Backpacking the West Coast Trail  
British Columbia  
May 24th – June 3rd, 2017  

Includes two nights of hotels, backcountry equipment and meals, permits, ground transportation during trip, and meals before and after backpacking  

$1,100.00

Trip Overview
Looking for one last adventure before leaving Gettysburg? Come explore the natural beauty of the West Coast Trail in British Columbia, Canada! This trip departs right after graduation weekend, and is open to all members of the class of 2017.

The West Coast Trail was originally established to help rescue shipwreck survivors off the coast of Vancouver, and is now part of Pacific Rim National Park. It’s also a hiking playground: participants will work together to cross rivers in human powered trams, hand gear up high rope ladders, and pass by a series of obstacles as you make your way along the coast. This region of Canada is home to multiple Native American reserves, a wide variety of wildlife, and spectacular waterfront views. Our time on the trail will be split between this rugged coastline and the lush, temperate rainforests. We can’t think of a better way to celebrate the next step, and hope you’ll agree!

General Schedule of Trip
May 24th: Fly to Victoria, BC  
May 25th-May 31st: Hike the West Coast Trail from Pachena Bay Trailhead to Gordon River  
June 1st: Hike out, bus back to Victoria  
June 2nd: Explore Victoria, end with a group dinner  
June 3rd: Fly out anytime, or stay and explore!

Facilitators
This program will be facilitated by Riley Clark and Sarah Francisco. Riley is a senior History major on track to receive her secondary education certification. She is a certified stilt-walker in the state of New Jersey and is an avid coffee drinker. Sarah is a senior Biochemistry & Molecular Biology major. She is a maple syrup snob with a passion for cookie baking and gingerbread house decorating. Both of these crazy cats have been proud members of the GRAB program since Fall 2013 and are thrilled to be heading out west for their last GRAB hurrah. Collectively, they have accumulated over 2000 field and training hours, and are both certified as Wilderness First Responder certification.

Riley Clark ’17  
clarri01@gettysburg.edu  
Sarah Francisco ’17  
fransa02@gettysburg.edu
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**Registration and Payment:** Register is open online at www.gettysburg.edu/grab until March 20, 2017. A $150 non-refundable deposit is due at time of registration to secure a place on the trip of your choice. We accept Visa, Mastercard, Discover, e-checks or cash. The final payment will be required by April 20—one month prior to the trip departure date. To register, please fill out the online form or call the GRAB Office at 717.337.6313 to register over the phone.

**Not Included in the Price:** Hospitalization, individual evacuation costs, insurance, meals in destination cities prior to and at the conclusion of the trip, souvenirs, alcohol, or other personal expenses incurred outside the scope of the trip. We DO NOT include airfare in the pricing of our trips. We want to give participants the opportunity to have flexibility in their travel arrangements. Some people will have frequent flyer miles, many people will be traveling from various destinations, while others may already be at the site location or decide to extend their trip once our expedition has concluded.

**The Hiking:** Hiking distance will vary from 5-11 miles per day, but the average time spent hiking will range from 4-8 hours, which includes stops for lunch & breaks, appreciating the sites, general conversation, and determining our route. The West Coast Trail is a challenging backpacking experience because of generally muddy conditions as well as ladders that are common throughout the trail.

**Group Size:** The trip consists of two facilitators from the Office of Experiential Education and up to eight participants from the Gettysburg College community, students, employees and families, and alumni of the college are all welcome.

**Transportation:** You are responsible for your own flights to and from Victoria, as well as your transportation from the airport to the hotel downtown and back to the airport at the end of the program. All other ground transportation will be arranged and provided, including shuttles to and from the trail. If you plan to travel further following the trip, you are responsible for those additional logistics.

**Accommodations and Meals:** Accommodations are provided the first and last night of the trip at a hotel in Victoria, BC. All meals from your arrival in Victoria through dinner on the 1st will be provided.

**Weather:** Spring weather in British Columbia varies from highs of low 60s to lows of mid 40s. The last GRAB trip to British Columbia experienced muddy and drizzly conditions.

**Physical Preparation:** The trip is backpacking. Hiking days will be staggered between longer and shorter distances. Physical preparation is expected due to the challenging nature of the trail. The terrain is rugged and uneven and is often slippery due to the rainy climate. You should base your preparation on your personal needs. If you can, get out and walk, run, bike, or move any way you like to accustom yourself to the level of movement necessary for this trip. Any activity prior to the trip will help make the experience more enjoyable.

**Health and Medical & Release of Liability:** We require each participant to fill out medical/liability forms for Gettysburg College and for any contracted services who request similar documentation. Please contact us if you have any questions.

**Cancellation of Trips:** We reserve the right to cancel trips due to lack of participants, State Department warnings, or natural occurrences that may be potentially hazardous. If you cancel the trip more than 60 days from the departure date, you will receive a full refund minus the $150 deposit. If cancellation occurs between 45-60 days prior to the departure date a 50% refund is available. If cancellation occurs between 30-45 days of the trip a 25% refund will be available. There will be no refunds for cancellations made within 30 days of the expedition.