

## SALISH SEA EXPLORATION –



## NORTHERN STRAIT OF GEORGIA

### Sample Itinerary

Optional Start/ Finish: Vancouver, Nanaimo, Courtenay, or Campbell River

Vessel: Island Odyssey

5 days

*This is intended as a Sample Itinerary. Please do not book flights based on information listed in this document as changes are possible. You will be provided with an Arrivals and Departures Itinerary once all details have been confirmed. Please contact us with any questions.*

The Northern Strait of Georgia is a large basin of sundrenched islands in a rain shadow between the Vancouver Island Ranges to the west, and the Coast Mountains to the east. Many of the finest beaches in BC are found in this region, including Tribune Bay on Hornby Island and the white sand beaches that entirely ring the unique sand-dune habitat of Savary Island. If you have been craving a much-needed trip to the tropics this year, you will be delighted to find that right here in BC we have the soft sand and warm water you're looking for!

This area has seen increasing numbers of humpback whales throughout the summer as they travel to our waters to feed and raise their new calves. In addition, there is a healthy population of mammal-eating Bigg's orcas that are regularly seen in the productive waters of tidal convergence, at the mouth of Seymour Narrows. Outside of whales, these waters teem with many other species of marine mammals including harbour seals, Dall's and harbour porpoise, Steller's and California sea lions, and river otters. There are rafts of seabirds that we will come across, and a phantasmagorium of intertidal organisms.

People with an interest in natural history will thoroughly enjoy this trip. Each voyage is accompanied by an experienced naturalist who will give talks, slide shows, and lead shore excursions. With the help of interested participants we plan to keep a list of the animals and plants we sight each day. We do daily shore excursions in our inflatable zodiacs, as well as short hikes on the various islands. As on all of our trips, you will enjoy absolutely fabulous meals and snacks prepared from scratch by our on-board chef. Expect the food to be delicious and nutritious – a definite highlight! In addition, you will have the opportunity to assist in the handling of our beautiful yacht, learning about sailing and navigation from our experienced crew.

This is a fabulous trip to get to know our backyard as we visit several remote and extraordinary provincial parks at the south end of Texada, Jedediah, and Thormanby Islands. Do you have specific ideas about what you want to experience in the Northern Strait of Georgia? Let us know and we can design a trip encompassing your ideas.

## **SAMPLE ITINERARY**

*On all voyages we intentionally keep our itineraries flexible to take advantage of wildlife sightings, weather and tides, and the interests of the group.*

### **Day 1 - 3**

The Georgia Strait is a large body of water providing several options for adventurers to explore. **To increase accessibility, the start and finish points of this itinerary will be determined by your group.** Our Captains will help to create a flexible itinerary based on the interests of your group – this itinerary is just an example of what could lie in store!

As unforeseen weather and ferry delays are common when travelling in coastal regions – to ensure that the group can set sail on time – we advise you to arrive on Vancouver Island the day prior to the trip and spend the night prior to our departure at your choice of lodgings. Be aware that it's a three-hour drive from Victoria to Campbell River, in case you are planning on driving up in the morning!

Guests will meet the vessel's crew late morning at your chosen embarkation station. Upon boarding the vessel, cabins will be assigned and following a brief introduction and safety orientation we will set sail for one of the area's many beautiful attractions, keeping a sharp lookout for whales.

Mitlenatch Island is a short sail from Campbell River and is one of the most unique habitats on the BC coast. This tiny island has been protected by the province since 1961 as a nesting site for gulls, cormorants, and other seabirds, after being privately owned for many years by the Manson Family. We will hope to have a good look at a haul-out of Steller's sea lions and enjoy some of their raucous banter. This little gem of an island hosts an array of interesting flowers and succulents due to its arid climate, receiving only half of the annual rainfall of nearby Campbell River.

After a good excursion ashore, we will head towards our anchorage for the evening. We will spend each night in different and beautiful anchorages with wonderful views. During our daily shore or small boat excursions, our onboard naturalist will help identify different coastal plants, animals, birds, and marine life. Interested participants can help keep a species list for the trip. There will be time to explore the protected waters using our stable sea-kayaks.

Based on conversations and input from the guests, we will map out a route for our trip around the Northern Strait of Georgia. One of the benefits of travelling in the Strait of Georgia is that there are many opportunities to hike on a variety of developed trails without the crush of people you tend to encounter on the mainland. Excellent hikes of various difficulties can be found in Háthayim Marine Park at the North end of Cortes, and further south on Lasqueti and Jedediah Islands. In addition, there are provincial parks without developed trails that are ripe for exploration on South Thormanby Island and Jervis Island. We will offer the opportunity to visit some of the finest beaches in the Strait of Georgia, with opportunities for warm water swimming, snorkelling, and kayaking.

### **Days 4 - 5**

Savary Island is a small, privately owned island, unique in the Georgia basin as the only sandy island. The ancient sand dunes that constitute most of the island are thought to be as much as 10,000 years old and are a fragile and rare coastal ecosystem created by sediments deposited by glacial meltwater. You may not ever want to leave after spending an afternoon walking the beaches and swimming in the shallow water. However, if we elect to leave that heaven, Hornby Island to the southwest holds another jewel of the coast. Tribune Bay is a white sand crescent beach backed by a coastal rainforest provincial park. Trails are available immediately behind the beach as well as in Helliwell Provincial park just to the east. Weather in the summer months is generally hot and sunny, with a cooling breeze wafting in off the water.

There is a delightful pair of provincial marine parks in Sabine Channel between Texada and Lasqueti Islands. One is the entirety of Jedediah Island, purchased in 1995 by the province with help from the

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estate of Dan Culver - the founder of Bluewater Adventures. Unlike many of the Gulf Islands, it has never been developed beyond homesteads and a mixture of old and second growth forests cover 80% of this peaceful island. With all of these islands accessible only by private boat, we will explore these protected reserves largely alone. The other Park is Sabine Channel Marine Park, which encompasses Jervis and Bunny Islands. Rarely visited, exploring these little islands will be a treat for those looking to get well away from the beaten path.

Travelling between these various sites we will put up the sails whenever the wind blows and encourage our guests to get involved to literally learn the ropes! There is nothing better than sailing quietly with your friends and family under a warm sun in the Salish Sea, and you will remember this trip as one of the highlights of an otherwise very challenging year.

### Day 5 - Trip Finish

The trip will end at your trip finish location of your choice by about noon.

## TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Do you require assistance with flights or Travel Insurance?

Our designated travel agent is [Ellison Travel & Tours](#), a member of CWT Vacations. CWT is a full-service travel agency with offices across Canada and they can assist you with flight arrangements, travel/medical insurance, pre-post hotel stays, and more. Bluewater guests will receive the benefit of their local knowledge, contacts and pricing.

You can reach Ellison Travel and Tours directly by completing the [Bluewater Guest Inquiry Form](#).  
By telephone: 1-800-265-7022 / 604-983-2470  
Or by email: [bluewater@ellisontravel.com](mailto:bluewater@ellisontravel.com)

### VANCOUVER Start / Finish

Embark at St Roch Dock located in between Lonsdale Quay and the Burrard Dry Dock on the North Vancouver waterfront.

### NANAIMO Start / Finish

Nanaimo is accessible from Vancouver by Floatplane, helicopter, and BC Ferry from Vancouver.

Harbour Air	1-800-665-0212	<a href="https://www.harbourair.com/">https://www.harbourair.com/</a>
HeliJet	1-800-665-4354	<a href="https://helijet.com/">https://helijet.com/</a>
BC Ferries	1-888-223-3779	<a href="https://www.bcferries.com/">https://www.bcferries.com/</a>

### Visitor Information

Tourism Nanaimo - <https://www.tourismnanaimo.com/>  
[info@tourismnanaimo.com](mailto:info@tourismnanaimo.com)  
Office: 250-751-1556

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### CAMPBELL RIVER Start/ Finish

**Pacific Coastal Airlines** provide daily service between Campbell River and Vancouver International Airport South Terminal.

Allow for adequate layover time when transferring between the YVR main and south terminals to accommodate potential shuttle or flight delays. Please check with your airline for further details regarding required check in times and baggage information. For shuttle schedule and further information see <http://www.yvr.ca/en/passengers/transportation/airport-south>

TELEPHONE: 1-800-663-2872  
[www.pacificcoastal.com](http://www.pacificcoastal.com)

Please Note: It is possible to take an early flight from Vancouver to Campbell River on Day 1 and arrive at the yacht on time. Historically, Vancouver Island experiences fog in the morning during this time of year which can delay flights. It is highly recommended to arrive the day prior to the trip start and stay the night.

#### *Visitor Information*

For information on what do to in Campbell River, visit [www.campbellriver.ca](http://www.campbellriver.ca)

#### Campbell River, BC

If you do not wish to drive to Campbell River, you can fly with Harbour Air directly from Downtown Vancouver. Charters are available so you do not have to fly with people outside of your Covid bubble.

Harbour Air	1 800-665-0212	<a href="http://www.harbourair.com">www.harbourair.com</a>
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For general information on British Columbia's attractions, travel, restaurants, shopping, transportation and accommodation contact Destination British Columbia: 1-800 435 5622 or visit the Destination BC website at [www.hellobc.com](http://www.hellobc.com)



**BLUEWATER  
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