

Trails

For your own safety and preservation of the park, obey posted signs and keep to designated trails. Shortcutting, switchbacking, skirting mud holes and trampling across meadows and boggy ground destroy the plant life and soil structure, thus increasing erosion and deterioration of the trails. The federal government dismantled the boardwalk and suspension bridges between the lighthouse and foghorn at the Cape itself.

Many sections of the trails in Cape Scott Provincial Park are extremely muddy and difficult to traverse. **Visitors should be equipped for wet weather. High-topped leather or rubber boots and/or proper hiking boots should be worn.**

There are boardwalk sections on the trails. These can be extremely slippery when wet. Use caution and beware.

Distances and approximate hiking times in good weather from the parking lot to:

San Josef Bay – 2.5 kilometres (3/4 hours)

Eric Lake – 3.0 kilometres (1 hour)

Fisherman River – 9.3 kilometres (3 hours)

Hansen Lagoon – 14.7 kilometres (5 hours)

Nissen Bight – 15.0 kilometres (5 1/2 hours)

Nels Bight – 16.8 kilometres (6 hours)

Experiment Bight – 18.9 kilometres (6 1/2 hours)

Guise Bay – 20.7 kilometres (7 hours)

Cape Scott – 23.6 kilometres (8 hours)

From San Josef Bay, a route leads to Sea Otter Cove via the summit of Mount St. Patrick, distance approximately 10 kilometres (5 hours). The beach at Sea Otter Cove is only passable at mid-to-low tide. It is about 2 kilometres from Sea Otter Cove at Lowrie Bay. At present this route receives minimal maintenance.

Note: Hiking times in inclement weather or when trails are muddy may be considerably longer.

Points of Interest

As you hike along the trails and beaches of the park watch for some of the following natural and cultural history points of interest:

1. **Henry Ohlsen home, store and post office.** (1908–1944) Follow the trail to San Josef Bay. Only a few rotting planks and rusting relics remain.
2. **Sea stacks.** Accessible at low tide. Located between first and second beach on San Josef Bay.
3. **Sea caves.** Accessible at low tide. Located between first and second beach on San Josef Bay.
4. **Corduoy Road.** Remnants of the 1908 road which connected the south end of Eric Lake with the San Josef store and post office.
5. **Wharf.** Located at the south end of Eric Lake. Served as a transportation link during peak years of population before the trail around the lake was constructed.
6. **Giant Sitka spruce.** On the east side of the trail 20 minutes north of the Eric Lake camping area turnout. Tree measures 7.2 metres in circumference.

7. **Telegraph line.** The federal government ran a telegraph line into Cape Scott in 1913. The old line may be seen in open areas along the trail.
8. **Farm fence posts.** Wooden fence posts run parallel to the trail and two sets run perpendicular to the trail through an open bog area.
9. **Breakwater.** The remains of an old sailing vessel sunk as a breakwater. Unfortunately it did not survive winter storms and was soon washed ashore.
10. **Wooden cart.** Located in a meadow off the north side of the trail near Spencer farm. Alfred Spencer farmed here until 1956.
11. **Caterpillar tractor.** The first motorized machine used at Cape Scott is lodged between two trees on the north side of the trail.
12. **Collapsed tool shed.** Follow the side trail near the Spencer farm interpretive sign.
13. **Second dyke.** Look for the raised shoreline along the northwest shore of Hansen Lagoon. Completed in 1905, the dyke was built to reclaim land for pasture.
14. **First dyke.** Large mound of rocks runs 720 metres across the lagoon just east of the middle arm of the Fisherman River. Completed in 1899.
15. **Boiler.** Lodged in the riverbank on the north side of the middle arm of Fisherman River. Used by Jensen for his milk condensery or sawmill (1898).
16. **Plank road.** Constructed in 1942 to transport goods between various World War II buildings.
17. **Building ruins.** Follow the small trail off the main trail about 50 metres before Guise Bay to see a long rectangular building believed to have been a store during World War II.
18. **Building ruins.** Follow a small trail off Guise Bay Beach to see two cabins used as World War II barracks.
19. **Driftwood fence posts.** Remains of a driftwood fence running east-west behind Guise Bay. Built by N.P. Jensen in 1910 in an attempt to stabilize the sand dunes for pasture.
20. **Cougar trap.** In the sandneck is a wood A-frame structure used as a cougar trap by the Jensen children. A cougar was captured and held for 10 minutes much to the surprise of the children.
21. **Native midden.** Beached shell and bone mark the remnants of a native food fishing site at the west end of Experiment Bight.
22. **Plank road.** Used to transport goods to the light station.
23. **Sea Stacks.** Follow the side trail off the main trail to the lighthouse to a gravel beach with seven sea stacks near the north end.
24. **Cape Scott Lighthouse.** Built in 1960.
25. **Christiansen Grave.**

Caution

Persons contemplating a visit to Cape Scott Provincial Park are reminded that the park is a wilderness area without supplies or equipment of any kind. Most trails are primitive and very muddy. Hiking along the coastline can also be dangerous. Please read the “Message to Visitors” section. Holberg is the nearest settlement. Visitors should be in possession of suitable maps.

Around old settlements watch out for abandoned wells, broken glass and rusty nails. Standing structures are unstable.

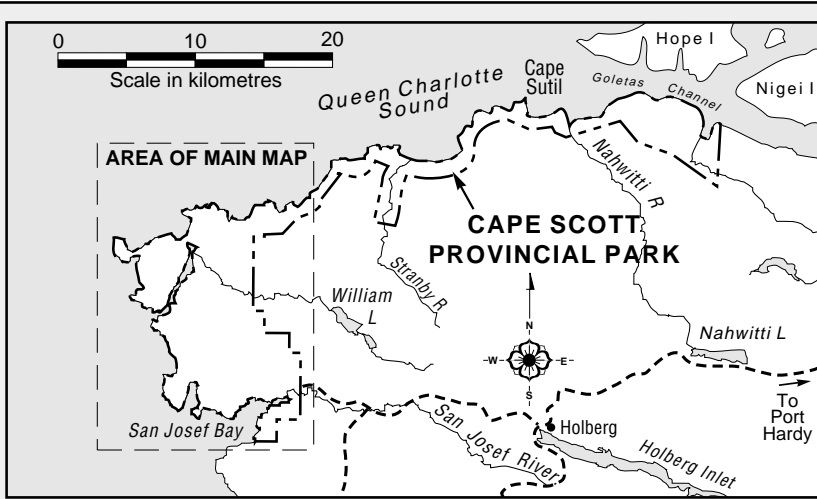
For your own safety, firearms are prohibited except during a valid hunting season. Please consult British Columbia hunting regulations for details.

Please be extremely careful with fire. Primus-type stoves should be used for all cooking. Campfires should be made from driftwood or downed wood only, kept small and confined to existing sites.

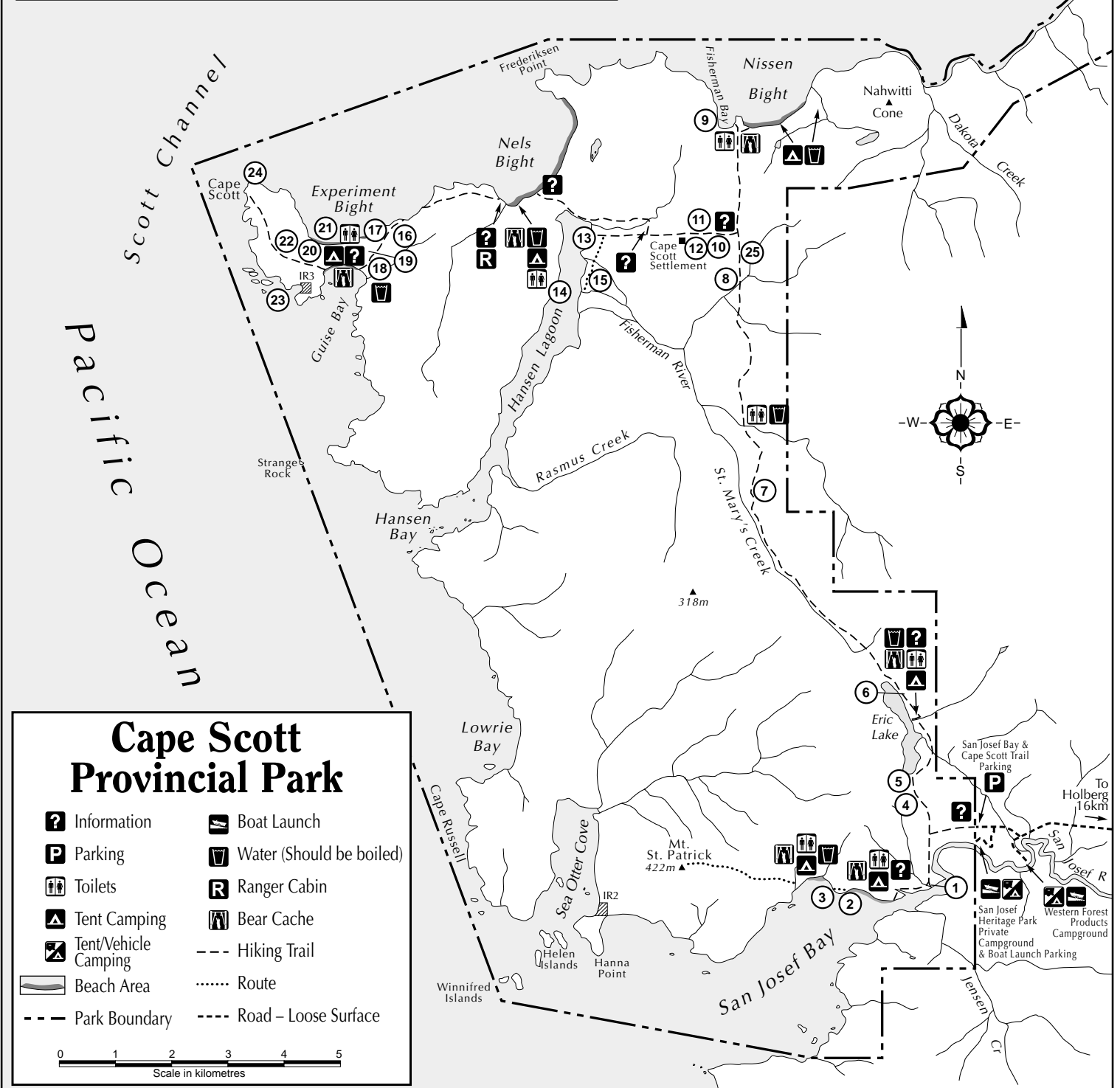
Boil or treat all drinking water before consuming.

In case of emergency contact the RCMP in Port Hardy, the lighthouse station at Cape Scott or the Park Facility Operator at Nels Bight (may not always be there).





Queen Charlotte Sound



Cape Scott Provincial Park

- Information
- Parking
- Toilets
- Tent Camping
- Tent/Vehicle Camping
- Beach Area
- Park Boundary
- Boat Launch
- Water (Should be boiled)
- Ranger Cabin
- Bear Cache
- Hiking Trail
- Route
- Road – Loose Surface

