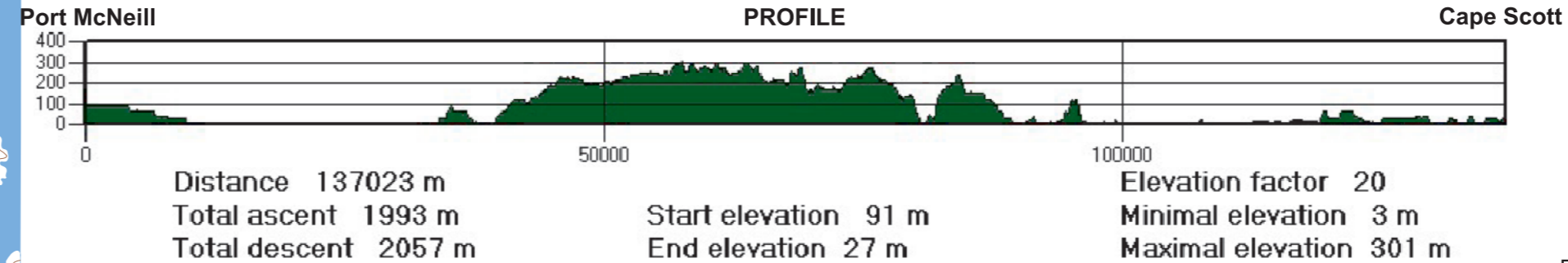


Queen Charlotte Sound



VANCOUVER ISLAND TRAIL



SECTION 7 - PORT McNEILL TO CAPE SCOTT



Contour interval: 100 ft

LEGEND

- Trail - cleared and marked, mostly with defined trail-tread
- Road or Rail-grade - generally inactive, often grown-in
- VI Trail route on water
- Route - little or no clearing, few or no markers, some gps track only
- Highway
- Secondary road
- Street
- Main logging road
- Minor logging road
- Sand
- Campsite

The Vancouver Island Trail Association (VITA) is a volunteer, nonprofit organisation planning and developing a continuous, non-motorised trail the length of Vancouver Island.

Between Port McNeill and Port Hardy, the VI Trail is largely along the coastline. From the Cluxewe Campsite, and after a beach walk, the Cluxewe River must be waded at low tide. Once across continue with a shoreline walk to the Cluxewe Beach trail and head inland to a short section of road and rough trail to the former Squash Mine site. At lower tides, hikers can instead walk the beach and rock-shelf to Squash, a section reminiscent of the West Coast Trail. A light trail off the end of Squash Main follows close to the shoreline to near the Keogh River, which is crossed upstream on a bridge onto road that leads to trail just outside of the Port Hardy Airport fence. From the Airport to Port Hardy involves community roads and trail.

The route of the VI Trail utilises a water taxi service between Port Hardy and Shushartie Bay. A cheaper but often dusty alternative is a rather long logging road walk to Shushartie Bay. From Shushartie to Cape Scott, the VI Trail follows BC Park's North Coast Trail, a remote, challenging, typically muddy trail. The Nahwitti and Stranby rivers are crossed via cable cars. Hikers leave the VI Trail by way of the Cape Scott Trail to near Holberg.

Access to the Trail and passage along all sections of the Trail cannot always be assured because of closures for high fire hazard and safety considerations, as well as damage from natural events (windfall, erosion etc).

For more information on routing and trail conditions, please consult our webpage: www.vancouverislandtrail.ca

Users of the VI Trail do so entirely at their own risk. VITA welcomes input from all users of the VI Trail, including information on trail conditions and needed trail maintenance - send an email with GPS coordinates to: vancouverislandtrail@gmail.com

