the hiking trail.
- 2 jeish chiam, Bliss Portage** Located near a historic Tla'amin portage, the hut is nestled next to old-growth forest, and lies close to Morning Beach on Malaspina Inlet.
- 3 Manzanita** This hut taught the volunteers the value of glass and walls to keep the sideways weather out. The view of the Salish Sea is breathtaking.
- 4 Rieveley Pond** Like most of the 16 huts and shelters qPAWS has built, this one has a closed-in sleeping loft for up to 8 hikers. Home to an orchestra of frogs.



- 5 Little Sliammon Lake Shelter** A large shingled shed roof covers a picnic table with benches. There are several flat areas nearby for pitching a tent. There is also a swimming dock.
- 6 Confederation Lake** A fully winterized hut replaced a collapsing log cabin in 2016. The wood floor of the original cabin now serves as a tent pad.
- 7 Fiddlehead Landing** A somewhat smaller A-framed hut on Powell Lake, it provides a stopping point for hikers between Confederation Lake and Tin Hat Mountain.
- 8 Tin Hat Mountain** At 1193 m, this iconic summit destination is fully winterized, and offers a 360° panorama of the surrounding mountains, lakes, and the distant Salish Sea.



- 9 Elk Lake** Situated on a narrow, but long and deep mountain lake, the hut also sports a swimming and canoeing dock. Not insulated. Elevation 820m.
- 10 Walt Hill** Another fully winterized mountain cabin, the hut is perched on Penstemon Bluff, just below the old growth studded summit. Vistas of the Horseshoe Valley and linked lakes of the Canoe Route below.
- 11 Golden Stanley** The hut is named after Golden Stanley, an intellectual pioneer who grew up in the area and explored the virgin Horseshoe Valley. Drinking water accessible in the creek 100m up the trail.
- 12 Mount Troubridge** A log cabin of true craftsmanship, it also has a pellet stove to keep you warm in winter, and an adjacent to a pond surrounded by high elevation yellow cedar.



- 13 Troubridge Summit Emergency Shelter** If mountain weather blows up suddenly on the summit of Mount Troubridge, you'll be thankful to find this shelter at the top (1305m) to hunker down in. On clear days, enjoy the vistas.
- 14 Rainy Day Lake** Perched atop a knoll, the hut overlooks the lake below, great for swimming and paddling. An idyllic campsite and dock lie below.
- 15 Fairview Bay** Except during prolonged droughts, the hut has a nearby stream at the head of the bay, and a small sandy swimming beach when the tide is low enough.
- 16 Saltery Bay Kiosk** 200m east of the ferry terminal, this shelter marks the official finish line of the 180km long hiking trail.



A Cabin at Haywire Bay Regional Park, operated by qathet Regional District: qathet.ca/services/parks-and-recreation/
B Hikers Haven Cabin, operated by the Powell Lake Outdoor Learning Centre: outdoorlearningcentre.ca
C Cabins at Inland Lake Provincial Park, operated by BC Parks: bcparcs.ca/explore/parkpgs/inland_lk/