

Sea Kayaking

Vancouver Island North



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"There were two smaller orcas that surfaced right by the kayaks and 'talked' to each other. We saw them flipping up their tails and 'spy-hopping' (when they come up head first straight out of the water)..."

...There was a huge blow and to my right humpback surfaced...when he first came there was nothing between me and it. The humpback swam by and surfaced once more just behind us before continuing on his way down the strait. The mix of emotions is indescribable. Our whale seeking group was satisfied."

Experience wildlife like never before...

Orca Waters Base Camp

Johnstone Strait and Blackfish Sound are world renowned for the high concentration of orcas that return each summer to feast on migrating salmon and to rub on the pebble beaches of Robson Bight. With over 200 northern resident orcas there is quite simply no better place in the world to view orcas.

From our central location in the heart of Johnstone Strait, we spend four days exploring the variety of kayaking routes in the area. The orcas regularly pass by our camp; often while we're enjoying dinner around the campfire, and the nearby waters are thick with bald eagles, harbour seals, dolphins, porpoises, and rich inter-tidal life. As well, we have fairly consistent sightings of Steller sea lions and humpback whales – all within easily paddling distance of our camp!

With the comforts of our established base camp, you'll have more time for relaxing and exploring.

Family Orca Waters Base Camp

This four-day tour focuses on exploring nature at a pace suited for families and children. While the minimum age for participation on our regular tours is 15, this trip is ideal for families with children aged 6 to 14.

Using the same established base camp as our regular base camp tours, each day we depart for short paddles where we take the time to interpret nature, explore sheltered bays and spot wildlife. Children are introduced to this fantastic area in a fun, relaxed manner, and the entire family may enjoy the thrill of viewing Orcas from kayaks.

On the last day of the trip, a water taxi picks us up in the morning and we head over to the 'Bones Project' in Telegraph Cove. This whale interpretive center provides a special perspective after paddling in the area, and the 60-foot skeleton of a Fin whale will leave you in awe.

Orca Waters Explorer

Paddling the rich waters of Johnstone Strait is an experience to remember. This six day tour has everything; it starts in the protected waters of the Broughton Archipelago, where you'll explore the many hidden waterways and discover ancient village sites where the Kwakwaka'wakw First Nations culture thrived.

Onward to Johnstone Strait proper, where we'll spend our time travelling the main channels of Blackfish Sound and Johnstone Strait. These waters are the most consistent for wildlife, and as we paddle we'll keep our eyes on the horizon for the blows from orca, humpback, or Minke whales. With over 200 northern resident orcas, our chances of spotting them are excellent.

But there is much more to this area; from the snow-capped peaks of the coastal mountains, to the rolling hills of Vancouver Island, bears strolling the shoreline, eagles fishing in front of our campsite, a campfire at dusk – these are the beautiful subtleties of the area.

Nuchatlitz – Home of the Sea Otters

On the wild west coast of Vancouver Island, the Nuchatlitz is a spectacular group of small islets featuring soft sand beaches, open ocean views, and amazing wildlife.

Accessed through the coastal village of Zeballos, our water taxi drops us off for this five-day voyage. Days are spent exploring the many islets, reefs, and beaches.

The wildlife can be spectacular; in fact, Nuchatlitz is one of the few places in all of British Columbia where you can reliably view sea otters. After being hunted almost to extinction in the last century, their population is steadily growing, and now in Nuchatlitz we can view large rafts of these playful creatures.

That's not all - nearby Nootka Island has a healthy population of black bears that are often seen foraging along the beaches at low tide. The occasional late night howling of wolves can be heard and humpback whales are once again being seen regularly.



...sea kayaking Vancouver Island

Getting Here

Kingfisher's Vancouver Island sea kayaking tours depart from Port McNeill on northern Vancouver Island. Port McNeill is a 4 hour drive north of Nanaimo on Highway 19. Nanaimo is reached by ferry from Vancouver or is a 90 minute drive from the Provincial capital of Victoria.

International airports are located in Vancouver (YVR) and Victoria (YYJ). Regional airports are located in Port Hardy (YZT), Campbell River (YBL), Comox (YQQ) and Nanaimo (YCD).

Destinations

In addition to the sea kayaking tours of Vancouver Island listed in this brochure, Kingfisher offers sea kayaking expeditions to the Great Bear Rainforest, and Gwaii Haanas National Park and Haida Heritage Site.

Please call our office or visit our website for more information including dates, prices and availability.



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