

# Sea Kayaking — Orca Camp

**4 Days / 3 Nights**  
**\$835**  
**7 Days / 6 Nights**  
**\$1515**

Enjoy the exclusivity of a private island in the middle of Johnstone Strait – one of the world's best places to observe Orca whales in their natural habitat!

## 4 DAYS / 3 NIGHTS

### Day 1

Arrive in Port McNeill by vehicle or via Port Hardy by air. There will be a meeting in the lobby of the Haida Way Motor Inn in the morning before heading to the local dock where a motor vessel will transfer the group to the base camp.

### Day 2 – 3

You will be kayaking throughout the core orca territory of Johnstone Strait where the whales are most commonly seen.

### Day 4

You return to Port McNeill by mid-day / early afternoon (weather and sea conditions permitting).

If flying out of Port Hardy this day please reserve a flight late afternoon or early evening to allow for enough time to transfer between Port McNeill and Port Hardy.

## MEALS INCLUDED

Saturday departures :  
Breakfast Day 1 – Breakfast Day 4

Tuesday departures:  
Lunch Day 1 – Lunch Day 4

## 7 DAYS / 6 NIGHTS

### Day 1 – 6

#### Meals: B/L/D

The group will depart the Haida Way Motor Inn, Port McNeill at 8:00 am and head to the local dock where a motor vessel will transfer the group to the kayak base camp location. For the remainder of the trip you will be kayaking throughout the core orca territory of Johnstone Strait where the whales are most commonly seen.

### Day 7

#### Meals: B/L

We return to Port McNeill by mid-day (weather and sea conditions permitting).

If flying out of Port Hardy this day please reserve a flight late afternoon or early evening to allow for enough time to transfer between Port McNeill and Port Hardy.



# Sea Kayaking — Orca Camp

---

## Johnstone Strait & Orca Whales

Located between northern Vancouver Island and the BC central coast, Johnstone Strait is internationally recognized as one of the best places in the world to see orcas in the wild. They congregate here to feed on salmon, socialize, rest, and to rub on pebble beaches. It is extremely beautiful here, as well as interesting for being the most dependable area for the observation of orcas on the west coast. Also, if your trip coincides with a commercial salmon opening in the straits, the opportunity to observe the seiners, trollers, and gillnetters close at hand is quite fascinating.

After 23 years of expeditions, coupled with the extensive compilation of sightings and recordings by the Orcalab and seasonal researchers such as Michael Bigg, it is now evident that the whales are summer residents in the northern Johnston Strait area and adjacent channels. The population is made up of a number of pods and subpods that come and go on an irregular basis, with certain pods being more regular visitors than others are.

There are approximately 300 orca whales in BC's coastal waters, but during the summer, the majority of the northern pods congregate in the southern Queen Charlotte Sound and Johnstone Strait area. All the reasons for this assembly are not known, but the abundance of salmon is definitely a factor since it is a major food source for them. Until the last few years, the general public has only known orcas as the stars of public aquarium performances, although the orca plays a large part in the mythology of the local Kwakiutl native people. To actually see whole family pods in the wild can shed much light on the behavior and needs of the orca.

## Sea Kayaking in Johnstone Strait

No previous kayaking experience is needed for our base camp trips in Johnstone Strait and in fact the waters protected from the open Pacific Ocean by Vancouver Island are a perfect destination for novice kayakers and children (10 years and older) - a good level of fitness will always make your trip more enjoyable, so we do suggest regular exercise prior to your trip. There is ample opportunity for day hiking so aerobic conditioning and some recent extended walking is advisable. Upper body exercises that strengthen your shoulders, triceps, and forearms are particularly helpful.

Each guest should be having a feeling to getting along with a group and be willing to participate in camp life.

Our Orca Explorer offers a bigger challenge to the participants and is designed for the experienced kayaker who is able to deal with rough weather and travel conditions. You travel some challenging passages fully exposed to the open Pacific and might be rewarded by the close sight of marine mammals such as gray whales, orcas and Dall porpoises. Lanezi, Sandy and Spectacle Lakes, a number of smaller lakes and streams, and the Bowron, Isaac and Cariboo Rivers, together with several portages. Beginning with a mandatory orientation by BC Parks, you group allows 8 days of paddling and portaging to travel the full circuit which allows time for many wildlife observation breaks. Please note, that some departures are guided by internationally known photographer Chris Harris (author of The Bowron Lakes - British Columbia's Wilderness Canoe Circuit) - take the chance to 'polish your picture taking skills' (Kanawa Magazine) in the magnificent setting of the Bowron Lake Circuit!



# Sea Kayaking — Orca Camp

## RATES

**4 Days / 3 Nights**

**\$835**

**7 Days / 6 Nights**

**\$1515**

## DEPARTURE DATES

**4 Days / 3 Nights**

June 29

July 3, 6, 10, 13, 17, 20, 24, 27, 31

August 3, 7, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24, 28, 31

Sept 4, 7, 2004

**7 Days / 6 Nights**

June 26

July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

August 7, 14, 21, 28

Sept 4, 2004

## EQUIPMENT LIST

A detailed clothing & equipment list with further information will be sent to you at the time of booking or upon request.

## POWERED VESSEL WHALE WATCHING

All of our Johnstone Strait kayak trips are focused on the observation of Orca Whales – however, traveling by sea kayak, the area we can cover every day is limited and we can not guarantee close sightings of Orcas although they are very likely and common. We recommend to plan in an extra day after your kayak excursion to participate in a 'traditional' whale watching trip by motor boat out of Telegraph Cove (transportation to/from Telegraph Cove is not included) to ensure you 'meet the mammal'.

Wholesale net rate for 3 ½ hours Whale Watching Cruise: \$70.00 / person including 3.5% GST

## TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- Services of qualified guide and assistant
- Boat charter between Port McNeill and basecamp
- All group & kayak equipment, tents, hydrophone
- All meals as outlined in the itinerary

## NOT INCLUDED

- Transfer to/from Port McNeill
- Personal expenses & equipment
- Any extra expenses incurred because of weather and logistical delays, delayed departures of chartered or scheduled aircrafts

## SPECIAL NOTES

- Minimum number of participants: 4
- Maximum number of participants: 10
- All guests are required to fill in a medical form at the time of booking
- All guests are required to sign a waiver of liability.

## HOW TO GET THERE/TRANSFER PACKAGES

Both departure locations, Port McNeill and Port Hardy are located on the north eastern tip of Vancouver Island. A local airport in Port Hardy is serviced from Vancouver. If you drive your own car, the drive from Nanaimo to Port McNeill will take you 4-5 hours. Add another hour to proceed to Port Hardy.

Transfer Package Vancouver – Port McNeill, round trip: \$230.00 including 3.5% GST per person

Bus transportation from Vancouver to Port McNeill. No minimum number.

Based on Greyhound bus schedule and rates – both might be subject to change.

Transfer Package Vancouver – Port Hardy, round trip: \$255.00 including 3.5% GST per person

Bus transportation from Vancouver to Port Hardy. No minimum number.

Based on Greyhound bus schedule and rates – both might be subject to change.

## PRE/POST TRIP ACCOMMODATION

Pre and post tour accommodation can be arranged if required.

**Single \$125.00**

**Twin \$70.00**

